

PILLARS OF PROGRESS:

Tracking St. Kitts and Nevis' Journey to 2040

3 FOOD SECURITY

St. Kitts and Nevis is a net food importer, with imports accounting for approximately 80% of total national food requirements in 2017 and steadily increasing over the past two decades. The agricultural sector contributes less than 1% of the GDP, leaving the country highly dependent on external markets and vulnerable to sudden climatic changes or surges in demand from major source markets, which could lead to domestic food shortages. In response, the government has committed to reducing food imports by 25% by 2025. Achieving this goal requires enhancing the agricultural sector's resilience to climate change, particularly given its high climate sensitivity and the increasing frequency of extreme weather events and unfavorable climatic conditions.

"The Ministry is resolute in its mission to achieve food and nutrition security in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis [...] In our relentless pursuit of sector transformation, we aim to align with and advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our efforts are poised to impact goals such as gender equality, climate action, life on land, and life below water."



Hon. Samal Duggins
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Marine Resources and
Cooperatives, Entrepreneurship,
and The Creative Economy

KEY FACTS

- In 2020, 6.4% of the population faced severe food insecurity.
- Per capita fish consumption is 32.3 kg, among the highest globally.
- Fish and seafood production has grown significantly, with 2018 catches nearly five times higher than those in 2013.
- The food import bill increased from USD \$60.8 million in 2021 to over USD \$74 million in 2022.
- Inflation rose by 1.2% in 2021 and 4% in 2022, reducing access to affordable, nutritious food.
- In 2017, food imports supplied 80% of the country's food needs.
- St. Kitts and Nevis supports the CARICOM "25 by 25" initiative to cut the region's food import bill by 25% by 2025.
- Obesity affects 34% of adult women and 18% of adult men.

SEVEN PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE:



ENERGY
TRANSITION



WATER
SECURITY



FOOD & NUTRITION
SECURITY



SUSTAINABLE
INDUSTRY



SUSTAINABLE
SETTLEMENTS



CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



HEALTH & SOCIAL
PROTECTION

GOALS & PRIORITIES

The SISA approach to food security in St. Kitts and Nevis addresses the nation's high dependence on imported food, limited arable land, and vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. The St. Kitts and Nevis Agricultural Transformation and Growth Strategy 2022-2031 outlines a comprehensive plan to revitalize the agricultural sector and enhance its contribution to national development. Through policy interventions, such as the 25 by 25 Initiative, and investments in sustainable agriculture, the government aims to increase local food production, promote healthy eating habits, and enhance resilience to external shocks, fostering a more food-secure future for its citizens by 2040.

KEY TARGETS

- Transform farms into innovative, profitable agribusinesses
- Develop climate-resilient farming and livestock systems
- Ensure food and nutritional security with stable, affordable food supplies and fresh fish
- Strengthen links between agriculture, tourism, and fisheries
- Modernize livestock production with advanced breeding and climate-smart practices.
- Achieve sustainable fish production

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Reduce food imports by 25% by 2025
- Enhance climate resilience with sustainable techniques
- Improve food security for vulnerable groups
- Promote sustainable fisheries
- Strengthen value-added chains
- Attract youth and women to agriculture
- Optimize water use

SDG ALIGNMENT TRACKER

AGRICULTURAL GOALS & PRIORITIES

SDG ALIGNMENT (TARGET)

Transform farms into innovative, profitable agribusinesses



Develop climate-resilient farming and livestock systems



Ensure food and nutritional security with stable, affordable food supplies and fresh fish



Strengthen links between agriculture, tourism, and fisheries



Modernize livestock production with advanced breeding and climate-smart practices.



Achieve sustainable fish production



Reduce food imports by 25% by 2025



Enhance climate resilience with sustainable techniques



Improve food security for vulnerable groups



Promote sustainable fisheries



Strengthen value-added chains



Attract youth and women to agriculture



Optimize water use



12.6



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Poultry Sector Development:** Partnered with Taiwan to establish a farm producing 20,000 laying birds annually. Launched a hatchery, initiated broiler production, and invested in a poultry slaughtering facility to reduce reliance on \$20 million in chicken imports.
- **Farmer Support:** Assisted over 700 farmers with irrigation systems, solar pumps, ground cover, and water tanks. Distributed 150,000 pineapple slips, 60,000 banana slips, and thousands of tomato slips free of cost. Improved land preparation and road access.
- **Improved Storage and Agri-Processing:** Installed 17 cold storage facilities, including two walk-in chillers at Tabernacle and 15 cold containers. Developed an agri-processing unit to transform substandard crops into value-added products.
- **Increased Agricultural Production:** Boosted crop yields with a 77% increase in melons, 52% in peppers, over 100% in pineapples, and more than 50% in cabbage.
- **Drought Resilience:** Implemented an irrigation project, providing drip irrigation, ground cover, fencing, and over 700 water tanks to enhance water management and crop protection.
- **Plant Health:** Launched a plant diagnostic lab in 2024 to identify and control pests.
- **Livestock and Fisheries Development:** Enhanced pig breeding programs and constructed livestock housing. Improved fisheries infrastructure, achieving over \$15 million in revenue.
- **Guaranteed Markets and Crop Diversification:** Partnered with Tabasco to secure markets for locally grown peppers. Introduced diversification projects like the Tabasco hot pepper initiative.
- **Enhanced Food Security:** Participating in CARICOM's 25x25 agenda, targeting a 25% reduction in the \$198 million food import bill by 2025. Supported planting over 60,000 banana suckers and 150,000 pineapple slips.
- **Agricultural Infrastructure and Training:** Strengthened infrastructure, promoted technology adoption, and trained agricultural professionals to build capacity.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE

GREENHOUSE VILLAGES INITIATIVE

The Greenhouse Villages initiative supports food security and gender equality in St. Kitts and Nevis by providing women with equitable access to greenhouses, enabling their participation in agriculture. To enhance food security, the government is expanding storage capacity, reducing post-harvest losses, and implementing mechanization to boost production and efficiency. A new storage facility with six chills has been designed, with construction set to begin soon. These efforts aim to make locally grown food more accessible and improve agricultural sustainability. By empowering women and investing in infrastructure, the initiative underscores the government's commitment to a resilient and inclusive agricultural sector.

PROGRESS METER

St. Kitts and Nevis has made significant progress toward achieving food security by 2040 through targeted initiatives aimed at improving agricultural resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity. Programs such as backyard gardening, shade house distribution, and the Greenhouse Villages initiative have strengthened local food production while promoting gender equality and climate-smart farming practices. The expansion of hydroponic farming and planned infrastructure investments, including a new storage facility, further demonstrate the government's commitment to enhancing agricultural efficiency and reducing food losses.



Progress determined by NDPF indicators

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- **Expand Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiatives:** Expand shade houses, hydroponics, and sustainable practices like terracing and agroforestry to boost resilience.
- **Strengthen Water Management:** Implement the DRIP project to improve irrigation and secure water supply.
- **Upgrade Agricultural Infrastructure:** Build storage facilities to reduce losses and improve rural roads for better market access.
- **Leverage Technology and Innovation:** Invest in mechanization, digital tools, and research for resilient crops and livestock.
- **Build Human Capital:** Provide training, attract youth to agriculture, and enhance institutional expertise.
- **Enhance Financial Access:** Increase agricultural lending and offer tailored credit and insurance products.
- **Increase Markets and Value Addition:** Improve market infrastructure, support agro-processing, and promote crop diversification.



SISA 2040 VISION

The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (GOSKN) established a vision for a Sustainable Island State by 2040 in which government agencies, civil society, and the private sector are encouraged to collaborate in redefining approaches to governance, public policy, and socio-economic development.

The SISA Vision is to transform St. Kitts and Nevis into a Sustainable Island State by 2040, by developing a robust, diversified economy that integrates sustainability with economic prosperity. The aim is to attract green investments and foster industries that utilize local sustainable resources, thereby enhancing economic stability and creating high-quality, sustainable jobs.

THE SISA APPROACH

The SISA is more than a vision; it's a dynamic, structured mechanism designed to guide the nation's transition to a sustainable island state by 2040. It achieves this through a multifaceted approach that encompasses several key strategies:

- **Strategic Alignment:** The SISA is strategically aligned with the existing National Development Planning Framework (NDPF), by leveraging its robust methodology, data-driven analysis, and key sustainability indicators.
- **Resource Mobilization:** A core function of SISA is to actively mobilize resources for climate resilience and sustainability efforts by promoting existing projects and identifying flagship initiatives to secure regional and international funding.
- **Visibility and Communication:** SISA serves as a central hub to promote sustainability efforts, raise public awareness, and boost recognition through targeted branding and outreach strategies.
- **Inter-Ministerial Collaboration:** SISA coordinates cross-ministry efforts, supporting communication and cooperation to advance holistic, cross-sectoral sustainability initiatives.
- **Societal Engagement:** SISA promotes shared responsibility for sustainability, encouraging active participation and collective action across all segments of society.



**MOBILIZE
RESOURCES**



**CREATE
VISIBILITY**



**ALIGN &
CONNECT**



**INSPIRE
ACTION**

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