

# BELIZE



## FOOD SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

- Belize imports 40% of its food
- Smallholders account for more than 75% of the farming population
- Export-oriented agriculture: the agrifood sector is a major contributor to the country's economy (14% of GDP)
- High cost of nutritious foods and increasing unemployment and poverty (more than 50 percent), contributing to food insecurity and vulnerable livelihoods
- Obesity and diabetes remain high, especially among women
- Waste management issues and polluted water. Fishing-related litter affect tourism destinations in the Caribbean

## IDENTIFIED GAPS & CHALLENGES



- **Early warning systems** and **index insurance mechanisms**
- Improve **agrifood information systems** and **coordination with regional bodies** and neighboring country initiatives
- Improve and disseminate **agricultural knowledge, information, innovation and technologies**
- Adopt and enforce **water management regulations**
- Promote **green climate technologies in the export-oriented agriculture sector**, including risk-proofing food value chain infrastructure
- Address post-harvest losses and contribute to tackling food loss and waste
- Promote healthy consumption patterns focused on tackling nutrition problems, attaining greater socioeconomic inclusion and reducing territorial inequities

## CLIMATE RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS PRIORITIES



Resilient agrifood systems through innovation



Agribusiness development, led by youth and women in agribusiness



Strengthen the resilience of coastal communities through storm surges early warning system



Early warning system for drought and extreme weather events for farmers



Explore income diversification for fisheries