National strategies, current practices and lessons learned on reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors:

A Case Study of Trinidad and Tobago

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History of Trinidad and Tobago (in 30 seconds)

- Primarily agrarian economy (sugar and cocoa)
- Oil discovered in 1857
- Produced successfully in 1910
Identifying Vulnerability

• Globally, agriculture has suffered from the adverse impacts of climate change resulting in a decrease in supply and an increase in prices
  - Increase in national food import bill
  - Locally, our own sugar industry suffered decreasing productivity as a result of changes in temperature and rainfall for wet season and dry season

• One Dominant Sector as a Source of Revenue-Oil and Gas
  - Shrinking markets for fossil fuels
Vision 2020: National Strategic Development Plan

Five Pillars of Development

1. Developing Innovative People
2. Nurturing a Caring Society
3. Enabling Competitive Business
4. Investing in Sound Infrastructure and Environment
5. Promoting Effective Government
Focus on Agriculture

• Reduce Food Import Bill
  – Reduce food inflation
• Increase Food Security
• Develop self-sufficiency at the households level as well as at the national level
• Create employment for ex-Caroni workers
• Develop food export sector
• Serve as a form of carbon sequestration
Focus on Agriculture

• Increase Profitability of the Agricultural Sector and Improve Food Security
  - Creation of large Agricultural Estates
  - Partner with the FAO
  - Establish links with Tourism

• Development of the Food and Beverage Industry
Focus on Tourism

- Development and Promotion a Differentiated High Value Tourism Product
  - Conference and Event Destination
  - Ecotourism
Other tourism products:
- Carnival
- Tobago Heritage Festival
- Jazz Festival
Focus on Policy

• Focus on Policy to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated consistently in all plans, programmes and projects and that the principle of sustainability is not compromised

✓ Renewable Energy Policy
✓ Climate Change Policy
Current Practices: Agriculture & Tourism

• Increasing focus on food security
• Establishment of Large Agricultural Estates
• Plans for agricultural co-operatives for the former Caroni lands
• Increase the number of hotel rooms
• Market the islands as an ecotourism destination
Lessons Learned

• It's not too late to make a start

• Buy-in is critical

• Set measurable targets and outcomes

• Monitoring keeps you on track
THANK YOU
Comparison of Food Inflation between 2004-2008

Food Inflation Rate

Linear (Food Inflation Rate)
Yearly Maximum and Minimum Temperatures for the period 1971-2000

Source: Meteorological Services Division of Trinidad and Tobago cited in Sharlene Beharry “Relating Regional Climate Change with Global Climate Change”, 2009.
Graph showing the 10 minutes rainfall intensity for the wet season

Source: Meteorological Services Division of Trinidad and Tobago cited in Sharlene Beharry “Relating Regional Climate Change with Global Climate Change”, 2009.
Graph showing the 10 minutes rainfall intensity for the dry season

Source: Meteorological Services Division of Trinidad and Tobago cited in Sharlene Beharry “Relating Regional Climate Change with Global Climate Change”, 2009.