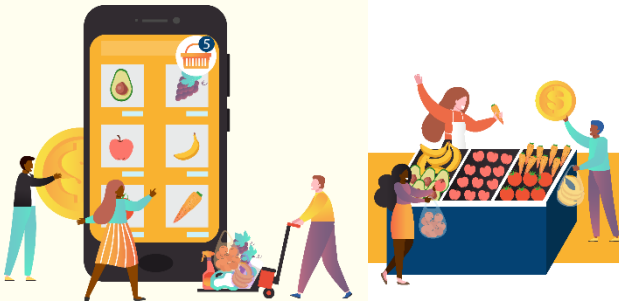


16 JUNE 2026



Session n°21:

Advancing agroecology for Caribbean SMEs



Caribbean Agrifood Business Series ...



Funded by
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Margarita Fernandez, PhD Executive Director

Highlights from the Caribbean Agroecology Institute's work



Our mission is to catalyze knowledge exchange, build capacity, and support transitions to resilient agroecological systems that provide for sustainable livelihoods rooted in justice and equity in Cuba and the Caribbean.

Who We Are

A regional organization dedicated to advancing just, sustainable agri-food systems rooted in agroecology, food sovereignty, climate justice, and community self-determination.

Our Partnerships

Over decades, CAI has built deep, broad, and trusted partnerships with farmers, researchers, NGOs, policymakers, and social entrepreneurs across Cuba and the wider Caribbean.

How we define agroecology

5 LEVELS OF FOOD TRANSITION

TRANSFORMATIONAL

LEVEL 5

Rebuild the global food system so that it is sustainable and equitable for all

LEVEL 4

Re-establish connections between growers and eaters, develop alternative food networks

FOOD SYSTEM LEVELS

LEVEL 3

Redesign the whole agroecosystem based on ecological processes

LEVEL 2

Substitute alternative practices and inputs

LEVEL 1

Increase efficiency of industrial inputs

AGROECOSYSTEM LEVELS

LEVEL 0

No agroecological integration

INCREMENTAL

13 Principles



10+ Elements





Forum on Cuba-U.S. (FOCUS) Partnerships

Founded in 2024, 30+ organizations that regularly share knowledge, convene, and collaborate across national borders.



Cuba-Puerto Rico Farmer-to-Farmer Program

Over ten years of strengthening mutually beneficial knowledge-exchange relationships between these two archipelagos.



Cuba-U.S. Agroecology Network (CUSAN)

Founded in 2015, a bilateral grassroots initiative connecting farmers, NGOs, academics, and activists in Cuba and the United States.



Research Initiative for Sustainable Development of Cuba (RISDoC)

Now in its 9th year — 400 partners in 10 provinces, advancing sustainability and climate resilience across Cuban society.



Renewable Energy for Cuban Farmers

Resource and strengthen family farmers' capacity to adopt renewable energy to irrigate fields, power farm equipment, and distribute harvests locally, especially urgent in the face of the current oil crisis. Includes *Mujeres Camino al Sol*, a women's collective in Matanzas.



Melipona-bee Culture and Women

Strengthening social-ecological systems of women beekeepers in Central America and Cuba — building livelihoods rooted in biodiversity.



School Gardens in Isla de la Juventud

Mi Espacio Verde: a collaborative project with local schools to promote agroecology, wellbeing, and food education for young people.



Hurricane & Crisis Recovery Fund

An emergency fund that quickly responds to material and technical needs of family farmers during hurricanes or other crises.

Participatory Action Research & Co-Creation of Knowledge

Bridging traditional and scientific knowledge



Strengthening Local Food System Governance

Facilitate a community-based research-for-action process in a municipality in Cuba to strengthen governance, territorialize agroecology, and address the food crisis. Part of the Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean (IPA-LAC) Collective.



Caribbean Regional Integration Mapping Project

Research to map the diversity of actors working on agroecology and food sovereignty, and to identify barriers, leverage points, and ways forward for collective learning and collaboration toward food systems transformation in the Insular Caribbean.



Strengthening Farmer-to-Farmer Movement

Accompanying Cuba's F2F agroecology movement to systematize 10 years of work across the country and strategize action plans for the next decade.





2024 | Leidy Casimiro et al. | Issue 1: Policies for Agroecology
Bringing Cuban agroecology to the next level



Our Agroecology, Our Future – Award-Winning Documentary

Explores the nuances of Cuba's agrifood system through the voices of farmers and specialists. Part of CAI's broader multimedia and science communication initiative.



Voces de la Mar

"Voices from the Caribbean Sea" — narrative journalism bridging the land–sea gap in Caribbean food systems.



CAI Knowledge Hub

A bilingual repository of publications, tools, and resources from the Caribbean — bridging practitioner knowledge and academic research.

Thank you

