

# Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise

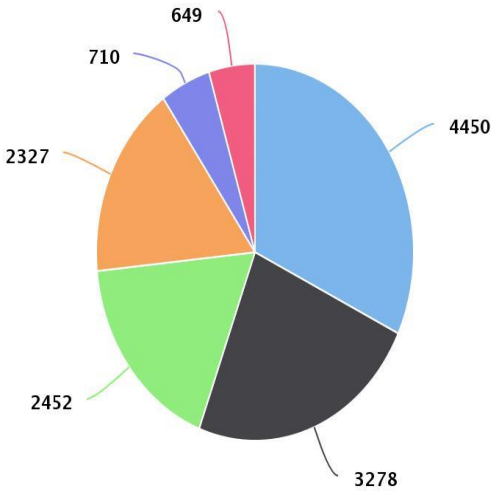
An overview of the Agriculture Sector, MOA Policy,  
and the Policy & Statistics Unit Plan

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29<sup>th</sup> April 2021

# Farmer & Farm Demographics

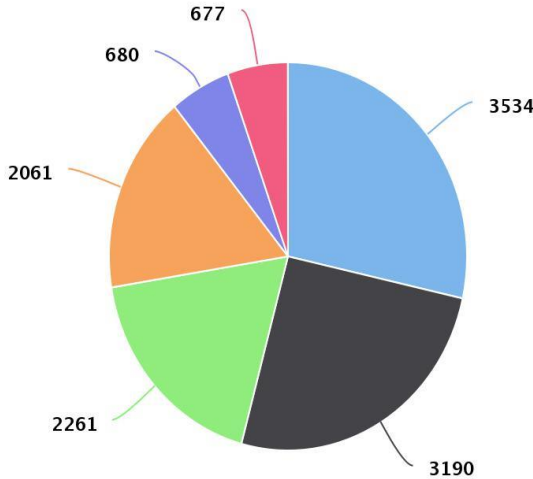
Farm Count by District



● Corozal ● Orange Walk ● Cayo ● Toledo ● Stann Creek ● Belize

12403  
Farmers

Farmer Count by District

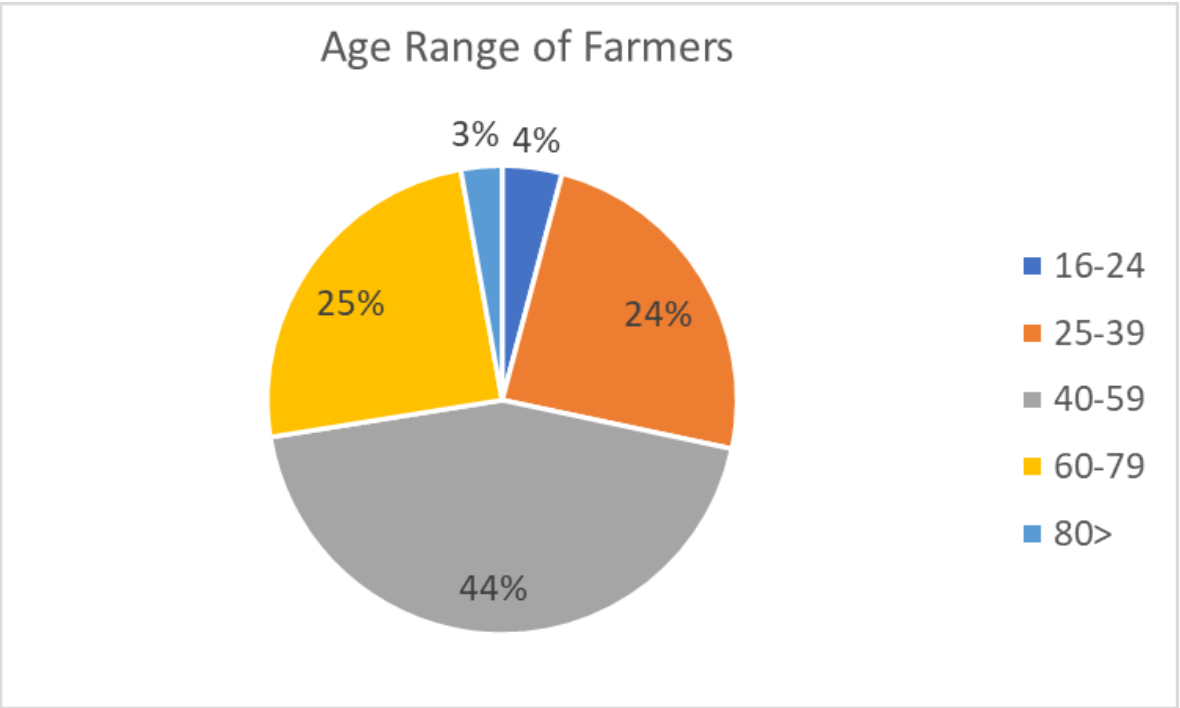
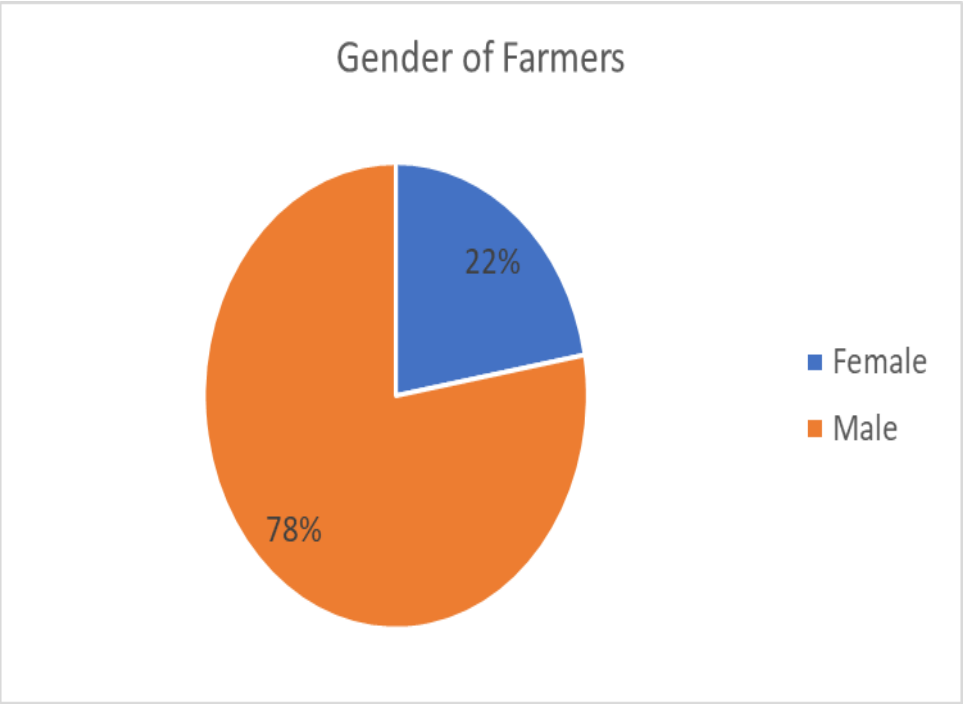


● Corozal ● Orange Walk ● Cayo ● Toledo ● Belize ● Stann Creek

13866  
Farms

Source: BAIMS, 2021

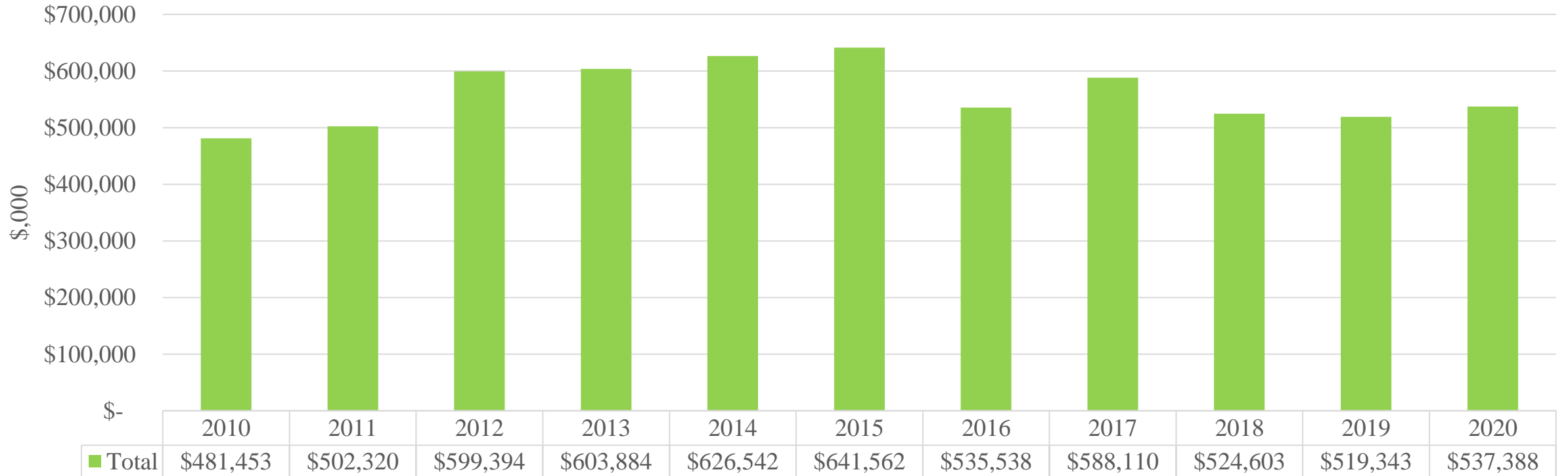
# Farmer & Farm Demographics



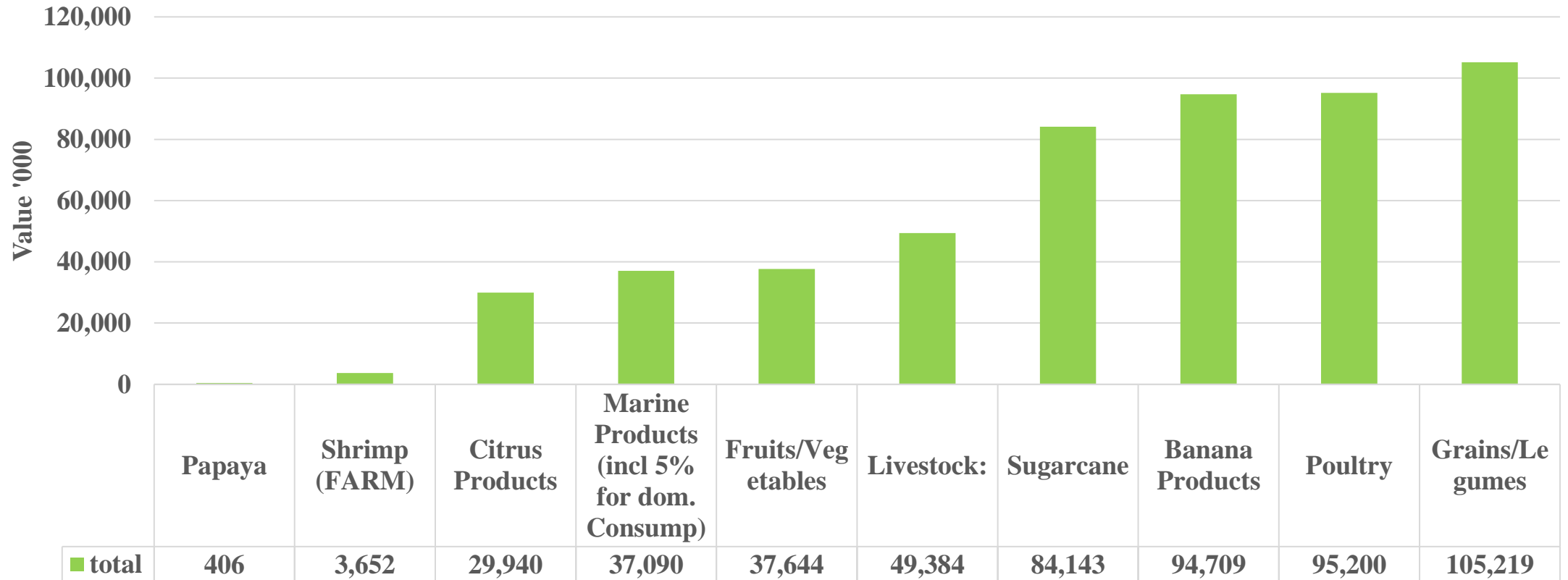
Source: BAIMS, 2021

# Agriculture Economic Output Trend

From 2009 to 2019 ( \$'000BZE)



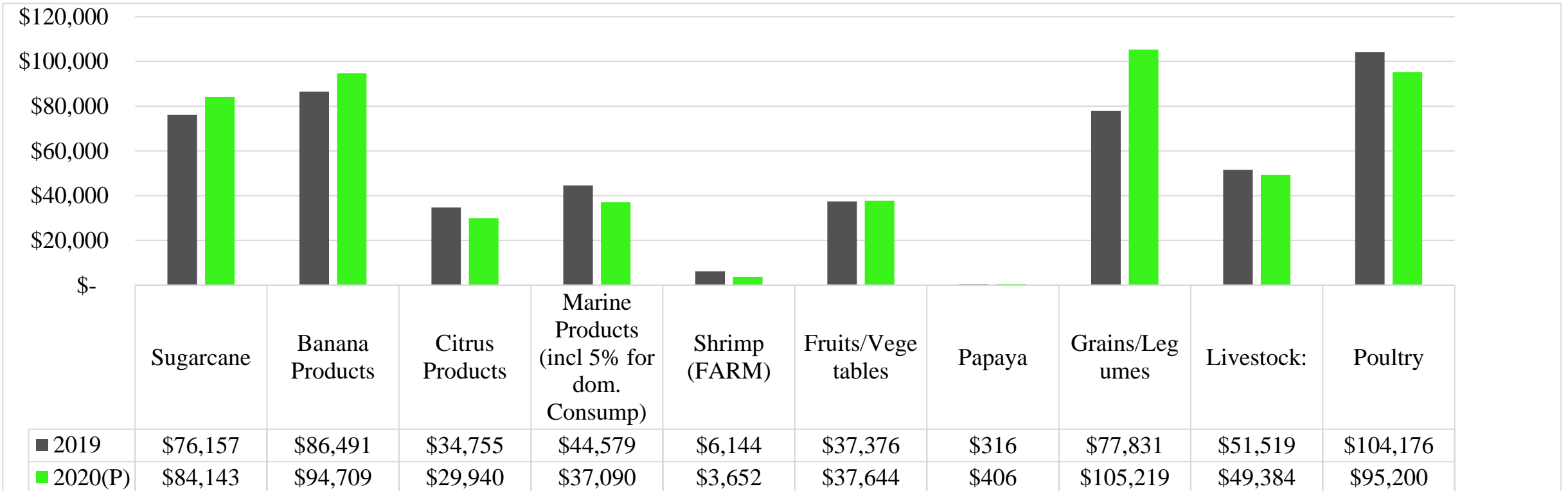
# Agriculture Economic Output 2020



- Source: MOA, 2021

# Agriculture Economic Output

2019 and 2020 Sector Data (\$'000 BZE)



# Effects on Economic Output 2020

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Major Event	Period	Losses	Details
1. Tropical depression Amanda and Tropical storm Cristobal	May to June 2020	8.5 mil	
2. Tropical Cyclone Nana	Septmeber 2020	5.1 mil	bananas, plaintains and corn
3. COVID 19	Mar-20		Grains- food security
Poultry		5.3 mil	depopulation
Milk & cheese			dumping
shrimp			loss of market access
livestock			market contaction
vegetables			post harvest losses: limited processing, storage facilities & poor transportation infrastructure; market contraction
4. Hurrican Eta and Iota	Nov-20	18.2 mil	grains, vegetables, livestock

# Agriculture Policy

## *Farm to Table*

### *Policy Objectives*

- **To replace and substitute imports, expand exports and strengthen the linkages between agriculture and the tourism sector.**
- **To support affordable financing for farmers**
- **To review entire tax system and enact reforms to have a simplified, fair, efficient and development-driven system.**
- **To work in partnership with the 4 traditional exports sugar, citrus, banana and shrimp to increase productivity, competitiveness and market penetration.**
- **To update and implement trade policy agreements.**
- **To diversify and become innovative in the adaption of climate-smart systems**
- **To focus on research and development in partnerships with renowned universities**
- **To support the increase of locally produced commodities and lead the “Buy Local” campaign.**
- **To include a program for the teaching of agriculture and agri-business in schools.**
- **To Improve storage and logistic facilities for farmers**
- **To improve trade and market intelligence and find niche markets for the exporting of the non-traditional commodities**



# Farm to Table: 100 Day Plan

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1. A re-organized Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise in operation to deliver on the commitments of Plan Belize efficiently and effectively.
2. Program to reduce imports of food and feed, including vegetables, milk, cheese, processed/ tinned meats, low quality snacks, beverages and drinks, etc.
3. Updated Sugar Industry Act based on consultation with key stakeholders.
4. Action plans for the citrus, banana and shrimp industries, developed with the respective stakeholders.
5. Statutory instruments that enable reduction of taxes on imported machinery and equipment for agriculture and food processing
6. Policy approved for affordable financing and appropriate conditions for farmers with credit unions and commercial banks

# The way forward:

- Increasing productivity- Increase Refined sugar production, Citrus Replanting Program, Banana Management Program, genetic improvement and climate resilient varieties.
- Expansion of non-traditional commodities, Coconuts, Hemp, livestock, poultry, milk, cheese, ice-cream, honey and other fruit trees.
- New Market penetration- Livestock and Grains in PSA with Mexico, Shrimp and Sugar in Taiwan Economic Partnership Agreement
- Tax reform for agriculture related production- Climate smart technologies, processing and packaging equipment.
- Support to Agro-processing
- Climate Resilience

# Policy Unit Major Achievements 2020

- Management of BAIMS: Data mining of BAIMS ( farmer, farm registry, water access, age, gender, acres under production, milpa/ mechanized production, contact information of farmers)
- Data support for projects (CERC, RRB, FAO etc)
- Manage data for Food Availability Committee
- Yearly demand estimates for major commodities 2020
- Price of all major food basket commodities ( BAPIS) 2020
- Agriculture Economic Output 2019 and 2020
- Compilation and dissemination of 2019 and 2020 yearly production reports and commodity specific reports for sugar and banana
- Damage Assessment & Needs Analysis reports for Tropical Storm Amanda & Cristobal, Nana, Eta, Ito, drought, COVID-19
- Represent Agriculture interest in the Belize/Taiwan Economic Trade Partnership Agreement
- Engagement of private sector for the expansion of the Belize Guatemala PSA and the selection of commodities to be included in Belize/Mexico PSA
- Facilitating trade Chickens and other Agriculture commodities to CARCIOM

# Policy Unit Major Plans 2021/2022

- Produce production, Price and economic output reports 2022
- Manage and validate the Belize Agriculture Information Management System farmer and farm registry
- Pursue the implementation of a GIS component to Belize Agriculture Information Management System [BAIMS] for geospatial analysis.
- With Extensions support update Cost of Production for 18 priority commodities.
- Actively facilitate the access for Agriculture commodities into CARICOM, Guatemala, Mexico and Taiwan market.
- Continue the representation and engagement of Agriculture with private/public sector partners.



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