FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE



ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

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Abbreviations

ACGC	Audit and Corporate Governance Committee
ADG	Average Daily Gain
ADMA	Agricultural Development Marketing Association
AEC	Agricultural Entrepreneur Clubs
AFRA	African Regional Cooperative Agreement
ANSO	Alliance for International Science Organisation
AMB	Agricultural Marketing Board
APMIS	Agricultural Production and Management Information System
AREU	Agricultural Research and Extension Unit
APRC	Agro Processing Resource Centre
AVRDC	The World Vegetable Center (Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre)
AWC	Agricultural Women Clubs
AWS	Automatic Weather Station
AYC	Agricultural Youth Clubs
BDU	Business Development Unit
BFU	Bio-Farming Unit
BLU	Building and Land Use
BMRS	Belle Mare Research Station
BSD	Biometry and Statistics Division
BSF	Black Soldier Fly
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAD	Computer Aided Design
CATAS	Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CEB	Central Electricity Board
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CIRAD	Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
CLRS	Curepipe Livestock Research Station
CMT	California Mastitis Test
CP	Crude Protein
CRA	Corruption Risk Assessment
CRS	Crop Research Station
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture

CSG	Contribution Sociale Généralisée
DAP	Days after planting
DAT	Days after transplanting
DBM	Development Bank of Mauritius
DC	Demonstration Centre
DeSIRA	Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture
DM	Dry Matter
DPC	Defined pension contribution
DVS	Division of Veterinary Services
ECCEA	Early Childhood Care and Education Authority
EU	European Union
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FARC	Food and Agricultural Research Council
FAREI	Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
FC	Finance Committee
FCC	Financial Crime Commission
FIDS	Farmer Information Delivery System
FTS	Farmer's Training School
FYM	Farmyard Manure
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance - plus
G1	Generation 1
HRDC	Human Resources Development Council
HWT	Hot Water Treatment
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAS	International Accounting Standards
ICAC	Independent Commission Against Corruption
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
IFAC	International Federation of Accountants Committee
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IMO	Indigenous Microorganisms
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
IPSASB	International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board

KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LAMP	Loop-mediated isothermal amplification
LPDE	Low-Density Polyethylene
LWR	length-to-width ratio
MAIFSBEF	Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries
MCA	Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture
MF	Model Farm
MITD	Mauritius Institute of Training and Development
MOESWM&CC	Ministry of Environment Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPSAIR	Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms
MQA	Mauritius Qualification Authority
MS	Murashige and Skoog
MRIC	Mauritius Research and Innovation Council
MSB	Mauritius Standards Bureau
MSPA	Mauritius Sugar Planters Association
NAA	Naphthaleneacetic acid
NAO	National Audit Office
NAP	National Agricultural Programme
NCC	National Cooperative College
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPF	National Pension Fund
NPK	Nitrogen Phosphorus Potassium
NTA	National Transport Authority
NTRS	National Training and Re-Skilling Scheme
NWEC	National Women Entrepreneur Council
PIE	Public Interest Entity
PLRV	Potato Leaf Roll Virus
PML	Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd
PSE	Public Sector Entities
PVX	Potato Virus X
PVY	Potato Virus Y
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Act
RAC	Rooted Apical Cuttings
R&D	Research and Development

RDT	Research, Development and Training
RE	Renewable Energy
REKIR	Research and Extension Key Information Repository
RH	Relative Humidity
RLCRS	Richelieu Crop Research Station
RS/SRS	Research Scientist/ Senior Research Scientist
RVAA	Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAGP	Switch Africa Green Project
SANOI	Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle de la région Océan Indien
SC	Staff Committee
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFWF	Small Farmers Welfare Fund
SICOM	State Insurance Company of Mauritius Limited
SLB	Stemphylium Leaf Blight
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SMC	Strategic and Monitoring Committee
SMS	Short Message Service
SPNF	Subhash Palekar Natural Farming
TDM	Tuber dry matter content
TRM	Tomato Russet Mites
UoM	University of Mauritius
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
VAA	Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis
VAM	Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhiza
XCC	*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *campestris*

Chairperson's Statement



I am privileged to present the 2024-2025 Annual Report of the FAREI (FAREI). As a key research and training institution in the agricultural sector, excluding sugarcane in Mauritius, the Institute has demonstrated much efforts to promote research activities and encourage agri-business development. This year has been marked by the recommendation of new crop varieties to vegetable growers, promotion of organic production by setting up of composting units in different regions, identification of new products against pests and diseases, new value-added products and support to the farming community through grants and trainings. These activities demonstrate our commitment to the farming community. Our ongoing and new initiatives this year continue to set the pace for transformation of the agricultural sector.

The Government through the Budget Speech 2025/2026 emphasizes on the importance of new technologies in food production. Hence FAREI is bound to play an important role in the modernisation of the sector, this requires a rethinking and reengineering of the Research, Extension and Training programs.

With the new Board which has been constituted this year, FAREI is now poised to review its activities and develop an innovative and modern strategic plan that responds to the challenges that the sector is facing. This entails both a dynamic research environment ensuring that our researchers are empowered to implement innovative and impactful programs while the delivery of services to growers and agri-preneurs is fast and efficient. Measures will be put in place to strengthen the institution so that it can operate efficiently. I have no doubt that we will achieve our objectives and contribute to bring the food production sector to new heights.

At this point I must acknowledge the unwavering dedication of the Management and staff of FAREI to the farming community.

I would also like to extend my deepest appreciation to the Members of the Board, whose strategic guidance and dedication are critical

In conclusion, I express my heartfelt thanks to the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and to all stakeholders who have contributed to the achievements of FAREI.

Ritesh Sumputh
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Statement



Further to appointment as CEO in May 2025, it is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report and Financial Statement of the FAREI for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

In the period under review, the FAREI had made a number of significant achievements. In line with its objectives FAREI recommended 28 new crop varieties to farmers; these included Onion, Tomato, Chilli, Kailaan, Cabbage and Swiss Chard. It also set up a seaweed composting unit at Belle Mare Research Station and two organic community gardens in Beau Bassin and Rose Hill respectively to promote organic foodcrop production. In the livestock sector, two composting units and three fodder production plots for sustainable land and livestock management were rehabilitated and set up. These lay the foundation for FAREI to pursue its efforts to encourage sustainable food production while addressing climate change concerns.

To promote and encourage agricultural and agri-business development a total of 466 beneficiaries were supported through 19 schemes aiming at modernising agricultural activities and improving productivity and quality of products. Some 215 agri-business enterprises benefitted from free advisory services while 1531 farmers attended different training courses on crop and livestock management.

Building on these achievements FAREI now needs to reengineer itself for enhanced impact on the levels of local food production and supply of safe food. The vision of the Government Program (2024-2029) in the food production sector is to 'transform and consolidate the agricultural and food production sector in ways that support higher levels of local production and the supply of safer food while promoting the green economy concept'. This will require special efforts to modernise and to professionalise the sector. As per the Objects and Functions of the FAREI Act 2013, the Institute is hence called upon to play an important role in that direction. An innovative, modern and appropriate strategic plan will be key for FAREI to deliver impactful actions for the benefit of both the farmers and the consumers. Such a plan needs to embrace emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, while promoting sustainable field practices. The professionalisation of the sector through innovative capacity building programs for farmers and agri-preneurs will be key to the plan. Innovation and enhanced partnerships with local and international institutions as well our partners from the farming community and other organisations will drive a new Research Agenda that is responsive to labour shortage, water scarcity, climate change and other challenges that the sector is facing.

Collaboration, Inclusion and Innovation shall guide our actions to contribute towards a resilient agricultural production system.

I applaud the achievements of FAREI till now and hope, together with my dedicated team, to achieve the objectives of the institute and bring the Sector to new heights. I would like to thank the Board Members of FAREI the management team, the staff, our stakeholders and our parent Ministry for their support.

M. Madhou

Dr (Ms) Madhvee Madhou
Chief Executive Officer

Section 1: Vision, Mission and Objectives

VISION

To help steer and promote the sustainable development of the National Agri-food System through the efficient and effective application of Research, Development and Training (RDT).

MISSION

To support and implement priority RDT programmes for food security and to enhance competitiveness, sustainability and stakeholder equity across the value chain.

OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce, develop and promote such technologies in the food and non-sugar agricultural sector within a sustainable framework.
2. Co-ordinate, promote, and harmonise research activities in the non-sugar agricultural, food production and forestry sectors.
3. Promote and encourage agricultural and agri-business development through the setting up of agricultural youth clubs, and agricultural women clubs and agricultural entrepreneur clubs; and
4. Promote dissemination and practical application of the results.

STRATEGY

The Institute's approach is to implement strategic and adaptive research in a participatory framework with stakeholders in response to national requirements to improve farm productivity and income. Integrating ICT potential, the FAREI also seeks to ensure that there is a rapid transfer of innovative practices developed into relevant production systems for the benefit of growers, consumers and the environment.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Advisory service on crop and livestock
- Pest and disease diagnostics
- Training of farmers in production practices and technologies
- Disseminating of information
- Processing and hot water treatment of seed
- Facilitating access to schemes
- Training in agro-processing and product development
- Testing of new agricultural inputs
- Vetting of pesticide labels

- Designing irrigation systems
- Monitoring of Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) and MauBank funded agricultural projects
- Interface between the farming community and service providers
- SMS disease alert
- Provision of statistics on food crop and livestock

LINKAGES

FAREI continued its collaboration with the following main local institutions:

1. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
2. Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Waste Management and Climate Change (MOESWM&CC);
3. National Women Entrepreneur Council;
4. Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture;
5. Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius (UoM);
6. Mauritius Cane Industry Authority;
7. Development Bank of Mauritius;
8. Mauritius Research and Innovation Council;
9. Polytechnic Mauritius;
10. SICOM; and
11. Human Resources Development Council.

Linkages with the following international organisations and development partners were developed and strengthened:

1. Food and Agriculture Organisation
2. International Atomic Energy Agency
3. European Union
4. AgriSud
5. Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
6. United Nations Development Programme
7. Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences and
8. World Bank/French Treasury / Groupe GMD SAS.

Section 2: Organisational Structure

The FAREI came into operation on 14 February 2014 by virtue of Section 24 of the FAREI Act 2013, further to the repeal of the Food and Agricultural Research Council Act 1985. It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries (MAIFSBEF).

The FAREI was established following the merging of the Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC) and the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) in view of optimising human resources and improving effectiveness and quality of services to the farming community.

The FAREI is administered by a Board and is managed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who is responsible for the execution of the policy of the Board and for the control and day-to-day management of the organisation. The management team comprises three Assistant Directors: Crop, Livestock and Extension and Training, who are responsible for the management and implementation of research and development (R&D) programme to foster national food and nutrition security and align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 2, 5, 6, 12 and 13 targets.

Crop Research Department

The Crop Research Department comprises six divisions: Agronomy, Vegetables and Ornamentals, Fruits and Nuts, Resource Management, Plant Pathology and Entomology Divisions. The department also includes a Tissue Culture Laboratory/Nursery and Bio-farming unit. Research orientations of the department aim at improving production of non-sugar crops including fruits and ornamentals. Its research and development programme focuses on introduction and evaluation of crops varieties, improvement of crop productivity and quality, development of sustainable pest and disease management, breeding for improved crop germplasm, production of quality seed and planting materials, optimal resource utilisation, innovative production technologies, conservation and promotion of neglected and underutilised crops, climate resilience and sustainable farming system, organic farming, reduction of post-harvest losses and development of value added agro-products.

Livestock Research Department

The Livestock Research Department comprises three divisions: Animal Production, Feed and Fodder and Animal Health and Welfare Divisions. The research and development programme of the department aims at addressing farmers' needs and challenges for enhanced productivity, sustainability and resilience of livestock systems. This is achieved by developing improved practices and technologies for livestock and fodder production. These include development of feeding packages using locally available feed resources, evaluation and conservation of fodder crops and pastures, evaluation of improved breeds for genetic improvement, promoting the setting up of integrated crop/ livestock systems and conservation and utilisation of animal genetic resources.

Extension and Training Department

The Extension and Training Department comprises three divisions: Crop Extension Division, Livestock Extension Division, Documentation and Training Division and a Business Development Unit. The Department aims at enhancing capacity building of farmers and entrepreneurs in agri-business, promoting professionalization of farming community including women and youth engagement, encouraging agri-business development and value-addition. The objective is to improve farm productivity, sustainability and livelihood though timely cost-effective transfer of knowledge and skills on innovative production technologies. The Department has an extensive network of sub offices, model farms throughout the island and a Farmer Training School at Wooton for improving farmer's access to extension services. The department uses a participatory approach to address the challenges faced by farmers and stakeholders along the value chain.

Support Services

Administration Section

The Administration Section assists management to achieve FAREI's goals. Collaboration was provided for research and development activities to ensure effective management of overall activities and good Corporate Governance.

Engineering Division

The division provides technical support to the Institute in the implementation of R&D projects through designing and preparing of scopes of work for infrastructural projects and specifications for procurement of equipment. Engineering support is also provided to empower potential and existing local agricultural operators in various areas such as hydroponics, sheltered farming, rainwater harvesting systems, inter alia.

Biometry and Statistics Division

The Biometry and Statistics Division (BSD) is responsible for providing statistical support and advice to the technical cadres of the Institute, in research and extension activities. These include design of experiments, surveys and field trials, data analysis and interpretation for research staff and design of surveys and field assessments to extension staff. The BSD compiles and generates food crops and livestock statistics for the island and assist in the preparation of vulnerability assessment reports for the agricultural sector.

Economics Unit

The Economics Unit is responsible to review and update cost of production for strategic crops such as potato, onion, garlic among the 30 food-crops of economic importance to Mauritius. The unit provides assistance on agri-business projects through counselling monitoring and conduct cost benefit analysis.

Business Development Unit

The Business Development Unit provides comprehensive support to prospective entrepreneurs in the agri-business sector through advisory service and business facilitation including technical assistance for preparation of business plan. Its core activities include coordinating and processing of applications for agricultural schemes implemented by FAREI, monitoring of projects after fund disbursement and promoting agri-business initiatives in alignment with government policies.

Procurement Section

The Procurement Section is responsible to ensure effective and efficient procurement and supply processes. The section aims at ensuring timely and cost-effective acquisition of goods, services, works and consultancies in accordance with Rules and Regulations of the Public Procurement Act 2006, the Financial Management Manual and the Code of Ethics of the FCC. The introduction of "Low Value Procurement" has improved the overall efficiency of the procurement process.

Safety and Health

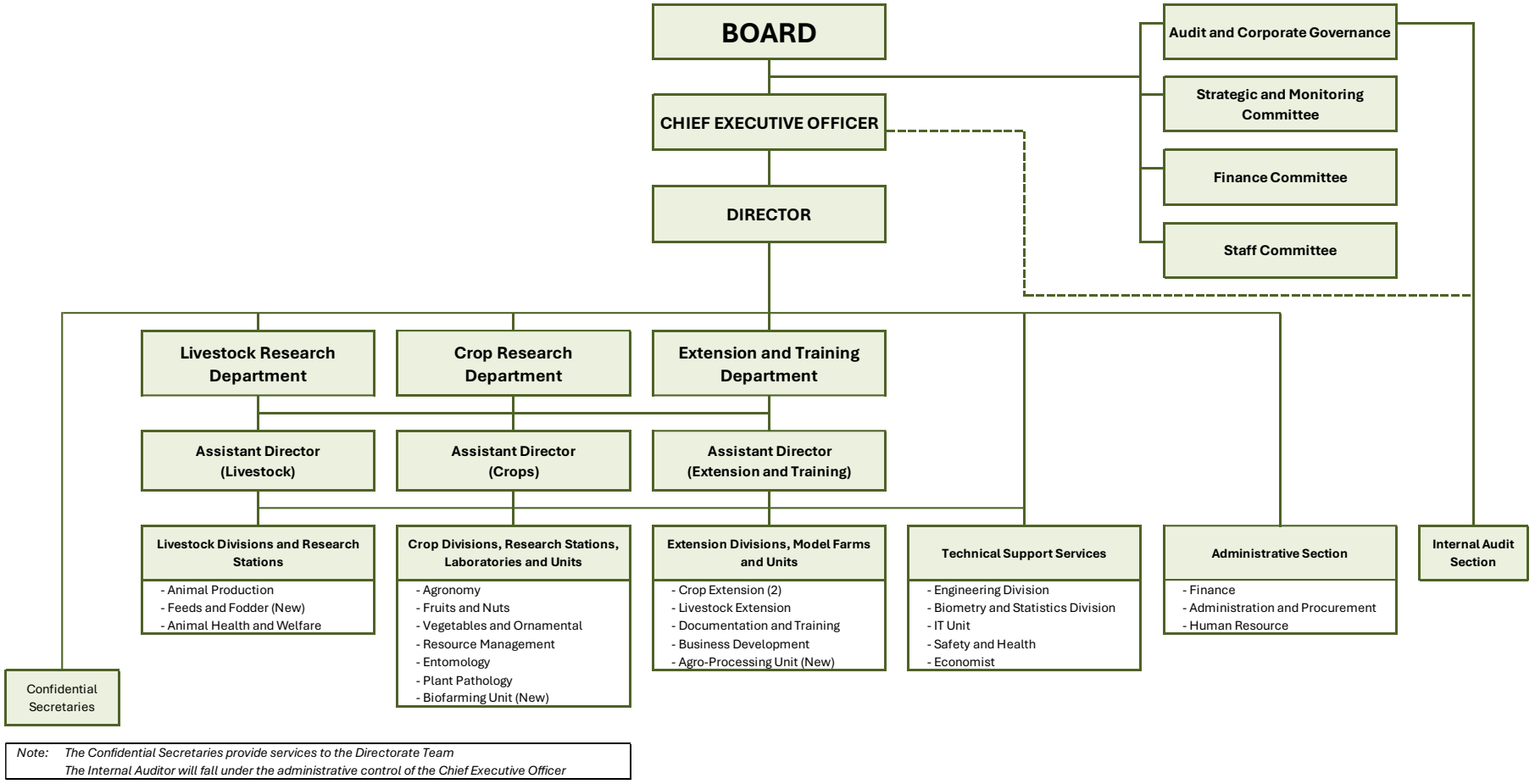
FAREI prioritises the integration of safety and health in the organisational culture. It upholds its commitment to provide a safe working environment to its employees through the involvement of all parties, namely management, employees and trade unions. It adopts a participatory approach to continuously improve working conditions. The aim is to minimise risks and health hazards through regular risk assessments and minimal exposure to hazardous environments. The FAREI advocates for flow of communication for enforcement of safety and health procedures and for employees to protect themselves.

Information Technology Unit

The Information Technology Unit supports and enhances the organisation's technological infrastructure and operations. The Unit is responsible for managing and maintaining the organisation's technology infrastructure, including computer systems, networks, servers, and databases. It ensures that the infrastructure is secure, reliable, and up to date to support the institute's research and extension activities. The IT Unit is instrumental in leveraging technology to improve agricultural research, extension services, data management, and overall operational efficiency. These efforts contribute to the sustainable development of the agricultural sector by harnessing the power of information and communication technology.

Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute

Organigram



Note: The Confidential Secretaries provide services to the Directorate Team
The Internal Auditor will fall under the administrative control of the Chief Executive Officer

Section 3: Corporate Governance Report

The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) was established as a body corporate under the FAREI Act 2013. It operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries. The FAREI became operational on 14 February 2014 and its main objectives and functions are spelt out at Sections 4 and 5 of the FAREI Act 2013.

Objects of the Institute

The objects of the Institute as spelt out at Section 4 of the FAREI Act are:

1. to introduce, develop and promote such novel technologies in the food and non-sugar agricultural sector as may be approved by the Minister;
2. to coordinate, promote and harmonise research activities in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry;
3. to promote and encourage agricultural and agri-business development through the setting up of agricultural youth clubs and agricultural entrepreneur clubs; and
4. to promote dissemination and practical application of the results of any research undertaken under this Act.

Functions of the Institute

As per Section 5 of the FAREI Act 2013, the Institute shall have such functions as are necessary to further its objects most effectively and may in particular:

1. Conduct research in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry, and maximize the benefits of such research;
2. Conduct extension and advisory activities in non-sugar crops, livestock, food production and agribusiness;
3. Set research priorities in line with the needs of the food and non-sugar agricultural sector;
4. Coordinate, monitor and evaluate research programmes and projects of different institutions engaged in non-sugar agriculture, forestry and food production without any prejudice to existing legislation concerning those institutions;
5. Set up and manage research stations, model farms, greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure for the purpose of promoting food and non-sugar agricultural technologies;
6. Carry out, subject to the approval of the Minister, such other research and related activities in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry; and
7. Advise the Minister generally on national policies and other matters related to research in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry.

Powers of the Institute

As per Section 6 of the FAREI Act 2013, the Institute shall have such powers as are necessary to attain its objects and discharge its functions most effectively and may in particular:

1. with the approval of the Minister to whom responsibility for the subject of finance is assigned, raise such loan as may be required to finance the setting up of greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure;
2. rent out greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure on such terms and conditions as it may determine;
3. levy fees in respect of services in connection with greenhouses, hydroponic centres and other infrastructure and of transfer of any other food and non-sugar agricultural technologies;
4. set up research advisory committees;
5. enter into any contract in accordance with the Public Procurement Act;
6. sell or exchange any property;
7. receive grants and donations and raise funds; and
8. to do such acts and things as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act.

The FAREI views good corporate governance practice as an essential part of sustaining the organisation's growth and continues to treat this responsibility with seriousness and commitment.

As a parastatal body, in line with the Financial Reporting Act 2004, the FAREI acknowledges its responsibility for applying and implementing the principles contained in the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius (2016) and is accordingly conducting its affairs in line with the principles of the 2016 Code.

This Corporate Governance Report highlights how the FAREI has implemented the recommendations of the Code.

Corporate Objectives Statement

The vision and mission of the institute are outlined on page 5.

Objectives

1. Introduce, develop and promote such technologies in the food and non-sugar agricultural sector within a sustainable framework;
2. Co-ordinate, promote, and harmonise research activities in the non-sugar agricultural, food production and forestry sectors;
3. Promote and encourage agricultural and agri-business development through the setting up of agricultural youth clubs and agricultural women clubs and agricultural entrepreneur clubs; and
4. Promote dissemination and practical application of the results.

Our Core Values and Principles

Professionalism

To demonstrate high level professionalism in our day-to-day initiatives in relation to the business of the Institute and to achieve continuous self-improvement.

Commitment

To develop the right attitude towards the job we undertake, to encourage individual initiative and to express our dedication in achieving our objects and perform our functions.

Integrity

To express what we mean, to deliver what we promise and to stand for what is lawful.

Respect

To treat one another with dignity and fairness, appreciating the diversity of our workforce and the uniqueness of each employee.

Trust

To build confidence through open and frank communication.

Honesty

To be truthful in all our endeavours, to be honest and straightforward with one another and with our policy makers, service providers and stakeholders of the agri-food sector.

Principle One – Governance Structure

Corporate Profile

Strong corporate governance is about having clear and systematic decision-making processes, thus providing clarity about responsibilities, avoiding conflicts of interest and ensuring satisfactory internal control, risk management and transparency as well as contributing to the safeguarding of trust among stakeholders. Our governance practices aim at ensuring that both the decisions of the Board and their implementation by management are geared towards preserving the long-term interest of our stakeholders and ensuring the Institute's sustainability.

The Board plays a central role in the guidance and management of the organization and the pursuit of sustainability success. It is committed to ensuring that a strong governance framework operates throughout the FAREI, recognizing it as a vital component to support management in the delivery of the organization's strategic objectives. The Board determines the FAREI's overall strategy and monitors the implementation of the strategy and performance of the latter.

This section outlines, inter-alia, the corporate governance structures in place at the FAREI and describes the organization of the Board's business.

The roles, responsibilities and duties of the Chairperson and Board members are set out at sections 7, 8 and 9 of the FAREI Act 2013.

The direction, control and accountability of the activities of the FAREI are vested in the Board, which is a unitary one. The fulfilling of these responsibilities is facilitated by a well-developed governance structure comprising various Sub-Committees of the Board. The management is accountable and subject to the control of the Board and operates within the policy framework laid down by the latter.

The FAREI's business is conducted in accordance with the FAREI Act 2013, other relevant statutory provisions and the principles of good corporate governance. All functions are exercised honestly, in good faith with due care and diligence and in the interest of the FAREI and its stakeholders.

The FAREI Board is committed to fulfilling its mandate in a manner which is consistent with good governance practices and in particular regarding accountability, transparency, responsibility and ethics.

A Charter for the FAREI Board and its Sub-Committees is being finalised and will define:

- The terms of reference of the FAREI Board and its Sub-Committees;
- The composition and role of the Board of Directors; and
- The general duties of the Board Directors.

The Charter will also include a Code of Conduct for the Board Directors.

Functions of the Board

- The Board gives strategic directions to the Institute;
- The Board formulates plans and policies in the non-sugar agricultural sector; and
- The Board takes strategic decisions on research priorities and extension activities in the non-sugar agricultural sector.

The Board assumes its fiduciary responsibilities whilst complying with all legal and regulatory requirements. In this respect, the Board adheres to the following key governance documents:

- Role, powers and functions of the Board as per the FAREI Act 2013;
- Terms of reference of the Board's Sub-Committees; and
- Code of Ethics for Employees.

Copies of the FAREI Act 2013 and the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius 2016 have been handed over to the Chairperson and Board members to draw their attention on their respective roles, responsibilities and duties.

Key Governance Positions

The Board considers key governance positions to be critical to the delivery of its strategy and to achieve a high standard of good governance.

The Board ensures that proper standards of Corporate Governance are applied and maintained throughout the FAREI.

The following key governance positions are critical in enabling the Board to fulfil its mission, vision and objectives:

Chairperson of the FAREI Board

i. The Chairperson is non-executive and is appointed by the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security in accordance with section 7(1)(a) of the FAREI Act 2013.
ii. The Chairperson is responsible for the conduct of the business and activities of the Board and its sub-committees; and
iii. The Chairperson ensures the active participation of all board members in the discussions and deliberations of the Board.

Chief Executive Officer

As per section 10 of the FAREI Act 2013, the Chief Executive Officer, who is the Head of the FAREI is, inter-alia, responsible for the execution of the policy of the Board and for the control and management of the day-to-day business of the Institute.

The Chief Executive Officer shall, in the exercise of his functions, act in accordance with such directives as he may receive from the Board.

The Chief Executive Officer also advises on:

i. the formulation and implementation of the research and extension activities in line with government's vision; and
ii. the formulation, implementation and enforcement of appropriate legislation in line with government's policies.

Chief Executive Officer is the main point of contact between the Board and the management of FAREI.

Chairpersons of Sub-Committees of the Board

The Chairpersons of the Sub-Committees work in close collaboration with and provide support and advice to the Chairperson of the Board and the Board itself.

The FAREI Board was reconstituted on 21 March 2025. Board meetings were not held from November 2024 to end of March 2025 following the termination of the appointment of the Chairperson and the four Board members appointed under section 7(f) of the FAREI Act 2013 on 15 November 2024.

Mr K Govind was the Chairperson of the Finance and Staff Committees for the period 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024.

Mrs H Bedacee-Dindoyal was the Chairperson of the Finance and Staff Committees for the period 24 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.

Mr M Rughoo was the Chairperson of the Strategic and Monitoring Committee for the period 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024.

Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange was the Chairperson of the Strategic and Monitoring Committee for the period 24 April 2025 to 30 June 2025.

Mr S Naidu was the Chairperson of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee for the period 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024.

A new member, who has a financial background, needs to be appointed on the FAREI Board to chair the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee as recommended by the National Audit Office. Necessary action has already been initiated by the Parent Ministry.

Board Secretary

The main responsibilities of the Board Secretary are:

- To ensure compliance with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements;
- To develop and circulate the agenda and relevant documents for Board meetings in a timely manner;
- To facilitate the induction of Board members and to provide guidance to them in terms of their roles and responsibilities;
- To assist the Chairperson in governance processes; and
- To organize Board meetings and to ensure that the records and minutes of Board meetings reflect the proper exercise of those duties.

Management Team

Management is accountable and subject to the control of the Board and operates within the policy framework laid down by the latter.

The Management team comprises the Chief Executive Officer, the Assistant Directors and Heads of Sections of FAREI.

The Management team assists the Chief Executive Officer in implementing the policy decisions of the Board.

Other employees

FAREI's mission is made possible by the talent and passion of its workforce of more than 500 dedicated employees who bring their unique skills, talent, insights and passion to the work that they perform daily. The health, safety, professional development, work-life balance and equitable, respectful treatment of its employees is one of FAREI's highest priorities.

Professional Services

Auditors:	The Audit of the financial statements of the FAREI is carried out by the National Audit Office
Bank:	The State Bank of Mauritius Ltd
Legal Adviser:	The State Law Office

Principle Two – The Structure of the Board and its Sub-Committees

In accordance with the FAREI Act 2013, the Board is constituted of a chairperson and other members from diverse backgrounds with a view to ensuring a right balance of skills, experience and diversity. The Independent members provide a blend of knowledge and commitment to make sound judgments on various key issues relevant to the business of the FAREI.

The composition of the Board of FAREI for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 was as follows:

Chairperson	
Mr Hemraj Woodun From 01 July 2024 to 15 November 2024 Mr Ritesh Sumputh (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)	Appointed by the Minister
Members	
Mr K Govind (From 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024) Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)	Representatives of Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries
Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier (From 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025)	Representatives of Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture
Mr R Kissoonah (From 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025)	Representative of Mauritius Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Federation
Associate Professor Dr D Puchooa (From 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024) Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)	Representatives of the University of Mauritius
Mr S Naidu (From 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024) Mr V Narain (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025) Mr M Rughoo (From 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024) Mr N J G Soupe (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025) Mr K Seechurn (From 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024) Mrs F Soobrattee Ruhomaully (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)	Appointed by the Minister

Mr L Mungry (From 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024) Mr S Dindyal (From 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)	Appointed by the Minister
Dr (Mrs) A Dookun-Saumtally (From 04 June 2024 to 15 November 2024)	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs M Seenevassen Pillay (From 16 November 2024 to 30 April 2025)	Officer-in-Charge
Dr (Ms) M Madhou As from 02 May 2025	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs S Auguste	Administrative Manager – Board Secretary

Profile of Board Members

The profiles of the Board Members are given hereunder. The interest of the Board Members is declared at Note 3 of the Notes to the Accounts.

Board composition for the period from 01 July 2024 to 15 November 2024

Chairperson

Mr Hemraj Woodun

Mr H Woodun is a Sole Trader and Company Director and has wide experience in the agricultural sector.

Board Members

Mr K Govind

Mr K Govind, Deputy Permanent Secretary, was the representative of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries for the above-mentioned period.

Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier, CSK

Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier has wide experience in the agricultural sector and is presently the General Secretary of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture.

Mr Mukesh Rughoo

Mr Mukesh Rughoo, holds a Master's degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the University of Aberystwyth, Wales and a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Mauritius.

Mr Rajdeo Kissoonah

Mr Rajdeo Kissoonah is presently the Secretary/Manager of the Mauritius Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd. He is also the Vice President of the Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Board Director of Belle Mare Water Users Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd and Board member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives.

Mr Kalyandutt Seechurn

Mr Kalyandutt Seechurn holds a School Certificate and has wide experience in the agricultural sector.

Mr Sandrasagarren Naidu

Mr Naidu holds a BSc. (Hons) Agriculture, University of Mauritius (1973), an MSc. Biometry, University of Reading, UK (1976) and a Diploma in Agricultural Surveys and Censuses, USDA (1981). He is a Freelance Consultant and a Trainer (MQA approved). His areas of expertise are management of agricultural research and extension, statistics and agricultural surveys, capacity building of Non-State Actors/ civil society organisations and poverty alleviation programmes

Mr L Mungry

Mr L Mungry holds a School Certificate and has wide experience in the agricultural sector. He is the Secretary of the Agricultural Development Marketing Association (ADMA) in Glen Park, Vacoas. He is a member of the National Potato Committee, National Onion and Garlic Committee.

Assoc Prof Daneshwar Puchooa

Associate Professor Daneshwar Puchooa holds an undergraduate degree from the University of North London in Biology and Chemistry and post-graduate degrees in Applied Molecular Biology and Biotechnology from the University of London, Plant Biotechnology and Teaching & Learning in Higher Education from the University of Mauritius and in Biosafety from the University of Ghent, Belgium. He was the Dean at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius.

Board composition for the period from 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025

Chairperson

Mr Ritesh Sumputh

Mr Ritesh Sumputh is a Barrister-at-Law. He joined Dentons Law Firm as Barrister since 2018. He was the Chairperson of the Sugar Investment Trust from 2005 to 2012, Chairperson of the Sugar Investment Trust Leisure Limited from 2005 to 2012 and Director of Mon Desert Mon Trésor from 2005 to 2012.

Mrs Hansa D Bedacee Dindoyal

Mrs H D Bedacee Dindoyal is the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries. She holds an MBA, A BSc and a Diploma in Public Administration.

Dr (Mrs) Joyce Govinden Soulange

Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange is the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Mauritius. She is holder of a PhD (University of Mauritius), MPhil in Biotechnology (University of Bath, UK) and a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture from the University of Mauritius.

Mr Vijaye Narain

Mr V Narain is the Manager of Magasin Narain au Service des Planteurs, a family business dealing in agrochemical fertilisers and agricultural products established in 1980. He is also the Company Secretary of O-Formulation Ltd. He was a Ward Manager at the SSR National Hospital from 2010 to 2013 and has a wide experience in agriculture and health sectors.

Mrs Farihah Soobrattee Ruhomaully

Mrs F Soobrattee Ruhomaully is a dedicated Urban Gardener with extensive experience in vertical, rooftop and balcony pot vegetable cultivation. She specializes in maximizing small spaces to create thriving and sustainable gardens. She focuses on organic and eco-friendly practices, seed selection, seasonal planting with a strong focus on environmentally friendly practices.

Mr Sunjeevsing Dindyal

Mr S Dindyal is an entrepreneur. He is actively involved in the agricultural sector namely in sugar cane and vegetable plantation.

Mr Norbert J G Soupe

Mr N Soupe is self-employed and owner of a business (Sculpture Vivante Ltée) at Deux Bras, Grand Port. He is a Landscaper and specializes in the design of gardens for offices and individuals, garden creation and maintenance, plant nursery management, tree and plant pruning, plant treatment and fertilization. He is also a Multimedia and Graphic Designer.

Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier, CSK

Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier has wide experience in the agricultural sector and is presently General Secretary of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture.

Mr Rajdeo Kissoonah

Mr Rajdeo Kissoonah is presently the Secretary/Manager of the Mauritius Agricultural and Marketing Cooperative Federation Ltd. He is also the Vice President of the Mauritius Cooperative Alliance Ltd, Board Director of Belle Mare Water Users Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd and board member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives.

In line with the requirements of the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius 2016, the Board Secretary and the Secretary of the Sub-Committees of the FAREI Board are qualified Chartered Secretaries and Associates of the Chartered Governance Institute (UK).

Sub-Committees of the Board

Four Board Sub-committees have been set up to assist the Board in the discharge of its duties and responsibilities. Each sub-committee operates under defined terms of reference and recommends specific matters to the Board.

The Sub-committees of the FAREI Board for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 were as follows:

1. Finance Committee;
2. Staff Committee;
3. Strategic and Monitoring Committee; and
4. Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

Finance Committee (FC)

Composition of the FC and its functions (from 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024)

Mr K Govind	**Chairperson**
Mr M Rughoo	Member
Mr L Mungry	Member
Mr R Kissoonah	Member
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager- Secretary

In Attendance

Dr (Mrs) A Dookun-Saumtally	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs B Radha	Manager Finance
Mrs S Auguste	Administrative Manager
Mrs V Hardowar	Stores Superintendent

Composition of the FC and its functions (from 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)

Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal	**Chairperson**
Mrs F Soobrattee Ruhomaully	Member
Mr V Narain	Member
Ms N Theeroovengadum*	Member
*(replaced by Mrs J Sauzier)	
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager- Secretary

In Attendance

Dr (Ms) M Madhou	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs B Radha	Manager Finance
Mrs S Auguste	Administrative Manager
Mrs V Hardowar	Stores Superintendent

The Finance Committee reviews and recommends to the Board matters pertaining to the financial situation of the FAREI, financial statements and reports, budget estimates, tender committee, bid evaluation reports and award of contracts. **Two** meetings of the Finance Committee were held during the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Staff Committee (SC)

Composition of the SC and its functions: (from 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024)

Mr K Govind	**Chairperson**
Assoc Prof D Puchooa	Member
Mr R Kissoonah	Member
Mr K Seechurn	Member
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager - Secretary

In Attendance

Dr (Mrs) A Dookun Saumtally	Chief Executive Officer
Mr A Seebocus	Human Resource Manager

Composition of the SC and its functions: (from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)

Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal	**Chairperson**
Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange	Member
Mr R Kissoonah	Member
Mr V Narain	Member
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager- Secretary

In Attendance

Dr (Ms) M Madhou	Chief Executive Officer
Mr A Seebocus	Human Resource Manager

The Staff Committee examines and recommends to the Board matters relating to, inter-alia:

- Human Resource Strategies;
- Interviews, Selection and Appointment;
- Training and Development; and
- Industrial relations.

There were two meetings of the Staff Committee during the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Strategic and Monitoring Committee (SMC)

The composition of the SMC and its functions:(from 1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024)

Mr M Rughoo	**Chairperson**
Assoc Prof D Puchooa	Member
Mrs J Sauzier	Member
Mr S Naidu	Member
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager- Secretary

In Attendance

Dr (Mrs) A Dookun Saumtally	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs M Seenevassen Pillay	Assistant Director (Livestock)
Mr A Goolaub	Assistant Director (Extension and Training)
Dr (Mrs) L Unmole	Assistant Director (Crop)

The composition of the SMC and its functions:(from 1 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)

Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange	**Chairperson**
Mr N J G Soupe	Member
Mrs F Soobrattee Ruhomaully	Member
Ms N Theeroovengadum*	Member
*(replaced by Mrs J Sauzier)	
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager- Secretary

In Attendance

Dr (Ms) M Madhou	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs M Seenevassen Pillay	Assistant Director (Livestock)
Mr A Goolaub	Assistant Director (Extension & Training)
Dr (Mrs) L Unmole	Assistant Director (Crop)

Terms of Reference of the SMC

The SMC shall inter-alia, focus on:

- Aligning with the strategic policy;
- Reviewing the performance and considering proposals regarding effectiveness and sustainability through Departmental review for crop, livestock and extension and training to farmers;
- Looking at the macro level issues and the FAREI's future in the medium term;
- Introducing, developing and promoting novel technologies in the food and non-sugar agricultural sector within a sustainable framework. To keep pace with the change, officers be given the opportunity to have access to new technologies (computer networking etc);
- Reflecting on FAREI's weaknesses, allocation of more resources in terms of recruitment and equipment, quality of reporting etc;
- Ensuring synergy among stakeholders;
- Preparing succession planning; and
- Addressing budgetary constraints to be able to unfold the strategic plan of action towards the farming community and avoiding departure from procedures.

There were **three** meetings of the Strategic and Monitoring Committee (SMC) during the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Audit and Corporate Governance Committee (ACGC)

Composition of the ACGC and its functions – (from 1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024)

Mr S Naidu	**Chairperson**
Mrs J Sauzier	Member
Mr K Seechurn	Member
Assoc Prof D Puchooa	Member
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager, Secretary

In Attendance

Internal Auditor, FAREI	The post of Internal Auditor was vacant for the period under review.

Composition of the ACGC and its functions – (from 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025)

Board member with a financial background to be designated	**Chairperson**
Mr N J G Soupe	Member
Mr S Dindyal	Member
Mr R Kissoonah	Member
Ms A Dunputh	Administrative Manager, Secretary

In Attendance

Internal Auditor, FAREI	The post of Internal Auditor was vacant for the period under review.

The Terms of Reference of the ACGC are inter-alia to focus on:

- The functioning and monitoring of the Internal Audit system to improve efficiency;
- Compliance with rules and regulations;
- Reviewing significant accounting and reporting issues to understand their impact on the financial statements;
- Encouraging consultation between internal and external auditors; and
- Assessing the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's governance, risk management, control frameworks, legislative and regulatory compliance.

No meeting of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee was held from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 since there was no member on the FAREI Board who had a financial background as recommended by the National Audit Office.

Anti-Corruption Committee

An Anti-Corruption Committee, comprising staff from various grades, has been set up at FAREI. The Anti-Corruption Policy of FAREI has been approved by the Board and is published on FAREI's website.

A Corruption Risk Identification exercise was carried out by a sub-committee at FAREI in collaboration with the ex-ICAC. Proposals for three Corruption Risk Assessments (CRAs) namely:

1. Overtime allocation to Stockmen, Gardener/ Nursery Attendants and Irrigation/ Pump Operators;
2. Sale of animals by FAREI; and
3. Sale of manure

have already been implemented at FAREI. The FAREI is also in the process of conducting Corruption Risk Assessments in other risk areas. During the period under review, one meeting of the Anti-Corruption Committee of FAREI was held.

Principle Three – Appointment of Members

Section 7(i) of the FAREI Act 2013 provides for the Institute to be administered by a Board consisting of:

- A Chairperson to be appointed by the Minister;
- A representative of the Ministry;
- A representative of the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture;
- A representative of the Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation;
- A representative of the University of Mauritius; and
- 4 persons with wide experience in food and non-sugar agricultural sector, to be appointed by the Minister.

Section 7(ii) of the FAREI Act 2013 provides that: 'The Chairperson and the persons appointed under subsection 7(i) (f) shall:

1. Hold office for two years; and
2. Be eligible for re-appointment.

Section 7 (iii) of the FAREI Act 2013 provides that "Every member shall be paid by the Board such allowance as the Minister may determine".

Principle Four – Remuneration, Duties and Performance of Members

Board members are aware of their legal duties which they are called upon to perform in accordance with ethical standards. Conflicts of interest are disclosed and managed. Management submits to the Board and its Sub-Committees well documented and concise reports and papers in a timely manner to allow Board members to perform their duties with due care, diligence and in a professional manner.

Attendance records, remuneration and benefits of members

Remuneration Philosophy

During the period under review, the Chairperson and Board members were paid fees in accordance with the recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau report 2021 and Circular Note No 54 of 2022 from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms (MPSAIR).

The remuneration of the Chairperson for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 amounted to MUR 184,633.34 for Mr H Woodun and MUR 135,791.67 for Mr R Sumputh. Board members namely Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal, Dr D Puchooa, Mr S Naidu, Mrs J Sauzier, Mr K Seechurn, Mr M Rughoo, Mr R Kissoonah, Mr L Mungry, Mrs B Fokeerbux, Ms N Theeroovengadum, Mr K Govind, Mr N Soupe, Mr S Dindyal, Mrs F Soobrattee , Mr V Narain, Dr J Govinden Soulange were paid fees and travelling for a total amount of MUR 211,600 for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Total number of Board meetings held from 01 July 2024 to 31 October 2024 was four.

Name	No. of Board meetings attended
Mr H Woodun	4/4
Mr K Govind	4/4
Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier	4/4
Mr R Kissoonah	3/4
Dr D Puchooa	4/4
Mr S Naidu	4/4
Mr M Rughoo	4/4
Mr K Seechurn	4/4
Mr L Mungry	4/4

Total number of Board meetings held from 01 April 2025 to 30 June 2025 was three.

Name	No. of Board meetings attended
Mr R Sumputh	3/3
Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal	3/3
Ms N Theeroovengadum	2/2
Mrs Jacqueline Sauzier	0/1
Mr R Kissoonah	3/3
Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange	2/3
Mr V Narain	3/3
Mr S Dindyal	1/3
Mr N J G Soupe	3/3
Mrs F Soobrattee Ruhomaully	2/3

Name	Fees (MUR) paid to Board Members for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025							
	FAREI Board	Telephone Allowance	FC	SC	SMC	ACGC	Travelling	Total
Chairperson								
Mr H Woodun	178,666.67	4,466.67					1,500.00	184,633.34
Mr R Sumputh	134,666.67						1,125.00	135,791.67
Members								
Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal	7,500.00		2,600.00	2,600.00			1,875.00	14,575.00
Mr S Naidu	10,000.00				6,300.00		2,625.00	18,925.00
Mr M Rughoo	10,000.00		2,100.00		7,800.00		3,000.00	22,900.00
Mrs J Sauzier	10,000.00				4,200.00		2,250.00	16,450.00
Mr K Seechurn	10,000.00			2,100.00			1,875.00	13,975.00
Mrs B N Fokeerbux**				2,600.00			375.00	2,975.00
Dr D Puchooa	10,000.00			2,100.00	6,300.00		3,000.00	21,400.00
Mr L Mungry	10,000.00		2,100.00				1,875.00	13,975.00
Mr R Kissoonah	15,000.00			2,100.00			2,625.00	19,725.00
Ms N Theeroovengadum*	5,000.00		2,100.00		2,100.00		1,500.00	10,700.00
Total	**400,833.34**	**4,466.67**	**8,900.00**	**11,500.00**	**26,700.00**		**23,625.00**	**476,025.01**

Name	Fees (MUR) paid to Board Members for the period 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025							
	FAREI Board	Telephone Allowance	FC	SC	SMC	ACGC	Travelling	Total
Members								
Mr K Govind	10,000.00		2,600.00				1,875.00	**14,475.00**
Mr N J G Soupe	7,500.00						1,125.00	**8,625.00**
Mr S Dindyal	2,500.00						375.00	**2,875.00**
Mrs F Soobrattee Ruhomaully	5,000.00		2,100.00				1,125.00	**8,225.00**
Mr V Narain	7,500.00		2,100.00	2,100.00			1,875.00	**13,575.00**
Dr (Mrs) J Govinden Soulange	5,000.00			2,100.00			1,125.00	**8,225.00**
Total	**37,500.00**		**6,800.00**	**4,200.00**			**7,500.00**	**56,000.00**

* Member representing the Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture on FAREI Board

** Alternate Member representing the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security on FAREI Board.

Attendance of Board members at Sub-Committees

Name	Sub-Committees			
	Finance Committee	Staff Committee	Strategic Monitoring Committee	Audit and Corporate Governance Committee
Mrs H Bedacee Dindoyal	1/2	1/2	Nil	No meeting of the ACGC was held during the period under review
Mr S Naidu	Nil	Nil	3/3	
Mr M Rughoo	1/2	Nil	3/3	
Mrs J Sauzier	Nil	Nil	2/3	
Mr K Seechurn	Nil	1/2	Nil	
Mrs B Fokeerbux *	Nil	1/2	Nil	
Dr D Puchooa	Nil	1/2	3/3	
Mr L Mungry	1/2	Nil	Nil	
Mr R Kissoonah	Nil	1/2	Nil	
Ms N Theeroovengadum	½	Nil	1/3	
Mr K Govind	1/2	Nil	Nil	
Dr J Govinden Soulange	Nil	1/2	Nil	
Mr V Narain	1/2	1/2	Nil	
Mrs F Soobrattee	1/2	Nil	Nil	
Mr S Dindyal	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Mr N J G Soupe	Nil	Nil	Nil	

Nil – Not a member of the sub-committee

Legal Duties

All members of the Board including an alternate member are informed of their fiduciary duties at the time of their appointment.

Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics for FAREI's employees rests on a number of core values which require integrity, selflessness, impartiality, objectivity, accountability, honesty and justice.

The three guiding principles of the code are that FAREI employees shall:

1. Fulfil their lawful obligations to FAREI with professionalism, integrity and loyalty;
2. Perform their official duties honestly, faithfully and efficiently while respecting the rights of the public and their colleagues; and
3. Not to bring the FAREI into disrepute through their private activities.

Board members are also apprised of the requirements of their Code of Ethics.

Conflict of Interest

All conflicts of interest are recorded during Board meetings on an "if and when required" basis. Directors accordingly recuse from participating in matters where they may find themselves to be in a situation of conflict of interest.

Related Party Transactions

The particulars in respect of Related Party Transactions have been disclosed in Note 3 of the Financial Statements. Board Directors keep information relating to the FAREI, gathered in their capacity as Directors, strictly confidential and private and do not divulge them to anyone without the authority of the Board. As per the requirement of the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius 2016, the FAREI, as a Statutory Body, should evaluate its Board Directors on a regular basis. The matter will be discussed at the level of the Parent Ministry on the way forward.

Principle Five – Risk Governance and Internal Control

The Board considers risk management as an integral component of good business practice with a view to support management's decision making, improve the reliability of business performance and to assist in the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

The Internal Audit section is responsible for providing assurance to the Board regarding the implementation, operation and effectiveness of internal controls in place at the FAREI and risk management. Internal Audit reports are taken up at meetings of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. The systems in place are geared towards the implementation, maintenance and monitoring of the internal controls and the processes by which the Board is given assurance that the internal audit systems in place are effective.

The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee monitor and evaluates the duties and responsibilities of management and of the Internal and External Audit to ensure that all major issues reported have been satisfactorily resolved. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee reports important matters to the Board.

Environment Risk

The FAREI does not operate in a manner that may cause harm to the environment, in general, nor does it use materials of risky nature which may affect the environment. The FAREI complies with the relevant environmental laws and regulations.

Corporate Quality

A key aspect of risk management is to ensure high operational and service standards to all stakeholders of FAREI, especially the farming community to maintain a good corporate image.

Operation Risk

The FAREI maintains its fleet of vehicles, tractors, buildings, IT tools and systems, laboratory equipment and other infrastructure in good condition to ensure continuous service to the farming community. The FAREI has never delayed any service delivery due to operating failures.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The FAREI is not exposed to foreign exchange risk. The main sources of finance were from Government grants.

Internal Control

The Board is primarily responsible for the effectiveness and efficiency of the system of internal control, while the design, implementation and monitoring of the system devolve on Management.

Internal Audit

The system of internal control at the FAREI includes checks and balances through the operation of internal checks. The internal control system ensures the efficiency and effectiveness of the Institute.

Risk Assessment/ Risk Management

Risk assessment is also an essential part of the Corruption Prevention Plan. The outcome of the risk assessment forms the basis for the development of the appropriate corruption prevention measures. In this context, a Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) Plan has been prepared by FAREI in collaboration with the ex-ICAC (now Financial Crimes Commission).

Principle Six – Reporting with Integrity

The core values of the FAREI include service excellence to the farming community, customer care, teamwork, empowering its human resources for first class service delivery to the stakeholders of the Agri-Business sector. A fair, balanced and understandable assessment of the FAREI's financial, environmental, social and governance positions, performance and outlook have been presented in this Report.

The Annual Report, which incorporates the financial statements of FAREI, is prepared in accordance with the IPSAS and is submitted to the National Audit Office within the prescribed submission date after being approved by the Board. The Annual Report is published regularly, and copies are forwarded to the Parent Ministry to be tabled at the National Assembly as per the statutory requirements. The Annual Report is published in full on the FAREI's website for the information of its main stakeholders.

Human Capital - Valuing our people

The strength of any organization lies in its human resources. The goal of the FAREI is to be acknowledged as an ''employer of choice'', focusing on the welfare and development of every employee. The FAREI is aware that productivity depends on the intrinsic motivation and job satisfaction of each employee. The FAREI is therefore striving to create an atmosphere of trust at the workplace. However, in return, it is expected that all employees should aim higher and show their professionalism in providing quality service, whilst abiding by the prescribed Code of Ethics at work.

Intellectual Capital

The FAREI makes use of intellectual assets to ensure the best possible performance and operational efficiency. The organization continuously invests in technology solutions and IT tools for a more efficient management of documents, to facilitate knowledge sharing, to improve service delivery to the farming community and to safeguard customer and corporate data.

Digitalisation

Research and Extension Key Information Repository System

In this context, the FAREI has successfully implemented a repository system namely the Research and Extension Key Information Repository System (REKIR), whose objective is to digitalize the core activities of FAREI to ensure quality research and extension services for the sustainable development of agriculture and food production.

The system intends to keep all records, allow streamlining of complete cycles to administer research and extension tasks like registering research protocols, monitoring research experiments and results of experiments conducted on FAREI's stations and on-farm. It also intends to provide the necessary facilities to the Extension and Training department to register

farmers, register visits to farmers, advice provided and to maintain publications generated by the different divisions of FAREI throughout their activities.

Political and Charitable Donations

During the period under review, no political or charitable donations were made.

Safety and Health Policy Statement

Safety and Health

FAREI is committed to protecting the environment and the safety and health of its employees, customers and the public by conducting business in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner. Our vision is an injury-free workplace where all incidents are preventable. FAREI establishes safety and health management systems to identify hazards and manage associated risks. Regardless of position or place within our organization, each person has the responsibility for his/her own safety as well as of those around them. Everyone has the responsibility to stop and report any potentially unsafe activity, exposure or condition.

Medical Surveillance

The Medical Surveillance Program is carried out regularly for staff who are exposed to conditions which are hazardous to their health. The purpose of the medical screening is for an early detection of any case of occupational disease and aims at ensuring that all concerned employees are fit for duty.

Pre-Employment medical examination is carried out to determine the aptitude or non-aptitude of new candidates for employment. All newly recruited staff must undergo a comprehensive medical examination prior to their substantive appointment.

Fire Drill Exercises and Contract Maintenance for Fire Extinguishers

Fire drill exercises are carried out on a regular basis at all FAREI sites. The maintenance of fire extinguishers on all FAREI sites was ongoing by a private service provider.

Confidentiality, Secrecy, Transparency and Integrity

The affairs of the FAREI are conducted in a transparent manner, with the timely preparation of Financial Statements and Annual Reports. In addition, there are certain rules that employees have to adopt in relation to the disclosure of information regarding the FAREI.

For the sake of transparency within the organization, clear sets of internal procedures have been devised to eliminate the risks of fraud, errors and corruption. Well established and comprehensive procedures have been formulated by the Anti-Corruption Committee of FAREI in its Anti-Corruption Policy which is displayed on its website.

Gender Policy Statement

The FAREI re-iterates its commitment to having an increasing number of women working for the organization. Female employees are encouraged to participate in the decision-making processes and are empowered to take on higher responsibilities.

The staffing position gender-wise was as follows for the period under review:

Grades	Male	Female
Directorate, Scientific, Technical and Administrative Staff	118	132
Workmen's Group	252	54
Sub-Total	370	186
Total	**556**	

Financial Capital

The FAREI derives its revenue from:

1. Government grants;
2. Special government funding for specific projects;
3. External funding for specific projects; and
4. Sales of products and services.

These funds are used to meet FAREI's objectives and functions and on a broader scale to contribute to the development of the Agri-Business sector.

Environmental and Social Responsibilities

The FAREI strives to operate in a responsible manner and focuses on the impact of its operations on the environment.

Operating responsibly means making prudent and timely investments to ensure the sustainability of its operations and to constantly seek for more sustainable ways of working to protect, enhance and reduce its impact on the natural environment. To this end, a Green Cell has been set up and the following measures have been implemented by the FAREI:

- Inclusion of a minimum efficiency clause in bid documents for the procurement of electrical and mechanical equipment aimed primarily at reducing electrical consumption and at the same time reducing operational costs and increasing the equipment's useful operational lifetime.
- Installation of photovoltaic panels on the roof of the FAREI's Head Office at Réduit and at Belle Mare Research Station. Other sites are being equipped with photovoltaic panels with the objective of cutting down electricity charges and producing electricity from green sources. The FAREI complies with the relevant environmental laws and regulations.

Conflict of Interest

Where an employee, in the course of the discharge of his/her duties, suspects or should reasonably suspect that he/ she may find himself/ herself in a situation of conflict of interest, he/she shall disclose his/ her suspicion to his/her immediate supervisor, who shall note the declaration in writing and issue such directive as he/she considers proper. Such disclosures are also made by members of panels set up to evaluate bids and by members of the Departmental Bid Committee. The disclosure system is also applicable to members of the Board, Board Sub-Committees and/ or management forming part of a Selection Panel during a recruitment exercise.

Principle Seven – Audit

Internal Audit

The FAREI has an independent Internal Audit section which reports functionally to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer.

The responsibility of the Internal Audit section is to evaluate and provide reasonable assurance that the risk management, internal processes, control and governance systems are functioning as intended to achieve FAREI's goals and objectives.

In order to ensure that the internal activities are effectively managed and add value to the organization, an Internal Audit plan is developed based on prioritization of areas using a risk-based approach. The level of risk is assessed based on the operational activities carried out by the FAREI, its funding requirements and weaknesses identified during audit tests carried out in the past by Internal and External Auditors.

The Internal Audit Plan is discussed and approved by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on a yearly basis at the beginning of the financial year and is ratified by the Board.

External Audit

In accordance with section 5 of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, the Financial Statements of the FAREI are subject to audit by the National Audit Office.

The objectives of the audit are:

1. To obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement and to issue an auditor's report that includes the opinion of the Director of Audit;
2. To obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to report on whether the FAREI has complied with the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, the FAREI Act and other applicable legislations, in so far as they relate to its accounts.

The External Auditor of the FAREI is the National Audit Office and its Auditors are rotated every three years. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee review the management letters and the reports of the Director of Audit on the financial statements of the Institute for corrective action by management where appropriate.

Meeting with the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee

The Board will establish a formal arrangement through the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee to maintain a proper channel of communication with both the Internal and External Auditors. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee will also have meetings with the External Auditors to discuss issues pertaining to accounts and management letters.

The post of Internal Control Officer/Senior Internal Control Officer was filled during the period under review and action is being initiated to fill the vacant post of Internal Auditor/Senior Internal Auditor to reinforce that section.

Principle Eight – Relations with Stakeholders

The FAREI is mandated to carry out farmer oriented applied research for development and to support the farming community for non-sugar crop and livestock production through its Extension Service. With a pool of professionals, it is also responsible for implementing Government policies, dissemination of new technologies and revenue generation for farmers as

priority. The organization also ensures that farmers and agripreneurs are empowered to maintain food crop production round the year to have a constant supply on the local market and to reduce imports as far as possible.

FAREI's Key Stakeholders

Open lines of communication are maintained to ensure transparency and optimal disclosure of information. Apart from official press communiqués and postings on FAREI's website, regular meetings are held with FAREI's Key Stakeholders to keep them informed of the various activities carried out by the FAREI. The Chairperson and Board members are also invited to attend these meetings.

Parent Ministry

The FAREI operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and assists the latter in its mission to improve food security and safety to ensure sustainable development, continued economic growth and social development.

During the period under review, FAREI collaborated with the Parent Ministry in the implementation and monitoring of government projects and schemes to enable farmers to improve their productivity.

The FAREI has extended its assistance to the Parent Ministry to facilitate the implementation of several schemes enunciated in the Government budget namely: Sheltered Farming, Purchase of composting equipment, Rain Water Harvesting, Purchase of Agricultural/ Processing Equipment, Purchase of Equipment, Acquisition of CCTV Camera, Banana Bagging, Fruit Protection Scheme, Purchase of Imported Quality Planting Materials, Upgrading of Livestock Farm, Calf Purchase, Cattle Breeding, Goat and Sheep Breeding, Pig Breeding and Pasture Development. Regular field visits were carried out by FAREI officers to monitor these schemes.

Reports on the management of the above-mentioned schemes are submitted at meetings of the FAREI Board. Regular contact and dialogue are maintained with the Parent Ministry to keep the latter informed of material events affecting the FAREI.

Employees

At the FAREI, we believe that employee's safety education, training and professional development are important investments in human capital which help promote an agile and engaged workforce to support the continuity of our business with a view to actively serve as a trusted resource to our stakeholders.

Customers

The FAREI places its customers at the centre of its activities by providing high quality and innovative service delivery. FAREI operates in different locations through its Model Farms, Demonstration Centres, Research Stations and Extension sub-offices to provide research, advisory and extension services to the farming community.

Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB)

Local seeds marketed by the Agricultural Marketing Board were certified by FAREI. Assessment and follow up on the local harvest of potatoes, onions and garlic were also carried out by FAREI for the period under review.

Financial Partners

Communication with Financial Institutions and the financial community in general is actively pursued and usually takes place through meetings and presentations. The Annual Report of the FAREI, which incorporates its financial statements, is posted on its website.

Other Stakeholders

Communication was kept with other stakeholders of the FAREI namely banks, suppliers of goods, works and services, consultants, legal advisors, representatives of employees' unions among others through meetings, letters, e-mails and videoconferences.

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act requires the Directors to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which fairly present the state of affairs of the FAREI and the result of its operations and cash flows for that period.

The Financial Reporting Act lays down that these Financial Statements should be prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Not later than four months after the end of every financial year, the FAREI shall submit the Annual Report to the Auditor, the National Audit Office. In preparing these Financial Statements, the Directors are required to ensure that adequate accounting records and an effective system of internal control and risk management have been maintained; suitable accounting policies have been selected and applied consistently; reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates have been made; and applicable accounting standards have been followed.

The Directors confirm that they have complied with these requirements in preparing the Financial Statements.

The Directors also report that the National Code of Corporate Governance for Mauritius (2016), as applicable to State-Owned Enterprises, has been adhered to and that the FAREI has applied the eight principles of the National Code of Corporate Governance.

1. Governance Structure (refer to pages 11 to 14)
2. The Structure of the Board and its Sub-Committees (refer to page 15-22)
3. Directors' Appointment Procedures (refer to page 22)
4. Directors' Duties, Remuneration and Performance (refer to pages 23 to 25)
5. Risk Governance and Internal Control (refer to pages 26 to 27)
6. Reporting with Integrity (refer to pages 27 to 29)
7. Audit (refer to page 30)
8. Relations with Stakeholders (refer to pages 30 to 32)

Name of PIE: Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI)
Reporting period: 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025
"Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf"

Ritesh SUMPUTH
Chairperson

Geetawantee RAMNAUTH (Mrs)
Board Member

Date: 17 April 2026

Section 4: Key Achievements

Key performance indicators and targets

Key Action	Indicator	Achievements		Projected		
		2023/ 2024	2024/ 2025	2025/ 2026	2026/ 2027	2027/ 2028
Introduction and evaluation of new varieties and new crops	1. No. of new varieties/ crops introduced and under evaluation	168	172	100	100	100
	2. No. of varieties developed	1	0	1	1	1
Introduce and evaluate new technologies	No. of new technologies under evaluation	5	5	10	15	15
Promote climate resilient production systems	No. of crop production systems under evaluation	7	8	10	10	10
Pest and disease surveillance	No. of cases attended at laboratory level for plant pest and diseases	741	890	600	600	600
Testing of products[1]	No. of new products tested	32	31	25	25	25
Develop post-harvest and agroprocessing protocols[1]	No. of protocols developed	15	17	5	5	5
Production and supply of planting materials	1. Amount of planting materials supplied	10,429	4,184	8,000	8,000	8,000
	2. Quantity of potato minitubers produced	131	262	500	500	500
Breed performance assessment	No. of breeds being assessed	5	4	5	5	5
Promote sustainable livestock production practices/ technologies	No. of practices/ technologies/ feeds and fodder under evaluation	9	9	6	6	6
Training of Farmers, visits and advisory services	1. No. of training carried out	355	278	350	400	400
	2. No. of farmers trained	4,544	4,518	5,000	5,000	5,000
	3. No. of visits and advisory services carried out	21,333	23,107	22,000	25,000	30,000
Financial assistance and support to farmers/ agroprocessors[1]	1. No. of applications for agricultural support schemes		510	500	525	550
	2. No. of beneficiaries		435	475	500	525
	3. No. of projects for state land evaluated		400	300	300	300

1. New indicator

In 2024/2025 the multipronged approach of FAREI resulted in a number of actions across the sector. Actions which resulted in improved production, better food quality and enhanced food safety, more skilled agripreneurs and sustainable initiatives.

Main impactful actions

1. New crop varieties recommended to farmers
    - 28 new crop varieties were recommended to growers; these included onion (3), tomato (5), chilli (5), eggplant (4), kailaan (2), cabbage (4) and swiss chard (5).
    - 61 new crop varieties are under evaluation for recommendation in 2025/2026. These include potato (5), hybrid onion (4), bean (4), peanut (3), sweet potato (5), pearl millet (9), chilli (9), carrot (2), kailan (1), cabbage (7), Kale (4), swiss chard (4) and asparagus (4)
    - Saffron, a high value and niche product, was investigated and successful cultivation was achieved under controlled environment – vertical farming system and growth chamber at Réduit CRS.

2. Promotion of organic production
    A. Composting for Soil Health
        - Upgrading of composting unit at Curepipe Livestock Research Station
        - New composting unit has been set up at Mapou Model Farm
        - A Seaweed Composting Unit has been set up at Belle Mare Research Station Seaweed composting technology was successfully developed



Seaweed Composting Unit at Belle Mare Research Station

    B. Community involvement in organic production

Set up of organic community gardens

- Two organic community gardens were established at Paroisse, Sacre Coeur, Beau Bassin and at Eglise St Ignace, Rose Hill.
- 143 participants benefited from training session on organic production (125) and organic household gardening (18).



Organic garden in the premises of Paroisse, Sacre Coeur, Beau Bassin (left) and Eglise St Ignace (Right)

3. Enhanced crop resistance to pest and diseases
   - Three tomato varieties (Ruby, Ryna and Miracle) were found resistant to the bacterial wilt disease.
   - LAMP technology was extended for sensitive detection of selected seed borne viruses and the bacterium *Ralstonia solanacearum*.
   - New products effective against selected pests and diseases were identified as follows:
     - Milstop (potassium bicarbonate) and Serenade ASO (*Bacillus subtilis*) against powdery mildew in cucumber and tomato.
     - Ex Miticide (Azadirachtin and datura extract) against the tomato russet mite.
     - Rafale 303 (Neem oil and Karanjin oil) and the synthetic insecticide cyantraniliprole against the diamondback moth on cabbage.
     - A new synthetic insecticide, cyantraniliprole was found effective against the larval stage of the tomato leafminer (*Tuta absoluta*) and thrips.

4. New value-added products
   - Post-harvest practices for cocoa were worked out. Various processed cocoa products were developed including cocoa nibs, chocolates, cocoa liquor, scrub, and odour absorbers.
   - Herbal teas, jelly cordial and lollies were developed from locally produced fruits and flowers.

5. Livestock production
   - Black Soldier Fly larvae have been successfully produced for testing as poultry feed.
   - Within the project on sustainable land management, two composting units and three fodder production plots have been rehabilitated/ set-up for research and demonstration on sustainable land and livestock management.
   - Technical assistance under the CBIT was obtained from Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change for development of Tier 2 Enteric Fermentation Emission Factors and a Model for Livestock in both Mauritius and Rodrigues. The project aimed to strengthen the national greenhouse gas inventory of the Republic of Mauritius and improve climate reporting and transparency.

6. Support to farmers and entrepreneurs
   - 435 beneficiaries were supported through grants aimed at modernising agricultural activities and improving productivity and quality of products this included payment for replacement of plastic sheet and net cover post cyclone/ calamity. Moreover, planters engaged in banana production used blue bags to protect fruits against freckle disease. For the period under review, 17 banana planters were granted support to purchase protective bags.

7. Training and advisory service

- Some 215 agri-business enterprises benefitted free advisory services and product development.
- A total of 595 potential promoters were given assistance for project write-up in connection with request for State Lands. 400 projects for request of State Lands were evaluated prior to the sitting of the State Land Evaluation Committee.
- 77 training courses on different modules in crop and livestock production were carried out and attended by 1,531 farmers/entrepreneurs. The training also included specialised topics such as production of planting materials, water and energy saving irrigation technologies, organic seed production, soil fertility and sustainable land management and seaweed composting.
- 7 trainings were carried out in agro-processing for fruits and vegetables with 137 participants and 14 conducted tours to the processing unit for 207 participants.
- 2 trainings were carried out in processing of dairy products with 28 participants.
- Some 23,107 field visits and advisory services were carried out to provide assistance to farmers and agro-entrepreneurs.

Section 5: Technical Highlights

Crop Research and Development

Crop research and development program focused on enhancing crop productivity and quality and sustainability of production systems through multiple avenues. These included introduction and evaluation of new germplasm and breeding for superior crop varieties, supported by the production of quality planting materials. Key activities included development of climate smart and sustainable production practices and innovative production technologies such as hydroponic, aquaponic and vertical farming. Research activities were also focused on the development of sustainable pest and disease management strategies, reduction of food loss through development postharvest treatments and value addition as well as insect farming for feed and organic fertiliser production.

Introduction and evaluation of new crop germplasm

A total of 134 new crop germplasms including 13 potato, 11 onion, 4 bean, 6 sweet-potato, 11 peanut, 13 cooking tomato, 20 chilli, 10 swiss chard, 4 eggplant, 7 carrot, 4 chinese cabbage, 10 cabbage, 4 kale, 2 chinese broccoli, 6 asparagus and 9 pearl millet varieties were evaluated in open field to assess their yield performance, quality and tolerance to major pest and diseases.

New foodcrop varieties recommended to growers

Twenty-eight varieties with consistent high yield, quality and disease tolerance were identified for recommendation to farmers for commercial production.

They included:

- Two red hybrid onion varieties Amit F1 (49.6 t/ha) and SON 1806 (39.5 t/ha) which outperformed the control Rosada (32.9 t/ha) in marketable bulb yield;
- One yellow hybrid variety Agrippa (49.5 t/ha) which produced nearly 8 % higher marketable bulb yield than the control Askari (46.2 t/ha);



Hybrid Onion varieties Amit F1 (left) SON 1806 (below) and Agrippa (right)

- Five cooking tomato varieties: KSP 1430, KSP 1431, Disha, Ryna, HVTM 215;



KSP 1430



KSP 1431



Disha



Ryna



HVTM

- Six chilli varieties: KSP 1471, KSP 1470, KSP 1350, KSP 1251, NS 203;



KSP 1471



KSP 1470



KSP 1472



KSP 1350



KSP 1251



NS 203

- Four eggplant varieties: KSP 1229, KSP 1261, KSP1421 and Sumo;



KSP 1229



KSP 1261



KSP 1421



Sumo

- Two Kailaan varieties: KL01 and NKL01;



KL01



NKL01

- Four chinese cabbage varieties: V1060 641, V1060 643, V1060 644 and V1060 646;



V1060 641



V1060 643



V1060 644



V1060 646

- Five swiss chard varieties: Fordhook Giant, Greenwave, Lucullus, Charlie and Argentata.



Lucullus



Fordhook Giant



Argentata



Greenwave



Charlie

Varieties for future recommendations

Sixty-one varieties were screened with desirable traits and will be further evaluated in 2025/26 to confirm their agronomic performance and gather farmers feedback and acceptance prior to recommendation.

These comprised:

- Five potato varieties: Aisha, Quintera, Panamera, Cayman and Buffalo;
- Four hybrid onion varieties: SON 2222, SON 2223, SON 1803, and 10260;
- Four bean varieties: CHITEDZE Bean 4 and AP 82;
- Three peanut accessions: Ramtohul (3 seeded) and ICGV 10176 and ICGV 86699;
- Five sweet potato varieties Little Leaf (with cream colour flesh), Carotte, U11, and Zapello (with orange colour flesh) and Leek (with purple striped cream colour flesh);
- Nine pearl millet varieties: (ICTP 8203 Fe 10-2, Dhanshakti, ICMV 22, ICTP 8203, WC C75, ICMV 221 White Bristled, ICMV 155 Bristled, SOSAT C88, ICMH 1201 and ICMH 1202);
- Nine chilli varieties: AVPP1339, AVPP1328, AVPP1327, HPJ001, HPR01, HP204, AVPP0520, AVPP1602-022 and AVPP1346;
- Two carrot varieties: Sega and Nativa;
- One kailaan variety KL 02;
- Seven cabbage varieties: Lunaria, Futoski, Powerslam, Irodori, Pride 004, SCR OAA98 and SCR OAB 48;
- Four kale varieties: Nolan, Toscana, Russian Red and Dwarf Green Curl;
- Four swiss chard varieties: Silverado, Eldorado, Rhubarb and Rainbow mix; and
- Four asparagus varieties: Pacific Challenger, Pacific Summit, Patron and Early California.

Crop variety development through breeding programmes

Various breeding techniques are being evaluated on crops including potato, bean, pea, tomato, chilli, cauliflower, cabbage, cucumber and onion.

Conventional breeding

To support the development of improved crop varieties, evaluation and screening of potato, bean, pea, tomato and chilli lines derived from crosses were ongoing in 2024/25. Work was focused on the screening of following advanced lines: three potato clones (142/161/4, 161/142/16, 29/5/10), 16 F9-generation bean lines, four F4-generation pea lines, 23 F4-generation cooking tomato lines and ten chilli lines from new crosses for desirable traits.

Mutation breeding

Seven advanced mutant (M7) lines of cauliflower and cabbage, developed through radiation-induced mutation breeding were evaluated for yield and tolerance to black rot disease. Promising lines displaying desirable traits were selected for seed production (M8). These M8 lines will undergo further evaluation for yield and quality, with the goal of releasing superior varieties to growers with stable enhanced traits for commercial cultivation in 2025/2026 season.

Maintenance breeding

Activities pertaining to maintenance breeding programme initiated to preserve the phenotypic traits of two landraces namely cucumber variety Local White and the cauliflower variety Local were sustained. Selected S8 lines of cauliflower and cucumber were assessed for stable yield performance and uniform true to type traits.

Breeding by selection

Rigorous selection for high uniform yield and firm bulbs of globular shape, low bolting and tolerance to disease was undertaken for two introduced open-pollinated red onion varieties: Roxa and Avon 1067. Selection was pursued for F6 generation of Roxa and F5 generation of Avon 1067 and the bulbs of selected plants were pulled and advanced to seed production in isolated field to prevent cross pollination. Bulk seeds of selected plants will be subject to further selection cycle to develop improved locally adapted open pollinated varieties with stable high yield and a combination of desired phenotypic traits prior to bulking and released for commercial cultivation.

Protected cultivation – Sheltered farming, Hydroponics

Research on protected cultivation to enhance climate resilience, optimise resource use and improve productivity and produce quality were mainly focused on screening the suitable crop varieties cooking tomato, cherry tomato, eggplant, sweet pepper and English cucumber for hydroponic or sheltered farming system.

Research activities also included the evaluation of new fertiliser formulation for hydroponic cultivation of tomato, assessing the use of thermos-reflective shading materials on greenhouse tomato production during summer months and investigating on the potential of saffron production under controlled environment in vertical farming system and growth chamber.



Saffron production in vertical farming



Saffron bulb at flowering stage



Harvested saffron flower



Removal of saffron stigmas

Out of 16 cooking tomato varieties evaluated, 5 including Ruby, Milto 1041, SK007, SK008 and SK009 were identified as promising for immediate recommendation, while 11 others with desirable traits were retained for further yield evaluation.

Planting material development

The two main actions under the development of planting materials were as follows:

- Production of quality seed potato

Research activities pertaining to quality planting materials development was focused on the production of quality seed potato tubers of varieties Spunta and Vigora through use of hydroponic system for potato minitubers (G0) production and assessing under filed conditions. The multiplication rate of mintubers of varieties Spunta, Vigora and clone142/161/4 for pre basic G1 seeds production. Vigora (23.3 t/ha) and clone 142/161/4 (22.9 t/ha) produced significantly higher total G1 seed yield than Spunta (13.0 t/ha).

- New invitro propagation technology

RITA Temporary Immersion Bioreactor system was introduced to improve invitro propagation rate of banana and the use of 2 mins immersion / every 4 hours enhanced the multiplication rate of banana Var FHIA17 plantlets by 2.5 times compared to conventional methods. Invitro propagation of local garlic accessions for production of clean planting material was investigated.

- Planting materials for farmers

A total of 5,870 potted tissue culture plants including banana, colocasia, breadfruit, pomegranate and anthurium were produced and were made available to growers and some 1,934 plants were provided free of charge for on-farm promotion.

Support was provided to farmers for the production of quality declared seeds (QDS) of onion variety Francia and 6.5 tonnes of selected Francia mother bulbs and 25 kg of Francia seed were produced. 349 kg of bean variety Ferrina seeds and 196 kg of bean variety FBS1 seeds were also produced under the QDS system.

Organic vegetable seed multiplications were undertaken on-station and in organic farmers' fields. Seeds produced were distributed to 27 trained growers to support organic production. Furthermore, seeds of a range of cover crops species were collected from farmers' field for multiplication and distribution.

Fruit and Nuts

Main outcome of the research activities on fruits and nuts are as follows:

- Two plantain varieties, Pacific Plantain and Kar Ngou were identified for their early production and cooking suitability, with Kar Ngou having larger yield.
- Raspberry and cape gooseberry gave a better yield in protected environment.
- Improved postharvest curing techniques for faster macadamia nut drying was developed and it led to higher kernel quality and higher proportion of large kernel chunks. FAREI provided macadamia growers with nut cracking facilities and some 834 kg of nuts were cracked in 2024.
- Strawberry variety Winterdawn was the best yielder followed by variety Sweet Sensation which produced the best fruit quality, with higher sugar levels, superior taste and also high potential to produce runners.

- New crop - Cocoa

Cocoa clones ICS 35 and ICS 48 were identified as particularly productive, with average yield of 4.3 kg pods per plant. Post-harvest fermentation and drying protocols for cocoa beans were successfully established for varieties Criollo and Trinitario, resulting in beans with good flavour.

Ornamentals

- Ornamental variety development and germplasm management

Among the crossings done in 2019 and 2020, 9 standard varieties and 2 potted ones have been identified as potential lines.



Anthurium Line ready for release

- Introduction and evaluation of new ornamental germplasm

Eleven varieties of chrysanthemums and 9 orchid families were under study at Reduit CRS and Wooton CRS.



Chrysanthemum varieties under study



Some Orchid lines under study

Post-harvest and agro-processing

Research activities focused on reducing postharvest losses and adding value to agricultural products (vegetables, fruits and flowers).

The main findings were as follows:

- Vegetables
  - Bulbs of yellow hybrid onion varieties Agrippa, Ngwazi, and ON 3350 and the red hybrid variety Amit F1 displayed good storability with storage losses ranging between 1.9 % to 4.3 % after 2 months under cold storage conditions 2 °C to 4 °C.
  - Sets of hybrid onion variety Agrippa exhibited the best storability, with significantly lower losses (6.5 % ambient, 1.9 % cold) compared to sets of the control variety Francia (12.5 % ambient, 5.0 % cold) which was at par with varieties Amit F1, Askari and Ngwazi.
  - Potato varieties, Innovator and Quintera were found suitable for French fries, Monica Russet and HOM 13-8239 for crisps, while Buffalo, Panamera and Cayman were suitable for fresh consumption and processing.
  - Several value-added products were developed, including herbal teas from organic rose petals, dehydrated papaya, papaya syrup and nectar, coconut squash and cordial, as well as jelly, cordial, and lollies from Butterfly Blue Pea flower. Postharvest practices for cocoa were standardized, leading to the development of cocoa-based products such as nibs, chocolates, cocoa liquor, scrubs and odour absorbers.
  - Storing sweet peppers (Armada and KSP) at low temperatures (10 °C to 12 °C) extended their shelf life to 36 days as compared to 13 days at ambient conditions.
  - Mature fruits of cooking tomato Jupiter showed the longest shelf life of 21 days under ambient with lowest postharvest disease incidence compared to fruits of 14 other cooking tomatoes varieties

- Fruits
  - Packed in perforated LDPE bio-bags and storage at 13 °C to 14 °C extended the shelf life of atemoya (variety African Pride) fruits to 14 days as compared to only 3 days under ambient storage.
  - Storage at 8 °C to 10 °C extended the shelf life of pomegranate fruits (Ind 19) to 41 days as compared to 19 days under ambient conditions.
  - Carambola fruits packed in perforated LDPE bio plastic bags and stored at 8 °C to 9 °C retained their firmness, colour and quality for four weeks.
  - Banana variety FHIA03 was found suitable for making of fries, crisps and dried snacks.

- Flowers

Use of home-made preservative vase solution containing 2.5 % Javel (2.5 mL/L of water), and 4 % sucrose extended the vase life of chrysanthemum cut flower.

Climate Smart Agriculture

- Irrigation and water management

Use of small-scale KSNM drip fertigation system supplying soluble fertilisers of the recommended rate along with irrigation water was evaluated on squash, green beans and cauliflower crop yield. Under open field, higher number and larger of squash fruits with 34.4 % increase in fruit yield per plant was obtained using drip fertigation as compared to similar crop under conventional drip irrigation with granular fertilisers of the same recommended rate.

Similarly, under protected cultivation, use of drip fertigation system significantly increased green bean yield by 22.3 % and curd weight (without leaves) by 75 % compared to conventional drip irrigation. Based on the findings, this drip fertigation technology was recommended to small-scale vegetable and fruit growers to enhance their crop productivity and resource efficiency.

A fully automated pressurized drip fertigation systems equipped with rain sensors, soil moisture probes, and remote Wi-Fi operation which allows optimal irrigation scheduling using of real-time soil moisture data with agro-climatic data was installed on farmers' fields at Pointe aux Piments and Fond du Sac for evaluation and demonstration.



Open field squash(left) and greenhouse bean production using KSNM drip fertigation

Soil health

Evaluation of new products

The use of Agrobiogel™ at 6 g/L of substrate, an organic soil amendment, produced better tomato seedling quality (longer seedlings and higher number of leaves) with only 50 % of the recommended water requirement.



Standard irrigation without Agrobiogel | Standard irrigation with Agrobiogel | Reduced irrigation with Agrobiogel

Tomato seedlings under different treatments

The combined application of Evenflow and DeSaltus significantly improved broccoli head in terms of weight (1.06 kg/plant) and curd circumference (63.5 cm), representing increases of 24.7 %, 9.3 % and 15 %, respectively, compared to the control (without Evenflow or DeSaltus). Use of DeSaltus alone improved all parameters but to a lesser extent, while use of Evenflow alone had no positive effect.

Soil fertility and health in organic farms

Soil fertility and soil health were studied in nine organic farms. The average soil fertility scores were 50 % and soil health scores ranged from 36 % to 46 %. This indicates inadequate nutrient cycling and low microbial activity and appropriate recommendations were made. Further testing will be carried out to monitor soil fertility and soil health.

Seaweed Composting

Fresh samples of two seaweeds (*Sargassum* and *Ulva)*, collected from Bras D'Eau Public Beach and analysed at the Mauritius Standards Bureau. These seaweeds were rich in essential nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen, potassium, calcium and magnesium) and were free of harmful toxins.



Seaweed compost

A model seaweed composting unit was established at Belle Mare Research Station where a mix of the above two seaweed species mixed with farmyard manure were composted. The resulting compost was compliant with the Mauritius Standard MS164:2010 for compost, thus certifying its safety for crop production.

The use of seaweed compost (20 t/ha) was compared with farmyard manure (FYM) (20 t/ha) both tested with and without organic fertilisers on strawberry production at Wooton CRS. There was no significant difference in fruit count between the treatments. Seaweed compost or FYM with organic fertiliser produced higher yield per plant (135.0 g to 141.3 g) and larger fruits (17.3 g to 19.0 g), compared to FYM or seaweed compost alone (102.4 g to 104.9 g and 13.9 g to 15.9 g, respectively).

The potential of using seaweed compost combined with standard inorganic fertiliser rate was compared with farmyard manure (FYM) with fertilisers and an untreated control (soil only) on onion growth and yield. FYM and seaweed compost (at varying rates) combined with fertilisers significantly increased onion bulb yields (24.2 t/ha to 29.6 t/ha) compared to control (15.7 t/ha). The yields between FYM and seaweed compost treatments did not differ significantly, thus confirming that seaweed compost was as effective as FYM as a soil conditioner in enhancing onion crop yield when used with inorganic fertilisers.

Crop Protection

Disease management

Biocontrol measures for disease management

Biocontrol practices were evaluated as sustainable alternatives to chemical methods for managing key crop diseases. Hot water seed treatment at 50 °C for 25 minutes, particularly when combined with mulching, proved highly effective in reducing black rot severity in cauliflower. Similarly, biofumigation using wild mustard with *Bacillus subtilis*, wild mustard with Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhiza (VAM), and Sunn hemp significantly suppressed bacterial wilt in potato, highlighting their potential for integrated disease management.

Resistant varieties for managing bacterial wilt in solanaceous crops

The use of resistant crop varieties as a sustainable approach for managing bacterial wilt in solanaceous crops was investigated. Six tomato varieties namely Swaraksha, Mito1049, Cobra, Miracle, KSP1430, and HVTM215 were identified with strong resistance to bacterial wilt.

New products against pathogens

Field and laboratory trials confirmed the effectiveness of several disease management products.

- Bellis (Boscalid and pyraclostrobin) at the rate of 0.5 mL/L of water and Nativo 300SC (tebuconazole and trifloxystrobin) at the rate of 2 mL/L of water were found effective against Stemphylium leaf blight in onion.
- Heliocuivre (copper hydroxide with pine derivatives) at the rate of 5 mL/L of water was found effective against bacterial blight in onion.
- Nemguard (garlic extract) at the rate of 10 mL/L of water showed strong potential as a bio-alternative for nematode control, performing close to the synthetic nematicide, Velum Prime.
- Milstop (potassium bicarbonate) at the rate of 4 g/L of water and Heliocuivre at the rate of 5 mL/L of water were found effective against powdery mildew in cucurbits and tomato.
- Heliocuivre at the rate of 5 mL/L of water treatment with one application of mancozeb at the rate of 2 g/L of water and hot water seed treatment followed by foliar applications of Bionse (*Bacillus subtilis* and *Pseudomonas* sp.) at the rate of 5 mL/L of water and Winero (*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*) at the rate of 5 mL/L of water were found effective in controlling bacterial specks in tomato.

New pathogens detected

Four new pathogens were detected: *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lactucae* Race 1 (FOL race1) on lettuce variety Tourbillon; *Colletotrichum siamense* on litchi, banana, avocado, anthurium, citrus and onion; *Colletotrichum queenslandicum* on chilli and *Colletotrichum theobromicola* on pomegranate.

Laboratory disease diagnosis

Eight hundred and five samples with plant disease problems were diagnosed and appropriate recommendations made.

Pest Management

Biological control of the tomato leaf miner

The tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*) is a serious pest affecting greenhouse-grown tomatoes in Mauritius. Research focused on its biological control. Under field conditions very limited natural biological control of the pest was observed with almost no parasitism and low populations of the predator *Nesidiocoris tenuis* recorded. However, laboratory trials confirmed that *N. tenuis* is capable of preying on about 20 *T. absoluta* eggs per day.

Eco-service plants

Seventeen selected plants and weed species were evaluated on their ability to attract natural enemies, such as parasitic wasps, syrphid flies, ladybird beetles and predatory mites, as well as key pollinators like bees. *Amaranthus* spp. (Brede Malabar) and *Ageratum conyzoides* (Herbe Bouc) stood out as particularly valuable for ecological pest management given their year-round flowering and broad support for multiple beneficial insect and mite groups. *Oxalis corniculata* (Petite Oseille), *Cardiospermum halicacabum* (Liane Poc Poc), *Bidens pilosa* (Herbe Villebague), *Hydrocotyle bonariensis* (Herbe Bol), and *Ipomoea obscura* (Herbe Patate) attracted a narrower range of beneficial insects, primarily syrphids or ladybirds. *Ricinus communis* (Castor) and *Tropaeolum* sp. (Nasturtium) had relatively short flowering period (3 and 4 months, respectively) and attracted only ladybirds and bees.

New products for pest control

- Tuta Pro Press, a pheromone-based male disruption product, at the rate of 750/ha drastically reduced *Tuta absoluta* infestation in greenhouse tomatoes, keeping leaf damage and moth catches at minimal levels compared to untreated controls.
- Exirel (cyantraniliprole) at the rate of 2.5 mL/L of water was found effective against *T. absoluta*, onion thrips, tomato russet mites, and diamondback moth larvae.
- Rafale 303 (neem and karanjin oil) at the rate of 0.5 mL/L of water showed high efficacy against DBM larvae.
- Ex Meticide (azadirachtin and datura extract) at the rate of 2.0 mL/L of water was found highly effective against tomato russet mites.

New pest recorded

Thrips *Megalurothrips usitatus* in beans at Britannia and the planthopper, *Kallitaxila* sp. in citrus, bois buis and coffee were recorded.

Laboratory pest diagnosis

Eighty-five samples on plant pest problem were diagnosed and appropriate recommendations made.

Black Soldier Fly production

Field cage rearing of BSF improved egg hatchability steadily, rising from 40 % in 2023 to 85 % by the ninth generation in 2024, while indoor LED-assisted rearing also enhanced hatch rates. Feeding trials with eight diet types demonstrated that low-cost substrates, such as a mix of stale bread and wheat bran, produced larvae comparable in weight to those reared on chick starter feed, making it a practical and affordable option for large-scale production. These findings highlight BSF's potential as a cost-effective strategy for converting organic waste.

Agroforestry

Agroforestry plot of two hectares was established in 2021 at the Britannia Organic Zone to serve as model demonstration plot for farmers. The plot integrated fruit trees such as jackfruit, mango and mulberry intercrops with turmeric, ginger, cassava, and sweet potato. Organic soil conditioners and neem-based biopesticides were used on the plot. Tree growth and biomass were monitored biannually for nine fruit tree species to gather data on carbon sequestration of fruit trees. Early results indicate hardwood species, particularly jackfruit, mulberry and mango store significantly more carbon compared to semi-hardwood and softwood species, highlighting the importance of species selection for maximizing carbon storage.



Agro Forestry Plot

Agroecology

Multilocational plots were set to investigate the potential of using agroecological farming practices for potato and bean companion cropping. Techniques included use of farm yard manure amended with *Trichoderma* spp., intercropping, use of ecoservice plants, biopesticides and reduced inorganic fertilizer. Agroecological plots hosted significantly more natural enemies than conventional fields, consequently reducing the need for pest control. Potato tuber yields across locations ranged from 6.0 t/ha to 14.0 t/ha. Bean yield varied per variety: Ferrina (harvested as haricot pale) yielded 2.5 t/ha to 7.0 t/ha, while FBS1 (green bean) yielded 4.0 t/ha to 9.0 t/ha.

Biofarming Unit

Two organic community gardens were established at Sacre Coeur, Beau Bassin and St Ignace, Rose Hill, with hands-on training for participants. A vermicomposting unit using imported red wriggler worms (*Eisenia fetida*) was set up for demonstration, benefiting 25 farmers through field visits and training. New sweet potato varieties were promoted among farmers through conducted tours and on farm trials.

Collaboration with Agrisud under the Green Farmers Program supported small family farms near Club Med resorts, enabling farmers to supply fresh produce at premium prices (40 % to 60 % above market rate) and improve productivity through advisory visits and agroecological practices.

Under the Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) project, cow dung and urine were supplied to over 100 farmers for the preparation of Jiwamrita. Surveys of participating farmers indicated substantial benefits, including yield increases of 63 %, improved canopy development in 60 % of fields, enhanced soil fertility reported by 84 % of farmers, and noticeable improvements in soil properties (colour, texture, and earthworm activity) in 78 % of cases.

The State Insurance Company of Mauritius Ltd. (SICOM) funded the production of an educational film on organic farming and the establishment of organic gardens at Autisme Maurice and Wooton Crop Research Station.

Youth engagement was strengthened through initiatives such as an organic container garden at James Toolsee Government School involving 100 pupils and a kitchen gardening workshop for 17 participants from Agalega.

To further promote biofarming practices, a range of outreach and capacity-building activities were carried out and included the following:

- Seven group meetings attended by 162 participants
- Ten demonstrations attended by 295 participants
- Two training sessions, one on avocado grafting and one on seed production attended by 89 participants
- Six conducted tours attended by 134 individuals
- Three hundred and sixty-six individual advisory visits to farmers and stakeholders
- Four MQA-accredited training sessions on Organic Crop Production, attended by 125 participants
- Six sensitisation talks/ meetings attended by 337 participants
- One training session on Organic Household Gardening attended by 18 participants

Livestock Research and Development

Animal nutrition and management

Rabbits - Stale bread as a partial substitute

The potential of using stale bread to replace 30 % of rabbit concentrate was evaluated. Weaner rabbits fed the test diet exhibited similar growth performance to those on the standard diet, while feed costs were reduced by 38.3 %. This demonstrates a cost-effective, sustainable feeding strategy for small-scale rabbit breeders.



Rabbits with normal diet



Rabbit fed on stale bread

Weaned cattle and goats – Liv.52 supplement

The impact of Liv.52, a liver-supportive supplement, on growth performance of weaned cattle and goats was assessed at CLRS. Animals received either a control diet or a diet supplemented with 2 % Liv.52 in a two-phase crossover design. Results showed no significant effect on average daily gain, indicating that higher inclusion levels may be required for measurable benefits.

Dairy goat kids – Milk replacer

Thirteen Saanen crossbred kids were fed a commercial milk replacer after an initial three-day colostrum period. The average daily gain was 59.6 g/day, demonstrating that milk replacer effectively supports growth while allowing dams' milk to be diverted for household use, sale, or processing. Gradual introduction of solid feed and ad libitum fresh fodder supported adaptation to weaning.

Animal Genetics Resources

Creole cattle conservation

Monitoring of the Creole cattle breed, initiated under the AU-IBAR project, continued in both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* units, with herd management including bull sales, sire replacement, and population tracking. In 2024, five units were operational with a total herd of 46 animals (20 *in situ*, 26 *ex situ*). Data were submitted to FAO for national reporting and to the 3rd State of the World Animal Genetic Resources report.



In situ Creole Cattle

Dairy cattle performance

Monitoring of progenies from Friesian heifers imported from South Africa yielded promising results. Milk production from F1 and F2 progenies averaged 13.9 L/day, surpassing the parent stock's 11.7 L/day over a 305-day lactation, demonstrating good adaptability to local conditions.

Heifer reproductive performance

In 2024, average age and weight at first service were 23.8 months and 387 kg, compared to 26.5 months and 436 kg in 2023. First calving averaged 35.9 months and 485 kg, with 1.6 services per conception. Further husbandry improvements are needed to reach the target first service weight of 300 kg.

Local, boer and crossbred goats

Crossbreeding of local does with Boer bucks showed that F1 progenies had significantly higher birth weight (2.6 kg) and average daily gain up to six months (66 g/day) compared to purebred locals (1.9 kg; 55 g/day), highlighting the benefits of crossbreeding for improved growth performance.

Dairy goat

Monitoring of Saanen dairy goats at CLRS continued to provide baseline data for milk production and management. The herd of 17 animals produced 1.0 L/doe/day on average, with peak yield of 2.0 L/day one-month post-kidding and total lactation output of 723 L from six does. Goat milk serves a niche market for direct consumption, value-added products and emerging sectors like cosmetics. FAO support has been obtained to upscale production under TCP/MAR/3904.

Livestock data management

The LASER2 software was used to monitor herd dynamics on 13 goat and sheep farms and two research stations, covering 297 goats and 54 sheep on farms, and 223 animals at stations. Activities included tagging, record keeping, monitoring births and deaths, and herd management. The MoFarm app assisted farmers in recording kiddings, and kits of basic drugs, vitamins, and consumables were provided to promote adoption of good husbandry practices.

Fodder Research and Development

Sweet potato as a fodder

Trials of three varieties (Accession 1, Little Leaf and Zapello) under irrigated and rainfed conditions showed Little Leaf had the highest dry matter yield (4.7 t/ha) and good nutritional value, making it suitable for multi-harvest fodder production.



Sweet Potato: Accession 1, Little Leaf and Zapello

Sustainable land management and silvopastoral systems

Three integrated crop-livestock model farms were established under the UNDP SLM project, incorporating composting, rainwater harvesting, and energy-efficient irrigation. A model silvopastoral system at Petit Merlo integrated trees, fodder, legumes, and livestock, with baseline vegetation biodiversity data collected (31 species from 13 families).

Fodder germplasm and conservation

The CLRS fodder germplasm collection includes 24 species/ varieties of grasses, legumes, and fodder trees. Propagation, cultivation and conservation activities included hay baling, silage vacuum packaging and leaf meal production. Seven new species were introduced for evaluation.

Waste management

Indigenous microorganisms (IMO)

Locally produced IMO solutions were characterized and found to contain beneficial microbial groups supporting nutrient cycling and organic matter decomposition, offering a sustainable approach to livestock waste management.



Preparation of IMO



Spraying of IMO inside shed

Composting of cattle manure and shredded banknotes

Composting trials with shredded banknotes mixed with cattle manure did not reach thermophilic conditions, indicating that pre-treatment with effective or indigenous microorganisms may be required.

Milk quality and processing

Subclinical mastitis

Quarterly screening using a locally developed kit and 0.5 % iodophor post-milking teat dip reduced subclinical mastitis prevalence from 66.7 % to 50 %, improving herd health management.



Locally Developed CMT Solution

Microbial quality of milk

Sampling across the milk production line showed coliform counts below regulatory limits except in the cooling tank (72,042 cfu/mL), highlighting the need for improved hygiene practices.

Ice Cream from fresh milk

A methodology for producing ice cream from fresh milk was developed, optimizing concentration, mixing, and freezing to achieve smooth, firm ice cream storable at -20 °C for up to six months, offering opportunities for local entrepreneurs.



Ice Cream Maker

Extension and Training

Introduction

The Extension and Training Department plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between agricultural research and crop and livestock farmers. It provides farmers with up-to-date knowledge, skills, and technologies to improve farming practices through effective information dissemination. Extension services assist farmers to increase their crop yield, better manage pests and diseases and use resources more efficiently through training, field demonstrations and practical advice. The department also promotes the adoption of modern/innovative technologies and climate-resilient sustainable farming practices and empower farmers to adapt to climate change and market demands.

The main stakeholders include crop and livestock farmers, agroprocessors, and new agripreneurs and the major training activities during this period were focused on the reduction of chemical fertiliser and pesticide use, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices including Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), climate-smart and agroecological farming systems, the use of bio-pesticides for the production of safe food.

Advisory service and visits

A total of 23,107 visits were conducted and technical information was provided to 18,032 farmers and agro entrepreneurs who called at Extension Offices. A total of 278 extension activities (group activities) were organised and benefitted 4,518 farmers and agroentrepreneurs. The activities included group meetings, field demonstrations, conducted tours and trainings (MQA approved training courses).

Group activities covered 32 themes covering topics in crop, livestock and processing such as: Integrated pest management, use of pesticides, outcome from research, hydroponic cultivation, dairy farm, goat rearing, agroprocessing and household gardening among others.

A total of 66,081 field visits were conducted for food crop and livestock surveys. In addition, field surveys were also carried out to assess state land occupancy, herbicide toxicity and pests and diseases incidences. There is an increase of 8 % in the number of visits compared to 2023-2024 period which is associated with an increase in the demand for schemes.

One hundred and 36 radio talks and 47 TV programmes on agriculture related subjects were broadcasted weekly for general public and farmers in particular.

Nine in-house trainings were undertaken for FAREI staff in the following areas: coconut production, litchi tree pruning, cocoa bean processing, management of new fungal banana, Fusarium wilt in lettuce, papaya seed production, use of Laser 2 software for livestock data management, soil health management and compost making.

Details of activities

	Crop	Livestock	Training	Total
Total Advisory Visits	**14,935**	**8,127**	**45**	**23,107**
Surveys				**66,081**
Evening/ Group meetings	**107**	**10**		**117**
Attendance	**1,224**	**190**		**1,414**
Conducted Tours	**39**	**8**		**47**
Attendance	**813**	**90**		**903**
Field Demonstrations	**37**			**37**
Attendance	**440**	**230**		**670**
Training of farmers	**55**	**15**	**7**	**77**
Attendance	**1,109**	**285**	**137**	**1,531**
Model farm-no of visitors	**1,373**			
Office calls	**14,734**	**2,079**	**1224**	**18,032**
Soil collected for analysis	**70**			
Pest and diseases samples forwarded for lab analysis	**288**			
Others (Water)	**11**			
Duty exemption	**65**			
Seed permits/Vouchers issued	**177**			
Herbicide damage assessments	**73**			
Seed treatment (HWT)	**35**			
No of paraquat permit issued	**2,437**			
No of DBM loans processed	**164**	**55**		
Land Conversion/Request state land	**22**			
Request for animals		**72**		
Request for feed		**186**		
Request for molasses		**62**		
Request for bagasse		**39**		

Other services offered

Recommendations were provided to farmers and agro entrepreneurs for soil amendments and pest and disease management. Assistance was also provided to facilitate farmers' access to inputs and services. In that context, 239 farmers accessed loan facilities at the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM), and 72 applications were processed for duty-free exemption for the purchase of single/ double cab vehicles. Support was provided to breeders for the processing of 259 applications for animal, 197 applications for feed, 45 applications for molasses and 19 applications for bagasse.

Activities on Model Farms

Extension model farms include Flacq MF, Riviere des Anguilles MF, Plaisance DC and the Mapou MF. These farms are used for demonstration of innovative technologies, promotion of organic farming, soil and water conservation practices and compost making. Around 1,373 planters visited these model farms in 2024/25.



Demonstration Mulching on model farm

Other activities

The Department collaborated with the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives for the organisation of two workshops for pig breeders of St Martin and Bassin Requin at FAREI St Pierre and BMRS, respectively. Thirty-nine pig breeders participated and were sensitised on pig feed management for better carcass quality and waste management.

The Department, in collaboration with the Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA), provided trainings to fishermen and communities in four villages. Two half-day practical trainings on kitchen gardening and community awareness programs were dispensed to 59 participants.

An aquaponic system integrating tilapia fish and vegetable under different production systems: media bed, deep water system, vertical tower and wicking system was established at Réduit CRS for demonstration to farmers and the community.

Technical Support

Biometry and Statistics Division

Monthly food crops statistics for open field and protected cultures were provided to Statistics Mauritius, quarterly, for compiling the Economic and Social Indicator (ESI) on 'National Accounts'. The BSD provided annual food crop statistics, by month and district for both open field and protected cultures to Statistics Mauritius for the Digest of Agricultural Statistics. Food crop statistics were shared with FAREI technical cadres and stakeholders upon request. During calamity period, food crop production was thoroughly analysed and forecasted for decision making regarding importation of selected vegetables to ensure national food security.

During the reporting period, retail and wholesale market data of food crops were verified, compiled and generated. Price data regularly collected at four different markets namely: Port-Louis, Vacoas, Flacq markets and National Wholesale Market in Wooton were captured in a database. These retail and wholesale prices are published on the FAREI's website.

The division gathered statistics from other Institutions including food import data, meteorological data and shared with FAREI staff and the Agricultural Planning and Policy Unit (APAU) of parent Ministry for decision making regarding research priorities and for preparation of the Strategic Plan 2024-2030 for non-sugar crop and livestock sectors.

A presentation on crop cutting methodology for estimation of crop area and yield was carried out for Extension Officers/Senior Extension Officers and Extension Assistants for the purpose of standardisation of field data collection for enhancing the quality of food crops statistics returns. The methodology on crop cutting exercises for strategic crops was discussed and shared for use for crop yield assessment

The division contributed in the preparation of the Fifth Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Biennial Review Report which track and report on progress related to investment and transformation of the Mauritian agricultural sector. Furthermore, the division provided inputs on the online national data platform (STAT SANOI) set under the FAO regional programme to support of Food and Nutritional Security in the Indian Ocean (SANOI). This platform is designed to centralise harmonised and reliable data for decision making to address challenges to food and nutrition security at national and regional level.

Business Development Unit

Implementation of schemes

The BDU had been actively involved in the implementation of numerous schemes to enable farmers to improve their production and productivity. Presently, there is a total of 19 schemes aiming at modernising agricultural activities and improving productivity and the quality of products.

Two new schemes namely: 'Purchase of land mechanisation equipment', and 'Purchase of fencing and security equipment' initiated in Financial Year (FY) 2024/2025 will be implemented in Financial Year 2025/2026.

The target group is mainly fruit and vegetable growers, breeders, beekeepers and agro-processors, who operate in the agro-industrial sector and meet the eligibility criteria.

For the FY 2024/2025, 510 applications were processed and 16 evaluation committees were held. A total of MUR 62,366,582.93 has been disbursed to 435 beneficiaries, which included payment for replacement of plastic sheet and net cover post cyclone/ calamity. Site visits were carried out by extension staff to ensure the implementation of projects under the various schemes.

Implementation of schemes for crop and livestock sector (01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025)

Scheme	Number of applications	No of beneficiaries	Amount disbursed (MUR)
Sheltered farming	131	104*	43,233,468.82*
Plastic/Net Replacement Scheme		98	3,280,855.06
Rainwater Harvesting (Crop & Livestock)	16	12*	512,545.96*
Purchase of Agricultural/ Processing Equipment	172	137	10,623,084.27
Acquisition of CCTV	57	62*	1,619,568.37
Purchase of Composting Equipment	3	1	373,125.00
Purchase of Imported quality Planting Material (fruit)	1	2	76,068.00
Purchase of Fruit Ripening Equipment	1	1*	500,000.00
Acquisition of Solar Powered Cold Room	1	1*	400,000.00
Bee Keeping	10	2	325,000.00
Upgrading of Livestock farm	14	10*	1,287,867.45*
Purchase of Calf	5	5*	135,000.00*
Pasture Development	1	-	-
Cattle Breeding	-	-	-
Goat / Sheep Breeding	-	-	-
Pig Breeding Scheme	-	-	-
Total	**510**	**435**	**62,366,582.93**

***** *includes applications made in previous financial year*

Assistance for applications for agricultural state land

In line with applications for agricultural state land, a total of 595 potential agri-entrepreneurs was assisted on their project write-ups for food crop and livestock production. 400 project proposals have been received and evaluated prior to the sitting of the State Land Evaluation Committee at the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries.

Processing of applications under the Biotechnology Loan Scheme / Women Entrepreneur Scheme

Seventy applications for bank loans were processed under the Biotechnology Loan Scheme (BLS)/ Women Entrepreneur Scheme (WES) of the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) Ltd.

Economics Unit

The unit reviewed and updated cost of production of 30 food-crops of economic importance including the following strategic crops: potato, onion and garlic. The cost of production for medium and high yielding onion as well as for seed potato, garlic and onion seeds for the determination of floor price. Support was provided to 10 emerging entrepreneurs for the development of their agri-business projects. Their project proposals were evaluated regarding feasibility of the financial plans. Special assistance was provided to organic producers in Britannia and high-tech agriculture promoters in their project development. The Unit trained around 50 beneficiaries in agri-entrepreneurship. Technical support was provided in the preparation of the financial analysis for litchi production and the preparation of a manual on "The Guide to Agri-Entrepreneurship". The unit compiled one hydroponic survey report and one report on the value chain analysis of the organic food production systems in Mauritius. Compensation and damage estimates in relation to land acquisition by the Government was an ongoing activity. The economic value of losses and compensation amounts were prepared for 20 beneficiaries.

The Unit provided support to stakeholder organisations, namely:

- the APAU in the compilation of CAADP indicators for submission to SADC
- the DBM regarding provision of updated cost of production of economic crops
- the UoM in the formulation of the Gender Policy Action Plan
- the Meteorological Services were assisted in the compilation of economic loss estimates in relation to cyclones affecting Mauritius over the past three years.

Engineering Division

Major initiatives under the division were:

The design and engineering documentation, including specifications, scope of works, and CAD drawings for the construction of a state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse on the Polytechnic's premises. The greenhouse is intended to serve as both a training facility for students and a demonstration unit to enhance practical learning in modern sustainable agriculture. The Division also offered technical guidance during the procurement process. The design of a custom water filtration system for a farmer located in La Chaumière. The system, with a capacity to filter up to 18,000 litres of water per day, included grit removal and a clarification mechanism. It was designed to resolve persistent clogging issues experienced by the farmer in his irrigation network. The filtered water will be used for open-field crop irrigation, thus improving water efficiency and crop reliability. Support for the construction and extension works at the institution's Head Office in Réduit, Wooton (Phases I and II).

Additional support and expertise provided by the Engineering Division included:

- Evaluation of assets to compensate farmer for the land acquisition for the construction of La Vigie – La Brasserie – Beau Songes link road
- Supervision of the setting up of a 6 kVA off-grid solar photovoltaic system to provide electrical power for the office on the silvo-pastoral model farm set at Petit Merlo
- Assist in the implementation of a composting unit at Mapou Model Farm, new poultry pen at BMRS and Flacq Model Farm
- Upgrading of an existing greenhouse into an environmentally controlled polycarbonate greenhouse and irrigation system for potato mini tuber production
- Provision of technical advice to five promoters on greenhouse technology and one promoter on irrigation system

Procurement Section

The Procurement Section ensures procurement of quality goods and services at competitive prices and effective ways in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006. The methodology used for the procurement of goods, services and works is based on the estimated cost.

During the reporting period, 86 bidding exercises were conducted manually and through the e-procurement system. Expenditure for procurement for the same period amounted to MUR 124,839,086.27.

Safety and Health

Meetings of the safety and health committee are held to provide a consistent forum for addressing concerns, reviewing protocols and strategising for continuous improvement. Throughout the year, comprehensive safety audits are being conducted regularly across our operational sites to proactively identify and minimise potential risks.

To further enhance our safety culture, "toolbox talks" are routinely conducted at various stations, providing practical, on-the-ground safety discussions. Furthermore, a comprehensive powerpoint presentation on safety and health is now a standard component of the onboarding process for all new recruits. This foundational training aims to equip them with a thorough understanding potential hazards and the safety procedures in the working environment.

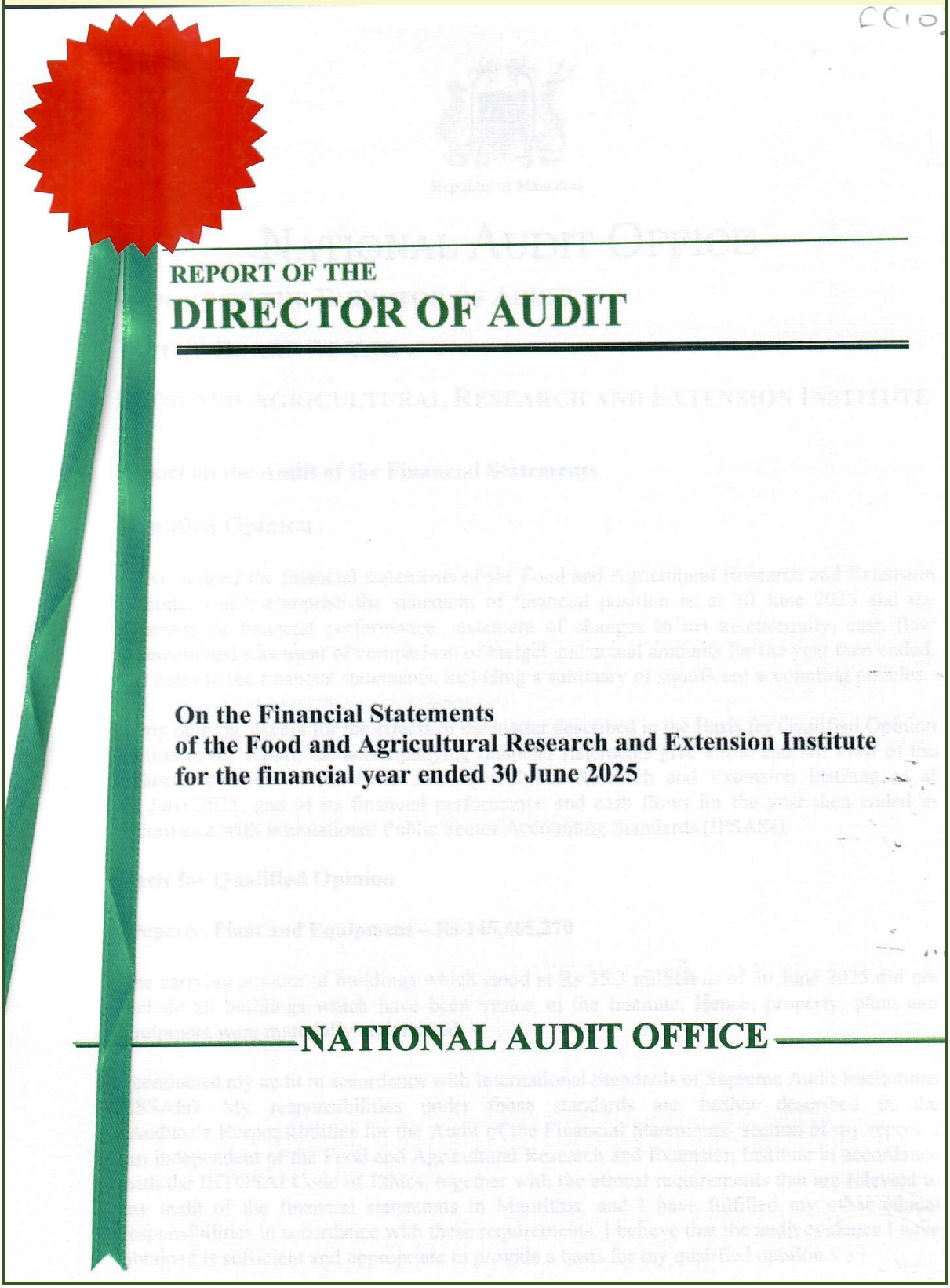
Information Technology Section

The IT Section drives innovation and technology adoption achieving significant milestones in enhancing digital infrastructure and optimising existing systems. This include the Research and Extension Key Information Repository System (REKIR), whose objective is to digitalize the core activities of FAREI and to ensure quality research and extension services. Provision is being made for the Extension and Training department to register farmers, register visits to farmers and to maintain publications generated by the different divisions of FAREI throughout their activities.

National Cyber Drill 2025

The IT Technician participated in the National Cyber Drill 2025 organised jointly by the Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU) and the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation. The aim was to enhance the country’s cybersecurity readiness and resilience while identifying areas for improvement in the national cybersecurity strategy through monitoring and troubleshooting technical issues identified during simulated real-world cyber threats to test the country's cybersecurity readiness.

Section 6: Report of the Director of Audit and Financial Statements for year ended 30 June 2025



REPORT OF THE

DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

On the Financial Statements
of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute
for the financial year ended 30 June 2025

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

Republic of Mauritius

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF AUDIT

TO THE BOARD OF THE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION INSTITUTE

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets/equity, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute as at 30 June 2025, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Property, Plant and Equipment – Rs 145,465,270

The carrying amount of buildings which stood at Rs 35.3 million as of 30 June 2025 did not include all buildings which have been vested in the Institute. Hence, property, plant and equipment were materially understated.

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of my report. I am independent of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute in accordance with the INTOSAI Code of Ethics, together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Mauritius, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to the General Fund in the Statement of Financial Position which showed a deficit of Rs 762,437,747 as at 30 June 2025.

14th Floor, Air Mauritius Centre, President John Kennedy Street, Port-Louis, Republic of Mauritius
Tel: 212 2096/212 2097/211 0882 – Fax: (230) 211 0880 – WhatsApp: 5919 4442 – Email: aud@govmu.org – Website: https://nao.govmu.org

My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Key Audit Matters

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. Except for the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, I have determined that there are no other key audit matters to communicate in my report.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, but does not include the financial statements and my report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

Opinion

Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act

I have obtained all information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of my audit.

In accordance with the requirements of the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act, I report as follows:

(a) this Act in so far as it relates to the accounts, has been complied with. No direction relating to the accounts has been issued by the responsible Minister to the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute.

(b) in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial statements submitted to me, expenditure incurred were not of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence; and

(c) in my opinion, the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively.

Public Procurement Act

In accordance with the requirement of the Public Procurement Act, the auditor of every public body shall state in his annual report whether the provisions of Part V of the Act have been complied with.

In my opinion, the provisions of Part V of the Act have been complied with as far as it could be ascertained from my examination of the relevant records.

Basis for Opinion

I performed procedures, including the assessment of the risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations, to obtain audit evidence to discharge my responsibilities as described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements' section of my report as referred to below. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with IPSAS's, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute's financial reporting process.

Management's Responsibilities for Compliance

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, management is also responsible to ensure that the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations, including compliance with the provisions of laws and regulations that determine the reported amounts and disclosures in the entity's financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or, when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Auditor's Responsibilities on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In addition to the responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements described above, I am also responsible to report to the Board whether:

(a) I have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit;

(b) the Statutory Bodies (Accounts and Audit) Act and any directions of the Minister, in so far as they relate to the accounts, have been complied with;

(c) in my opinion, and, as far as could be ascertained from my examination of the financial statements submitted to me, any expenditure incurred was of an extravagant or wasteful nature, judged by normal commercial practice and prudence;

(d) in my opinion, the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute has been applying its resources and carrying out its operations economically, efficiently and effectively; and

(e) the provisions of Part V of the Public Procurement Act regarding the bidding process have been complied with.

DR D. PALIGADU
Director of Audit

National Audit Office
14th Floor,
Air Mauritius Centre
PORT LOUIS

28 April 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	95,679,700	158,389,868
Receivables	7	15,763,073	11,367,911
Inventories	8	9,631,840	8,064,630
Prepayments	9	296,704	286,351
		121,371,318	178,108,760
Non-current assets			
Receivables	10	20,766,932	23,830,010
Property, plant and equipment	11	145,465,270	126,069,495
Work in progress	12	91,101,166	49,453,313
Intangible Assets	13	2,778,116	3,567,932
		260,111,484	202,920,750
Total assets		**381,482,801**	**381,029,510**
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Payables	14	16,631,660	22,786,430
Car loan payable	15	7,328,186	7,125,008
Employee benefit	16	18,262,109	17,898,959
Liabilities recognized under transfer arrangements	20	145,095,515	172,538,630
		187,317,470	220,349,028
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefit	17	172,962,493	168,911,170
Car loan payable	18	20,766,955	18,323,578
Defined benefit pension	19	762,873,630	863,477,954
		956,603,078	1,050,712,702
Total liabilities		**1,143,920,548**	**1,271,061,730**
Net liabilities		**(762,437,747)**	**(890,032,220)**
NET ASSETS / EQUITY			
General fund		(762,437,747)	(890,032,220)
Total net assets / equity		**(762,437,747)**	**(890,032,220)**

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

Approved by the Board on 17 April 2026.



Ritesh Sumputh
Chairperson

G Ramnauth (Mrs)
Board Member

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
Revenue			
Revenue from non-exchange transactions			
Transfers from government	21	563,090,162	512,730,132
Transfers from other entities	22	14,112,997	53,908,209
Revenue from exchange transactions			
Sales of produce and rendering of services	23	11,503,535	10,175,541
Total Revenue		**588,706,694**	**576,813,882**
Expenses			
Salaries and employee benefits	24	431,786,052	396,049,225
Supplies and consumables	25	45,639,703	44,977,447
Depreciation and amortisation	26	26,586,548	21,673,974
Other expenses	27	98,828,406	106,710,997
Total Expenses		**602,840,709**	**569,411,643**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		**(14,134,015)**	**7,402,239**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS / EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Rs
General fund	
Balance as at 01 July 2023	(806,106,469)
Prior year adjustment	(794,516)
Remeasurement of Employee Benefit: IPSAS 39	(90,533,473)
Surplus for the period	7,402,239
Closing balance as at 30 June 2024	(890,032,220)
Balance as at 01 July 2024	(890,032,220)
Prior year adjustment	2,286,794
Revaluation of assets	3,000,000
Remeasurement of Employee Benefit: IPSAS 39	136,441,694
Deficit for the period	(14,134,015)
Closing balance as at 30 June 2025	(762,437,747)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Notes	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(14,134,015)	7,402,239
Prior year adjustment		2,286,794	(794,520)
Revaluation of assets		3,000,000	-
Exchange gain/(loss)		(629,926)	(848,040)
Non-cash movements			
Depreciation for the year		25,741,703	21,155,688
Amortisation of intangible asset		844,845	518,286
Exchange (gain)/loss		629,926	848,040
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of fixed assets		-	(545,200)
Increase / (Decrease) in defined benefit pension		35,837,370	38,816,626
(Increase) / Decrease in receivables		(615,189)	(3,875,404)
(Increase) / Decrease in inventories		(1,567,210)	812,470
Increase / (Decrease) in payables		(30,951,331)	(1,817,545)
Increase / (Decrease) in employee benefit		4,414,472	9,021,579
Net cash flows from operating activities		**24,130,192**	**70,694,219**
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	b	(45,137,479)	(48,265,476)
Addition in work in progress		(41,647,853)	(20,510,779)
Purchase of intangible assets		(55,028)	(3,999,806)
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		-	545,200
Net cash flows from investing activities		**(86,840,360)**	**(72,230,861)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Loan received from Ministry		10,439,675	8,682,400
Loan repaid to Ministry		(7,806,957)	(7,541,184)
Loan release to staff		(10,439,675)	(8,682,400)
Loan refunded by staff		7,806,957	7,541,184
Net cash flow from financing activities		**-**	**-**
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		**(62,710,168)**	**(1,536,642)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**158,389,868**	**159,926,510**
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	a	**95,679,700**	**158,389,868**

Notes to Cash Flow

a. Cash and cash equivalents

The cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand and bank balances. The cash and cash equivalents included in the cash flow statement comprise the following:

Cash at bank	95,642,941	158,350,041
Cash in hand	36,759	39,827
	95,679,700	**158,389,868**

b. Property, plant and equipment

During the financial year ended 30 June 2025, FAREI acquired property, plant and equipment amounting to Rs45,137,479 which was financed by cash. A total of Rs7,163,471 funded by the Government in terms of capital contribution were spent on infrastructure assets.

STATEMENT OF RECONCILIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Revised Budget Rs	Actual Amount Rs		Movement Rs	Financial Statement Rs
Revenue					
Government Grant	410,500,000	421,445,100		-	421,445,100
Capital Grant	55,300,000	39,429,443		45,399,840	84,829,283
Schemes	173,500,000	84,143,936		(13,215,160)	70,928,775
Other Income	10,000,000	11,503,535		-	11,503,535
	649,300,000	**556,522,014**		**32,184,680**	**588,706,694**

	Revised Budget Rs	Actual Amount Rs	Accruals Rs	Prepayment Rs	Financial Statement Rs
Expenditure					
Salaries and other related costs	287,926,060	286,616,692	2,554,577	-	289,171,269
Pension cost (SICOM)	58,000,000	62,091,398	35,837,370	-	97,928,768
Passage benefits	6,000,000	8,230,820	1,859,895	-	10,090,715
Travelling and transport	34,762,788	33,895,417	699,883	-	34,595,300
Office expenses	4,350,000	3,063,222	10,016	-	3,073,238
Utilities	7,900,000	8,376,418	1,454,925	-	9,831,343
Rent	1,225,000	1,285,363	-	54,000	1,231,363
Maintenance and running cost of vehicles	4,750,000	5,310,422	7,300	-	5,317,722
Maintenance of building and equipment	3,200,000	7,214,874	21,673	7,667	7,228,880
Training	1,150,000	1,119,337	75,000	-	1,194,337
Information technology facilities	1,000,000	2,229,933	573	179,243	2,051,263
Uniform and protective clothing	2,000,000	3,077,993	-	-	3,077,993
Nursery and laboratory consumables	1,200,000	1,849,865	-	-	1,849,865
Security services	20,000,000	17,151,496	1,563,923	-	18,715,419
Other operating expenses (animal feed, fertiliser, seeds, etc)	21,025,010	17,361,955	208,700	-	17,570,655
Schemes	173,500,000	70,928,775	-	-	70,928,775
Insurance non-motor	800,000	562,448	-	25,794	536,654
Legal and professional fee	650,000	728,650	-	30,000	698,650
Chairman and board members fee	1,200,000	532,025	-	-	532,025
Total expenditure	**630,638,858**	**531,627,102**	**44,293,835**	**296,704**	**575,624,234**

STATEMENT OF COMPARISON OF BUDGET AND ACTUAL AMOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Original Budget Rs	Revised Budget Rs	Actual Received/ Paid Rs	Difference Revised Budget and Actual Rs	Remarks
Revenue					
Government Grant	410,500,000	410,500,000	421,445,100	10,945,100	Increase due to release for Special Allowance not budgeted for
Capital Grant	115,000,000	115,000,000	39,429,443	(75,570,557)	Funds requested not disbursed by Ministry
Schemes	173,500,000	173,500,000	84,143,936	(89,356,064)	Decrease in number of applications received for Schemes
Other Income	10,000,000	10,000,000	11,503,535	1,503,535	Favorable variance generated from sales
	709,000,000	**709,000,000**	**556,522,014**		
Expenditure					
Salaries and other related costs	287,926,060	287,926,060	286,616,692	1,309,368	Savings due to retirement of officers.
Pension cost (SICOM)	58,000,000	58,000,000	62,091,398	(4,091,398)	Overspent due to confirmation of employees
Passage benefits	6,000,000	6,000,000	8,230,820	(2,230,820)	Increase in cashing of passage benefits
Travelling and Transport	34,761,790	34,762,788	33,895,417	867,371	Savings due to retirement of officers
Office Expenses	10	4,350,000	3,063,222	1,286,778	Budget was overstated
Utilities	7,900,000	7,900,000	8,376,418	(476,418)	Increase due to additional mobile phones and tablets issued to officers
Rent	10	1,225,000	1,285,363	(60,363)	
Maintenance and running cost vehicles	10	4,750,000	5,310,422	(560,422)	Increase in repairs and maintenance costs of vehicles
Maintenance of building and equipment	10	3,200,000	7,214,874	(4,014,874)	Overspent amount financed under capital budget
Training	10	1,150,000	1,119,337	30,663	
Information Technology Facilities	10	1,000,000	2,229,933	(1,229,933)	Increase due to expenses incurred under capital project
Uniform and protective clothing	2,000,000	2,000,000	3,077,993	(1,077,993)	Increase due to -filling of vacancies
Nursery & Laboratory consumables	10	1,200,000	1,849,865	(649,865)	Overspent amount financed under capital budget
Security services	10	20,000,000	17,151,496	2,848,504	Savings due to deductions for shortcomings
Other operating expenses (animal feed, fertilizer, seeds, etc)	11,912,060	21,025,010	17,361,955	3,663,055	Budget was overstated
Schemes		173,500,000	70,928,775	102,571,225	Budget was overstated
Insurance non-motor	800,000	800,000	562,448	237,552	Budget was overstated
Legal & Professional Fee	10	650,000	728,650	(78,650)	Budget was understated
Chairman and Board members fee	1,200,000	1,200,000	532,025	667,975	Underspent due to dissolution of the Board
Total Expenditure	**410,500,000**	**630,638,858**	**531,627,102**	**99,011,755**	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

1A. General Information on reporting entity

The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI), a body corporate which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries was established on 14 February 2014 and is regulated by the **Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute Act 2013**.

The establishment of the FAREI was to take over the activities of the Food and Agricultural Research Council (FARC), including the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU).

The objects of FAREI is to introduce, develop and promote such novel technologies in the food and non-sugar agricultural sector as may be approved by the Minister; to coordinate, promote and harmonise research activities in non-sugar agriculture, food production and forestry; promote and encourage agricultural and agribusiness development, through the setting up of agricultural youth clubs and agricultural entrepreneur clubs; and promote dissemination and practical application of the results of any research undertaken under the FAREI Act.

The Institute's principal place of business is at Reduit.

1B. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation of the financial statements

a. Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSASs) issued by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB) which is a Board of the International Federation of Accountants Committee (IFAC).

Where an IPSAS does not address a particular issue, the appropriate International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and International Accounting Standards (IAS) of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are applied.

b. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual and on a going concern basis. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The measurement base applied is historical cost adjusted for revaluation of assets.

The presentation of Financial Statements as per IPSAS1 comprises:

- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Financial Performance
- Statement of changes in net assets and equity
- Cash Flow Statement
- Statement of comparison of actual and budget amounts, and
- Notes comprising of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes

c. Reporting period

The financial statements and comparative figures cover transactions for twelve months period from 01 July to 30 June.

d. Level of rounding

The figures in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest rupee.

e. Cash Flow

The Cash Flow Statement is prepared using indirect method.

f. Standards issued but not yet effective

IPSAS 43 – Leases (effective 1 January 2025)
IPSAS 44 - Non Current Assets held for Sale and Discounted Operations (effective 1 January 2025)
IPSAS 45 – Property, Plant and Equipment (effective 1 January 2025)
IPSAS 46 – Measurement (effective 1 January 2025)
IPSAS 47 - Revenue (effective 1 January 2026)
IPSAS 48 - Transfer Expenses (effective 1 January 2026)
IPSAS 49 - Retirement Benefit Plans (effective 1 January 2026)
IPSAS 50 – Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources (effective 1 January 2027)

The Institute anticipates that the adoption of these Standards for the year ended 30 June 2025 will have no material impact on the Financial Statements.

g. Presentation currency

The Financial Statements have been prepared and presented in Mauritian Rupee (Rs), which is the functional and reporting currency of the Institute.

2. Accounting policies

a. Revenue Recognition

Revenue from exchange transactions

Revenue from sales, services provided and training activities are being recognised when the transactions have been performed and are billable.

Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Assets and revenue arising from transfer transactions are recognised in accordance with the requirement of IPSAS23, revenue from non-exchange transactions (taxes and transfers) and includes any grants (transfers) from Government and other institutions.

Advances received from non-exchange transactions are recognised as liability. The amortised amount of advances is treated as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation. Historical cost is the amount of cash or cash equivalents paid to acquire an asset at the time of acquisition.

Property, plant and equipment valued at Rs10,000 and above are capitalised and treated as fixed assets.

Depreciation is provided on straight line basis so as to write-off the depreciable value of the assets over their expected useful economic lives. Depreciation has been provided for in the month following the month of purchase.

No depreciation is provided in the month of disposal.

The annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

Buildings	2%
Office equipment	20%
Furniture and fittings	10%
Infrastructure Assets	10%
Field equipment	25%
Heavy duty field equipment	20%
Motor vehicle	20%
Computer hardware	20%
Laboratory equipment	15%
Food processing and PCR Laboratory	15%
Greenhouse	25%
Greenhouse equipment, fog unit and polycarbonate greenhouse	10%

c. Intangible Assets

Intangible assets comprise computer software which is recorded at cost. Computer software is amortised using straight line method over a useful life of five years (20%). Cost incurred towards licence renewal is expensed.

d. Impairment of non-current assets

At the balance sheet date, the carrying amount of tangible assets was reviewed to determine whether there was an indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss and the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount.

e. Inventories

FAREI holds cattle and goats on its livestock research stations at Curepipe and Belle Mare. The animals are kept for research purposes and can be sold at any time depending on physiological status and when in excess of requirement for reproduction.

The animals are evaluated on live weight basis at a predetermined selling price.

f. Operating Lease

Rentals payable under operating lease agreements are charged to the Statement of Financial Performance on straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease.
Operating leases are leases and assets, the ownership of which is retained by the lessor (see note 28).

g. Leasehold Land and Building

Land occupied by the Institute is owned by the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries and has not been capitalised.

The buildings occupied by FAREI, apart from the buildings at Richelieu, Head Office building at Reduit, the Tissue Culture Laboratory and the Farmers Training School at Wooton, belong to the Ministry and are as such not reflected in the Financial Statements. However, buildings and structures that have been refurbished or constructed during the financial period under review, are reflected in the financial statements.

FAREI occupies research stations, demonstration centres and model farms on 17 locations across the island. The total acreage of the 17 sites amounts to 48.82 hectares. These sites have been vested to FAREI with no rental charge.

h. Transaction and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the measurement currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are recognised in the surplus/deficit.

i. Employee Benefits

All permanent employees of FAREI have pension plans which are managed by the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Limited.

i. Defined Benefit Pension

Provision for retirement benefits to employees of the FAREI is made under the Statutory Bodies Pension Funds Act, as subsequently amended. The scheme is a Defined Benefit Pension for employees who joined FAREI prior to 2013. The contribution rate by employees is 6% and 19% for employer. The cost of providing benefits is actuarially determined using the projected unit credit method (see note 19).

The present value of these funded obligations is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position as a non-current liability after adjusting for the fair value of plan assets, any unrecognised actuarial gains and losses and any unrecognised past service cost.

The net total of the current service cost, interest cost, expected returns on plan assets, current service cost, any recognised actuarial gains and losses, any recognised past service cost and the effect of any curtailment or settlement is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

ii. Defined Contribution Scheme

As from January 2013, the Public Pensions Defined Contribution Pension Scheme (PPDCS) was set up. Consequently, with effect from January 2013, all new entrants shall join the new PPDCS and shall earn benefits according to the new provisions as compared to existing members who shall continue to be members of the existing Defined Pension Scheme (DPS) and earn benefits accordingly. The contribution rate for the PPDCS is 6% for employees and 12% for employers. FAREI makes separate contribution into the two pension plans.

iii. Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG)

With the changes brought by the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, the Contribution Sociale Généralisée (CSG), has been introduced and was applicable as from the month of September 2020. This new system of social contributions replaced the National Pensions Fund (NPF).

Under the CSG, Public Sector employees are exempt from the contribution. FAREI contributes 4.5% of salaries for employees earning a basic salary not exceeding Rs50,000 in a month and 9% for employees earning a basic salary exceeding Rs50,000 in a month.

iv. State Pension Plan

Contribution to the National Pension Fund (NPF) on behalf of temporary and contract employees are expensed in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which they fall due. As from September 2020, the NPF has been replaced by CSG.

v. Family Protection Scheme

A Family Protection Scheme exists at the FAREI whereby 4% of monthly salary of each employee on a permanent and pensionable establishment is paid to either the Civil Service Family Protection Scheme or the State Insurance Company of Mauritius Limited (SICOM) which manage the scheme. A contribution of 2% respectively by FAREI and the employee is made towards the schemes (see note 24).

vi. Other Employee Benefits

Other employee benefits include accumulated sick leave, passage benefits and refund of unutilized vacation leave.

Employees are allowed to accumulate sick leave not taken at the end of each year up to a maximum of 110 days, in a sick leave bank as at 30 June 2025. The balance of banked sick leave is valued at the end of the financial year and is recognized as long term payables. Beyond the ceiling of 110 days, officers are refunded part of the annual entitlement of sick leaves up to a maximum of 16 days, not taken at the end of every calendar year and is expensed to the Statement of Financial Performance.

A provision is made for the estimated liability for passage benefits. The passage benefit for each staff is valued at year end and is included as short-term liabilities. The annual increase in passage benefit is expensed to the Statement of Financial Performance.
Vacation leave has been computed for all permanent and pensionable staff.

j. Key Management Personnel Compensation

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility of planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Institute, directly or indirectly, including directors (whether executive or otherwise) of the Institute.

The compensation paid to key management personnel is based on the recommendation of the Pay Research Bureau Report.

k. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when there is a present or constructive obligation as a result of past events which it is probable will result in an outflow of economic benefits that can be reasonably estimated.

l. Use of estimates and judgement

The preparation of financial statements, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the Financial Statement and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results ultimately may differ from these estimates.

m. Car Loan

Car loan is granted to eligible officers at the rate of 3% per annum. The funding of the loan is from the Ministry by way of advance to FAREI which is subsequently advanced to employees.

n. Presentation of budget information in financial statements

The Institute presents its approved budget on a cash basis and the financial statements on an accrual basis. The budget is approved on a cash basis by classification and by nature. The approved budget covers the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

3. Related party transactions

Related parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party and exercise significant influence over the party in making financial operating decisions. The immediate and ultimate controlling party of the Institute is the Government of Mauritius.

Transactions undertaken with related parties are at arms' length.

There was no related party transaction during the year.

4. Foreign currencies

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Mauritian Rupees and recorded at the rate of exchange prevailing at the date of the transactions. Balances at the end of the financial period denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Mauritian Rupees at the rate prevailing at that date.

5. Risk Management Policies

A description of the various risks to which the FAREI is exposed, as well as the approach taken by management to control and mitigate those risks is shown below.

Liquidity Risk	This refers to the possibility of default by the FAREI to meet its obligations because of the unavailability of funds to meet both operational and capital requirements. There is a cash management system to ensure that the FAREI is able to fund its expenditure in a timely manner and meet its obligations as they fall due. To secure liquidity, FAREI benefit from credit facilities provided by suppliers
Credit Risk	Credit risk relates to the possibility of default by employees in settling their loan obligations towards the FAREI. The FAREI has established a "lien" policy on vehicles purchased by those employees who benefit from such loans.
Currency Risk	Fund received in foreign currency is kept in a foreign currency account in order to mitigate the risk of loss in exchange rate. Operating transactions are effected from a rupee account for externally funded project.
Actuarial Risk	FAREI has pension plans and insurance cover for its employees and assets. These plans are exposed to actuarial risks such as: investment risk, interest rate risk, longevity risk and salary risk.
Health and Safety Risk	FAREI complies with provisions of the OSHA 2005 so as to provide a safe working environment for its employees. Management of Safety and Health issues is effected by the Safety and Health Committee which provides the appropriate platform for both Management and Unions. On the operational side, Health Surveillance is being undertaken for all employees who may be exposed to hazards by virtue of their duties. MSB certified personal protective equipment are provided to employees. Risk Assessments are duly carried out at all sites and Material Safety Data Sheets are available on each site. With the emergence of the COVID 19 pandemic, FAREI has devised protocols in line with parameters set by the Government to curtail the risk of spread of virus at the workplace.
Legal and Regulatory Risk	Legal risk is the risk of financial or reputational loss that can result from non-compliance to legal requirement either from lack of awareness or misunderstanding of, ambiguity in, or reckless indifference to, the way law and regulation apply. To mitigate such risk an annual retainer fee is paid to Solicitor General to provide assistance on legal matters.
External and Strategic Risk	Strategic risk refers to the internal and external events that may make it difficult, or even impossible, for the Institute to achieve its objectives and strategic goals. The internal risks, like employee turnover is addressed through the Institute's succession planning and recruitment policy. The impact of external risks which are outside the control of FAREI or resulting from a change in legislation is mitigated through Government intervention/assistance to ensure continuity.

		Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
6.	**Cash and cash equivalents**		
	Cash at Bank	95,642,941	158,350,041
	Cash in hand	36,759	39,826
		95,679,700	**158,389,868**
7.	**Receivables – Current Assets**		
	Debtors - car loan	7,328,186	7,125,008
	Grant receivable from Ministry	5,975,338	2,692,361
	Sundry Debtors	719,582	-
	Debtors - chargeable services	1,739,967	1,550,542
		15,763,073	**11,367,911**
8.	**Inventories**		
	Inventories comprise animals held for research		
	Animals	**9,631,840**	**8,064,630**
9.	**Prepayment**		
	Prepayments are recognized as financial assets when payment for goods and services has been made in advance of obtaining a right to access those goods or services. Prepayments were made with respect to the following:		
	Insurance	25,794	17,959
	Rent	54,000	48,000
	Maintenance Contract	186,910	190,392
	Legal and Professional Fee	30,000	30,000
		296,704	**286,351**
10.	**Receivables – Non-Current Assets**		
	Grant receivable from Ministry	-	5,506,456
	Debtors-car loan falling due more than one year	20,766,932	18,323,554
		20,766,932	**23,830,010**

11. Property, plant and equipment

	Buildings Rs	Furniture and Fittings Rs	Office Equipment Rs	Computer Hardware Rs	Infrastructure Assets Rs	Motor Vehicle and Heavy Duty Field Equipment Rs	Laboratory Furniture, Fittings and Equipment Rs	Fog Unit and Polycarbonate and Hydroponic Greenhouse Rs	Food Processing and PCR Laboratory Rs	Light Field Equipment Rs	Total Rs
Cost and Valuation											
At cost as at 01 July 2024	**42,269,472**	**4,126,213**	**9,022,745**	**10,022,676**	**48,378,662**	**44,103,093**	**20,573,752**	**60,398,638**	**3,936,708**	**14,759,505**	**257,591,464**
Additions	8,417,103	451,319	1,497,012	1,258,689	7,163,471	3,624,000	9,341,527	9,614,420	78,184	3,691,754	**45,137,479**
Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,877,658	(13,877,658)	-	-	**-**
At cost as at 30 June 2025	**50,686,575**	**4,577,532**	**10,519,757**	**11,281,365**	**55,542,133**	**47,727,093**	**43,792,937**	**56,135,400**	**4,014,892**	**18,451,259**	**302,728,943**
Depreciation											
Depreciation as at 01 July 2024	**14,493,411**	**728,771**	**5,245,598**	**4,231,068**	**16,471,823**	**36,799,950**	**8,693,754**	**34,814,520**	**2,631,814**	**7,411,262**	**131,521,971**
Charge for the year	864,078	392,358	1,381,466	1,691,442	5,038,184	2,163,218	5,477,279	5,088,873	439,107	3,205,697	**25,741,702**
Depreciation as at 30 June 2025	**15,357,489**	**1,121,129**	**6,627,064**	**5,922,510**	**21,510,006**	**38,963,169**	**14,171,033**	**39,903,393**	**3,070,921**	**10,616,959**	**157,263,673**
Carrying Amount											
As at 30 June 2025	**35,329,086**	**3,456,403**	**3,892,693**	**5,358,855**	**34,032,127**	**8,763,924**	**29,621,904**	**16,232,006**	**943,971**	**7,834,300**	**145,465,270**
As at 30 June 2024	**27,776,061**	**3,397,442**	**3,777,148**	**5,791,608**	**31,906,839**	**7,303,142**	**11,879,999**	**25,584,117**	**1,304,894**	**7,348,243**	**126,069,494**

		Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
12. Work in progress			
This relates to ongoing infrastructure works			
Payroll and HR system		1,028,173	456,966
Construction of buildings: head office, Wooton, FTS		86,091,641	47,501,553
Meat Lab at Curepipe LRS		78,138	-
Rooftop rainwater harvesting structure		42,218	242,636
Irrigation system macadamia and silvopastoral projects		228,940	-
Toilet facilities at Wooton, TC Lab and Belle Mare		522,717	711,377
Guard post at Mushroom Research Facility		21,254	-
Farmer Information Delivery System (FIDS)		2,496,696	-
Augmentorium		-	105,280
Growth Chamber		-	122,055
Sheds at Curepipe LRS, Mapou		428,475	313,445
Compost unit at LRS		162,914	-
		91,101,166	**49,453,313**
13. Intangible assets – Software costs			
Software costs are capitalized in accordance with the provisions of IPSAS 31			
At cost as at 01 July 2024		4,397,255	397,449
Additions		55,028	3,999,806
At cost as at 30 June 2025		4,452,283	4,397,255
Amortisation as at 01 July 2024		829,322	311,037
Amortisation for the year		844,845	518,286
Amortisation as at 30 June 2025		1,674,167	829,322
Written down value as at 30 June 2025		**2,778,116**	**3,567,932**
14. Payables			
Creditors falling due within one year		1,167,284	15,004,367
Accruals		15,464,377	7,782,063
		16,631,660	**22,786,430**
15. Current portion of long-term borrowings			
Car loan falling due within one year		**7,328,186**	**7,125,008**
16. Employee benefit			
Sick Leave	17(a)	8,703,168	8,449,047
Passage Benefits	17(b)	9,558,941	8,907,978
Vacation Leave	17(c)	-	541,934
		18,262,109	**17,898,959**

			Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
17.	**Employee benefit (Long-term)**			
	Provision for sick leave	17(a)	77,920,583	75,746,622
	Provision for passage benefits	17(b)	17,752,319	16,543,387
	Provision for vacation leave	17(c)	77,289,591	76,621,161
			172,962,493	**168,911,170**
	17(a) Provision for sick leave			
	Opening balance		84,195,669	79,164,757
	Less: Payment during the year		(8,929,574)	(8,669,401)
	Add: Provisions for the year		11,357,656	13,700,312
	Closing balance		86,623,751	84,195,669
	Less: Amount falling due within one year		(8,703,168)	(8,449,047)
	Amount falling due more than one year		77,920,583	75,746,622
	17(b) Provision for passage benefits			
	Opening balance		25,451,365	25,053,973
	Less: Payment during the year		(8,230,820)	(7,964,787)
	Add: Provisions for the year		10,090,715	8,362,179
	Closing balance		27,311,260	25,451,365
	Less: Amount falling due within one year*		(9,558,941)	(8,907,978)
	Amount falling due more than one year		17,752,319	16,543,387
	* It is assumed 35% of the provision shall be payable within one year			
	17(c) Provision for vacation leave			
	Opening balance		77,163,095	73,569,819
	Less: Payment during the year		(1,238,943)	(852,413)
	Add: Provisions for the year		1,365,439	4,445,689
	Closing balance		77,289,591	77,163,095
	Less: Amount falling due within one year		-	(541,934)
	Amount falling due more than one year		77,289,591	76,621,161
18.	**Long term borrowing**			
	Car loan amount falling due more than one year		**20,766,955**	**18,323,578**
19.	**Defined benefit pension**			
	Employee benefit		**762,873,630**	**863,477,954**

	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
Employee benefit statement as per IPSAS 39		
Amounts recognized in statement of financial position at end of year		
Defined benefit obligation	1,346,328,555	1,413,983,770
Fair value of plan assets	(583,454,925)	(550,505,816)
Liability recognized in statement of financial position at end of year	**762,873,630**	**863,477,954**
Amounts recognized in statement of financial performance:		
Service cost:		
Current service cost	34,531,534	39,023,126
(Employee contributions)	(10,727,799)	(10,522,859)
Fund expenses	893,213	876,841
Net interest expense / (revenue)	47,073,277	42,758,715
P & L charge	71,770,225	72,135,823
Remeasurement		
Liability (gain) / loss	(141,529,550)	105,494,486
Assets (gain) / loss	5,087,856	(14,961,013)
Net assets / equity (NAE)	(136,441,694)	90,533,473
Total	**(64,671,469)**	**162,669,296**
Movements in liability recognized in financial position:		
At start of year	863,477,954	734,127,855
Amount recognized in P&L	71,770,225	72,135,822
(Past service liability contribution)	(2,000,000)	-
(Contributions paid by employer)	(33,932,855)	(33,319,196)
Amount recognized in NAE	(136,441,694)	90,533,473
At end of year	**762,873,630**	**863,477,954**

The plan is a defined benefit arrangement for the employees and it is a funded plan. The assets of the funded plan are held independently and administered by the SICOM Ltd.

Reconciliation of the present value of defined benefit obligation		
Present value of obligation at start of period	1,413,983,770	1,234,834,951
Current service cost	34,531,534	39,023,126
Interest cost	78,097,947	72,940,809
(Benefits paid)	(38,755,146)	(38,309,602)
Liability (gain)/loss	(141,529,550)	105,494,486
Present value of obligation at end of period	1,346,328,555	1,413,983,770

	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
Reconciliation of fair value of plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	550,505,816	500,707,097
Expected return on plan assets	31,024,670	30,182,094
Employer contributions	33,932,855	33,319,196
Employee contributions	10,727,799	10,522,859
Past service liability contribution	2,000,000	
(Benefits paid and other outgo)	(39,648,359)	(39,186,443)
Asset gain/(loss)	(5,087,856)	14,961,013
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	583,454,925	550,505,816
Distribution of plan assets at end of period		
Percentage of assets at end of year	%	%
Fixed interest securities and deposits	47.7	49.9
	%	%
Loans	3.1	3.1
Local equities	16.8	15.2
Overseas bonds and equities	31.9	31.3
Property	0.5	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0
Additional disclosure on assets issued or used by the reporting entity		
Percentage of assets at end of year	%	%
Assets held in the entity's own financial instruments	0	0
Property occupied by the entity	0	0
Other assets used by the entity	0	0
Components of the amount recognized in NAE		
Currency	Rs	Rs
Assets experience gain / (loss) during the period	(5,087,856)	14,961,013
Liability experience gain / (loss) during the period	37,228,816	(105,494,486)
Liability gain/(loss) due to change in financial assumptions	104,300,734	N/A
	136,441,694	(90,533,473)
Year		**2025/2026**
Expected employer contributions		35,840,723
Weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation (Calculated as a % change in PV of liabilities for a 1% change in discount rate)		15 Years

The plan is exposed to actuarial risks such as investment risk, interest rate risk, longevity risk, salary risk and pension risk.

1. Investment Risk which is the risk that the return earned on the assets may be lower or higher than assumed.
2. Salary/Pension Risk which is the risk that the actual salary/pension increases granted may be different than what we have assumed. For instance, a higher salary/pension increase relative to the Investment returns shall increase the Defined Benefit Obligation and hence the liability.
3. Longevity Risk is caused by the improvement in mortality rates among pensioners. The longer the latter live, the higher is the liability.

The cost of providing the benefits is determined using the Projected Unit Method. The principal assumptions used for the purpose of the actuarial valuation were as follows:

	%	%
Discount rate	6.10	5.60
Future salary increases	4.50	4.50
Future pension increases	3.50	3.50
Mortality before retirement	Nil	Nil
Mortality in retirement	PA (90) Tables rated down by two years	
Retirement age	65 years	

The discount rate is determined by reference to market yields on bonds.

Significant actuarial assumptions for determination of the defined benefit obligation are discount rate, expected salary increase and mortality. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based reasonably on possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period.

- If the discount rate would be 100 basis points (one per cent) higher/(lower), the defined benefit obligation would decrease by Rs178.0M (increase by Rs220.8M) if all other assumptions were held unchanged.
- If the expected salary growth would increase (decrease) by 1%, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs99.9M (decrease by Rs89.0M) if all other assumptions were held unchanged.
- If life expectancy would increase (decrease) by one year, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs38.6M (decrease by Rs38.4M) if all assumptions were held unchanged.
- If the expected pension growth would increase (decrease) by 1%, the defined benefit obligation would increase by Rs106.9M (decrease by Rs93.7M) if all other assumptions were held unchanged.
- In reality one might expect interrelationships between the assumptions, especially between discount rate and expected salary increases, given that both depend to a certain extent on expected inflation rates. The analysis above abstracts from these interdependences between the assumptions.

	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs

20. Liability recognized in respect of transfers

FAREI received advances from the Government and other institutions for the implementation of projects and payment of schemes to beneficiaries. As at 30 June 2025 there were on-going projects and outstanding claims due to beneficiaries.

Opening balance	172,538,630	189,105,116
Receipts	129,842,331	161,444,386
	302,380,961	350,549,502
Return to EU and adjustment MRIC cocoa	(1,527,386)	-
Expenses	(155,758,060)	(178,010,872)
Closing balance	**145,095,515**	**172,538,630**
Current liabilities	145,095,515	172,538,630
Non-current liabilities	-	-
	145,095,515	**172,538,630**

21. Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Transfers from Government

Recurrent Grant	421,445,100	388,627,469
Projects	70,716,286	41,839,738
Schemes	70,928,776	82,262,925
	563,090,162	**512,730,132**

22. Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Transfers from Other Institutions

MRIC	-	669,173
DeSIRA EU-funded project	1,355,834	52,128,469
UNDP	3,633,003	397,605
CIAT/Other Institutions	9,124,160	712,962
	14,112,997	**53,908,209**

23. Revenue from exchange transactions

Sales of produce and rendering of services

Sales of booklets and publications	179,780	169,332
Sales of animals	2,047,643	972,925
Sales of vegetables and produce	3,794,734	2,710,763
Sales of milk and manure	3,287,738	3,759,528
Revenue from testing and diagnosis	243,720	640,368
Training and registration fee	798,536	595,470
Sundry Income	1,151,384	781,954
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	-	545,200
	11,503,535	**10,175,541**

			Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
24.	**Salaries and employee benefits**			
	Salaries and other benefits	24(a)	299,261,985	263,720,605
	Employer's contribution			
	- Defined pension contribution (DPC)		69,770,225	72,135,821
	- Defined contribution scheme		4,363,100	3,869,828
	- Civil Service Family Protection Scheme		785,748	499,095
	- SICOM Family Protection Scheme		3,294,820	3,477,424
	- EWF / Levy		14,497,237	13,253,777
	- CSG		5,217,637	4,839,491
	Travelling and transport		34,595,300	34,253,184
			431,786,052	**396,049,225**
	24(a) Salaries and employee benefits			
	Salaries		224,508,893	204,673,691
	Acting allowance		511,791	620,395
	PRB Interim Allowance		6,297,003	-
	Extra renumeration		7,909,852	9,070,230
	Overtime		3,869,468	3,914,384
	Other allowance		14,570,298	1,762,393
	End of year bonus		18,780,870	17,131,332
	Retirement / death benefit		1,365,439	4,485,689
	Passage benefits		10,090,715	8,362,179
	Sick leave		11,357,656	13,700,312
			299,261,985	**263,720,605**
25.	**Supplies and consumables**			
	Office expenses		3,073,238	4,667,032
	Electricity, water and telephone		9,831,343	8,546,034
	Maintenance and running of vehicles		5,317,722	4,805,224
	Repairs and maintenance		7,228,880	6,485,793
	Uniforms and protective clothing		3,077,993	2,322,737
	Apparatus and supplies of laboratory		1,851,475	837,813
	Other operating expenses		2,472,231	2,815,402
	Seeds and plantlets		1,381,128	914,803
	Animal feed, drug and fodder		8,479,457	9,908,890
	Fertilizers and pesticides		2,120,302	2,644,410
	Small tools and equipment		805,934	1,038,019
			45,639,703	**44,986,156**

		Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
26.	**Depreciation and amortisation**		
	Depreciation (Note 11)	25,741,703	21,155,688
	Amortisation (Note13)	844,845	518,286
	Depreciation	**26,586,548**	**21,673,974**
27.	**Other expenses**		
	IT Expenses	2,051,263	972,704
	Study Tours	-	2,646,583
	Rent (Note 28)	1,231,363	1,216,063
	Training of staff	331,117	358,537
	Training of farmers	863,220	1,335,072
	Collaborative links	-	453,701
	Consultancy	1,139,644	2,838,911
	Analysis and diagnostic fee	135,275	505,666
	Security services	18,715,419	9,526,252
	Subscription and fees	64,081	100,612
	Legal and professional fees	698,650	1,080,700
	Board members fee	532,025	955,875
	Contribution to local organisation	869,356	230,362
	Open Day and other events	101,638	789,998
	Insurance	536,654	508,164
	Exchange loss	629,926	848,040
	Schemes	70,928,775	82,335,051
		98,828,406	**106,702,289**

28. Operating lease

Rent is paid for rental of office space as follows:

a. Extension head office at St Pierre: 500 m^2
b. Goodlands sub-office: 27.2 m^2
c. Petite Rivière sub-office: 150 ft^2
d. Vacoas sub-office: 53.75 m^2
e. Long Mountain sub-office: 375 ft^2
f. Beau Champs sub-office: 16.17 m^2
g. Rivière du Rempart sub-office: 22.42 m^2

The future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025 Rs	2024 Rs
Up to one year	1,239,363	1,087,363
After one year and before five years	403,225	289,900
	1,642,588	**1,377,263**

29. Key management personnel compensation

The compensation paid to key management personnel is based on the recommendation of the Pay Research Bureau Report.

The key management personnel of FAREI comprise Chairman, board members and directorate (Chief Executive Officer/ Officer in Charge and Assistant Directors).

	Year Ended June 2025 Rs	Year Ended June 2024 Rs
Key management personnel emoluments		
Chairman and board members	532,025	955,875
Directorate	5,837,704	6,444,819

30. Contingent liabilities

Pending litigation

As at 30 June 2025, there was no litigation, claims, judgement, settlements. Transactions or changes in the business activities and policies of the FAREI that might have significant effect on the FAREI's financial statement.

Bank guarantee

As at 30 June 2025, the FAREI provided a guarantee in favour of the Mauritius Revenue Authority for the issue of a license to operate stills at the Plant Pathology Laboratory, Entomology Laboratory and the Soil Laboratory for Rs20,000.

31. Events after reporting date – IPSAS 14

Car allowance was paid in 2023/2024. Following queries about the effective date for payment, the matter was taken up at the level of the Ministry. It was decided that the effective date for the payment ought to have been from the date of application. This resulted in an overpayment which will be recouped as from April 2026. The Financial Statements have been amended accordingly.

Section 7: Publications

Fact Sheet

- Cape Gooseberry: "A promising and easy to grow fruit species"
- Pineapple "review and update fertiliser recommendation in fruit production – soil and fertiliser component"
- Bean pulse variety Ferrina and green bean varieties Long Tom, FBS 1 and FBS 2
- Consento 450 SC fungicide for management of late blight disease in potato and tomato

Recommendation sheet

- "Papaya Goldie"
- Short-day Hybrid yellow Onion variety Agrippa
- Short-day Hybrid red Onion variety Amit F1
- Short-day Hybrid red Onion variety SON 1806
- Management of Stemphylium leaf blight of onion

Poster presentation

- Nowbuth R. (2024), "Achievement and research progress in plant mutation breeding in Mauritius" at the V European Horticultural Congress, 2024

Scientific papers

- Quelques recommandations pour l'amélioration des filières semencières de pomme de terre et de haricot à Maurice. Janvier 2025. FAREI/CIRAD. http://www.agriculture-biodiversite-oi.org/Food-Sec-Semence/Resultats
- Lebeda, A., Lobin, K.K., Mieslerová, B., Křivánková, T., Kitner, M. (2024). Occurrence and epidemiological consequences of *Erysiphe neolycopersici* on tomato plants in Mauritius. Mycological Progress, 23(1), 53.
- Dennis Knierim, Arty Gungoosingh Bunwaree, Paolo Margaria, Wulf Menzel. Investigations on viruses affecting garlic production in Mauritius. Poster presented at: *National German Plant Virologists Meeting* (March 2025, Germany).
- Romjon M., Gungoosingh-Bunwaree A., Ranghoo-Sanmukhiya V.M. First report of *Colletotrichum scovillei* associated with anthracnose of chilli in Mauritius. *Indian Phytopathology* (March 2025). https://doi.org/10.1007/s42360-025-00830-9
- Dennis Knierim, Arty Gungoosingh Bunwaree, Paolo Margaria, Wulf Menzel. Virome analysis in Garlic from Mauritius. *International Advances in Plant Virology* (IAPV, 2025) (April 2025, Spain)
- Saraye B. (2024), "Agronomic performance for tomato entries for their yield and fruit quality attributes in Mauritius" ISHS 5th All Africa Horticultural Congress

Workshop/ Seminar/ Training/ Demonstration

- Workshop on Macadamia harvest and postharvest practices held on 11 September 2024 by Mrs B Jurry-Dussoruth and Mrs S Subramaniam as resource persons at FAREI, Head Office and posted as enews on FAREI website
- Training/ Demonstration on session on papaya flowers for seed production for growers and Extension officers at Reduit CRS on 17 and 24 April 2025 by Mrs Y D Luchoomun as resource person and posted as enews on FAREI website
- Training session on Cape gooseberry and raspberry and growers held in February and 10 March 2025 at Wooton CRS by Mrs B Jurry-Dussoruth as resource person and posted as enews on FAREI website
- Training on banana ripening held on 08 April 2025 by Mrs S Munbodh as resource person
- Rooted Apical Cuttings (RAC). A four-day training at FIFAMANOR, Antsirabe Madagascar. Resource Person Mrs I Boodhram
- Post-Harvest Disease Management presentation by Dr Bunwaree to extension staff and growers, 3 June 2024.

Event

- Training on citrus micrografting
- Sweet potato Field Day on 26 September 2024
- World food day celebration October 2024
- Salon de L'Alimentation et du Bien Etre held from 6 to 8 June 2025 at SVICC.
- Launching of papaya variety Goldie was launched during the World Food Day 2024 celebration at Réduit in the compound of the Agricultural Services

Laboratory Accreditation and Quality Assurance

- MAURITAS ISO/IEC 17025 : 2017 surveillance audit on 08 and 09 August 2024.

Section 8: Senior Staff List from 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

DIRECTORATE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Dr (Ms) Madhvee MADHOU (with effect from 02 May 2025), BSc, MPhil, PhD
	Dr (Mrs) A D DOOKUN SAUMTALLY (from 04 June 2024 to 16 September 2024)
OFFICER IN CHARGE	Micheline SEENEVASSEN PILLAY, BSc (from 17 September 2024 till 01 May 2025)

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Livestock Research	Micheline SEENEVASSEN PILLAY, BSc
Extension and Training	Shri Swami A M GOOLAUB, BSc, MSc
Crops Research	Lalini UNMOLE, DMS, BSc, PhD

MANAGEMENT

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC

CROP RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

- Agronomy Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Indoomatee RAMMA, BSc, MSc
- Fruit Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Satyabhama LUTCHOOMUN, BSc
- Vegetables and Ornamentals Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Rita D NOWBUTH BSc, MSc
- Resource Management Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Alfaz ATAWOO BSc, MSc
- Plant Pathology Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Kanta Kumar LOBIN BSc, MSc, MBA, PhD
- Entomology Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Vishwanath DOOBLAD BSc, MSc
- Tissue Culture Laboratory
  Laboratory & Nursery Manager — Kumari Indira D BOODHRAM, BSc (H), Adv. Cert. MSc

Agricultural Coordinators	Soleman M Daldine JAUNBOCUS, BSc, MSc
	Vijay Kumar BISSESSUR, BSc, MSc

LIVESTOCK DEPARTMENT

- Livestock Research Division
  Principal Research Scientist — Parmessur TOOLSEE, PG Dip, BSc, MBA

EXTENSION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

- Crop Extension
  Principal Extension Officer — Arvind R S SHIMADRY, BSc
- Training Division
  Principal Extension Officer — Nankessor PRATAP, Dip. Agric
- Livestock Extension
  Principal Extension Officer — Chaya TEELUCK (Mrs), Dip Agri. & Sugar Tech, BTEC, MBA

TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- Biometry Section
  Principal Biometrician — Macktoobah DOOKHAN (Ms), BSc
- Engineering Section
  Principal Agricultural Engineer — Vickram BUSSUNTH, BEng
- IT Section
  IT Officer/Systems Administrator — Veerraj-Karpoorkar HEEREA BSc
- Business Development Section
  Research Scientist/
  Senior Research Scientist — Mahendre NATHOO DMS, BSc, MSc

ADMINISTRATION

- Administrative Section
  Administrative Managers — Suzy Dominique AUGUSTE, ACG
  Arti DUNPUTH, ACG
- Finance Section
  Manager, Finance — Bhindoomatee RADHA, ACMA
- Human Resource Section
  Human Resource Manager — Avinash SEEBOCUS, BSc, MBA
- Procurement and Supply Section
  Stores Superintendent — Veena Kumari HARDOWAR, BSc

Section 9: Staff Missions and Training Overseas

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS AND OTHERS

Marie Micheline SEENEVASSEN PILLAY
- 4th and Last Monitoring Meeting of the Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionelle dans l'Océan Indien (SANOI) Project, Madagascar, 12 to 13 February 2025

Sri Swami Akhilalandjee Maharaz GOOLAUB
- 5th Conference of the "Réseau de Etablissement Agricole Professionnels Afrique Australe Océan Indien" (REAP AAOI), Madagascar, 09 to 12 September 2024
- 4th and Last Monitoring Meeting of the Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionelle dans l'Océan Indien (SANOI) Project, Madagascar, 12 to 14 February 2025
- Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Nutrition, Madagascar, 19 to 21 March 2025

Lalini UNMOLE
- "Comité de Pilotage" COPIL and the "Comité d'Accompagnement et Concertation" CAC Meetings of the dP Biocontrole and Epibio OI Project, Comoros Island, 13 to 18 April 2025

CROP RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

- AGRONOMY DIVISION

Principal Research Scientist
Indoomatee RAMMA
- Support Towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR) Phase II Project Launch, Botswana, 01 to 04 April 2025

Research Scientist/ Senior Research Scientist
Sandeeren SUNASSEE
- Scientific and Technical Committee and Steering Committee Food-Sec Semence Project, Reunion, 04 to 06 February 2025

Mohammad Yusuf CADERSA
- Scientific and Technical Committee and Steering Committee Food-Sec Semence Project, Reunion, 04 to 06 February 2025

Vanishta Devi MAUNKEE CANTIAH
- Scientific and Technical Committee and Steering Committee Food-Sec Semence Project, Reunion, 04 to 06 February 2025

- FRUIT DIVISION

Research Scientist/ Senior Research Scientist
Saraspadee SUBRAMANIAM
- Seaweed: A Sustainable Source for Future Foods, Workshop (online), 12 to 13 September 2024
- Advancements in Food Technologies: Bridging Innovation with a Sustainable Future, Training (Online), 25 to 29 November 2024

Assistant Research Scientist
Dhanaluxmi MUTHIEN
- Internship at the Qualisud Laboratory "Stage pro analyse farine germination', Reunion, 16 September 2024 to 15 November 2024

- VEGETABLE AND ORNAMENTALS DIVISION

Research Scientist/ Senior Research Scientist
Priya Huzar Futty-BEEJAN
- IAEA Fellowship Training on Carrot Genotypic Screening and QTL Analysis, Poland, 10 June 2024 to 06 September 2024

Ravi SEEWOOGOOLAM
- Valuation of Coconut Plantation, Agalega, 16 to 23 August 2024

- PLANT PATHOLOGY DIVISION

Principal Research Scientist
Kanta Kumar LOBIN
- "Comité de Pilotage" COPIL and the "Comité d'Accompagnement et Concertation" CAC Meetings of the dP Biocontrole and Epibio OI Project, Comoros Island, 13 to 18 April 2025

Research Scientist/ Senior Research Scientist
Arty GUNGOOSINGH-BUNWAREE
- Advance Satellite-based Crop Monitoring to Enhance Agricultural Resilience for the Global South, Zambia, 08 to 11 April 2025

Bernard PECHEUR
- 5èmes Conseil Scientifique et Comité de Pilotage du project Food-Sec-Semence, Reunion, 04 to 07 February 2025

Assistant Research Scientist
Yaminee Hoolash
- Advance Satellite-based Crop Monitoring to Enhance Agricultural Resilience for the Global South, Zambia, 08 to 11 April 2025

- ENTOMOLOGY DIVISION

Vishwanath DOOBLAD
- "Comité de Pilotage" COPIL and the "Comité d'Accompagnement et Concertation" CAC Meetings of the dP Biocontrole and Epibio OI Project, Comoros Island, 13 to 18 April 2025

- BIOFARMING UNIT

Corinne MOLOYE
- Atelier Régional APTAE-OI, Comoros Island, 29 to 31 October 2024
- Gestion Optimisée des Systèmes de Culture pour une Agriculture Durable dans l'Océan Indien, Madagascar, 25 to 27 March 2025

Ansuya DHURUMSING-DOHAROO
- Atelier Régional APTAE-OI, Comoros Island, 29 to 31 October 2024

- CROP AND LIVESTOCK STATIONS

Station/Laboratory Manager
Yobhishek JHEELAN
- Specialized Training Programme in Internet of Things Applications in Agriculture, India, 29 January 2025 to 11 February 2025

Research Support Officer
Narvada DOBEE
- Bamboo Technologies for Developing Countries, China, 22 August 2024 to 11 September 2024

EXTENSION AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

- CROP EXTENSION DIVISION

Extension Officer/Senior Extension Officer
Vikash Raj TEELUCK
- ITEC - Climate Resilient Agriculture for Extension Professionals - Indian Experience, India, 28 August 2024 to 10 September 2024

Nalini CHUKOWRY
- Agricultural Nanotechnology Catalysing Food Security and Sustainability, Training (Online), 01 to 05 July 2024

Radhakrisnah KOPPALAH RAMSAMY
- ITEC Course on Technological Interventions by Agri-Startups for Economic Growth at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, India, 09 to 22 October 2024

Tasneem JEEHOO
- ITEC Course on Technological Interventions by Agri-Startups for Economic Growth at the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Training (Online), 25 to 29 November 2024

Dheema BURTHIA
- New Fertiliser Application Technologies for Developing Countries, China, 22 August 2024 to 11 September 2024

Jhenee RAMDHUN
- New Technology of Tropical Agriculture for Developing Countries, China, 23 April 2025 to 12 May 2025

Keshav GANGADIN
- Valuation of Coconut Plantation, Agalega, 16 to 23 August 2024

Rishma JAUNKEYPERSAD
- Seminar on Food Security Under the Global Development Initiative, China, 30 August 2024 to 12 September 2024

- INFORMATION AND TRAINING DIVISION

Harris MOHUN

- Regional Capacity Building Training Workshop on Climate Change and Climate Information for Agricultural Experts in Southern and Eastern Africa (CCARDESA), Botswana, 16 to 20 September 2024

- LIVESTOCK EXTENSION DIVISION

Gayetree Devi Jalim-Bissessur

- New Generation Competencies for Agripreneurs, India, 15 to 28 January 2025

Rekhanand BEDACEE

- Processing Technology of Agricultural and Livestock Products for Developing Countries, China, 26 August 2024 to 08 September 2024

Ashwant Dev KUREEMUN

- Functional Food Developing and Application Technology for Developing Countries, China, 06 to 26 September 2024

- TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UNIT

Economist/Senior Economist

Swarnkumar Prabhakar AUJAYEB

- 5th Policy Dialogue on Social Protection and Development Confirmation, (Online), 02 to 03 December 2024
- Regional Validation Meeting for the Draft Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) 2023-30, South Africa, 31 March 2025 to 01 April 2025

BIOMETRY AND STATISTICS DIVISION

Principal Biometrician

Macktoobah DOOKHAN

- The Retailing of the 4th CAADP BR Results and Training/Preparation Workshop for the 5th CAADP BR for National CAADP Focal Points and Country Experts, South Africa, 01 to 06 September 2024
- 15th COMESA Committee Meeting on Statistical Matters, Meeting (Online), 14 to 15 October 2024
- Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) 5th Biennial Review (BR) Regional Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop for National CAADP Focal Points and Country Experts, South Africa, 08 to 10 May 2025

IT SECTION

IT Officer/System Administrator

Veerraj-Karpookar HEEREA

- Application of ICTs in Agriculture, India, 04 to 17 December 2024
- Support Towards the Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (STOSAR) Phase II Project Launch, Botswana, 01 to 04 April 2025

Section 10: Statistics

Brief on food crops production in 2024

Food crop production of some sixty crops was recorded through ongoing surveys carried out throughout the Island of Mauritius in both open field and protected cultures for the year 2024. Production in open field remained the prevalent system of production. In open field, the area harvested and production have increased by 5 % and 10 % respectively when compared to the previous year. During the same time, the area harvested in protected cultures remained unchanged while production dropped by some 8 %.

Climatic conditions have a significant bearing on food crops production. The main meteorological event that marked this financial year happened in January 2024. During that month, two tropical storms, Belal and Candice, were formed. Cyclone Belal brought strong gusts and very high precipitation causing floods in many parts of the country. January 2024 turned out to be the fourth wettest month in the last 30 years with a precipitation of 574 mm representing 204 % of the long term mean for period 1991 to 2020 {LTM (1991 to2020)}. Rainfall was in excess in almost all regions, especially over the Central Plateau where it was in excess by 400 mm to 500 mm. This event has resulted in structural damage to protected cultures and drop of food crops' production in both the open field and protected culture for at least the first four months of the year 2024. On the other hand, rain was deficient in August (61 mm) and September (39 mm) representing only 56 % and 46 % of the LTM for that period. October and November which are supposed be dry received more rain than expected – 130 % and 147 % of LTM respectively - and December received only 135 mm of rain, representing 82 % of LTM.

Food crop production was estimated to be around 176,565 tonnes for all the crops reported. Area harvested for major crops, i.e. food crop published by Statistics Mauritius in the Digest of Agricultural statistics, was estimated at 9,412 hectares with a production of 157,936 tonnes. These represent an increase from year 2023 when area harvested and production were 8,968 hectares and 142,637 tonnes respectively. Minor food crops, i.e. food crops not published in the Digest of Agricultural statistics, grown in open field accounted for some 8,167 tonnes from a harvested area of approximately 608 hectares. In protected cultures, consisting mainly of hydroponics system, around 101 hectares were harvested yielding some 10,462 tonnes of food crops. Tomato, Cucumber, lettuce and Sweet Pepper remain the main crops planted under protective cover representing 91 % and 98 % of total area harvested and total production respectively. It is worth noting that 7,492 tonnes of tomato were produced in sheltered farming.

Strategic food crops – potato, onion and carrot - were grown in open field. Some 14,534 tonnes of potato were harvested over an area of 695 hectares while 7,790 tonnes of onion were produced from cultivated area of 337 hectares. Carrot production reached 9,202 tonnes from harvested area of 471 hectares while 10,894 tonnes of tomato were produced in open field from 493 hectares harvested. Creepers, which include bittergourd, calabash, chouchou, courgette, cucumber, patole, pipengaille, pumpkin and squash, were harvested over an area of some 2,573 hectares with a production of approximately 36,678 tonnes. The production of cruciferous vegetables comprising, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and petsai was estimated at 17,741 tonnes for a harvested area of 609 hectares.

Monthly Area harvested of food crops (Whole Island) – 2024

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Open Field - Major food crops	587.7	526.5	475.9	597.9	707.8	756.2	873.3	917.5	995.8	1,088.7	1,015.0	869.4	**9,411.7**
Open Field - Minor food crops	41.7	44.8	27.6	33.0	35.7	39.9	47.5	51.4	41.6	54.7	88.6	102.1	**608.4**
Protected Cultures (Hydroponics)	8.2	7.6	7.6	8.7	9.0	8.4	8.1	8.2	8.7	7.9	7.7	8.6	**98.6**
Protected Cultures (Soil Cultures)	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	**2.7**
Total (ha)	**637.7**	**578.9**	**511.2**	**639.9**	**752.6**	**804.7**	**929.2**	**977.6**	**1,046.4**	**1,151.6**	**1,111.5**	**980.3**	**10,121.4**

N.B. - (1) Major food crops are published in the Digest of Agricultural Statistics - a SM publication - unlike minor food crops
(2) All recorded crops grown in protected cultures are taken into account, including food crops not published in the Digest of Agricultural Statistics

Monthly Production of food crops (Whole Island) – 2024

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Open Field - Major food crops	6,497.8	6,211.0	6,403.6	8,416.0	11,377.5	12,852.9	16,088.4	17,020.0	17,889.9	20,098.0	19,494.4	15,586.5	**157,936.1**
Open Field - Minor food crops	417.9	397.7	280.4	394.0	443.7	595.7	581.4	582.2	529.3	746.3	1,630.2	1,568.3	**8,166.9**
Protected Cultures (Hydroponics)	668.5	494.9	501.8	804.1	1,054.6	1,080.7	1,045.3	1,025.7	1,012.5	864.5	872.0	978.3	**10,403.1**
Protected Cultures (Soil Cultures)	1.7	0.6	1.7	5.3	2.6	3.2	6.5	10.1	9.8	7.9	4.4	4.6	**58.4**
Total (ha)	**7,585.9**	**7,104.2**	**7,187.5**	**9,619.4**	**12,878.4**	**14,532.5**	**17,721.6**	**18,638.0**	**19,441.5**	**21,716.7**	**22,001.0**	**18,137.7**	**176,564.5**

Monthly Area harvested of major foodcrops grown in open field (Whole Island) – 2024

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Banana	56.63	56.78	60.61	60.68	61.30	60.55	61.67	57.19	57.84	58.85	58.99	60.25	**711.34**
Bean	15.11	18.00	9.32	20.09	29.25	20.36	30.59	29.39	34.12	26.91	26.49	18.55	**278.16**
Beet	3.94	2.81	1.38	2.12	2.42	2.36	5.81	4.78	3.84	7.04	6.19	4.01	**46.70**
Bittergourd	12.03	9.99	9.65	12.42	17.85	21.10	20.15	15.61	15.70	17.64	17.54	16.88	**186.56**
Brinjal (A)	6.01	5.48	5.43	6.05	6.95	6.36	6.43	7.59	10.26	10.62	11.79	11.89	**94.86**
Brinjal (C)	19.71	15.74	14.36	15.35	17.97	17.81	19.93	21.95	26.45	27.92	28.32	27.33	**252.84**
Broccoli	1.19	0.10	-	0.13	0.58	3.36	5.33	4.66	4.41	3.28	2.38	1.07	**26.49**
Cabbage	24.73	22.54	22.62	24.55	39.33	40.05	46.95	45.32	42.48	46.38	44.65	30.31	**429.90**
Calabash	32.31	25.76	24.01	29.97	47.02	52.68	52.41	49.97	52.44	54.58	53.24	46.91	**521.28**
Carrot	23.14	28.79	41.91	47.58	33.32	46.88	55.31	42.48	38.08	38.76	36.45	38.61	**471.31**
Cauliflower	7.70	4.59	2.70	1.81	4.99	9.81	14.73	19.95	15.75	8.68	6.67	5.16	**102.54**
Chillies (C)	5.16	4.40	5.27	5.87	6.45	6.48	5.52	5.15	5.87	6.08	5.94	6.58	**68.77**
Chillies (L)	16.89	15.52	14.45	15.01	15.69	16.76	18.48	19.43	22.59	23.33	23.55	23.67	**225.35**
Chillies (S)	4.71	4.40	4.37	4.43	4.37	4.02	4.42	5.16	5.30	5.64	5.64	5.62	**58.08**
Chouchou	28.13	28.02	27.63	23.98	22.74	21.54	23.31	26.98	30.22	32.56	34.46	37.73	**337.31**
Courgette	2.01	2.23	1.41	3.29	3.15	4.64	3.21	0.70	2.14	2.51	4.75	3.61	**33.62**
Cucumber	27.09	27.02	19.81	23.91	34.19	34.50	36.87	37.99	34.33	32.12	37.22	35.06	**380.07**
Echalote	24.85	11.32	16.68	25.00	34.58	34.06	36.55	36.15	41.44	40.54	44.16	47.18	**392.51**
Eddoes (C)	17.37	12.16	11.31	10.73	2.96	2.61	5.03	9.77	9.07	10.33	10.29	11.63	**113.26**
Eddoes (V)	7.62	8.14	5.29	8.52	7.57	8.52	4.74	6.50	3.69	11.46	7.18	9.66	**88.87**

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Garlic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.10	2.20	1.64	0.76	-	**5.70**
Ginger	0.34	-	-	-	-	20.90	22.73	26.06	27.95	7.89	6.30	2.49	**114.66**
Greens	26.99	23.00	19.33	29.69	39.63	38.30	46.00	40.22	31.15	40.15	35.80	39.62	**409.88**
Groundnut	10.48	13.61	11.24	12.28	8.14	10.05	16.31	14.57	11.73	17.39	6.55	14.57	**146.92**
Ladies Finger	11.87	11.34	11.19	12.15	13.85	14.19	14.51	14.48	14.32	13.27	12.72	13.20	**157.08**
Leek	1.28	2.51	1.16	1.21	1.39	1.83	3.48	2.36	1.85	2.18	3.89	3.20	**26.35**
Lettuce	16.58	18.45	11.90	26.86	31.91	25.68	33.20	27.48	25.26	23.32	23.25	21.38	**285.27**
Maize	5.68	3.70	2.68	12.24	6.93	9.12	10.83	10.08	9.25	10.08	12.66	15.15	**108.38**
Manioc	7.91	6.83	6.30	6.95	6.73	7.31	3.03	5.46	5.44	9.40	4.40	8.76	**78.52**
Onion	4.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.27	59.18	116.47	105.89	50.31	**336.71**
Patole	5.97	6.53	5.05	7.68	10.81	9.72	9.55	7.70	8.17	8.78	5.78	6.49	**92.21**
Petsai	2.37	3.12	1.30	4.38	6.60	5.65	6.87	4.41	3.99	2.77	4.50	4.25	**50.21**
Pineapple	33.54	21.03	23.11	23.53	22.91	25.44	21.95	24.84	28.62	35.30	22.29	18.09	**300.65**
Pipengaille	11.32	8.56	6.49	10.12	13.51	12.30	15.31	15.98	12.51	12.48	11.74	11.12	**141.44**
Potato	0.73	-	-	-	-	-	30.92	109.78	153.28	185.94	146.17	67.87	**694.70**
Pumpkin	56.02	46.85	42.86	59.91	85.12	77.14	75.14	67.03	60.08	65.76	72.90	86.48	**795.28**
Squash	3.63	2.62	0.74	4.20	5.06	8.23	10.27	7.98	12.04	13.37	10.84	6.04	**85.00**
Sweet Pepper	0.57	-	-	-	-	0.21	0.69	0.48	0.55	0.07	0.07	0.51	**3.15**
Sweet Potato	11.71	15.31	8.87	7.29	5.71	12.01	12.82	16.66	16.21	13.15	22.50	20.82	**163.06**
Tomato	32.94	29.55	17.84	29.73	46.23	55.22	72.40	62.21	47.40	36.05	32.82	30.22	**492.60**
Voëhm	6.92	9.71	7.69	8.19	10.64	8.47	9.86	11.65	8.61	8.02	7.27	7.14	**104.16**
Total	**587.74**	**526.49**	**475.92**	**597.87**	**707.84**	**756.21**	**873.29**	**917.50**	**995.80**	**1,088.70**	**1,014.98**	**869.38**	**9,411.73**

N.B. - Major food crops refer to list of crops that are published in 'Digest of Agricultural Statistics'

Legend: '-' denotes nil

Monthly Area harvested of minor foodcrops grown in open field (Whole Island) - 2024

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Bokla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.23	0.02	0.13	0.08	-	**0.46**
Butternut	0.66	0.32	0.00	0.20	0.38	0.46	1.76	2.15	0.62	2.94	1.32	0.42	11.22
Fine herbs:													
Basil	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05
Celery	2.04	1.46	0.42	1.89	2.06	2.37	2.95	3.65	2.29	1.58	2.69	3.49	26.91
Coriander	8.22	8.57	6.52	17.74	17.05	19.95	22.96	27.77	23.40	25.63	27.51	26.56	231.89
Mint	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.38	2.81	2.85	4.37	11.42
Parsley	0.83	1.82	0.43	1.39	2.58	2.17	3.60	2.31	1.99	1.92	2.78	4.12	25.93
Thyme	1.21	1.14	1.03	0.89	1.38	1.32	1.77	1.93	1.99	1.31	1.37	5.75	21.09
Melon	0.10	0.10	0.25	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	1.26	0.20	0.20	2.21
Patate Chinois	6.93	7.08	1.12	2.50	2.86	6.35	4.66	4.60	4.73	4.59	6.73	6.90	59.05
Pawpaw	1.78	2.46	2.32	1.35	1.08	1.08	1.25	1.13	0.46	0.55	0.44	0.40	14.32
Pitaya	0.10	0.40	0.40	0.20	0.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.15	1.35
Radish	0.80	1.91	0.02	0.34	0.59	0.35	3.33	1.68	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	9.06
Rave	1.17	2.99	0.25	0.66	1.98	2.19	3.24	4.09	0.31	0.81	0.85	0.66	19.20
Strawberry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Watercress	1.05	1.66	1.69	1.69	1.80	1.85	1.91	1.84	1.88	1.04	1.07	1.08	18.56
Watermelon	16.86	14.84	13.10	4.00	3.78	1.68	-	-	2.52	10.10	40.69	47.95	155.51
Wax Gourd	-	-	-	-	-	0.11	0.11	-	-	-	-	-	0.21
Total (Minor FC)	**41.75**	**44.76**	**27.56**	**32.96**	**35.67**	**39.87**	**47.54**	**51.39**	**41.60**	**54.68**	**88.58**	**102.06**	**608.43**

Monthly Production harvested of minor food crops (Whole Island) - 2024

	Production (t)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Bokla	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.91	0.07	1.23	0.85	-	**4.06**
Butternut	5.22	2.98	0.00	1.72	3.75	5.21	4.66	7.65	2.92	4.08	3.39	2.02	**43.60**
Fine herbs:													
Basil	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.59**
Celery	3.63	4.59	1.52	7.12	7.82	8.23	20.20	25.15	14.94	8.50	15.02	17.70	**134.41**
Coriander	27.71	42.67	47.92	131.51	136.77	160.60	199.90	216.56	187.89	214.05	218.00	198.67	**1,782.25**
Mint	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	5.55	8.43	4.32	6.54	**24.86**
Parsley	2.00	4.42	2.21	3.36	10.88	5.51	29.03	18.86	14.44	14.02	22.37	34.52	**161.63**
Thyme	3.00	2.75	2.68	2.44	8.88	4.66	6.96	7.66	5.52	4.31	4.28	21.67	**74.81**
Melon	1.00	2.40	4.50	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	22.68	0.50	1.30	**32.88**
Patate Chinois	138.60	141.60	56.00	125.00	143.00	317.50	233.00	230.00	236.50	229.50	336.50	345.00	**2,532.20**
Pawpaw	25.79	45.98	34.38	33.51	35.17	35.63	36.23	34.12	6.87	11.19	8.97	5.16	**313.00**
Pitaya	0.16	0.70	0.89	0.34	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.20	**2.36**
Radish	6.74	16.57	0.02	2.79	4.96	2.88	23.14	9.88	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	**67.07**
Rave	3.11	7.92	1.72	2.32	6.04	7.03	13.52	15.47	1.58	4.37	3.59	2.53	**69.19**
Strawberry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Watercress	6.95	12.40	12.70	11.32	12.29	12.33	12.66	14.94	15.19	10.99	11.31	11.40	**144.48**
Watermelon	193.84	112.60	115.70	72.00	73.92	33.84	-	-	37.80	212.88	1,001.09	921.52	**2,775.18**
Wax Gourd	-	-	-	-	-	2.31	2.05	-	-	-	-	-	**4.36**
Total (Minor FC)	**417.86**	**397.70**	**280.37**	**394.04**	**443.66**	**595.73**	**581.36**	**582.20**	**529.29**	**746.26**	**1,630.21**	**1,568.26**	**8,166.94**

Monthly Area Harvested of Foodcrops Grown in Protected Culture (Whole Island) - 2024

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Bean	-	-	-	0.01	-	-	-	0.07	0.17	0.09	0.04	0.01	**0.39**
Bittergourd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.04	**0.17**
Brinjal (C)	0.09	0.11	0.03	0.01	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.17	0.18	**1.15**
Butternut	-	-	0.17	0.07	0.02	-	0.04	0.02	-	-	0.03	0.02	**0.36**
Cabbage	-	-	-	0.05	-	-	0.03	-	0.01	-	0.01	-	**0.10**
Cauliflower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	-	-	-	0.02	**0.03**
Chillies (C)	-	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	-	-	0.02	0.02	**0.11**
Chillies (L)	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	**0.20**
Chillies (S)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.01**
Coriander	0.01	-	-	0.02	-	0.02	0.04	-	-	-	-	-	**0.09**
Courgette	-	-	0.01	-	0.01	-	-	-	0.08	-	-	-	**0.11**
Cucumber	0.98	0.90	0.62	0.82	0.93	0.94	0.83	0.96	1.69	1.23	0.89	0.75	**11.53**
Echalote	-	-	-	0.05	0.05	0.14	0.04	0.18	0.04	0.09	0.09	0.05	**0.73**
Fine herbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.04	0.04	0.04	**0.13**
Greens	0.43	0.21	0.18	0.31	0.23	0.25	0.33	0.32	0.36	0.27	0.31	0.37	**3.58**
Ladies Finger	0.01	-	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.08**
Lettuce	1.72	1.43	1.42	1.89	1.90	1.58	1.67	1.67	1.85	1.95	1.72	2.19	**20.99**
Melon	0.04	-	0.01	-	0.01	0.15	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.02	**0.51**
Patole	-	-	0.04	0.04	-	-	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.01	-	**0.12**
Pipengaille	0.05	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	0.06	0.05	-	0.02	0.05	**0.31**

	Area (ha)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Squash	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.05**
Strawberry	0.01	0.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.01**
Sweet Pepper	0.87	0.82	0.70	0.65	0.70	0.74	0.76	0.92	0.92	1.00	1.04	4.05	**10.14**
Tomato	4.09	4.07	4.46	4.90	5.08	4.68	4.51	4.24	3.58	3.10	3.29	3.94	**49.94**
Voëhm	-	-	0.06	0.05	0.03	-	0.04	0.04	0.09	0.05	0.02	0.02	**0.40**
Watermelon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	**0.06**
Total	**8.30**	**7.58**	**7.73**	**8.98**	**9.12**	**8.58**	**8.46**	**8.67**	**9.07**	**8.11**	**7.90**	**8.79**	**101.29**

N.B. – Protected cultures refer to both soilless (hydroponics) and soil cultures. The latter being negligible.

Monthly Production of Foodcrops Grown in Protected Culture (Whole Island) - 2024

	Production (t)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Bean	-	-	-	0.11	-	-	-	1.49	3.50	1.87	0.62	0.40	**7.98**
Bittergourd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	1.16	0.69	0.90	**3.91**
Brinjal (C)	4.23	4.52	1.29	0.75	5.78	3.92	3.87	6.53	8.62	7.70	12.18	12.65	**72.02**
Butternut	-	-	1.99	1.06	0.32	0.03	0.30	0.26	-	-	0.45	0.23	**4.64**
Cabbage	-	-	-	2.70	-	-	0.92	-	0.68	-	0.18	-	**4.48**
Cauliflower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.50	-	-	-	0.45	**0.95**
Chillies (C)	-	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.09	0.09	0.09	-	-	0.45	0.60	**1.96**
Chillies (L)	0.35	0.35	0.15	0.13	0.25	0.08	0.12	0.25	0.35	0.49	0.44	0.51	**3.46**
Chillies (S)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08	0.03	**0.11**
Coriander	0.07	-	-	0.30	-	0.20	0.50	-	-	-	-	-	**1.07**
Courgette	-	-	0.12	0.08	0.45	0.12	0.01	-	2.40	-	-	-	**3.18**
Cucumber	101.05	76.56	53.09	86.23	114.37	130.07	119.76	131.23	223.97	151.67	115.35	102.69	**1,406.03**
Echalote	-	-	-	0.75	1.19	2.50	1.00	4.65	1.00	2.56	2.56	1.10	**17.30**
Fine herbs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.88	0.88	0.88	**2.64**
Greens	7.14	3.72	2.76	3.93	4.36	4.08	5.14	4.79	5.91	4.62	7.55	6.66	**60.63**
Ladies Finger	0.07	-	-	0.90	-	0.06	0.13	0.13	-	-	-	-	**1.29**
Lettuce	25.51	25.52	26.47	36.76	45.41	48.55	50.95	48.64	53.53	60.65	51.45	62.06	**535.48**
Melon	1.87	0.02	0.63	-	0.77	9.48	1.77	2.68	1.00	3.53	3.39	1.07	**26.20**
Patole	-	-	0.32	0.32	-	-	-	-	0.20	0.20	0.20	-	**1.24**
Pipengaille	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	2.09	2.09	1.95	-	0.97	1.99	**9.33**

	Production (t)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Squash	-	-	0.18	0.29	0.51	0.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1.11**
Strawberry	0.02	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**0.05**
Sweet Pepper	50.81	40.85	34.79	42.30	55.59	62.56	67.80	81.98	82.16	89.58	93.32	93.58	**795.33**
Tomato	478.87	343.78	380.85	632.00	827.58	822.08	796.90	750.05	634.41	546.81	581.77	696.84	**7,491.94**
Voëhm	-	0.02	0.72	0.64	0.40	-	0.49	0.49	1.53	0.71	0.30	0.30	**5.59**
Watermelon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.60	-	**3.60**
Total	**670.23**	**495.51**	**503.51**	**809.40**	**1,057.12**	**1,083.97**	**1,051.83**	**1,035.82**	**1,022.36**	**872.42**	**876.41**	**982.93**	**10,461.52**

N.B. – Protected cultures refer to both soilless (hydroponics) and soil cultures. The latter being negligible.

Monthly Production of Major Foodcrops Grown in Open Field (Whole Island) - 2024

	Production (t)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Banana	619.36	626.75	735.48	748.15	865.97	888.73	934.61	890.92	931.65	957.94	1,002.06	1,025.72	10,229.34
Bean	51.75	85.79	60.77	147.03	236.85	162.84	273.39	262.73	292.08	244.20	246.80	172.39	**2,236.62**
Beet	44.65	43.55	24.44	35.36	52.61	65.67	180.26	154.79	101.59	207.70	214.99	112.66	**1,238.26**
Bittergourd	42.37	39.00	52.15	69.86	101.13	114.82	107.82	79.06	86.49	95.85	99.27	105.52	**993.33**
Brinjal (A)	32.16	34.49	39.57	43.31	47.45	46.19	46.99	55.42	66.56	64.83	64.21	70.03	**611.19**
Brinjal (C)	213.65	179.69	235.01	268.82	333.91	330.50	366.94	396.96	459.52	478.25	446.98	441.28	**4,150.70**
Broccoli	8.47	0.59	-	2.16	6.40	62.58	75.22	63.62	62.69	42.37	29.19	13.16	**366.03**
Cabbage	563.33	626.01	622.46	850.88	1,372.35	1,486.06	1,647.27	1,515.69	1,265.47	1,416.81	1,658.70	1,012.77	**14,037.81**
Calabash	266.30	286.82	345.36	433.62	470.05	816.46	830.95	819.25	831.68	853.41	834.38	780.14	**7,838.39**
Carrot	296.70	357.35	557.75	555.36	546.67	784.65	1,231.21	1,107.72	944.75	975.12	922.68	918.78	**9,201.76**
Cauliflower	132.76	93.18	51.13	34.70	94.34	208.12	348.00	424.82	352.20	178.85	158.37	107.63	**2,184.10**
Chillies (C)	31.14	25.12	30.48	41.96	52.62	50.31	41.77	42.13	47.69	52.04	49.70	57.56	**522.52**
Chillies (L)	94.02	91.87	109.47	120.42	124.83	138.95	157.17	156.87	185.12	200.76	182.50	192.49	**1,754.48**
Chillies (S)	17.93	16.88	21.36	21.76	21.47	17.06	19.57	23.24	23.97	27.95	29.12	28.86	**269.14**
Chouchou	319.65	375.70	440.71	413.87	392.02	388.27	401.88	520.69	368.81	315.16	348.27	488.28	**4,773.27**
Courgette	12.28	20.78	11.37	31.06	40.65	68.82	54.12	11.04	43.63	51.53	92.22	64.45	**501.94**
Cucumber	254.48	334.90	296.96	387.37	645.19	643.65	704.17	739.98	644.50	614.01	720.64	698.19	**6,684.24**
Echalote	251.67	108.28	247.26	387.12	534.64	517.53	603.01	601.65	694.71	698.47	754.42	796.09	**6,194.84**
Eddoes (C)	172.71	118.08	110.78	106.06	28.56	25.27	49.01	97.07	89.29	99.82	101.66	115.04	**1,113.35**
Eddoes (V)	102.99	111.63	73.72	134.51	122.81	136.00	55.62	88.19	56.66	176.47	120.51	168.85	**1,347.96**

	Production (t)												Total
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Garlic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.70	13.19	11.59	4.58	-	**37.07**
Ginger	3.78	-	-	-	-	501.60	545.52	625.44	670.80	197.25	157.50	61.35	**2,763.24**
Greens	161.41	148.05	209.54	322.91	437.33	407.08	668.29	569.75	403.32	544.73	502.22	535.80	**4,910.43**
Groundnut	13.60	24.85	21.89	22.43	20.06	18.98	34.99	41.76	25.84	39.47	16.43	30.19	**310.49**
Ladies Finger	61.72	65.81	93.52	120.24	141.78	135.40	138.43	135.60	129.04	121.51	104.51	113.46	**1,361.01**
Leek	13.68	24.27	6.30	10.50	11.57	20.03	47.85	27.97	22.43	31.40	57.54	49.76	**323.30**
Lettuce	179.02	229.86	185.58	353.85	507.74	413.64	806.23	703.47	649.62	615.04	604.49	549.42	**5,797.96**
Maize	49.13	34.37	32.31	142.38	96.98	110.82	137.81	140.73	130.00	123.22	133.37	157.81	**1,288.94**
Manioc	140.78	120.12	125.10	140.42	145.17	143.35	55.77	109.48	129.95	184.48	88.95	176.88	**1,560.44**
Onion	49.49	-	-	-	-	-	-	8.06	1,305.18	2,645.81	2,603.02	1,178.33	**7,789.89**
Patole	43.27	45.08	42.54	67.30	95.07	76.76	72.14	54.94	61.02	72.85	45.40	54.83	**731.20**
Petsai	38.14	66.65	23.90	98.77	153.43	129.15	177.14	98.24	88.09	63.15	110.51	105.81	**1,152.98**
Pineapple	625.22	367.68	415.67	459.23	468.12	467.09	416.97	481.03	535.40	726.091	454.86	383.96	**5,802.13**
Pipengaille	96.89	73.74	72.53	129.19	189.50	176.84	223.15	237.95	181.38	184.98	177.98	167.36	**1,911.48**
Potato	15.15	-	-	-	-	-	668.35	2,191.69	2,999.78	3,937.11	3,274.45	1,447.61	**14,534.14**
Pumpkin	744.13	607.86	624.00	956.19	1,550.25	1,631.24	1,616.88	1,405.97	1,281.99	1,448.74	1,585.72	1,866.61	**15,319.58**
Squash	19.88	14.31	4.73	33.59	44.57	66.90	102.66	98.36	149.13	175.73	140.87	74.29	**925.01**
Sweet Pepper	3.37	-	-	-	-	1.50	1.50	0.06	0.62	0.50	0.50	4.87	**12.91**
Sweet Potato	187.60	252.98	125.48	105.34	101.19	211.95	205.73	296.17	297.00	248.23	440.94	405.12	**2,877.72**
Tomato	462.15	471.47	258.35	503.32	905.71	1,269.31	1,891.12	1,564.56	1,145.99	862.42	806.97	752.90	**10,894.27**
Voëhm	61.03	85.43	95.97	117.02	145.45	118.83	148.90	170.03	121.53	111.33	106.79	100.31	**1,382.63**
Total	**6,497.79**	**6,211.01**	**6,403.62**	**8,416.05**	**11,377.46**	**12.858.94**	**16,088.41**	**17,019.96**	**17,889.93**	**20,097.99**	**19,494.43**	**15,586.54**	**157,936.11**

N.B. – Major food crops refer to list of crops that are published in 'Digest of Agriculture Statistics' **Legend**: '-' denotes Nil

Livestock Statistics as at June 2025

District	Cattle		Goat		Sheep		Pig		*Broilers		*Layers		Rabbit		Duck	
	No. of farmers	No. of heads	No. of farmers	No. of heads	No. of farmers	No. of heads	No. of farmers	No. of heads	No. of farmers	No. of Broilers	No. of farmers	No. of Layers	No. of farmers	No. of heads	No. of farmers	No. of heads
Pamplemousses	59	442	226	2,727	70	889	13	468	27	79,225	19	195,957	4	61	11	147
Riviere du Rempart	99	715	401	5,042	91	962	15	319	38	179,215	13	6,370	24	118	75	925
Flacq	77	369	454	5,641	63	745	59	3,023	95	557,742	34	17,337	52	433	129	2,222
Grand Port	48	504	113	1,527	44	584	14	460	26	138,515	5	5,480	5	123	6	295
Savanne	26	299	38	542	12	188	1	3	25	52,051	10	26,175	10	196	8	270
Plaines Wilhems	44	279	180	2,802	32	603	33	831	37	191,135	12	18,525	10	129	11	231
Moka	40	249	153	2,515	63	739	12	324	37	505,725	13	246,405	14	176	33	983
Black River/ Port Louis	62	537	220	3,527	59	1,241	298	17,562	23	151,409	24	7,885	19	138	31	1,090
Total	**455**	**3,394**	**1785**	**24,323**	**434**	**5,951**	**445**	**22,990**	**308**	**1,855,017**	**130**	**524,134**	**138**	**1374**	**304**	**6,163**

* Excluding corporate sector