



# From Harmonization to Shared Capability

*A Caribbean Approach to Regional Plant Health  
Governance*

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**SELA VIRTUAL WORKSHOP**  
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# What should we measure?

*Cooperation should be judged not by what we build, but by what countries can do together that they cannot do alone.*

## INPUTS WE COUNT

*The usual scorecard, necessary, but only a means*

- Standards adopted
- Memoranda of understanding signed
- Technical committee meetings held

## OUTCOMES THAT MATTER

*What a small-state farmer can actually count on*

- ✓ A credible phytosanitary certificate
- ✓ A robust pest risk analysis for new trade
- ✓ A coordinated surveillance response

**If the smallest member cannot export with the same phytosanitary credibility as the largest, the architecture is incomplete.**

# One pest envelope, unequal capacity

15

## **CARICOM member states**

coordinated through CAHFSA as the regional SPS body and RPPO

<100k

## **population in several states**

yet they share a pest envelope with major agricultural exporters

15-20%

## **of GDP from agriculture**

in many member economies with only a few NPPO staff



## **Shared threats respect no border:**

Fusarium TR4 · Tomato brown rugose fruit virus · Cassava witches' broom

# What shared SPS capacity delivers

*Four functions, not institutional structures, decide whether cooperation succeeds.*



## Harmonised standards

A small state adopts a regionally validated standard and issues certificates trading partners accept.



## Pooled risk analysis

Specialists across the region share the PRA workload — cost shared, output shared, credibility shared.



## RPPO coordination

A collective voice in the IPPC and global fora for states that cannot send their own delegation.



## Emergency response

Coordinated surveillance and reaction, whichever member state detects an incursion first.

# How shared capacity serves sustainability

*Shared capacity opens the door to technology access — and that access drives environmental results.*



**\$2.6B → ~\$11B by 2034.** The agritech tools exist — without regional coordination the technological divide widens rather than closes.

# Three principles for cooperation that delivers

1

## Measure what countries can do

Ask whether a member state can do something after the initiative that it could not do before — not how many institutions were created.

2

## Invest in shared infrastructure first

A harmonised standard without the laboratory capacity to verify compliance is only a paperwork exercise.

3

## Design for the smallest member

Build for the state with a five-person NPPO and a modest GDP, and the architecture will work for everyone.

*A phytosanitary vulnerability anywhere in the region is a vulnerability everywhere.*

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# Thank you

*For the opportunity to share the Caribbean experience. I look forward to the discussion.*

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