


# BELIZE




## CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS PRIORITIES

### FOOD SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

- Belize imports 40% of its food
- Smallholders account for more than 75% of the farming population
- Export-oriented agriculture: the agrifood sector is a major contributor to the country's economy (14% of GDP)
- High cost of nutritious foods and increasing unemployment and poverty (more than 50 percent), contribute to food insecurity and vulnerable livelihoods
- Obesity and diabetes remain high, especially among women
- Waste management issues and polluted water. Fishing-related litter affect tourism destinations in the Caribbean



Early warning system for drought and extreme weather events for farmers



Strengthen the resilience of coastal communities through storm surges early warning system



Explore income diversification for fisheries



Agribusiness development, led by youth and women in agribusiness



Linking agrifood systems to other key sectors, including tourism and blue economy initiatives

### IDENTIFIED GAPS & CHALLENGES



- **Early warning systems** and **index insurance mechanisms**
- Improve **agrifood information systems** and **coordination with regional bodies** and neighbouring country initiatives
- Improve and disseminate **agricultural knowledge, information, innovation and technologies**
- Adopt and enforce **water management regulations**
- Promote **green climate technologies in the export-oriented agriculture sector**, including risk-proofing food value chain infrastructure
- **Address post-harvest losses** and contribute to tackling food loss and waste
- **Promote healthy consumption patterns** focused on tackling nutrition problems, attaining greater socioeconomic inclusion and **reducing territorial inequities**



### POTENTIAL AREAS OF SUPPORT BY CRFS ALLIANCE:

**Early warning systems** for fishers and coastal communities: Coordination with regional bodies and existing experiences in Central America and Caribbean

**Risk transfer** (e.g. index insurance) and **risk-sensitive social protection**

Creating **coherence in NDC priorities** outlined for climate resilient food and agriculture with the priorities outlined in **Belize's draft national pathway on food systems**.

Generating **evidence and learnings** from what is working well and what is not

**Ecosystem restoration** along inland and coastal ecosystems to protect coastal communities and conserve coral reefs: **ridge-to-reef approach** to integrated management of freshwater and coastal ecosystems, through climate policy integration and nature-based solutions

**Strengthening integration between stakeholders** on the ground to improve peer-to-peer exchanges on climate resilient food systems intervention leapfrogging progress

**Nutrition education, promoting local products and local consumption and supporting community health initiatives:** Linking nutritious food supply chains to local demand