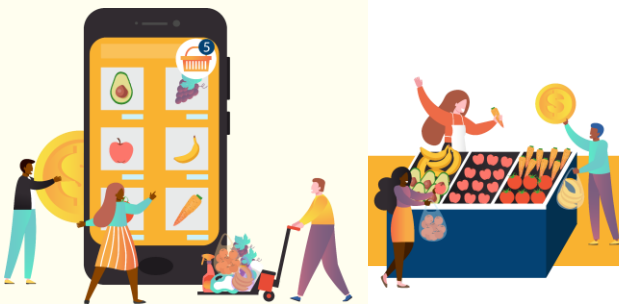


31 MARCH 2026



Session n°20:

Financing Caribbean agrifood entrepreneurs: strategies to access investment



Caribbean Agrifood Business Series ...



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Financing Caribbean Agrifood Entrepreneurs

From Soil to Scale

Bevon Chadel Charles | Founder,
Akata Farms, Grenada.

Agriculture in the Caribbean: Essential, Yet Underserved

- Imports 60–80% of food consumed
- Smallholders produce 70–80% of food
- High risk, low financing priority
- Climate shocks increase uncertainty
- How do we finance a sector we cannot afford to fail?

The Financing Gap

- Only 10–20% of small farmers access formal credit
- High collateral requirements
- Limited financial records among SMEs
- Agriculture seen as unpredictable and high-risk
- Funding exists—but is difficult to access

Financing Pathways

- Grants: Entry point, require registration & compliance
- Technical Assistance: Builds capacity and readiness
- Development Finance: Competitive, impact-focused
- Traditional Finance: Requires collateral and records

Akata Farms: A Practical Case

- Foundation: Registered business, accessed grants
- Alignment: Climate-smart & women-led funding
- Capacity Building: Technical assistance
- Scaling Readiness: Financial structuring & partnerships
- Funding followed structure and alignment

Barriers & Solutions

- Barriers: Weak records, low readiness, misalignment, low visibility
- Solutions: Formalize early, maintain records
- Align with funding priorities
- Leverage technical support and networks
- Preparation determines access

Recommendations

- Entrepreneurs: Be structured, visible, investment-ready
- Financial Institutions: Adapt to agricultural realities
- Ecosystem: Strengthen support and bridge gaps
- Finance follows clarity, structure, and vision



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Thank you



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