



Project Title:	Improving Phytosanitary, Food Safety and Market Access Opportunities Along the Hot Pepper Value Chain in Jamaica
Project symbol:	MTF/JAM/023/STF
Recipient Country:	Jamaica
Government/other counterparts:	Bureau of Standards Jamaica Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Expected EOD (Starting Date):	17 March 2022
Expected NTE (End Date):	16 March 2025
Contribution to FAO's Strategic Framework: (Indicate as appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Objective/Organizational Outcome: Better production and better nutrition with a particular focus on: BP BP1: Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production, focusing on the thematic component: Enhance crop production and protection systems (e.g. tropical, drylands and urban/peri-urban agriculture) with high quality, productivity, efficiency, and diversity through geographical indications (GI) BP3: One Health, focusing on the thematic component: Health systems performance in sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) standards for better trade and food security BP4: Small-Scale Producers' Equitable Access to Resources, focusing on the thematic component: Access to extension, information, services and training, technologies and innovations, and digitalization BN3: Safe Food for Everyone. focusing on the thematic components: Enhancing food safety capacity of value chain operators. Strengthen and extend partnerships for food safety BN4: Reducing Food Loss and Waste, focusing on the thematic component: Improve access to technologies and support innovations for more efficient and resilient harvest, storage, processing, packaging, and logistics

	<p>BN5: Transparent Markets and Trade, focusing on the thematic component: Support innovative policy and technical approaches, and novel business models promoting and facilitating the integration of small-scale actors into markets and value chains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country Outcome: Government of Jamaica – Vision 2030 Country Programming Framework 2021 – 2024 Outputs: Output 1.3: Institutional capacities strengthened to develop and implement a food safety certification and standardization programme for trade and domestic production as well as to improve the national food recall and alert system Output 2.1: Value chain actors equipped with technical and managerial capacities and digital tools to develop competitive and resilient agro-enterprises and agricultural value chains. Output 2.2: Public and private sector organizations’ capacities strengthened to increase investments in competitive and resilient agro-enterprises and value chains and design and implement financial instruments and services and risk management mechanisms for efficient and inclusive agricultural food systems. Regional Initiative/Priority Area: Regional Initiative 1 - Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all
Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Low Risk
Gender Marker	G1 The project addresses gender equality in some dimensions
Total Budget:	USD 1,065,392
Executive Summary	

The popularity and demand of the Jamaican hot peppers have grown both in local and international markets. There are, however, challenges with the compliance and application of international food safety and phyto-sanitary standards as well as consistent production of sufficient quantities and supply of high quality hot peppers. In an effort to increase the export earnings from the hot pepper value chain the proposed project aims to support increased compliance to sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards for production and export of Jamaica's hot pepper for the EU, UK, USA, Canada, and regional markets. To accomplish this, the project intends to improve the technical and resource capacity of local producers, inspection and regulatory bodies involved in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) management and extension delivery to increase the capacity of stakeholders to adopt standards along the hot pepper value chain, increase the production of hot peppers and increase the export potential and market access opportunities for the sector.

This project is aligned to the overall national development outcomes for Jamaica, that is the Government of Jamaica's Vision 2030 plan and the FAO Country Programming Framework 2021 – 2024 for Jamaica. It also contributes to achieving selected targets of SDG 1 and 2 along with the four betters of the FAO's Strategic framework 2022-2031 with a particular focus on Better Production and Better Nutrition and RLC Regional Initiative 1 "Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all".

This project funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility will be implemented by FAO in close collaboration with the Bureau of Standards, Jamaica and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. There will be critical partnerships with government agencies involved in plant quarantine and inspection, research and certification of planting material, food safety competent authorities and extension services.

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ACRONYMS

BSJ	Bureau of Standards of Jamaica
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GMP	Good manufacturing practices
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points
MIIC	Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce
MOAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
PQ	Plant Quarantine Branch
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade

SECTION 1 – RELEVANCE

1.1 Alignment and Strategic Fit

The project is aligned to FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022 – 2031, the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for Jamaica 2021 – 2024 and contributes to the Latin America and the Caribbean’s Regional Initiative 1 - Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all. The project is also aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals, primarily SDG 2 - Zero Hunger and SDG 1- No Poverty¹. It also contributes most notably to SDG 15 - Life on Land, SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals. It is also aligned to the Government of Jamaica’s strategic national development plan, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, Vision 2030, and other sectoral policies such as the Agriculture Sector Plan, National Food Safety Policy and National Seed Policy.

1.1.1 Alignment to FAO’s Strategic Framework

The project will contribute to FAO’s Strategic framework 2022 – 2031, with a particular focus on:

- Better Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, through efficient and inclusive food and agriculture supply chains at local, regional, and global level, ensuring resilient and sustainable agri-food systems in a changing climate and environment.
- Better Nutrition: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition in all its forms, including promoting nutritious food and increasing access to healthy diet.

It is aligned to the organizational Program Priority Areas (PPA) as detailed below:

Organization Output	SDGs indicators
BP4: Small-Scale Producers’ Equitable Access to Resources , focusing on the thematic component: Access to extension, information, services and training, technologies and innovations, and digitalization	2.3: 30 % 2.4: 20% 1.4: 15%
BN3: Safe Food for Everyone , focusing on the thematic components: Enhancing food safety capacity of value chain operators. Strengthen and extend partnerships for food safety	2.1: 20%
BN4: Reducing Food Loss and Waste , focusing on the thematic component: Improve access to technologies and support innovations for more efficient and resilient harvest, storage, processing, packaging, and logistics	12.3: 15%

¹ <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/en/>

1.1.2 Alignment to Country Programming Framework (CPF)

1.1.2.1 Contribution to CPF Output

The project is aligned to the FAO Country Programming Framework 2021 – 2024 for Jamaica specifically

Output 1.3: Institutional capacities strengthened to develop and implement a food safety certification and standardization programme for trade and domestic production as well as to improve the national food recall and alert system

Output 2.1: Value chain actors equipped with technical and managerial capacities and digital tools to develop competitive and resilient agro-enterprises and agricultural value chains.

Output 2.2: Public and private sector organizations' capacities strengthened to increase investments in competitive and resilient agro-enterprises and value chains and design and implement financial instruments and services and risk management mechanisms for efficient and inclusive agricultural food systems.

1.1.2.2 Contribution to Country Goals, Policy and Plans

This project is also aligned to **Vision 2030**, the GOJ's national development plan. It is expected that it would help to achieve the **Goal 3: Jamaica's economy is prosperous under National Outcome # 12: Internationally Competitive Industry Structures**. For national development, specific emphasis is being placed on improving our international competitiveness through developing and strengthening the agricultural sector. It is with that in mind that the hot pepper value chain is strategically being targeted to provide Jamaican exporters with the necessary technical assistance to implement phytosanitary and food safety standards that will allow them to meet quality and safety requirements internationally and respond to an increase in export demand.

The project will also contribute to:

- ✓ The **National Agriculture Sector Plan**. This plan seeks to increase the competitiveness and productivity of agricultural output, including strengthening farming systems, diversifying into value added production and application of technology, research and development and improving quality of seeds and planting material. The proposed project will help to reposition and support the agricultural sector through the hot pepper agro-industry, specifically: achieving efficient, competitive and diversified value-added pepper production; strong marketing systems for domestic and export markets; competent and adequately trained human resources; enabling and facilitating framework, infrastructure and support services; contributing to long term rural development; an environmentally sustainable industry; and national food security and food safety.
- ✓ The **National Food Safety Policy** which covers all aspects of national, regional, and international practices, principles, guidelines, standards, and agreements governing food safety regimes in Jamaica. The proposed project will support the implementation of the policy through its capacity building of stakeholders to produce safe foods that satisfy local and international market access requirements by adopting standards and risk-based food safety management systems.
- ✓ The **National Seed Policy and Action Plan** which focuses on the development of a seed system that ensures the availability of high-quality seed is accessible to end users. This project aims

to support this for the hot pepper through the use of higher quality seed production and techniques and improved varieties.

- ✓ The Jamaica **Food and Nutrition Security Policy** and action plan which advocates for the national food production, processing, distribution, marketing, trade, and food safety and agricultural public health system to be capable of providing safe, adequate, nutritious, and affordable food. Furthermore, it calls for an improved national food distribution systems that propel collaboration of key agencies and departments to establish and/or upgrade wholesale and retail market facilities for handling and selling produce and livestock to facilitate efficient markets and food safety/hazard control.
- ✓ Jamaica **National Development Gender Plan – Vision 2030**. The goal is to realise a society free of sex and other forms of discrimination in all spheres that creates and maintains a socioeconomic, cultural, political, and legal environment, in both the public and private domains free of sex discrimination, where all males and females, at all stages of the life cycle can enjoy full human rights and develop their full potential as productive citizens. This will help to ensure appropriate policy frameworks are established to ensure that gender inequities are mitigated, and that governance structures and processes reflect gender equity in representation and decision making.

1.1.3 Expected Results

1.1.3.1 Impact

The ultimate goal of the project is to achieve the SDG 2 “*Zero Hunger*”, propelling agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, and family farmers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. The impact will be a Jamaica agricultural food system more safe, resilient, efficient, and productive.

To help achieve this impact the project will target the hot pepper sector to increase its competitiveness, food safety, sustainability, and international attractiveness by ensuring a consistent supply of high quality standard hot peppers from local farmers is available to respond to a growing international demand, improving market access conditions and resulting in an increase in domestic and international sales. These higher volumes of hot pepper sold will in turn contribute to Jamaica’s achieving its sustainable economic growth objectives, in line with its strategic national development plan, Vision 2030.

1.1.3.2 Outcome

The overall outcome of the project is to **strengthen the Government of Jamaica’s international competitiveness in the hot pepper industry by improving institutional capacity and supporting farmers in producing a consistent high-quality supply and improving market access conditions**. This outcome will be measured using the following targets/indicators;

- i. Reduction in the occurrence of pests in hot pepper crops by 25% resulting from more robust control, implementation and monitoring of SPS standards;

- ii. Increased production, availability and distribution of clean seeds or planting material by 20% and
- iii. Increased output of hot peppers by 10%

1.1.3.3 Outputs

Output 1: Improve the technical and resource capacity of local research and regulatory bodies involved in SPS management with a focus on reducing the prevalence of pests and on distribution of clean seeds to enable greater availability of clean planting material.

Due to the limitations at current facilities for research and certification, there is a limited supply of certified clean planting materials and seeds. Therefore, this output aims to strengthen the development capacity of private nurseries to produce and store breeder/foundation seeds for pepper varieties and the desired traits. Also, it aims to build the technical, research and testing capacity for personnel involved in SPS management (inspectors, extension officers, research/testing personnel, certification services) on sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures management. The Government of Jamaica GOJ has designated the Bodles Research Laboratory as the reference laboratory and the distributor of the genetic variety that will be the source of clean seeds to the industry and the regulatory body. The Plant Quarantine and Produce Inspection (PQPI) Unit will certify other private nurseries of clean seeds to ensure the appropriate systems and procedures are implemented in a sustainable manner. This will help support the establishment of the appropriate legal framework to regulate and monitor the viability of seeds and seed quality used as starting material in Jamaica and contribute to the National Seed Policy. A certification programme will also be supported. Equal participation of men and women will be encouraged, with a minimum target of at least 30% of participants being women.

Output 2: Increase the capacity of stakeholders to produce safe foods that satisfy local and international market access requirements.

Hot pepper farmers are currently unable to meet the demand for hot peppers due to low market standard supply. This output will aim to select value chain actors (farmers, middlemen, exporters), conduct farms needs assessment for food safety management, develop a food safety capacity building programme and collaborate with Ministries and departments for training and education programmes on good agricultural practices and food safety.

It will review the reasons for refusal of entry of productions (fresh and processed) into international markets and the comparative advantage and disadvantages of hot pepper traders and markets to provide corrective measures, through a market access assessment and development of a communication-marketing mechanism for the dissemination of information on SPS and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures along with training provision for farmers, inspectors, exports and middlemen in quality standards and regulatory requirements (based in product 1). We are aware that gender imbalances do occur at various points in the pepper market system. As the project works to increase capacity of stakeholders, particular attention will be paid to gender representation such that women and men will have equal access to resources, to participate in activities to include influencing and leading stakeholder decision making processes. Equal participation of men and women will be encouraged, with a minimum target of at 30% of participants being women.

Output 3: Promote the value chain and food safety systems approach by strengthening sustainable and resilient practices to increase the output of fresh pepper production, storage, and transformation.

This output aims to strengthen the technical capacity of agencies in agricultural extension, innovation, and knowledge transfer on sustainable, climate resilient and adapted good agricultural and transformation practices to improve the yields and the standards based on market demands and territorial conditions. It also includes Integrated Pest Management, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Good post-harvest and Manufacturing Practices and the adoption of standards and risk-based (GAP, GMP, HACCP, CODEX standards, and Fresh Produce Grading). Equal participation of men and women will be encouraged, with a minimum target of at least 30% of participants being women.

1.1.3.4 Activities

Output 1 – Activities

Activities to include analyses, training, recommendations, and procurement of equipment and supplies shall take into consideration the current context regarding participation of male and females. They will reflect approaches and methodologies to help ensure equal representation of women and men by removing barriers for example in the use and deployment of equipment and supplies and other ergonomic factors that will satisfy requirements for use by both sexes.

- 1.1. Conduct gap analysis of the pest risk environment and mitigations practices in Jamaica
- 1.2. Develop and execute training programmes on pest and disease identification, surveillance systems and management for personnel involved in SPS management based on the gap analysis
- 1.3. Source and procure equipment, tools, and reagents to test for pathogens and modern surveillance tools to assist in inspection and monitoring of *Capsicum* pests and improve production capacity of clean seeds
- 1.4. Develop pest identification training manual with best practices for prevention of pest and diseases entry and establishment.
- 1.5. Establish and implement horizon scanning tools to identify threats of major importance to Jamaica (pepper in particular).
- 1.6. Develop and implement an operational plan for the establishment of Areas of low pest prevalence (ALPP) and pest free areas (PFA)s
- 1.7. Conduct training on seed germination and growing techniques, vigour testing methods, pest and disease identification and management
- 1.8. Communicate and disseminate program manual to stakeholders through stakeholder sensitization sessions to establish and promote clean seed certification programmes for public and private nurseries
- 1.9 Undertake a financial costing of certified seed production

- 1.10. Conduct training on integrated pest management (including the use of organic solutions and climate variability in pest management), the management of pre and post-harvest losses, climate resilient approaches and agro-meteorology

Output 2 – Activities

- 2.1. Conduct needs assessment of farms, produce handling facilities and processing sites to understand the status, gaps, and risks towards implementing corrective measures and the adoption of food safety and quality standards. The cross cutting consideration on how women and men are impacted and so there will be baseline data that will help embed appropriate gender sensitivity in food safety and quality standards.
- 2.2. Prepare and disseminate a food safety capacity building plan and training materials based on assessments results for ToT and coaches in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP, and other relevant standards.
- 2.3. Execute training and education programme for Trainers (Train the Trainer programmes) and coaches in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP
- 2.4. Execute training and coaching plans for stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters) in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP
- 2.5. Implement non training activities identified in food safety capacity building plan
- 2.6. Prepare and implement food safety management system for farms and processing establishments to include the review of GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP manuals and training on use of manuals
- 2.7. Support the certification process for farms, produce handling facilities and processing establishments
- 2.8 Execute training in market access requirements (food safety and quality standards, EPIN notification, MRLs) for inspectors, farmers, exporters, and middlemen

Output 3 – Activities

- 3.1 Identification of market segments (fresh/processed) and their specific market requirements & Identification of comparative advantages and disadvantages of Jamaican hot pepper as a producer and exporter through a market assessment
- 3.2 Conduct training of trainers on the management of pre and post-harvest losses including post-harvest technologies, climate resilient and agro-meteorology data analysis for extension workers ensuring that no sex will be less than 30 percent represented among the participants.
- 3.3 Develop, disseminate, and implement a climate resilience plan (to include climate risk management and the analysis of agro meteorology information) specific to the sector which should result in a substantial reduction in production losses due to adverse weather conditions
- 3.4 Liaise with the Jamaica Business Development Corporation (JBDC) to facilitate greater access to finance for women and through capacity building training to targeted financial

institutions in agricultural loan product design and development, credit risk of agricultural loan proposals, and loan management cycle.

1.2 Comparative Advantages

FAO has been supporting development of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean for decades and has accumulated considerable institutional capacity in supporting the promotion of good agricultural practices and phytosanitary standards, strengthening systems in food safety and quality management, and promoting inclusive market-led development of agricultural value chains. FAO is recognized as a leader in the development of global plant health and food safety initiatives and supports an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to managing the SPS areas of plant health and food safety. Moreover, FAO has considerable global experience in models to link farmers to market opportunities in a sustainable and inclusive way. Key partnerships have been built with a number of national and international organizations including the Standards and Trade Development Facility allowing for mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and experiences.

FAO Jamaica has several initiatives based on value chain development and identifying and strengthening commercially viable value chains.

1.2.1 Mandate to Act

FAO maintains a presence globally with a regional, subregional offices and FAO representations in almost every country working towards the achievement of key regional and country-level priorities centered on reducing hunger and poverty. Each regional and subregional office maintains a complementary expertise in a variety of agricultural fields including in plant health, food safety and value chain development. FAO representations based in countries provide an enabling infrastructure for FAO expertise to operate within national priority frameworks established by countries with FAO. The Project is aligned with FAO's mandate to achieve food security for all and contributes to the Better Production and Better Nutrition of the Strategic framework 2022 – 2030.

1.2.2 Capacity to Act

Describe the extent to which FAO has the commensurate operational and technical knowledge capacity to implement a given project in the foreseen context.

As a world leader in designing and implementing technical programmes to enhance the agri-food production in the context of food security, poverty reduction and livelihood improvement, FAO has all the necessary technical and operational capacity to implement the project in Jamaica. The project builds on FAO's advantages as a United Nations Agency with expertise and experience in agriculture and development and its extensive network of country, sub-regional and regional offices. FAO has the convening power to liaise with and mobilize governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations acting as a neutral forum and trusted technical agency. FAO has proven implementation capacity in the field, backed by a network of more than 80 decentralized offices at the regional, sub-regional and country levels. Additionally, FAO has experience in projects implementation in the agri-food sector of Jamaica. FAO supports the development of sustainable food value chains and of farmers through a combination of capacity building, knowledge dissemination, partnership promotion and policy dialogue initiatives. The project work closely aligns as well with FAO's work on reducing food losses and waste along the value chains. FAO has a wide experience of effective partnerships with

governments, research organizations and networks, civil-society organizations, resource partners and community-based organizations.

1.2.3 Position to Act

Describe the extent to which FAO is best positioned to act considering not only its mandate and capacity but its position as compared to other actors in the country or internationally.

FAO is best positioned to act on this project as the organization has a clear mandate on food security and food safety and sustainable agricultural development and can be described as international leader in the respective areas and can therefore bolster the national and regional capacity related to pepper value chains. FAO's comparative advantage consists in the following:

- FAO has an institutional memory based on an unparalleled amount of information regarding global agriculture, which is used in providing policy assistance and technical cooperation to its members. Best practices and lessons learned from projects in the field conducted by FAO and by others can be utilized in this project.
- FAO has a dedicated professional multidisciplinary staff and can mobilize a wide variety of technical disciplines in support of project implementation, and to ensure technical quality at the highest standards.
- FAO technical expertise and administrative support capacity are located throughout its network of decentralized offices at regional, sub-regional and country level, in addition to headquarters.
- FAO procedures, responsible financial and administrative management, guaranteeing full transparency and accountability.

1.3 Context Analysis

According to recent data from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 44.6% of the Jamaican population lives in rural areas with 264,181 individuals, living below the poverty line. Approximately 32% of the working population relies on the agricultural sector as their primary source of livelihood. Agriculture is vital to the Jamaican economy, ranking second after extractive metal industries. In 2019, agriculture contributed 7% to GDP, slightly lower than in 2018 with 7.3% contribution.

Agricultural production is dominated by approximately 220,000 small-scale farmers (average 1.35ha/farm) contributing to 90% of the total agricultural production. The remaining 10% is derived from farmer associations and large commercial farms. Commercial agriculture is mainly focused on the production of traditional export crops such as yam, banana and sugar cane and is geographically present in the rural parishes of St. Ann, St. Elizabeth, Clarendon, and Manchester. With the decline in the production of sugar cane and bananas and the resulting decrease in export, there has been a national effort to increase production of non-traditional export crops among small farmers such as pumpkins, dasheen, sweet potato, ackee, hot peppers, ginger, and turmeric.

Export of agricultural products is an important source of income for Jamaica. In 2018, agriculture accounted for 24% of exports, totalling USD406 million in revenue. As such, the Government of Jamaica sees the development of commercial agriculture and diversifying agricultural exports as a national priority and recognizes the role that agriculture can play in pursuing our sustainable development goals and in particular, for increasing incomes for rural households. Jamaica's National Trade Policy also prioritizes enhancing the competitiveness of Jamaica's products and services in the domestic, regional,

and international markets while ensuring that trade conforms to national and international trade requirements, including Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS). The Jamaican Vision 2030 promotes the development and maintenance of a competitive, diversified, value-added agricultural sector through the strengthening of agricultural research institutions, development and diversification of a range of agricultural products including higher value-added production, the development of modern, efficient farming systems through research and application of local and international best practices and the implementation of developmental plans for key agricultural sub-sectors.

There have been positive signs of progress; for instance, between 2010 and 2015 planted areas and yields of fruits and vegetables increased by approximately 10-12%. However, yields are still only 10% of global optimal averages and in addition, most farms are small and dispose of limited resources for investments for scaling up production.

Hot peppers, which are widely grown in Jamaica have been growing in popularity and demand in recent years both locally and in overseas markets. There are two varieties in Jamaica which are of economic importance, namely, the Scotch Bonnet and the West Indian Red. This important spice can be sold fresh or used as input for value-added processes and transformed into other products such as crushed peppers, hot sauces, the famous Jamaican Jerk seasonings and sauces and other condiments. The high capsaicin levels also make the pepper attractive to the pharmaceutical industry for products such as pepper sprays including mace. Thus, the pepper has emerged as an alternate high-value cash crop, compared to traditionally produced vegetables. In line with an identified increase in product demand, there are ample opportunities for increased production and improved productivity to generate a reliable supply for the fresh produce market, generating greater market opportunities. Production figures over the past five years indicates a 30% increase in the local production levels, moving from 13,111 metric tonne in 2015 to 18,106 metric tonnes in 2018. Revenue associated with pepper export during the period shows an increase from USD \$1,539,000 to USD \$ 2,681,000 in 2019. However, when compared to the global market value for hot pepper export of USD 4,100,000,000, there is a great potential to improve Jamaica's export revenue in this sector.

1.3.1 Stakeholder Engagement

1.3.1.1 Stakeholder Engagement

This project has been developed through extensive consultations with relevant public and private sector stakeholders. As such, the project has the strong commitment of several government agencies, the private sector, universities, research organizations, farmers, and others. The major stakeholders involved in the Project and their roles are given at Appendix 1.

1.3.1.2 Grievance Mechanism

In close collaboration with concerned beneficiaries and stakeholders, FAO will ensure transparent handling of potential grievances related to the project activities. FAO facilitates the resolution of concerns of beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project regarding alleged or potential violations of FAO's social and environmental commitments and safeguards. To address concerns with regard to alleged and potential violations of FAO commitments, the project will carry out regular monitoring of

capacity building activities. It will take necessary measures and adjustments to resolve potential concerns and will report to the respective authorities on such incidents. FAO will publicize grievance handling mechanism during project inception phase. The project will encourage the beneficiaries/stakeholders to directly approach the project management by email and telephone. All the training materials developed by the project will have relevant phone numbers and email for registering any complaint. FAO Representative in Jamaica will be the focal contact point for addressing grievances, if any.

1.3.2 Problems to be addressed

In 1998, an assessment of the export competitiveness of non-traditional crops and livestock activities in the Caribbean indicated that hot pepper presented a significant potential for successful and competitive production in the country. This assessment is still accurate and relevant in today’s market, as demonstrated by the high demand in the export and agro processing sectors. The high demand for Jamaican sauces places high importance on Jamaican hot pepper identified as a priority commodity for export in the Caribbean. The commodity is among one of the priority crops being promoted by the Jamaican Government for increased production and productivity to meet demands in both the local and export markets. In a meeting held with the Jamaica Agro processors Association (JAPA) on April 11, 2018, members spoke about the lack of Scotch Bonnet Peppers availability for the raw material input for sauces. The association was only able to satisfy 55% of the sauce market; leaving a gap of 45% unfilled. This scenario supports the need to assist this industry to meet local and international market demand for both raw produce and its by-products.

The annual global production of fresh peppers for export is estimated at approximately 30 million tonnes. However, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF), Jamaica represents a mere 0.04 per cent of that global output. A summary of the major pepper products exported from Jamaica in 2018 is illustrated in Figure 1. Fresh pepper accounts for only 4% of the total exports of pepper and related products.

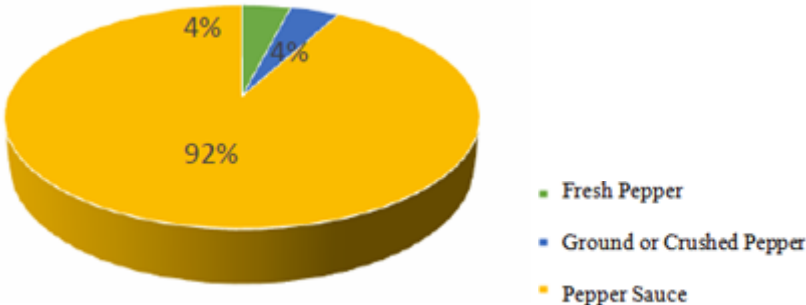


Figure 1 Major Pepper Products Exported from Jamaica in 2018

The Project will support the objectives of the National Trade Policy and the National Plant Health Policy that prioritizes conformity to SPS measures as a way of ensuring competitiveness and the protection of plant health. It may also support the implementation of the existing Food Safety Policy (see further Section 3.3). In this context the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), to which Jamaica is signatory, facilitates the safe trade of plants and plant products, assuring compliance for Jamaican producers to access international and regional markets. However, as described under section 2.i, the

capacity to regulate plant health and food safety issues in the hot pepper value chain is variable for the different stakeholders, resulting in phytosanitary and food safety export constraints.

This Project is further relevant to STDF mandate due to its approach to the development of public private partnerships among industry stakeholders in addressing the current sanitary and phytosanitary issues affecting the hot pepper value chain. In this regard, a private sector led SPS Multi-Stakeholder Committee, which will function within the National TBT/SPS Technical Committee, will be established. The complementarity is manifest in the following ways: (1) involving a broader range of key private sector actors through the meetings and activities of the proposed committee, including for example representatives of public and private extension who are, in turn, key in increasing awareness of SPS standards and compliance among growers but who are not yet involved in the national coordination mechanisms; (2) Involving a broader range of processors and exporters in the Platform, to obtain their input, to raise awareness and promotion of SPS standards, compliance, and participation in notification by processors and exporters; (3) Using the expanded influence and increased resources brought about by these private sector actors to enable the above activities and the functioning of the national coordination mechanisms to a greater extent than is currently possible due to the present capacity constraints of these national mechanisms. Such an approach could be replicated in neighbouring countries like Trinidad and Tobago and St. Lucia, thus strengthening the project's positive spillover effects in the region. Donors emphasize the importance of private sector involvement in both the design and operation of an effective SPS system. It is believed that the financial sustainability of a SPS system can only be guaranteed through a public private partnership approach. They welcome the Multi-stakeholder SPS Committee as an effective vehicle to achieve this.

The proposed project purpose is an improved compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards for production and export of Jamaica's hot peppers for the EU, UK, USA, Canadian and regional markets. However, market studies have shown that the current production levels of hot peppers in Jamaica are yet to satisfy the area of demand in the market. It is strategic to strengthen the existing trade gap which is not satisfied and yet expanding. The top three (3) major exporters of hot peppers to the global market are China, Mexico and Turkey, there is a gap that can be filled with supplies from Jamaica."

1.3.3 Partnerships

Public

The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Bureau of Standards (BSJ) together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Government agencies such as the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQ) will work closely to improve GAPS at the farm level and build technical capacity of farmers to produce the desired quantity and quality of peppers as per export requirements. Importantly, RADA has the capacity to locate and provide real time information on farmers, and provide demographic markers such as sex, age, etc. owing to their farmer registration system, and extension services that provide technical support to the farming community. RADA will greatly assist the PQ division with necessary logistics and awareness-raising and dissemination of information to targeted farmers. These agencies are also jointly responsible for developing and implementing surveillance and inspection systems for the fresh produce sector. The

Bureau of Gender Affairs (BOGA) will be engaged regarding gender considerations, oversight and monitoring on gender inclusion as the project is being executed. This is in order to help ensure that women and men are equally represented at the various levels of participation and decision making.

Private Entities

To achieve the desired outcomes, key government agencies the project will partner with the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS), Jamaica Agro-Processors Association (JAPA), Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA) and other private sector organizations. Specifically, private entities will provide in-kind support, information and collaborate with relevant government agencies. This will ensure that the required systems are implemented, and gaps are addressed to create sustainable market access opportunities and channels for enhanced collaboration and cooperation are well harnessed and maintained.

1.3.4 Knowledge Management and Communication

1.3.4.1 Knowledge Sharing

The project implementation will be done in close collaboration with relevant Ministries, agencies, institutions, and participating farmers and associations to ensure clear definition and communication of roles, responsibilities and a framework established for ensuring this cooperation is maintained throughout and after the project life-cycle, including in the case where there could be a rotation amongst key government stakeholders. The project implementation will also include accountability mechanisms that promote continuity of application of methodologies for pest reduction and chemical use.

The important outcomes of this project will be transferred through training sessions for capacity building activities of the major stakeholders and infrastructural improvement of laboratories, nurseries farm equipment etc. Guidelines will be developed to ensure that technical staff, farmers, and other stakeholders of the hot pepper value chain understand the standard and quality requirements of the international market and the methods for implementation and maintenance for continuous compliance in ensuring secure access to market and less rejection and destruction of consignments. The material and training manuals developed will be provided to farmers and producers for reference and to institutions and agencies for ease of replication of the programme.

This will result in all the stakeholders benefiting economically and will act as a catalyst to motivate stakeholders to sustain the project's results. The project will endeavour to sustain the growing cooperation through several means: establishment of the public-private stakeholder SPS/TBT Committee and regular meetings to update each other on new development in market access requirements especially as it relates to SPS requirements and to monitor and evaluate implementation of agreed project goals.

Grower associations will be supported to engage their members in project activities by mobilizing them to participate in the national SPS/TBT Committee and other meetings make in-kind contributions and implement interventions agreed to enhance compliance. Farm owners or heads of farmer associations

will be encouraged to have monthly meetings to address issues raised by the technical teams as well as to encourage information sharing and knowledge transfer. These interactions, and the on-going national SPS/TBT Committee, are intended to foster collaboration during and after the project period, an important aspect for sustainability.

1.3.4.2 Lessons Learned

A number of previous interventions on the same context were assessed for lessons learned and influence the design of the project. In conducting preliminary literature review and research for this project, contact was made with Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the University of the West Indies. The information gained was incorporated in the decisions on how to address the local shortage of seedlings due to climate and pest issues in Jamaica.

As a member body of CROSQ (CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality), several projects emanating from these policy directives, agreements and discussions under the Economic Partnership Agreement and the European Development Fund Agreements are routed to these countries. These include support to develop the value chain of certain food commodity (e.g. castor oil value chain), projects aimed at strengthening the intellectual property rights environment in CARIFORUM as a means of fostering trade and investment and stimulating innovation and competitiveness in the private sector.

Title of project	Implementing organisations and donors	Relevance for proposed project
1. Agricultural Support Services Project	Ministry of Agriculture and Inter-American Development Bank	Involvement of previous beneficiaries at various stages of the project so that important information for screening, resource availability and lessons learned can be factored into the implementation of this project.
2. Food Safety Modernization Programme	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), the Agricultural Competitiveness Program and the Fisheries Management Fund	Use of the upgraded infrastructure realized in previous project. Hot Pepper GAPS Handbooks developed can be used as resource material for the training and information engagement sessions with the stakeholders.
3. Greenhouse Scotch bonnet pepper programme for Devon, Manchester	Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries	Farmers receive seedlings and other inputs, and technical and marketing support were also provided
4. Certification of Jamaican hot pepper	Research and Development Division and the Plant Quarantine Division of MOAF	Resources and infrastructure acquired and utilized in the projects can be developed and use to contribute to the objectives of this project.

		<p>Possible availability of starting material such as quality declared Scotch Bonnet Seeds.</p> <p>Engagement of participants in the local, red, hot pepper seed production programme.</p> <p>Upgrade or maintain national technology transfer programme for hot pepper seed and seedling production.</p>
5. Agriculture Ministry's clean seed programme	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in partnership with CARDI and the CARICOM Secretariat. Funded by European Union under the APP of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).	The seed facility currently produces hot pepper, among others such as pumpkin and sorrel seeds for sale to farmers
6. Innovative Research Partnerships in the development of Hot Pepper Marketing in the Caribbean- FAO	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	The project identified continuity of supply, quality control, customer requirements, basic infrastructure and research and development assistance to producers and exporters as major issues to be addressed for improved marketing of hot peppers in the Caribbean. Some of these will be address in the STDF project.
7. Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture	CARDI	<p>During the year, processors in some islands experienced shortages of peppers and as a result there appeared to be in increase in pepper mash importation from extra-regional sources. This STDF project is one such being initiated in Jamaica to increase hot pepper production to increase local supplies.</p> <p>Along with boodles, in Jamaica, CARDI is a source of supply of hot pepper seeds to the local market. Despite this there is still a gap in available cleans seeds which the project aims to investigate.</p>

1.3.4.3 Communication

The communication activities will be supported by the BSJ and FAO to ensure visibility of the project. The main mediums will be news articles and social media updates of completed project activities. Among the messages communicated with the Project's various stakeholder communities will be about

how the project is ensuring that the success stories reflect equal instances of how men and women giving equal opportunities are changing their livelihood outcomes not only around improved income but also around decision making and leadership. There is a budget for communications in the project and the specific activities will be determined during project implementation.

SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY

2.1 Implementation Arrangements

FAO will lead the implementation of the project, providing technical and operational leadership and coordination support. The project was formulated in collaboration with the BSJ and with guidance from the STDF. The BSJ will act as a partner in the execution of the project.

A National Project Management Steering Committee (PMSC) will be established to oversee the project implementation at the national level. FAO in collaboration with the BSJ will request nominations from the respective Ministries for the establishment of the PMSC. It will comprise senior officials from the various parent ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Industry Investment and Commerce), government agencies (BSJ, RADA, BOGA, PQPI, PCA and AIC), private sector groups (JMEA, the farmers groups,) and representatives from FAO and STDF. The PMSC will be chaired by the appointed Focal Point by the Government of Jamaica. The PMSC can also be convened for extraordinary matters as requested by the Chair. The Steering Committee will guarantee that National authorities will be informed and will also facilitate linkages that will support the efficient implementation of the project. It is expected that the PMSC will convene meetings twice per year with the aim to:

- Oversee and assure technical quality of outputs
- Propel close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes
- Ensure timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support
- Ensure sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication
- Ensure effective coordination of government partner work under this project;
- Approve reports (including six-monthly and annual Progress and Financial Reports), and the Annual Operational Plans and Budget

The project will be organised with a Project Management Unit (PMU) involving a Project Manager, Technical Experts, and Administrative Support Personnel, all with experience or willing to receive training in designing and or implementing projects that have gender equity mainstreamed. The project personnel, goods and services will be procured through FAO, following the organization's rules and regulations. Detailed ToRs would be prepared prior to the recruitment of all consultants. The PMU will be responsible for the preparation of documentation to be reviewed and approved by the PMSC. A project management office will be hosted at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica. Among others, the PMU will:

- Ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of all activities of the project;
- Prepare and implement, in collaboration with all stakeholders involved a comprehensive project management tools (including, a detailed project workplan and procurement plan, and Annual Operational Plans);

- PMU will review the project’s work plan, the project’s procurement plans; implementation and M&E plans and propose adjustments, as necessary;
- Serve as the secretary of the PMSC and be responsible to prepare all documentation required for the PMSC.

The subject matter of the project falls within the purview of two ministries namely the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) and will play a critical role in the successful implementation of the project goals.

2.1.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination

The roles and responsibilities of the partners are highlighted below.

Organization	Unit/Section	Roles/Functions
Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC), and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF)	Agricultural Export Division (AED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitors pests affecting traditional export crops. • Develops and implements IPM programmes. • Conducts research on the efficacy of IPM systems.
	Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with the development of plans and identify funding for the industry • Coordinate the execution of the plan for the industry • Infrastructural support • Facilitates the processing of loans • Seek partnership with JAMPRO to identify joint ventures that will support the industry
	Bureau of Standards Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of the relevant training • Provide testing services to the industry to include MRL and environmental residue. • Provides market access information • Client servicing
	Jamaica Trade & Invest (JAMPRO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes business opportunities in export to the local and international private sector • Facilitates the registration of all exporters • Ensures there is access to technical and advisory support, mainly for export readiness and competitiveness

Organization	Unit/Section	Roles/Functions
	Plant Protection Unit (PPU), Research and Development Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to improved efficiency, productivity, and enhanced competitiveness of plant commodities through development of cost effective and environmentally friendly technologies for the management of plant pest and disease outbreak. This technology is then transferred to farmers through extension. • Provides improved and relevant pest diagnostic and advisory services to stakeholders. • Maintains an updated pest register and determines pest status for the hot pepper industry.
	Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection (PQ/PI) Branch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that the highest quality, pest free produce is imported or exported into/from Jamaica. The Branch is also mandated to ensure that no harmful exotic pest is introduced into the country and becomes established. • Monitors activities to protect and enhance plant health and SPS measures. • Conducts pest risk analyses. • Coordinates pest surveillance and pest response activities. • Certifies farms and nurseries and storage for planting material
	Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides sustainable and environmentally safe crop/pesticide management advice to stakeholders. • Transfers ICM/Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technologies generated by research to stakeholders. • Instructs stakeholders on the safe and efficient use of pesticides.
Ministry of Health and Wellness	Pesticides Control Authority (PCA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducts pest and pesticide surveillance activities and report findings to Research and Development. • Maintains farmer registration database. • Coordinates the ADRM at the parish levels. • Collects and collates meteorological data for pest forecasting and crop zoning. Regulates the registration, use and disposal of

Organization	Unit/Section	Roles/Functions
		<p>pesticides.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues licences to import and manufacture pesticides. • Licenses pest control operators, applicators, and farm stores. • Promotes safe use and management of pesticides. • Monitors pesticide residue on imported and locally produced foods.
<p>Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport</p>	<p>Bureau of Gender Affairs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help formulate project analyses of the roles and needs of women and men, • Addresses any gender inequalities so that women and men can equally access, equally participate in and equally benefit from the resources, services, capacity building and other activities offered by the project. • To support the implementation, the project activities that to help ensure women and men can equally access project resources and services, equally participate in project activities and decision-making processes, and equally benefit from training or other capacity building activities offered by the project. • Monitor and evaluate project activities that ensure women and men can equally access project resources and services, equally participate in project activities and decision-making processes, and equally benefit from training or other capacity building activities offered by the project.
<p>Private Associations</p>	<p>Jamaica Agro- Processors Association (JAPA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the growth, performance and profitability of its members and other Jamaican agro-processors by mobilizing resources. • Provide technical and market support • Encourage its membership to implement and maintain effective quality and food safety systems which

Organization	Unit/Section	Roles/Functions
		<p>conforms to global best practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage collaboration between farmers and agro-processors to ensure a steady supply of the product.
	Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing field days/farmers' training across the parishes geared at developing the farmers' expertise in farm management and best practices. • Assist with the implementation of the Agricultural Produce Receipt Book System to enable traceability in the sale of agricultural produce under the National Praedial Larceny Prevention Programme.
	Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association (JMEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and distribute information to assist with the development of the industry. • Encourage its membership to implement and maintain effective quality and food safety systems which conform to global best practices. • Assist companies with identifying capacity building opportunities and providing back office services • Identify potential markets • Seek partnership opportunities for companies to increase sales and • expand export
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO Jamaica)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical assistance through reviewing technical documents and participation in workshops and webinars • Operational project support • Project monitoring and reporting • Recruiting of consultants where necessary

2.1.2 Government Inputs

The government of Jamaica, under the leadership of BSJ and/or the Ministry of Agriculture, will designate a National Focal Point at a senior level to work with the project in order to ensure smooth

implementation and coordination of project activities. The National focal point will serve as the chair of the Project Management Steering Committee.

In addition, national counterpart officers should be identified to work as required with international consultants and FAO personnel in order to ensure smooth implementation and coordination of project activities and to collaborate in tasks outlined in the consultants' respective terms of reference.

The BSJ and the Ministry of Agriculture will also assist in the coordination of inter-agency and inter-ministerial actions, organization of project related workshops and technical stakeholder consultations, communication and public relations, clearance of equipment and international personnel and exemption of all taxes/duties for equipment and supplies provided by the project.

2.1.3 Resource Partner Inputs

The project will be funded by the Standards and Trade Development Facility which offers grants for projects that promote compliance with international SPS requirements. The STDF will provide financing for the procurement of equipment, international consultants, training, and the implementation of recommendations from the operational plans developed. The project is co-financed by the Bureau of Standards Jamaica, Jamaica Promotions Corporation, Jamaica Manufacturers & Exporters Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The departments will provide in-kind contributions in several areas including, training, field assessments, preparation of manuals, office space, transportation costs and communication.

2.1.4 Strategy/Methodology

The project will be implemented on a national scale through with support from the BSJ, RADA, MOAF and the PMSC. This project will contribute positively to ongoing national efforts to upgrade the hot pepper value chain and strengthen the capacity of the national stakeholders involved in food safety management. This project will be implemented by the FAO Jamaica Representation with technical and operational support from the regional office (Latin America and the Caribbean) and headquarters. Through letters of agreement, FAO will partner with BSJ and other partners to implement selected activities of the project.

2.1.5 Technical Oversight and Support Arrangements

FAO will serve as the implementing organization with operational support from the Project management team and the Project Task Force (PTF). The PTF will have technical oversight of the project and will comprise of the Budget Holder (BH), Lead Technical Officer (LTO), the task force members (SLC Economist – Value Chain Development Officer, the RLC Food Safety Officer and the RLC Agricultural Officer), HQ Technical Officer (LTU, HQ), Assistant FAO-R Programme, and the project manager. The role of the PTF is to ensure that all project activities are being undertaken in a timely manner and critical decisions relating to project implementation are taken.

In addition to this, a National Project Management Steering Committee (PMSC) which will have oversight of the project at the national level and will comprise senior officials from the various parent ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Industry Investment and Commerce and the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport), government agencies (BSJ, RADA,

PQPI, PCA, BOGA, and AIC), private sector groups (JMEA, the farmers groups) and representatives from FAO and STDF will be established. A project management unit/office will be established to support the technical, operational, and administrative components of project implementation. It is expected that the National PMSC will convene meetings twice a year.

The PTF will be responsible for final decisions and determinations on the veracity and authenticity of deliverables. Reporting templates and guidance will be standardized to facilitate the efficiency and the effectiveness of the processes. It will be chaired by the Budget holder. The LTO and the LTU HQ will serve as alternate chairs, with the project manager as secretary. The PTF will meet in a monthly basis.

The subject matter of the project falls within the purview of two ministries namely the Ministry of Industry Investment (MIIC) and Commerce and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) and will play a critical role in the successful implementation of the project goals.

The project will be implemented in Jamaica, with technical support officers from the FAO regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the FAO sub-regional office for the Caribbean. It will be technically supported by the LTO – Food Security Officer based in FAO the Sub regional Office for the Caribbean and the Food Safety Officer based in Headquarters, with the support and inputs from selected RLC officers (including the SLC Economist – Value Chain Development Officer, the RLC Food Safety Officer and the RLC Agricultural Officer).

- Project Supervision and Coordination**
Project Management Steering Committee
- FAO (2)
 - MOAF (2)
 - BSJ (2)
 - PQ (1), R&D (1)
 - RADA (2)
 - AIC (1)
 - Private sector (2)

2.1.6 Management and Operational Support Arrangements

The management of the project will be completed through a strong project management process which will be overseen by the Project Management Steering Committee (PMSC). The project will be implemented at the operational level through a Project Management Unit and under the overall supervision of the Project Budget Holder, following internal FAO rules and regulations.

**Project Implementation
Project Management Team**

- Project Manager (1)
- FAO Operational Support and M&E (1)
- Administrator (1)
- Technical Officers (2)

2.2 Operational Modalities

FAO will implement this project under FAO's Direct Implementation modality. On this regard, FAO may use the following instruments when entering into agreements with other partners:

- Letter of Agreement: It is a contractual arrangement with academic, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies to obtain specific technical services and is ruled by the Procurement regulations of FAO.
- Contracts: It's a contractual arrangement with private institutions to purchase goods or specific technical services and ruled by the procurement regulations of FAO.

The expectation is that the project will collaborate with the BSJ, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and the Ministry of Agriculture primarily the Plant Quarantine Department and the Research Department. These agencies will be responsible for the implementation of specific activities under the project and will coordinate with the other partner institutions listed in the table above.

Specific instruments will be further defined during the project inception workshop and will be reflected in the project procurement tool developed by the PMU and approved by the PMSC.

2.3 Risk Management

2.3.1 Potential risks to the project

The potential risks of the project were assessed and a number of them are supply-side as there are concerns that farmers will be unable or unwilling to consistently supply hot peppers to support the industry. In addition to this, overall institutional governance of the chain is dependent on the participation and collaboration of different ministries and thus a risk is also sub-optimal inter-agency coordination. Lastly, it is expected that the restrictions caused by the COVID-19 may affect the implementation of some of the activities.

The risks are further discussed in Annex V.

2.3.2 Environmental and social risks from the project

This project is classified as having a low social and environmental risk. Using FAO's Environmental and Social Safeguards screening checklist which assesses areas such as natural resources management, biodiversity, plant genetic resources, genetic resources, pesticides management, decent work, gender

equality and indigenous people. This project’s expected results, intervention areas and methodology were assessed against the criteria, and it was determined as having low risk or no risk in the respective areas.

2.4 Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting

2.4.1 Monitoring Arrangements

The National Project manager will be responsible for collecting and validating all information to assess whether targets and indicators are met. All sub-project leads will report on the planned activities within scope for that period. The project manager in collaboration with the FAO Jamaica Office will maintain the project reports and all other such documentation. The deliverables for each activity will be assessed by the PTF and approved for adequacy and effectiveness by the Manager, prior to being submitted to the PMSC for final approval to allow for payments and disbursement of funds by the implementing entity to the suppliers.

Under the leadership of the project manager, and with the support of the PTF, monitoring and evaluation tools and system will be established to facilitate timely monitoring of all project tasks, activities, outputs, indicators, gender equality, and budget. Among others several project management tools (including a detailed project workplan, a procurement plan, risk management plan, communication plan, gender action plan, and RACI Matrix) will be developed and followed through. The project will undertake an internal mid-term evaluation after 18 months of implementation. Likewise a final evaluation will be conducted at the end.

2.4.2 Performance Assessment

Project performance will be assessed through the PTF. Progress reports will be submitted as stated in 2.4.3 below. Such reports will detail results and their contribution to achieving the overall purpose of the project, impact on stakeholder groups, gender equality, challenges, deviations from intended results, lessons learned and policy and operational recommendations. Each report will also have a short executive summary outlining key elements and outcomes to facilitate engagement and discussions on results and outputs. This will be used to assess project performance.

2.4.3 Reporting

The project manager is responsible for reporting under the project and the reporting requirements will be as follows:

- Preliminary Progress Report Month 6
- First Year Progress Report Month 12
- Mid Term Progress Report Month 18
- Second Year Progress Report Month 24
- Third Year Progress Report Month 30
- Final National Progress Report Month 39 (3 months post project completion)

In addition to the reports aforementioned, the PMO will maintain:

- Consultants' reports for each mission undertaken
- LoA progress reports
- PTF meeting reports and decisions taken
- National PMSC meeting minutes and decisions taken

The project will be monitored and evaluated by the PTF to ensure that key performance indicators are achieved within the allotted timelines. For each completed activity, the quality of results will be evaluated against criteria that will be developed by the Project Manager and approved by the PTF. The criteria will be disseminated to each supplier before the commencement of work.

2.5 Evaluation Provisions

The project will be monitored and evaluated by the PTF to ensure that key performance indicators are achieved within the allotted timelines. For each completed activity, the quality of results will be evaluated against criteria that will be developed by the Project Manager and approved by the PTF. The criteria will be disseminated to each supplier before the commencement of work.

“In compliance with FAO policy on evaluation and considering the budget size, no separate project evaluation is anticipated. However, the project will contribute to the Evaluation Trust Fund being managed by the FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) and might be potentially evaluated through a cluster approach, along with other projects that share one or more of the following characteristics: theme and/or approach, geographical area of intervention, resource partner.”

SECTION 3 - SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 Capacity Development

The project implementation will be done in close collaboration with relevant Ministries, agencies, institutions, and participating farmers and associations to ensure clear definition and communication of roles, responsibilities and a framework established for ensuring this cooperation is maintained throughout and after the project life-cycle, including in the case where there could be a rotation amongst key government stakeholders. The project implementation will also include accountability mechanisms that promote continuity of application of methodologies for pest reduction and chemical use.

The important outcomes of this project will be transferred through training sessions for capacity building activities of the major stakeholders and infrastructural improvement of laboratories, nurseries farm equipment etc. Guidelines will be developed to ensure that technical staff, farmers, and other stakeholders of the hot pepper value chain understand the standard and quality requirements of the international market and the methods for implementation and maintenance for continuous compliance in ensuring secure access to market and less rejection and destruction of consignments. The material and training manuals developed will be provided to farmers and producers for reference and to institutions and agencies for ease of replication of the programme. Women are generally underrepresented especially at the producer level. Equal participation of men and women will be

mainstreamed throughout the activities of the project, aiming at having at least 30% of the participants being women.

This will result in all the stakeholders benefiting economically and will act as a catalyst to motivate stakeholders to sustain the project's results. The project will endeavour to sustain the growing cooperation through several means: establishment of the public-private stakeholder SPS/TBT Committee and regular meetings to update each other on new development in market access requirements especially as it relates to SPS requirements and to monitor and evaluate implementation of agreed project goals.

Grower associations will be supported to engage their members in project activities by mobilizing them to participate in the national SPS/TBT Committee and other meetings make in-kind contributions and implement interventions agreed to enhance compliance. Farm owners or heads of farmer associations will be encouraged to have monthly meetings to address issues raised by the technical teams as well as to encourage information sharing and knowledge transfer. These interactions, and the on-going SPS/TBT Committee, are intended to foster collaboration during and after the project period, an important aspect for sustainability.

3.2 Decent Rural Employment

The project seeks to develop the existing hot pepper value chain thus providing decent rural employment opportunities. The project seeks to increase the production of hot peppers which will create decent employment opportunities for existing and new farmers. It will also assist in enterprise development through efforts at upgrading the value chain with focus on agri-business and greater participation of the private sector in agri-processing. Furthermore, the project aims to ensure the high quality and standard for hot peppers ensuring greater market access and overall sustainability.

3.3 Environmental Sustainability

The project will focus on the implementation of good pest management practices (after conducting pest risk analysis) with an aim to reduce the use of pesticides in the production of hot peppers. As the targeted export destinations (for instance, the EU market) have high standards in relation to environmental protection and the tolerance of certain pesticides, this project will ensure Jamaica's hot pepper producers and exporters minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides to meet market requirements. Thus, the project will positively contribute to the protection of the environment and could result in a reduction of the likelihood of excessive use of toxic chemicals and possible impacts on produce, soil, and water supplies.

3.4 Gender Equality

The role played by women in the development of the agricultural sector in Jamaica is significant. Historically, apart from maintaining the household, planting, weeding, and harvesting of crops on their farms, women play a significant role in marketing and selling of farm produce.' (Ishemo, A. and Bushell, B. 2017). Traditional practices and perceptions tend to define women in agriculture as "farmers' wives" rather than farmers in their own right. The majority of female farmers worked for cash crop or subsistence production and were principally engaged in food production for domestic consumption. More recently, the number of women who have been getting involved in agriculture as a means of

making a living is growing in Jamaica, similar to other countries in the Caribbean region. Women are also taking full advantage of the available technologies such as Hydroponic farming and greenhouse farming. They also access and operate the necessary equipment and are now capable of making production and productivity much better than before. Thus, this project, by its capacity-building component, has the potential to greatly contribute to this process, whereby women are more actively involved in the sector and stand to gain directly from the empowerment opportunities that it offers. As the advancement of women empowerment through trade is an agenda that is getting considerable traction in relevant international trade fora, this project, when looked at from a gender perspective, will enhance women's engagement and participation in highly lucrative markets and contribute to their greater financial independence. Thus, the positive impacts of this project are cross-cutting in nature (particularly as it relates to small-scale women farmers and exporters).

The project will provide equal opportunities for both women and men to gain access to training opportunities and Agribusiness development programmes, thus enhancing gender equality in furtherance of UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5. Equal participation of men and women will be mainstreamed throughout the activities of the project, aiming at having at least 30% of the participants being women. An initial gender assessment will be conducted by the project team and gender action plan will be developed to guide the specific gender related tasks.

Furthermore, the project will incorporate in its monitoring and reporting framework, specific mechanisms that facilitate the collection of sex-disaggregated data.

3.5 Indigenous Peoples

N/A

Annex I: Logical Framework Matrix²

Ideally, this is first construction in FPMIS and then exported and pasted here. For projects of USD 500 000 insertion of the LFM into FPMIS is mandatory. The LFM should be used as a monitoring tool during implementation and continuously updated in order to support monitoring, performance assessment and reporting.

EXPECTED RESULTS

IMPACT	Jamaica agricultural food system more safe, resilient, efficient, and productive (SDG 1, 2, 15, 8, 10, 17)			
OUTCOME	Strengthen the Government of Jamaica's international competitiveness in the hot pepper industry by improving institutional capacity and supporting farmers in producing a consistent high-quality supply and improving market access conditions			
Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Reduction in the occurrence of pest in hot pepper crops by 25% resulting in more robust control and monitoring of SPS systems	3-6%	2-4% [25% reduction]	RADA reports an increase in availability of clean seeds for hot peppers. PQ Unit reports compliance of farmers, handlers an exporter to SPS requirements and standards Pest control monitoring report	The Government maintains political ownership and leadership throughout the project implementation and after

² To support strategic planning, the results matrix and the workplan and budget describe the entire chain of inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes, and strategic goals. It provides an effective and transparent linkage between means and ends.

Increased production, availability and distribution of clean seeds or planting materials by 20%	161 kg	193 kg (20% increase)	NCRA reporting increased compliance of food processors to local and private standards. production, availability and distribution of clean seeds or planting materials data base	Disaster mitigation strategies are implemented (against man-made and natural disasters) to respond to disruptions to hard and soft infrastructure that would negatively affect the results achieved through the project
Increased output of hot peppers 10%	18,847 tonnes [2020]	20,732 tonnes (10% increase)	All Island Estimates of crop production report from MOAF confirms increase in volume and value of hot pepper exports.	Long-term upward trends in global market demand and value/volume are maintained and the impacts of COVID- 19 pandemic are taken into account to reflect any atypical sharp drop in those demand levels.
Reduction in the number of interceptions and destruction of fresh and processed exported products	13	50 %	PQ records indicate increased number exporters and processing of phytosanitary certificates	Fluctuations and changes in global trade due to COVID-19, emerging SPS issues, technical barriers to trade and political instability
OUTPUT 1	Improve the technical and resource capacity of local research and regulatory bodies involved in SPS management with a focus on reducing the prevalence of pests on distribution of clean seeds to enable greater availability of clean planting material			
Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions

Number of technical officers - to include research and regulatory organisations - trained and evaluated in SPS management/pest management	0	50 [minimum of 30 percent women]	Training and agency reports Training plan	Commitment of regulatory bodies to capitalize on gains from the training
Increased production of clean seeds and seedlings at public and private laboratories and nurseries targeted by the project	161 kg	20%	Reports and analysis to demonstrate change in production quantities and quality in line with expected results Production of clean seeds and seedlings reports ...	Commitment of private and public interests to undertake work needed to accomplish targets.

ACTIVITIES for achieving output 1

1.1. Conduct gap analysis of the pest risk environment and mitigations practices in Jamaica

1.2. Develop and execute training programmes on pest and disease identification, surveillance systems and management for personnel involved in SPS management based on the gap analysis

1.3. Source and procure equipment, tools, and reagents to test for pathogens and modern surveillance tools to assist in inspection and monitoring of *Capsicum* pests and improve production capacity of clean seeds

1.4. Develop pest identification training manual with best practices for prevention of pest and diseases entry and establishment

1.5. Establish and implement horizon scanning tools to identify threats of major importance to Jamaica (pepper in particular)

1.6. Develop and implement an operational plan for the establishment of Areas of low pest prevalence (ALPP) and pest free areas (PFAs)

1.7. Conduct training on seed germination and growing techniques, vigour testing methods, pest and disease identification and management

1.8. Communicate and disseminate program manual to stakeholders through stakeholder sensitization sessions to establish and promote clean seed certification programmes for public and private nurseries

1.9 Undertake a financial costing of certified seed production

1.10. Conduct training on integrated pest management (including the use of organic solutions and climate variability in pest management), the management of pre and post-harvest losses, climate resilient approaches and agro-meteorology

OUTPUT 2	Increase the capacity of stakeholders to produce safe foods that satisfy local and international market access requirements			
Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Number of technical officers trained in market access	0	50 [minimum of 30 percent women]	Training and agency reports	Commitment of regulatory bodies to capitalize on gains from the training
Implementation of food safety systems and certification of at least 80% of selected beneficiaries	0	80% of beneficiaries [minimum of 30 percent women]	Regulatory agency reports	Failure of stakeholders to adopt and implement management systems and adhere to protocols
ACTIVITIES for achieving output 2				
2.1. Conduct needs assessment of farms, produce handling facilities and processing sites to understand the status, gaps, and risks towards implementing corrective measures and the adoption of food safety and quality standards				
2.2. Prepare and disseminate a food safety capacity building plan and training materials based on assessments results for ToT and coaches in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP, and other relevant standards				
2.3. Execute training and education programme for Trainers (Train the Trainer programmes) and coaches in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP				
2.4. Execute training and coaching plans for stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters) in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP				
2.5 Implement non training activities identified in food safety capacity building plan				
2.6. Prepare and implement food safety management system for farms and processing establishments to include the review of GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP manuals and training on use of manuals				
2.7. Support the certification process for farms, produce handling facilities and processing establishments				
2.8 Execute training in market access requirements (food safety and quality standards, EPIN notification, MRLs) for inspectors, farmers, exporters, and middlemen				
OUTPUT 3	Promote the value chain and food safety systems approach by strengthening sustainable and resilient practices to increase the output of fresh pepper production, storage, and transformation			
Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions

Number of technical officers trained in food safety standards (GAP, GMP, GHP, HACCP)	0	25 [minimum of 30 percent women]	Training and agency reports	Commitment of regulatory bodies to capitalize on gains from the training
Number of stakeholders (farmers, processors etc.) trained in food safety standards (GAP, GMP, GHP, HACCP)	0	50 [minimum of 30 percent women]	Training and agency reports	Commitment of stakeholders to attend workshops
ACTIVITIES for achieving output 3				
3.1 Identification of market segments (fresh/processed) and their specific market requirements & Identification of comparative advantages and disadvantages of Jamaican hot pepper as a producer and exporter through a market assessment				
3.2 Conduct training of trainers on the management of pre and post-harvest losses including post-harvest technologies, climate resilient and agro-meteorology data analysis for extension workers				
3.3 Develop, disseminate, and implement a climate resilience plan (to include climate risk management and the analysis of agro meteorology information) specific to the sector which should result in a substantial reduction in production losses due to adverse weather conditions				
3.4 Liaise with JBDC to facilitate greater access to finance through capacity building training to targeted financial institutions in agricultural loan product design and development, credit risk of agricultural loan proposals, and loan management cycle				

Annex II: Stakeholder Engagement Matrix

1) Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
Farmers and Jamaica Agriculture Society (JAS) Farmers' Association)	Direct beneficiary	Local community	Brainstorming and interview sessions Fact Finding sessions General planning and verifications of findings/reports	Need for further consultation or needs assessment of farmers , produce handling facilities and processing sites to understand the status, gaps, and risks towards the adoption of standards. The need for the development of a food safety capacity building programme to satisfy the needs identified. Capacity building and Training Needs GAPs in the primary production process. Types of pest and diseases and control mechanisms employed (IPMS) or needed. Knowledge of and use of standards and certification. Market demand and distribution patterns of raw produce.
Nursery operators	Direct beneficiary	Local community	Brainstorming and interview sessions Fact Finding sessions General planning and verifications of findings/reports	The need to strengthen the research and development capacity (physical and human) of public laboratories and nurseries to produce and store breeder/foundation seeds for pepper varieties with the desired traits (climate and disease resistance, yield quality etc.)Seed and seedling availability and challenges in satisfying demand. GAPs in the production process of clean seeds or seedlings. Analysis of the current demand vs supply ratio.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
				<p><i>Availability of necessary equipment for research and development.</i></p> <p><i>Opportunities to improve the human resource capacity of private nurseries involved in the commercial production and distribution of certified seedlings (seed multiplication)</i></p>
Agro-park operators	Direct beneficiary	<i>Local community</i>	<p><i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i></p> <p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of findings/reports</i></p>	<p><i>Number of farmers in parks producing pepper.</i></p> <p><i>Quantity of current production and opportunity to scale up.</i></p> <p><i>Current challenges affecting farmers. Current support to farmers.</i></p> <p><i>Capacity building and Training Needs</i></p> <p><i>GAPs in the production process.</i></p> <p><i>Types of pest and diseases and control mechanisms employed (IPMS).</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge of and use of standards (Good Agricultural Practices [G.A.P.]) and certification.</i></p> <p><i>The need for collaboration with MDAs for training and education program development and delivery for Trainers/Coaches and stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters).</i></p>
Processing facilities (JMEA, JAPA)	Direct beneficiary	<i>Local government</i>	<i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i>	<p><i>Challenges relating to the availability of peppers for processing.</i></p> <p><i>Current challenges affecting exporters.</i></p>

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
			<p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of finings/reports</i></p>	<p><i>GAPs in the production process.</i></p> <p><i>Capacity building and Training Needs</i></p> <p><i>Knowledge of and use of standards and certification.</i></p> <p><i>Types of risk based food safety systems implemented. Market access challenges. Market demand and distribution patterns of processed product.</i></p>
Exporters and MSMEs	Direct beneficiary	<i>Local community</i>	<p><i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i></p> <p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of finings/reports</i></p>	<p><i>Current data on export patterns and export partners.</i></p> <p><i>Current challenges facing exporters/consignment.</i></p> <p><i>Market demand and distribution patterns of processed product.</i></p> <p><i>MoAF to lead and collaborate with MDAs such as JAMPRO/BSJ/ JBDC/JAPA and the JMEA a strategy to conduct market study to assess opportunities to increase the export of fresh pepper and value added products to both new and current markets</i></p>
Plant Quarantine/Produce Inspection Branch	Direct beneficiary	<i>National government/body</i>	<p><i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i></p> <p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of finings/reports</i></p>	<p><i>Need to establish and maintain Areas of Low pest Prevalence (ALPP) and Pest Free Areas (PFA) of Production using ISPM guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>Need for the development of a Pest surveillance manual to include Standard operating procedures, program manuals and list prepared and implemented.</i></p>

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
				<p><i>Need for the strengthening of the research and testing capabilities to develop and establish control measures to mitigate the introduction, spread and impact of diseases and pests (particularly the Tobacco etch virus and the 'black seed' and Alternaria ssp. Improve the technical and resource capacity of local research and regulatory bodies involved in SPS management.</i></p> <p><i>The need for collaboration with MDAs for training and education program development and delivery for Trainers/Coaches and stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters)</i></p>
RADA	Direct beneficiary	<i>National government/body</i>	<p><i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i></p> <p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of findings/reports</i></p>	<p><i>Need for the development of a Pest surveillance manual to include Standard operating procedures, program manuals and list prepared and implemented.</i></p> <p><i>Need for the strengthening of the research and testing capabilities to develop and establish control measures to mitigate the introduction, spread and impact of diseases and pests (particularly the Tobacco etch virus and the 'black seed' and Alternaria ssp. Improve the technical and resource capacity of local research and regulatory bodies involved in SPS management.</i></p> <p><i>The need for collaboration with MDAs for training and education program development and delivery for Trainers/Coaches and stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters)</i></p>
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	Indirect beneficiary	<i>National government/body</i>	<i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i>	<i>The need for coordinating the collaboration with MDAs for training and education program development. It will also include the delivery</i>

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
			<p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of findings/reports</i></p>	<p><i>modality for Trainers/Coaches and stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters).</i></p> <p><i>Need for MoAF to play an active role, and to lead the initiative to strengthen the technical capacity of personnel in agencies involved in agricultural extension services, agricultural development and produce quality and safety on sustainable agricultural practices (climate resilient agriculture and best practices to minimize pre and post-harvest losses).</i></p> <p><i>MoAF to coordinate and plan with RADA and PQPI unit, strategies to Improve the technical capacity of farmers to improve yields by practicing climate resilient agriculture, reducing pre and post- harvest losses and integrated pest management practices (organic solutions, pesticide selection and application)</i></p> <p><i>MoAF to coordinate and plan with RADA and PQPI unit strategies to develop, promote and implement climate resilient approaches for the sector (to mitigate against drought, floods, and other adverse weather conditions common in the region)</i></p> <p><i>MoAF to lead and collaborate with MDAs such as JAMPRO/BSJ/ JBDC/JAPA and the JMEA a strategy to conduct market study to assess opportunities to increase the export of fresh pepper and value added products to both new and current markets</i></p>

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings
				<p><i>MoAF trade unit to lead and collaborate with MDAs such as MIIC, BSJ and PQPI unit to develop and implement communication Strategy for the dissemination of timely SPS and TBT information to stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>MoAF trade unit to lead and collaborate with MDAs such as MIIC, BSJ and PQPI unit to establish and strengthen bilateral agreements for major trading partners</i></p>
Ministry of Health and Wellness	Indirect beneficiary	<i>National government/body</i>	<p><i>Brainstorming and interview sessions</i></p> <p><i>Fact Finding sessions</i></p> <p><i>General planning and verifications of findings/reports</i></p>	

2) Grievance Mechanism

Focal Point Information	Crispim Moreira FAO Representative for Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize
Contact Details	Crispim.moreira@fao.org
Explain how the grievance mechanism has been communicated to stakeholders	The grievance mechanism has been communicated to key stakeholders through consultations.

Annex III: Indicative Workplan

Activity	Responsibility	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
Preliminary Activity Establish Project Management Office (Manager, Coordinator, Administrative personnel)	FAO												
Output 1: Improve the technical and resource capacity of local research and regulatory bodies involved in SPS management with a focus on reducing the prevalence of pests on distribution of clean seeds to enable greater availability of clean planting material													
Activity 1.1 Conduct gap analysis of the pest risk environment and mitigations practices in Jamaica	FAO												
Activity 1.2 Develop and execute training programmes on pest and disease identification, surveillance systems and management for personnel involved in SPS management based on the gap analysis	FAO												
Activity 1.3 Source and procure equipment, tools, and reagents to test for pathogens and modern surveillance tools to assist in inspection and monitoring of <i>Capsicum</i> pests and improve production capacity of clean seeds	FAO												
Activity 1.4 Develop pest identification training manual with best practices for prevention of pest and diseases entry and establishment	FAO												
Activity 1.5	FAO												

Establish and implement horizon scanning tools to identify threats of major importance to Jamaica (pepper in particular)																			
Activity 1.6 Develop and implement an operational plan for the establishment of Areas of low pest prevalence (ALPP) and pest free areas (PFA)s	FAO																		
Activity 1.7 Conduct training on seed germination and growing techniques, vigour testing methods, pest and disease identification and management	FAO																		
Activity 1.8 Communicate and disseminate program manual to stakeholders through stakeholder sensitization sessions to establish and promote clean seed certification programmes for public and private nurseries	FAO																		
Activity 1.9 Undertake a financial costing of certified seed production	FAO																		
Activity 1.10 Conduct training on integrated pest management (including the use of organic solutions and climate variability in pest management), the management of pre and post-harvest losses, climate resilient approaches and agro-meteorology	RADA																		
Output 2: Increase the capacity of stakeholders to produce safe foods that satisfy local and international market access requirements																			
Activity 2.1	FAO																		

Conduct needs assessment of farms, produce handling facilities and processing sites to understand the status, gaps, and risks towards the adoption of standards														
Activity 2.2 Prepare and disseminate a food safety capacity building plan and training materials based on assessments results for ToT and coaches in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP, and other relevant standards	FAO													
Activity 2.3 . Execute training and education programme for Trainers (Train the Trainer programmes) and coaches in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP	FAO													
Activity 2.4 Execute training and coaching plans for stakeholders (farmers, fresh produce handlers, exporters) in GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP	FAO													
Activity 2.5 Implement non training activities identified in food safety capacity building plan	FAO													
Activity 2.6 Prepare and implement food safety management system for farms and processing establishments to include the review of GAP, GMP, GHP and HACCP manuals and training on use of manuals	FAO													
Activity 2.7 Support the certification process for farms, produce handling facilities and processing establishments	FAO													
Activity 2.8														

Execute training in market access requirements (food safety and quality standards, EPIN notification, MRLs) for inspectors, farmers, exporters, and middlemen																		
Output 3: Promote the value chain and food safety systems approach by strengthening sustainable and resilient practices to increase the output of fresh pepper production, storage, and transformation																		
3.1 Identification of market segments (fresh/processed) and their specific market requirements & Identification of comparative advantages and disadvantages of Jamaican hot pepper as a producer and exporter through a market assessment	RADA																	
3.2 Conduct training of trainers on the management of pre and post-harvest losses including post-harvest technologies, climate resilient and agro meteorology for extension workers	RADA																	
3.3 Develop, disseminate, and implement a climate resilience plan (to include climate risk management) specific to the sector which should result in a substantial reduction in production losses due to adverse weather conditions	RADA																	
3.4 Liaise with JBDC to facilitate greater access to finance through capacity building training to targeted financial institutions in agricultural loan product design and development, credit risk of agricultural loan proposals, and loan management cycle.	FAO																	

Annex IV: Indicative Budget

FAO Parent Account	Item	Total (USD)
5013	Consultants	546,962
5014	Contracts	175,400
5021	Travel	42,308
5023	Training	59,916
5024	Expendable Procurement	8,176
5025	Non-Expendable Equipment	75,264
5027	Technical Support Services	37,697
5028	General Operating Costs	14,403
5050	GOE Common Services- (Other Central Support Services)	35,568
	Subtotal	995,693
5029	Indirect Support Costs @ 7%	69,699
	Grand Total	1,065,392

Annex V: Risk Management

Section A: Risks to the project

Risks	Prevention / mitigation
COVID-19	Incorporate remote meetings and trainings where feasible employing ICT video conferencing – Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet -
Unwillingness or inability of farmers to consistently apply and implement the knowledge acquired.	Carefully identify project beneficiaries at the project outset, based on established selection criteria for project beneficiaries. Government ministries and agencies to be involved in the selection of project beneficiaries; utilise local resources used in previous projects to provide continuous advisory/coaching/follow-up support.
Low motivation of farmers and other value chain actors to implement good practices	Strengthened marketing, awareness and visibility to buyers and consumers on the importance of hygiene and food safety with a special emphasis on market access and business opportunities for development. Education of hot pepper producers and processors in Good Practices. Build a narrative around the cultural importance on Jamaica Hot Pepper produce and products.
Appropriate measures are not taken in reaction to monitoring results	The project will work on the policy level to advocate the need for retaining testing results systematically, take measures in reaction, and allocate technical expertise willing to take responsibilities and act in a targeted and results-oriented manner. The project will provide targeted education and training of users of agri-chemical products and follow-up mechanisms will be set up to ensure monitoring results are addressed and possible changes implemented.
Project unable to meet gender inclusion targets	The project will ensure that the gender analysis identify the barriers to equal participation, access, decision making and leadership for men and women and a plan developed that will recognise gender specific recommendation which could include scheduling activities and trainings that take into consideration regarding the participants': children need to be prepared and taken to school; periods when meals are generally being prepared in particular dinner; religious observances; infant care; mobility; among others.

<p>Unavailability of sufficient financial resources</p>	<p>This would be addressed in a number of ways including increasing awareness of the importance of food quality and safety to state governments; examining public-private partnerships or increased involvement of private sector in supplying farmers; ensuring sustainability of all major activities and “buy-in” from all stakeholders involved.</p>
<p>Weather conditions unfavourable</p>	<p>Use of closed nurseries or greenhouses.</p>
<p>Sub-optimal inter-agency and institutional coordination between Ministries/ Departments involved.</p>	<p>Close collaboration and institutional cooperation between Departments/Ministries and various stakeholders will be assured, through identified timeframes, roadmaps and log frames, and time allotted for exchanges and feedback on the project implementation through sessions to address possible difficulties and challenges identified; ensure communication flows seamlessly and smoothly between those involved with project implementation (focal points in each agency or stakeholder involved).</p>

Annex VI: FAO and Government Obligations

(a) This Annex sets out the basic conditions under which FAO will assist the Government in the implementation of the Project described in the attached Project Document.

(b) The achievement of the objectives set by the Project shall be the joint responsibility of the Government and FAO.

FAO OBLIGATIONS

1. FAO will be responsible for the provision, with due diligence and efficiency, of assistance as provided in the Project Document. FAO and the Government will consult closely with respect to all aspects of the Project.

2. Assistance under the Project will be made available to the Government, or to such entity as provided in the Project, and will be furnished and received (i) in accordance with relevant decisions of the Governing Bodies of FAO, and with its constitutional and budgetary provisions, and (ii) subject to the receipt by FAO of the necessary contribution from the Resource Partner. FAO will disburse the funds received from the Resource Partner in accordance with its regulations, rules, and policies. All financial accounts and statements will be expressed in United States Dollars and will be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules, and directives of FAO.

3. FAO's responsibilities regarding financial management and execution of the Project will be as stipulated in the Project Document. FAO may, in consultation with the Government, implement Project components through partners identified in accordance with FAO procedures. Such partners will have primary responsibility for delivering specific project outputs and activities to the Project in accordance with the partner's rules and regulations, and subject to monitoring and oversight, including audit, by FAO.

4. Assistance under the Project provided directly by FAO, including technical assistance services and/or oversight and monitoring services, will be carried out in accordance with FAO regulations, rules, and policies, including on recruitment, travel, salaries, and emoluments of national and international personnel recruited by FAO, procurement of services, supplies and equipment, and subcontracting. The candidacies of senior international technical staff for recruitment by FAO will be submitted to the Government following FAO procedures.

5. Equipment procured by FAO will remain the property of FAO for the duration of the Project. The Government will provide safe custody of such equipment, which is entrusted to it prior to the end of the Project. The ultimate destination of equipment procured under this Project will be decided by FAO in consultation with the Government and the Resource Partner.

GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS

6. With a view to the rapid and efficient execution of the Project, the Government shall grant to FAO, its staff, and all other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, the necessary facilities including:

- i) the prompt issuance, free of charge, of any visas or permits required;
- ii) any permits necessary for the importation and, where appropriate, the subsequent exportation, of equipment, materials and supplies required for use in connection with the Project and exemption from the payment of all customs duties or other levies or charges relating to such importation or exportation;
- iii) exemption from the payment of any sales or other tax on local purchases of equipment, materials and supplies for use in connection with the project;
- iv) any permits necessary for the importation of property belonging to and intended for the personal use of FAO staff or of other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, and for the subsequent exportation of such property;
- v) prompt customs clearance of the equipment, materials, supplies, and property referred to in subparagraphs (ii) and (iv) above.

7. The Government will apply to FAO, its property, funds and assets, its officials and all the persons performing services on its behalf in connection with the Project: (i) the provisions of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies; and (ii) the United Nations currency exchange rate. The persons performing services on behalf of FAO will include any organization, firm, or other entity, which FAO may designate to take part in the execution of the Project.

8. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against FAO, its personnel or other persons performing services on its behalf, in connection with the Project, and will hold them harmless in respect to any claim or liability arising in connection with the Project, except when it is agreed by FAO and the Government that such claims arise from gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such persons.

9. The Government will be responsible for the recruitment, salaries, emoluments, and social security measures of its own national staff assigned to the project. The Government will also provide, as and when required for the Project, the facilities and supplies indicated in the Project Document. The Government will grant FAO staff, the Resource Partner and persons acting on their behalf, access to the Project offices and sites and to any material or documentation relating to the Project and will provide any relevant information to such staff or persons.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

10. FAO will report to the Government (and to the Resource Partner) as scheduled in the Project Document.

11. The Government will agree to the dissemination by FAO of information such as Project descriptions and objectives and results, for the purpose of informing or educating the public. Patent rights, copyright, and any other intellectual property rights over any material or discoveries resulting from FAO assistance under this Project will belong to FAO. FAO hereby grants to the Government a non-exclusive royalty-free license to use, publish, translate, and distribute, privately or publicly, any

such material or discoveries within the country for non-commercial purposes. In accordance with requirements of some Resource Partners, FAO reserves the right to place information and reports in the public domain.

12. The Project will be subject to independent evaluation according to the arrangements agreed between the Government, the Resource Partner and FAO. The evaluation report will be publicly accessible, in accordance with the applicable policies, along with the Management Response. FAO is authorized to prepare a brief summary of the report for the purpose of broad dissemination of its main findings, issues, lessons, and recommendations as well as to make judicious use of the report as an input to evaluation synthesis studies.

FINAL PROVISIONS

13. Any dispute or controversy arising out of or in connection with the Project or this Agreement will be amicably settled through consultations, or through such other means as agreed between the Government and FAO.

14. Nothing in or related to any provision in this Agreement or document or activity of the Project shall be deemed (i) a waiver of the privileges and immunities of FAO; (ii) the acceptance by FAO of the applicability of the laws of any country to FAO, and: (iii) the acceptance by FAO of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from assistance activities under the Project.

15. This Agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual written consent. Termination will take effect sixty days after receipt by either party of written notice from the other party. In the event of termination, the obligations assumed by the parties under this Agreement will survive its termination to the extent necessary to permit the orderly conclusion of activities, and the withdrawal of personnel, funds, and property of FAO.

16. This Agreement will enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of both parties.