FIRST SESSION OF THE 12TH PARLIAMENT

FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT

OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT
OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

HEAD 77:
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND
AND FISHERIES

Total Allocation $707,267,700.00
1.22% of the National Budget

A Summary of The Ministry’s Expenditure,
Divisions and Projects
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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries (MALF) for the period 2015-2021. It provides Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry’s responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries, and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme; and
- the Auditor General’s Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2019.
Head 77- Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

Ministry Overview

Mission
To work as an innovative team championing the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development of food and non-food systems, supported by sound public policy.

Vision
To be a client oriented, performance driven, environmentally responsible organization delivering integrated services aligned to a changing food and agriculture system.

Divisions and Units
- Agricultural Planning;
- Agricultural Services;
- Animal Production & Health;
- Extension Training & Information Services;
- Engineering;
- Fisheries;
- Forestry Division;
- Geographic Information Systems Unit;
- Library;

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1Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries website; accessed on September 14, 2020: https://agriculture.gov.tt/
• Research;
• Regional Administration North;
• Regional Administration South;
• Survey and Mapping; and
• Horticulture Services.

Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries: Senator the Honourable Clarence Rambharat
Parliamentary Secretary: Senator Avinash G Singh
Permanent Secretary: Ms. Susan Shurland (Ag.)
State Agencies under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entities Falling Under Their Purview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture Development Bank</strong>²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago</strong>³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited</strong>⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Livestock and Livestock Products Board</strong>⁵</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation⁶ | The National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) is a Statutory body created by Act of Parliament No. 16 of 1991 with a mandate "to create, facilitate and maintain an environment conducive to the efficient marketing of agricultural produce and food products through the provision of marketing services and the stimulation of business investment in the agro-industrial sector of Trinidad and Tobago". |

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Vehicle Control

2.13 A physical verification of vehicles was conducted at the Ministry’s Head Office and the following issues were identified:

- The Ministry’s Logo was not affixed to one vehicle assigned to the Head Office
- Discrepancies pertaining to the chassis number for seven vehicles were noted between the Certified Copies of Ownership and the Vehicle Listing Register.

Extraordinary Expenditure

2.21 Examination of the Ministry’s Vote Books revealed several weaknesses in the maintenance of the Vote Books due to non-adherence of the regulatory and financial guidelines governing maintenance of these accounting records. As a result, there were numerous instances of erroneous calculations and inaccurate balances (i.e. commitments, outstanding commitments, balance of provision, and uncommitted balance of provision, expenditure and releases) reflected in the Vote Books contrary to stipulated directives that the Vote Book should always reflect the true financial position of the Ministry.

2.22 Vouchers to support three payments for janitorial services totalling $37,303.24 recorded in the Vote Book were not provided for audit examination.

Unpaid Invoices

2.29 Unpaid invoice orders totalling $5,916,612.94 relating to the 2017/2018 financial period which were paid in 2018/2019 were neither committed in the 2017/2018 nor the 2018/2019 Vote Books to reserve funds as required by financial directives. These directives require that a potential liability be recorded at the time a commitment is made and any outstanding commitments at the end of a financial period to be carried forward in the Vote Books of the subsequent period.

Contracts

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2.45 Formal contracts/agreements for service providers of janitorial and security services and sanitation works at various locations of the Ministry with expenditure totalling $1,676,993.57 were not provided for audit examination.

2.46 Employment contracts for six officers, terms and conditions of employment from the Chief Personnel Officer for three contract employees, copies of birth certificates for three contract employees and a pay record card for one Short-Term contract employee were not provided for audit examination.

**Internal Audit**

2.57 There was limited evidence of internal audit checks on the records examined.
Key Statement from 2019 Standing Finance Committee Debate

During the reading of the Appropriation (Financial Year 2020) Bill, 2019, the following statements were made in relation to the emphases of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries for fiscal year 2019/2020:

“Madam Chair, I just want to highlight five areas which should be of interest to all the Members of this committee. The first is something I have pointed out in previous years. On the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure, you would see approximately 72 per cent of the allocation is for Wages and Salaries, and that continues to be the trend. You will find that on page 36. You would also see that we have had to engage in debt management and we continue to engage in paying off billings, in particular bills we have inherited in relation to Internet, phone and security. We are currently dealing with a debt to Flow of 8 million, much of which was brought to us from Forestry Division, which became part of this Ministry in 2015. On the revenue side, the second area I want to highlight is what I call an abysmal revenue collation particularly in the lands area and I refer to the Draft Estimates of Revenue, pages 18 and 19, and it has to do with low collections, no billings, no invoices, no rent reviews, and poor and defective valuations. We have been dealing with that since 2015. We recently recruited new staff with a mandate to focus on billing collection and dealing with money that has been left uncollected.

The third area I would highlight, Madam Chair, is in relation to transfers, and you would see increases for ASTT, for example, 2.2 million, and that increase is the case of all the funds allocated to the ASTT is to be managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, with the advice of the Ministry of Finance, it has to do with debts incurred by the ASTT; an audit report which points us to serious concerns in the operation of that entity and the need to clean things up once and for all in the next fiscal, and that is what the increase is for. You would also see increases for NAMDEVCO, 5.1 increase in subvention, it has to do with what we project to do in the next fiscal year in relation to recruitment and managing our farmers market. You would see other increases under that Head to deal with gratuities that have to be paid, bills that have to be paid, and so on. Those are my submissions, Madam Chair.”

- Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

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Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) fiscal year 2018/2019 - Achievements

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF) received an allocation in 2020, in the amount of $84.2 million of which $66.8 million was expended on developmental areas such as agricultural land management, protection of the agriculture stock, provision of improved facilities and upgraded agricultural infrastructure, as well as the creation of innovative industries through research and development.

- National Seed Bank Project continued in 2020, to produce high quality seeds and planting material in sufficient quantities to meet production targets outlined in the Ministry’s Action Plan. An allocation of $0.5 million was provided for this project of which $0.1 million was utilised for improvement to infrastructure and relocation of the administrative office of seeds management.

In fiscal 2020 research and development activities by MALF, focused on preserving and strengthening the genetic varieties of cocoa and coconut and mitigating the effects of disease and climate change. Some of the projects implemented are outlined below:

- Rehabilitation of Cocoa Industry – The sum of $0.8 million was allocated to support the development of the cocoa industry, and to date $0.5 million was utilised for the ongoing activities as follows:
  - upgrade of electrical mains and rewiring of the Cocoa Research Building at La Reunion Estate, Carapo;
  - breeding of new and improved Trinidad Selected Hybrids (TSH) varieties to develop disease resistance in the product;
  - establishment of budwood and seed gardens; and
  - mitigation of cadmium on cocoa farms through testing of samples at Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI).

- Coconut Rehabilitation and Replanting Programme – the aim of this project is to develop sustainable coconut-based enterprises, with emphasis on coconut water production, in the East coast of Trinidad. The project focused on the rehabilitation and replanting of some 900 acres of coconut. In fiscal 2020, the project was allocated $0.5 million and of the allocation, $0.1 million was utilised for the following activities:

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- collect, characterise and propagate superior nut seedlings;
- develop a scope works with the Engineering Division of the MALF;
- conduct surveillance of invasive species; and
- conduct molecular diagnosis - Lethal Yellowing Survey.

- Provision of Agricultural Access Roads to Targeted Commodities and Strategic Crops – infrastructural works continued in specific areas to facilitate access to plots where targeted crops are being cultivated. Crops such as cocoa remains a high priority for the Ministry as it has the dual potential of boosting farmers’ income and being a source of foreign exchange through exports. In 2020, an allocation of $5 million was provided for this project, of which $2.3 million was utilised for the following activities:
  - payment of previous year commitments for rehabilitation of roads at Harricharan Trace, Tableland and Seecharan Trace, Tabaquite; and
  - award of contract for two (2) roads, namely El Quemado Peroix Road, Tamana and Ojeer Ali Trace, Tableland.

- The Regional Administration South, under the Provision of Offices and Other Facilities for the South Region project, continued the Construction of Maternity Pen at Mayaro Breeding Unit, where $0.9 million was expended. Once completed the facility will allow farmers to expand their production of livestock and improve the quality of sheep and goat meat sold.

**Fisheries**

In fiscal 2020, as the Fisheries Division continues to deliver on its mandate to facilitate the sustainable development of the Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors, the Division also focused on strengthening its management inclusive of data and systems.

- Implementation of an Action Plan to address Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the Ports and Waters under the Jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago – the objective of this project is to conduct monitoring, control, and surveillance of fisheries management measures to conform to international law and agreements, so as to enable penetration of international markets. For this fiscal, the Division expended $0.4 million was utilised as for the following activities:
o **Hire Coordinator of Fisheries Inspectorate – Coordinator – Fisheries Inspectorate** to improve its organizational capacity in terms of specialised staff and physical resources to mobilise the sector to comply with the necessary regulatory measures and to facilitate discharge of the country’s international obligations as a coastal, flag, port and market State.

o **Hire Fisheries Inspectorate staff** – Two (2) persons were hired to perform selected functions of Assistant Coordinator and Fisheries Inspector to finalize and implement “An Action Plan to address the deficiencies in the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing Regulations in the Ports and Waters under the National Jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago”. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the main outputs included:

(i) an action plan to comprehensively address IUU fishing;

(ii) a draft Multi-agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of collaboration in regulating fishing and fishing related activities and relevant trade;

(iii) twelve Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to facilitate multi-agency collaboration; and

(iv) a draft Template Memorandum of Understanding with Third States whose fishing vessels utilise the ports of Trinidad and Tobago to land and tranship fish and fish products or for related in-transit activities.

**Fish Landing Facilities**

During fiscal 2020, the Fisheries Division continued to improve sanitary standards in the seafood industry, to meet local and international standards. A key activity undertaken to achieve this was the modernisation of infrastructure and facilities at fish landing sites. For the period under review the following projects were executed to further improve the quality and safety of fish products:

- **Upgrading/Construction of Fishing Facilities in Trinidad** – upgrade to the infrastructure at the Carenage Fishing Facility was completed and the facility was opened to the public. The Carenage Fishing Facility is a premium seafood sale outlet and includes a wholesale area, retails spots, cold storage, a boat and net repair area. The sum of $2.8 million was utilised in 2020 for payment of outstanding bills to the contractor.
Refurbishment of Fish Landing Facilities – fish landing sites require continuous upgrades and refurbishment to combat the effects of the sea blast and deterioration due to erosion as well as to ensure that health standards are maintained. Refurbishment and upgrades to the infrastructure were completed at three (3) fish landing sites namely, Erin, Morne Diablo and Cumana. The funds provided in the amount of $0.5 million, were utilised for the procurement of services and materials to:

- to repair and conduct infrastructural improvements to the net repair building at Erin;
- refurbish and complete electrical works at Morne Diablo; and
- construct a locker room building, concrete platform with covering shed and improved drainage infrastructure at Cumana.
The Ministry’s total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2017 to 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
<th>National Budget</th>
<th>Percentage of National Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$758,084,944</td>
<td>$54,883,153,410</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$747,539,232</td>
<td>$54,211,726,813</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$679,953,300</td>
<td>$54,149,378,860</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$591,908,256</td>
<td>$58,058,338,392</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$695,267,700</td>
<td>$56,788,359,151</td>
<td>1.22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries by 0.2% between the period 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

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10 For the Fiscal Years 2017-2019, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry’s total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Ministry’s total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021.
11 Total Allocation for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund
12 The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund
Where the Ministry spends its money

2020 – 2021 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of $707,267,700 for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure\(^{13}\) in the sum of $646,113,700
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme\(^{14}\) in the sum of $61,154,000
  - Consolidated Fund in the sum of $49,154,000
  - Infrastructure Development Fund\(^{15}\) in the sum of $12,000,000

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - $350,341,100;
- 02 Goods and Services - $102,549,800;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases - $3,638,100;
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies - $142,811,300; and
- 06 Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar bodies - $46,773,400

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is 1.2%;
- Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is 2.2%; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund 0.64%.

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\(^{15}\) Head 18 - Ministry of Finance, Sub-Head 04 - Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance Recurrent Expenditure allocation for the financial year. Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries does not include IDF funding.)
Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2016-2021

Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases and Current Transfers and Subsidies. Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 is $646,113,700.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 was $568,586,536. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2020/2021, there was an increase of $77,527,164 or 12%.

- The largest portion of the allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure which was $350,341,100 in 2021. This figure has fluctuated over the period, accounting for approximately 54% of total funding for the Ministry for fiscal year 2020/2021.

- Minor Equipment Purchases has consistently received the lowest portion of the total allocation for the Ministry over the period 2016 to 2021. For fiscal 2020, an increase of $2,266,939 or 62.3% is noted.

- Sub-Head 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies received the second largest portion of the allocation and has been fluctuating over the period 2016–2018. Comparing 2019/2020 to 2020/2021, there was a significant increase in the allocation by $67,718,651 or 47.42%.

- The total allocation has been fluctuating over the period from a high of $794,330,465 in the fiscal year 2016 to a low of $568,586,536 in fiscal year 2020.
### 2018 Actual

- **01 Personnel Expenditure**: $40,991,670 (6%)
- **02 Goods and Services**: $364,627,508 (50%)
- **03 Minor Equipment Purchases**: $209,622,660 (29%)
- **04 Current Transfer and Subsidies**: $110,704,000 (15%)
- **05 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. and Similar Bodies**: $186,931 (0%)

### 2019 Actual

- **01 Personnel Expenditure**: $349,476,800 (7%)
- **02 Goods and Services**: $37,863,880 (6%)
- **03 Minor Equipment Purchases**: $166,804,402 (26%)
- **04 Current Transfer and Subsidies**: $129,652 (0%)
- **05 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. and Similar Bodies**: $94,411,806 (14%)
- **06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. and Similar Bodies**: $40,991,670 (6%)
2021 Estimates

- $350,341,100, 54%
- $102,549,800, 16%
- $3,638,100, 1%
- $142,811,300, 22%
- $46,773,400, 7%

01 Personnel Expenditure
02 Goods and Services
03 Minor Equipment Purchases
04 Current Transfer and Subsidies
06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. and Similar Bodies
Recurrent Expenditure Unique to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries\textsuperscript{17}

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries that may not feature in other ministries or departments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2021 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>$1,934,385</td>
<td>$1,865,707</td>
<td>$666,200</td>
<td>$763,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation</td>
<td>$28,691,910</td>
<td>$24,492,523</td>
<td>$31,171,402</td>
<td>$31,856,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago\textsuperscript{18}</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$2,064,000</td>
<td>$2,064,000</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoological Society of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>$10,365,375</td>
<td>$11,505,650</td>
<td>$14,731,680</td>
<td>$14,153,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estate Management and Business Development Company Limited</td>
<td>$5,700,000</td>
<td>$9,515,550</td>
<td>$9,360,000</td>
<td>$14,890,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Incentive Programme\textsuperscript{19}</td>
<td>$42,523,764</td>
<td>$7,088,799</td>
<td>$25,758,000</td>
<td>$26,067,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relief of Flood Damage\textsuperscript{20}</td>
<td>$9,666,926</td>
<td>$6,571,078</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>$10,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Staff and Pay

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2020/2021 is $400,866,700 which represents an increase of approximately 2.9% from the revised estimates for 2019/2020. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2017 to 2021.

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2016-2020

Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes; human resources, economic and social development.

The allocation to the Ministry for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2020/2021 = $61,154,000.00. These funds are presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund = $49,154,000.00 and represent (80.4%) of the total allocation to the Ministry; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund = $12,000,000 and represent (19.6%) of the total allocation to the Ministry.

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### Summary of Development Programme 2016-2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>001 Pre-Investment</th>
<th>Actual 2016</th>
<th>Actual 2017</th>
<th>Actual 2018</th>
<th>Actual 2019</th>
<th>Revised Estimates 2020</th>
<th>Estimates 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$666,000.00</td>
<td>$617,107.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$1,196,222.00</td>
<td>$800,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002 Productive Sectors</td>
<td>$965,290.00</td>
<td>$298,498.00</td>
<td>$370,124.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$1,196,222.00</td>
<td>$800,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003 Economic Infrastructure - Consolidated Fund</td>
<td>$35,427,811.00</td>
<td>$20,144,681.00</td>
<td>$15,892,130.00</td>
<td>$5,673,269.00</td>
<td>$12,409,152.00</td>
<td>$36,704,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004 Social Infrastructure - Consolidated Fund</td>
<td>$873,422.00</td>
<td>$821,125.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$127,760.00</td>
<td>$1,373,970.00</td>
<td>$2,450,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund</td>
<td>$2,899,078.00</td>
<td>$8,630,921.00</td>
<td>$4,527,097.00</td>
<td>$2,608,536.00</td>
<td>$8,342,376.00</td>
<td>$9,200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003 Economic Infrastructure - Infrastructure Development Fund</td>
<td>$2,258,539.00</td>
<td>$19,792,214.00</td>
<td>$42,157,264.00</td>
<td>$52,461,416.00</td>
<td>$40,952,600.00</td>
<td>$4,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004 Social Infrastructure - Infrastructure Development Fund</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$2,910,459.00</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$3,605,428.00</td>
<td>$2,500,000.00</td>
<td>$8,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$41,458,850.00</td>
<td>$52,299,400.00</td>
<td>$62,576,491.00</td>
<td>$64,476,409.00</td>
<td>$66,774,320.00</td>
<td>$61,154,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government’s overarching policy. The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year. The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:

- the country’s social and economic development goals; and
- enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

One of the major goals outlined in the Vision 2030 strategy is an increase in the contribution of the non-energy sector, particularly, agriculture towards diversifying the economy in Trinidad and Tobago. This sector has been targeted as part of the country’s diversification drive towards sustainable development. As revealed during the COVID-19 pandemic, achieving sustainable food security while reducing the food import bill is an imperative, given the potential for future disruption of the global food value chain. The MALF will implement some major initiatives through the provision of an allocation of $61.154 million. The funds will facilitate the efficient production of safe and nutritious food, in an effort to fulfill the dietary needs and increase access to healthy food preferences for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. These initiatives are as follows:

- provision of modern physical infrastructure through improvements and upgrades to access roads and water management;
- increased production of crops suitable for local consumption and export;
- development of quality livestock and small ruminant sub-sectors; and

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• improved health and environmental conditions through modernisation of agricultural retail markets.

**Agricultural Land Management**

The Government will continue to support farmers through the provision of arable land for cultivation of food crops. To do this, the Regional Administration North and South Divisions of the MALF will continue with the development of agricultural land for distribution to farmers through the Survey and Sub-division of State Lands project. The project is expected to:

• provide security of tenure to farmers in order to facilitate the development of the lands which they currently occupy;

• make additional lands available to suitably qualified persons for farming in order to increase cultivation and food production; and leading to the long term goals of achieving food security and reducing the food import bill.

In this regard, the amount of $2 million will be provided in fiscal 2021 for agricultural development in the following areas:

**Regional Administration North**

• County Caroni – survey and sub-divide approximately sixteen (16) hectares of state agricultural lands at Rodney Road, Freeport into approximately eleven (11) parcels, and approximately eighteen (18) hectares of state agricultural lands at Adjodha Road into approximately eight (8) plots for crops.

• County Victoria – survey and sub-divide approximately four (4) hectares of state agricultural lands known as Diamond Road Block I into approximately ten (10) parcels with average parcel sizes ranging from one-fifth (1/5) to four-fifth (4/5) of a hectare.

• County Nariva/ Mayaro – survey and sub-divide approximately four (4) hectares of state agricultural lands into approximately five (5) parcels with parcel sizes ranging from two-fifth (2/5) to four-fifth (4/5) of a hectare at Mile End Road state lands, located at 7.5 km Rio Claro Mayaro Road, Ecclesville.

**Establishment of the Land Management Authority**

Land Administration is a critical component to support Trinidad and Tobago with reaching its national development goal of increasing production, food security and economic diversification. The establishment of the Land Management Authority is intended to: achieve improved state agriculture land lease management; increase tenure security; and support food security, while contributing to an
enabling environment for sustainable agricultural land and environmental practices. In fiscal 2021, funds in the amount of $0.5 million will be provided to this project.

**Implementing a Comprehensive Crop Biodiversity Programme for Trinidad and Tobago**

This project was specifically developed to address the issue of sustainable food security and is estimated to cost $5.425 million over a three-year period (2021 to 2024). In fiscal 2021, an allocation in the amount of $0.3 million will be made available for the implementation of the following activities:

- improvement seed processing and cold storage capacity at Research Division;
- conducting a national inventory and collection of crops;
- generating a crop inventory database for Trinidad and Tobago;
- drafting of national legislation/policy for use, protection, access to and benefit sharing of plant genetic resources;
- purchasing seed processing and characterisation equipment for maintenance of seed viability in storage;
- building capacity and purchase equipment to conduct DNA Fingerprinting and in-vitro conservation of crop species;
- conducting farmer outreach training developing community seed banks, participatory plant breeding techniques, selection and storage of high-quality crop seeds;
- establishment a National Germplasm Conservation Centre at Chaguaramas Agricultural Development Project (CADP); and
- building technical capacity and purchase equipment for cryopreservation of plant genetic resources.

**Coconut Industry Rehabilitation**

Through technical support from Mexico, the Division will engage with the collection, characterization of superior nuts, production of seedlings and managing and controlling coconut pest and diseases with emphasis on Red Ring Disease and Red Palm Mite. Funds in the amount of $0.3 million will be provided through the Coconut Rehabilitation and Replanting Programme for provision of clean planting material to develop sustainable coconut-based enterprises for farmers with emphasis on production of tender coconut water in the East Coast of Trinidad.
**Cocoa Industry Rehabilitation**

Fine cocoa production is facilitated through ongoing infrastructural improvements to cluster production areas for improved productivity, quality, value and profitability. To do this, funds in the amount of $1 million will be provided in 2021 for cocoa farmers to organise their resources and production bases into regional clusters. Education, training, product quality development, access to organised labour, improved planting material certification and branding will be facilitated through the development of these clusters.

Emerging from the response to the global pandemic, the policy decision is to immediately boost and sustain the agriculture sector with emphasis on reintroducing a market system for farmers to increase production so as to reduce dependence on imported food and inputs. Through the Farm to Table project, NAMDEVCO will continue to support farmers in achieving national Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) through establishment of a model farm for the training and educational aspects of the project consequently generating more competitiveness and boosting production. The project will be provided funds in the amount of $1.5 million in 2021 for perimeter fencing, mapping of structures and designated areas and an irrigation system.

**Provision of Agricultural Access to Targeted Commodities and Strategic Crops**

In fiscal 2021, the Engineering Division of the MALF will facilitate ease of access to targeted crop plantations through the rehabilitation of thirty-four (34) km of agricultural access roads through a provision of $5.5 million. Targeted commodities and strategic crops now include cocoa, coconuts, staples (rice and root crops), vegetables (hot peppers), fruits (citrus) and livestock (including cattle, small ruminants, poultry and bees).

**National Seed Bank Project**

Through the National Seed Bank Project, the MALF will upgrade the facilities at Tucker Valley in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness with which crop production targets are achieved. In fiscal 2021, funding in the amount of $1 million will be provided for acquisition of seed processing equipment – seed dryer, seed treatment equipment and thresher. Furthermore, the funds will allow for upgrade of irrigation systems, and installation of security cameras for the stores, workshop, silo and cold storage areas.
Development and Provision of Facilities, Marper Farm

Through this initiative, the Ministry proposes to continue to rehabilitate the Marper Farm as a site for germplasm conservation for cocoa and other orchard crops with the transfer of some plant genetic material from St. Augustine Nurseries and the Research Division to the Marper Farm site. Funding in the amount of $0.4 million will be provided in fiscal 2021, for the following specific activities:

- upgrade/construction of production facilities – screen house, fencing of dwarf coconut plot and station perimeter, upgrading of propagation platforms;
- expansion of the coconut germplasm on approximately three (3) hectares of land (fencing of plot, install irrigation system, establish nursery beds/platform, procurement of plants, agronomic inputs, minor equipment); and
- establishment of three (3) hectares of minor fruit museum through development of an irrigation system, procurement of plants, agronomic inputs and minor equipment.

Fisheries Management Research and Development Programme

With an investment of $1 million, the following activities will be undertaken in fiscal 2021.

- Strengthening Fisheries Licensing and Registration Systems to facilitate the capture, storage and processing of fisher, vessel, engine and gear data as well as to provide the baseline data required to facilitate the transition to a new record systems and provide data towards the development of Fishery Management Plans;
- Preservation of Historical Fish Catch and Effort Records is a component of the project which will include the scanning of raw data sheets covering a period of forty-eight (48) years from 1965 to 2017, an estimated four hundred and sixty-nine thousand (469,000) pages, to avoid loss of vital fish catch and effort data.
- Implementation of a Spatial Research Programme for the mapping and analysis of the fishing areas and critical habitats of commercial marine species in Trinidad. This component of the project will utilise a Public Participatory Geographic Information System (PPGIS) model to empower local and indigenous communities and provide legitimacy to their spatial knowledge.
**Fish Landing Sites**
Upgrades of fish landing sites will result in improved facilities and conditions to the benefit of vessel owners and operators within fishing communities; fisher folk; wholesalers and retail vendors; the wider community, as well as downstream and support industries. An investment of $2 million will be provided in fiscal 2021, for the urgent renovations required for upgrade of the following fish landing facilities as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish Landing Sites</th>
<th>Upgrades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonasse</td>
<td>Refurbishment of vending stalls, vessel and net repair building, washroom building and general electrical works</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumana</td>
<td>Supply and install 20ft fabricated container, construction of a foundation and a net repair facility with a gable roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Supply and installation of high security fence, masonry works, painting, and repairs to locker room, washroom and net repair buildings, as well as cold storage and engine repair buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Icacos</td>
<td>Fencing of the compound and demolition of the existing facility and disposal of material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morne Diablo</td>
<td>Carpentry, plumbing, electrical, painting and roof works</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2016-2017\(^24\)

For the financial year 2017, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-003-01-J427 Farm to Table Project</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-01-L005 Development of Young Entrepreneurs in Ornamental Horticulture in Rural Communities(^25)</td>
<td>$661,895</td>
<td>$394,796</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$967,940</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A204 Establishment of a Spatial Information Management System (SIMS)</td>
<td>$636,458</td>
<td>$133,715</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$708,958</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A205 Upgrade of Cadastral Management Information System (MIS)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$408,000</td>
<td>$600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-A206 Development of Land Management System</td>
<td>$434,397</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$11,003</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-06-A-208 Development of an Electronic Document Management System for the State Land</td>
<td>$97,875</td>
<td>$405,552</td>
<td>$603,278</td>
<td>$592,489</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2017-2018

For the financial year 2018, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2021 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF 003-01-H339 Sugar-cane Feeds Centre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$358,300</td>
<td>$465,442</td>
<td>$800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 003-01-I360 Production of Instructional Videos for Public Distribution</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF 005-06-A209 Implementation of an action plan to address illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the ports and waters under the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>$345,493</td>
<td>$377,354</td>
<td>$377,998</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


## Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2018–2019

For the financial year 2019, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2021 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-F069</td>
<td>Establishment of a Land Management Authority</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-F556</td>
<td>Development and Implementation of a Waste Management System for the Livestock Industry</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-K004</td>
<td>Restoration and Management of the Guanapo Watershed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Status of New Projects for the Financial Year 2019-2020**

The status of new projects that received funding in the 2020 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Programme 2020 Projects</th>
<th>2020 Revised Estimates</th>
<th>2021 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-D278 Port-of-Spain Wholesale Fish Market (Upgrade to HACCP Standards- Dredging of the Harbor Basin) (Reactivated Project)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-H559 Zoonotic Disease Management Plan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF004-13-B006 Upgrade of Caroni Bird Sanctuary Visitor Centre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF005-06-F148 Provision of a Head Office for NAMDEVCO</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**New Projects for the Financial Year 2020-2021**

The new projects that received funding in the 2021 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Programme 2021 Projects</th>
<th>2021 Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-F071 Establishment of a Land Adjudication Tribunal</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF003-01-F354 Implementing of a Comprehensive Crop Biodiversity Conservation Programme for Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Committee Reports Related to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Report Status</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
<th>Key Recommendations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. The First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, First Session of the Eleventh Parliament on Examination into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme - Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund | Report Laid: 09.11.16 | Response laid: 27.01.17 | - Takes immediate steps to implement a fraud policy, this policy should include mechanisms for distinguishing between fraud and error.  
- In the event that at the time of this Report there is no Monitoring and Evaluation Unit the Committee therefore recommends: (i) the establishment of a Land Management Authority which will have the overarching responsibility for land administration and management. |
| 2. First Report of the JSC on Land and Physical Infrastructure - Inquiry into Land Tenure Issues in Trinidad and Tobago | Report Laid HOR: 26.05.2017 | Response Laid Senate 01.06.2017 | - The Committee therefore recommends: (i) the establishment of a Land Management Authority which will have the overarching responsibility for land administration and management. |

31 Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry.
Infrastructure Inquiry into the allocation and utilization of State lands for food production.”

- That the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries seek the immediate implementation of the National Land Policy.

- That the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries take immediate action to address the issue of outstanding rents.

- That the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries seek an inquiry into all the squatters occupying State lands particularly agricultural lands so that action can be taken to operationalize such lands for its intended purpose.

4. Fifth Report of the JSC Land and Physical Infrastructure on an inquiry into the State of the Agriculture and Fisheries Industry in Tobago (with specific focus on the levels of participation in the industries and the output of farmers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Laid</th>
<th>Response Laid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOR: 01.02.2019</td>
<td>HOR: 23.04.2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate: 05.02.2019</td>
<td>Senate: 11.04.2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The Committee concurred that there is need for the ADB to interact with fisherfolk and to provide the necessary guidance and technical assistance to access loans from the institution. Therefore, it is recommended that the Division meet with the ADB and the ATFA to establish avenues that will allow for loans to be easily accessible to fisherfolk.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee on an Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) for the financial years 2008 and 2011</th>
<th>HOR: 22.03.2019</th>
<th>HOR: 07.06.2019</th>
<th>Senate: 19.03.2019</th>
<th>Senate: 28.05.2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. NAMDEVCO should promote service-driven organic agriculture by working with strategic partners such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF) and farmer stakeholders to establish a system of aid for farmers to incentivize organic agriculture. This should be done by July 31, 2019;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. NAMDEVCO should consult with MALF on the possibility of pursuing agreements with Canada and the US or determine whether such agreements already exist and report to Parliament on what exists and what can be done to establish further market expansion initiatives by March 31, 2019.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. NAMDEVCO should provide an explanation of its current procedures for handling its marketing function in the absence of marketing-related officers by March 31, 2019; and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. NAMDEVCO should provide a status update on a timetable for the completion of its Strategic Plan by March 31, 2019.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The CDC TTL’s Board should meet with the MALF to determine how to go about setting up an internal audit function at the Company and have it fully staffed and report to Parliament by July 31, 2019;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The MALF should provide an update on the Cabinet Minute and resultant Cabinet approval for the Draft CDCTTL Strategic Plan by July 31, 2019;</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The CDCTTL should report to Parliament on how the prospect of approaching regional or local authorities in chocolate producing countries in Europe or elsewhere where there is market penetration or development potential for fine of flavor cocoa to explore the strengthening of trade linkages for 4T cocoa by July 31, 2019.

The CDCTTL should submit a report to Parliament on the feasibility of streamlining the dual Certification Mark / Certificate of Origin system into one fulfilling the functions of both, as is the case in Cote d’Ivoire. This would make certification easier to understand and appreciate for consumers. This report should be submitted to the Parliament by July 31, 2019;

The CDCTTL should report to Parliament on the feasibility of establishing partnerships with the major importers of 4T cocoa for the purpose of much needed strengthening and development of production, by July 31, 2019;

The CDCTTL should report to Parliament on the status of progress regarding the incorporation of genetic finger-printing into its Certificates of Origin by July 31, 2019;

The CDCTTL should report on the possibility of including the Certification Mark on the labels of products containing certified 4T cocoa by July 31, 2019.

7. Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report Laid</th>
<th>Response Laid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOR: 15.02.2019</td>
<td>HOR: 13.03.2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Cabinet approval was not seen for the Re-afforestation project. For the financial year 2016/2017 the two Forestry nurseries at Moruga and Ecclesville were selected to be constructed. Related
| Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2017 | Senate: 12.02.2019 | Senate: 15.05.2019 | expenditure totaled $7,001,824.65”, as stated in the Auditor General’s Report 2017. In a written submission dated June 8, 2018 the Ministry indicated that they do not have a specific Cabinet approval for the Re-afforestation project and the entire Public Sector Investment Programme was approved by Cabinet for each fiscal year. However, a draft Cabinet Note is being prepared to seek the approval of Cabinet for the Project. Recommendation: The Ministry should ensure that Cabinet approval is obtained for all projects undertaken by the Ministry. |
| 8. Eleventh Report of the JSC State Enterprises on an inquiry into the activities, administration and operations of National Flour Mills (NFM) including the Company’s role in the processing of rice from local farmers | Report Laid | HOR: 03.07.2019 | Senate: 02.07.2019 | • The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries put systems in place to enable the successful development of the Rice Industry in Trinidad and Tobago, with or without NFM. Necessary activities include:
  o Development of a comprehensive National Rice Development Plan;
  o Development of an appropriate programme of incentives to encourage farmers to engage in rice cultivation;
  o Improvement of:
    ▪ Seed stock;
    ▪ The system for payment for paddy;
    ▪ Irrigation systems;
    ▪ Provisions of technical support;
    ▪ Land tenure issues; and
  o Provision of a parboiled rice production facility.
• Given the issues experienced with the payment arrangements between the MALF and NFM, as |
the Ministry’s agent, it is recommended that the MALF review its systems in order to streamline the payment process and ensure that the issues of timeliness are resolved. A report on the streamlined process should be submitted to Parliament by October 31, 2019.

- Based on the information gathered from various stakeholders, it is the Committee’s belief that a collaborative effort among all stakeholders is needed to revive the Rice Industry. Key outcomes from the collaboration will include:
  - A comprehensive National Rice Development Plan;
  - Better quality, and higher quantities of seed stock;
  - Timely payments for paddy;
  - Efficient irrigation systems;
  - Land allocation policy;
  - Financial support services;
  - Parboiling/milling operation; and
  - Technical support from the MALF.

9. Ninth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on an Inquiry into the Policies for the Promotion of Non-Traditional Methods of farming including Digital Farming Technology

- MALF work assiduously to offer an effective service to all farmers through the ‘onestop shop’ concept. New farmers should be able to develop business plans, identify markets for produce, and obtain key information at this ‘one-stop shop’.
- MALF establish a demonstration centre in the South of Trinidad to illustrate the use of non-traditional methods of farming and digital technology in farming.
- MALF review the Agriculture Incentive Programme to provide access to credit and adequate coverage of new farming technologies.
- MALF assist with providing the required certification for farmers involved
nontraditional farming to gain access to external markets.
### Recent Legislative Developments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill No.</th>
<th>Short Title</th>
<th>Introduced</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2019</td>
<td>The Livestock and Livestock Products Board (Repeal) Bill, 2019</td>
<td>12-Mar-19</td>
<td>✏️ 03-Jul-20 Bill Lapsed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This Bill was carried over from the 4th Session to the 5th Session of the 11th Parliament.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/2019</td>
<td>The Animal (Diseases and Importation) Amendment Bill, 2019</td>
<td>11-Sep-19</td>
<td>🏰 03-Jul-20 Assent: Awaiting Proclamation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This Bill was carried over from the 4th Session to the 5th Session of the 11th Parliament.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Useful Information

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, INDIA: [http://www.dahd.nic.in/](http://www.dahd.nic.in/)
- Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food, CAN: [http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/home/?id=1395690825741](http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/home/?id=1395690825741)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, BARBADOS: [https://www.gov.bb/Ministries/agriculture](https://www.gov.bb/Ministries/agriculture)
- The National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation, Trinidad and Tobago: [http://www.namdevco.com/](http://www.namdevco.com/)