



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

INTERNATIONAL FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONFERENCE

31st March – 1st April 2026



OFFICIAL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL FOOD & NUTRITION SECURITY & SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CONFERENCE 2026

“From Soil to Society: Advancing Food and Nutrition Security, Cultural Gastronomy, and Sustainable Tourism to achieve the SDGs”

DATES 31 March – 1 April 2026	LOCATION The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago
VENUE Faculty of Engineering, UWI St. Augustine	ORGANIZERS FFA (UWI) & Banwari Experience Limited

conferences.sta.uwi.edu/food-nutrition-security



DAY ONE TUESDAY, 31 MARCH 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
7:00 – 8:00 AM	<i>Shuttle of registered participants to campus from hotels</i>	
8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Welcome Tea/Coffee	<i>Engineering Undercroft</i>
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremony <i>National Anthem</i> Opening and Welcome Remarks Moderator: Dr. Ronald Roopnarine, Deputy Dean Outreach and Internationalization	<i>Engineering Auditorium</i>
10:00 – 10:45 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS The Role of Cultural Gastronomy in Food Security and Tourism Resilience Keynote Speaker: Dr. Donovan Stanberry, Campus Registrar, UWI, Mona Vote of Thanks: Dr. Ronald Roopnarine	<i>Engineering Auditorium</i>
10:45 – 11:00 AM	<i>Networking Break</i>	<i>Engineering Undercroft</i>
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	PLENARY SESSION 1 Bridging Tourism and Agriculture for a Resilient Caribbean Future Lead: Mr. Allister Glean, IICA Panelists: Mr. Andrew Welch, Banwari Experience Ltd. CARDI Representative Trinidad and Tobago Farmers Network Representative <i>Barbados Hotel and Tourism Representatives (Online)</i>	<i>Engineering Auditorium</i>
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch & Networking <i>Featuring locally sourced cuisine and sponsor exhibits</i>	<i>Dining Area & Exhibition / Engineering Undercroft</i>

ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS — PARALLEL — 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Engineering Auditorium	Room 2
<p>"Cultivating Continuity: Indigenous and Local Agri-food Knowledge for the Future" — Session #1</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Dr. Sunshine DeCaires</i></p> <p>1. From Soil to Story: Revitalising Indigenous Foodways, Seed Sovereignty & Cultural Gastronomy for Climate Resilient Tourism <i>Ms. Aleeyah Ali</i> The Foundation for Heritage Preservation & Legacy Creation</p>	<p>"Cultivating Continuity: Indigenous and Local Agri-food Knowledge for the Future" — Session #2</p> <p>Chairperson: <i>Dr. Arlette Saint Ville</i></p> <p>1. History of Neo-Tropical Animals Research and its Relevance to Food Security: 1492 to 2024 <i>Prof. Gary Wayne Garcia^{1j}</i> UWI, St. Augustine (Prof. Emeritus) · President, XI CIMFAUNA 2014 NGO</p>



<p>2. Crop Farmers' Mitigation Practices and Satisfaction with Agricultural Support Services in Trinidad and Tobago <i>Dr. Oral Daley</i> UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>3. Evaluating Low-Cost Smart Systems for Remote Management of Celery Grown in a Tropical Shade House <i>Dr. Joel Persaud¹, Pawan Kumar Persaud²</i> ¹ University of Guyana · ² Natl. Agricultural Research & Extension Institute, Guyana</p> <p>4. Reclaiming NUS in the Caribbean for Food and Nutrition Security <i>Dr. Sonia Peter¹, Ms. Bernice Chase</i> ¹ Biocultural Education and Research Programme</p> <p>5. From Provision Grounds of the Enslaved to Agroecological Futures: Root Crops, Resilience, and Food Security <i>Shrinagar Francis</i> UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p>	<p>2. Nutritive Value of Livers from Four Selected Neo-Tropical Mammals Hunted in Trinidad and Tobago <i>Mr. Eden Natalia John¹, Dr. Rod Suepaul², Dr. Kegan Romelle Jones¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² School of Veterinary Medicine, UWI, Mt. Hope</p> <p>3. Carcass Characteristics and Nutritional Profile of Wild Caiman Crocodilus (Spectacled Caiman) Meat <i>Mr. Daryian Dolly¹, Dr. Laura Tardieu¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>4. Supplementation with Leucaena leucocephala Fruits Improved Performance and Altered Meat Profile in Fattening Lambs <i>Dr. Andell Edwards¹, Dr. Victor Mlambo¹, Dr. Martin Hughes¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>5. Traditional Knowledge and Practices of Moruga Hill Rice Production in Trinidad and Tobago <i>Ms. Natalya C. Richards¹, Dr. Oral O. Daley¹, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p>
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TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Afternoon Break	Engineering Undercroft

ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS — PARALLEL — 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Engineering Auditorium	Room 2
<p>"Climate Change Realities and Developing Resilient Communities Farming Systems" — Session #1 Chairperson: <i>Dr. Sunshine De Caires</i></p> <p>1. Advancing a Circular Bioeconomy with Native Black Soldier Flies for Waste Management, Feed and Biofertilizer Production <i>Mr. Rakesh Bhukal^{1,2}, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹, Dr. Ronald Roopnarine¹, Dr. Chrysantus M. Tanga³</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² Aquatik Solutions, T&T · ³ ICIPE, Nairobi, Kenya</p> <p>2. Standardisation of Vegetable Seed Treatments Using Indigenous Bacillus Amyloliquefaciens Formulations <i>Dr. Marisa Khan¹, Prof. Duraisamy Saravanakumar¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>3. Present and Future Perspectives on Hydroponically Sprouted Grains as a Sustainable Livestock Feed Resource <i>Ms. Eden Natalia John¹, Dr. Kegan Romelle Jones¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p>	<p>"Climate Change Realities and Developing Resilient Communities Farming Systems" — Session #2 Chairperson: <i>Dr. Arlette Saint Ville</i></p> <p>1. Climate Variability, Migration, and Household Food Security in Purvanchal, Uttar Pradesh (Online) <i>Ms. Shreya Bhardwaj¹</i> Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague, Czech Republic</p> <p>2. From Field to Future: Building Climate-Resilient Agri-food Systems in SIDS <i>Dr. Noel Morgan¹</i> The University of the West Indies, Global Campus</p> <p>3. Conserving Mango Germplasm for Climate-Resilient Agriculture in the Caribbean <i>Mr. Earl Medford¹, Dr. Oral O. Daley¹, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>4. Water Stress Responses of Two Commercially Grown Sweet Potato (Ipomoea batatas) Cultivars in New Zealand</p>



<p>4. Replacement of Soybean Meal with Black Soldier Fly Larvae Meal in Broiler Starter Diets <i>Dr. Sivakumar Karuppusamy¹, Ms. Arianne Pilgrim-Roberts¹, Dr. Martin Hughes¹, Dr. Vidya de Gannes¹, Dr. Venkatesan Sundaram¹, Dr. Ronald Roopnarine¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>5. Agricultural and Environmental Services to Foster Innovation and Resilience in Smallholder Farming Systems of Trinidad <i>Ms. Rachael Bally¹, Dr. Arlette St. Ville¹, Prof. Duraisamy Saravanakumar¹, Dr. Sunshine De Caires¹, Ms. Summer Cooper¹, Prof. Mark Wuddivira¹, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹, Dr. Augustus Thomas¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p>	<p><i>Ms. Ariel Coolman¹, Dr. Oral O. Daley¹, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹, Dr. Ronald Roopnarine¹, Dr. Gaius Eudoxie¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>5. Status of Breadfruit (<i>Artocarpus altilis</i>) Agronomic Management in Trinidad and Tobago <i>Mr. Xavier A. Joseph¹, Dr. Oral O. Daley¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p>
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TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Day 1 Recap & Highlights Moderators: Ms. Celine Suchit & Dr. Arlette Saint Ville	Engineering Auditorium
6:00 – 8:30 PM	Welcome Cocktail Reception Hosted at the Office of the Campus Principal	Principal's Office & Lawn
8:30 PM	Evening Ends — Shuttle of registered participants back to hotels	



DAY TWO WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Shuttle of registered participants to campus from hotels	
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Morning Coffee & Networking	Engineering Undercroft
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Poster Session View and discuss all conference posters (see full list below)	Engineering Undercroft
10:00 – 10:15 AM	Opening Remarks & Recap of Day 1 Moderators: Drs. Marsha Singh & Sunshine DeCaires	Engineering Auditorium
10:15 – 11:15 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Tourism as a Catalyst for Local Food Systems and Community Resilience Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Retired Senior Lecturer, UWI FFA, and FAO Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean (Retired)	Engineering Auditorium
10:15 – 11:30 AM	Networking Break	
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	PLENARY SESSION 2 Sustainable Gastronomy Tourism: Business Models for Community Resilience and Visitor Experience Lead: Chef Adrian Cumberbatch, Multiple Award-Winning Chef 2024 Panelists: Hoteliers, Chefs, Tourism Boards, Community Advocates	Engineering Auditorium
12:30 – 1:30 PM	Lunch & Final Poster Viewing	Engineering Undercroft

ORAL PRESENTATION SESSIONS — PARALLEL — 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Engineering Auditorium	Room 2
<p>"Entrepreneurship, Creating Value, Nutrition, Food Security and a Food System Lens" — Session #1</p> <p>Chairperson: Ms. Tynessa Gay</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalizing Trinidad and Tobago's Local Rice Industry: Strategies for Food Security and Sustainability Mr. Nigel Grimes^{1,2} Marvista Institute for Agriculture Training & Development, T&T · ² Symbiosys Limited, T&T Protein Cost-Efficiency and Nutrient Trade-offs in Commonly Used Plant and Animal-Based Protein Foods in Trinidad Dr. Patricia Dyett¹ Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Extension, UWI Seeing Food Systems Through a New Lens: Introducing Shiology 	<p>"Agroecological Transitions, Stakeholder Perceptions, Food Security and Propagation" — Session #2</p> <p>Chairperson: Dr. Martin Hughes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Perceptions, Coordination and Transition Readiness in Agroecological Food Systems Mr. Brandon Murphy¹, Dr. Omardath Maharaj¹ Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Extension, UWI A Deeper Look at Food Security and the St. Lucian Based NGO Helen's Daughters Dr. Arlette Saint Ville¹, Ms. Sarita Singh¹, Dr. Maddy Murphy², Ms. Cornelia Guell³, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹, Ms. Catherine Brown², Ms. Khadija Patel² UWI, St. Augustine · ² UWI, Cave Hill, Barbados · ³ University of Exeter, UK



<p><i>Dr. Saheeda Mujaffar¹, Dr. Liu Guangwei²</i> Dept. of Chemical Engineering, UWI, St. Augustine · ² Research Center for Shiology, Renmin University of China, Beijing</p> <p>4. Sustainable Agripreneurship and Climate Resilience in Caribbean Small Island Developing States</p> <p><i>Dr. Priscilla Bahaw¹, Dr. Preeya Mohan²</i> Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Extension, UWI · ² SALISES, UWI, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>5. Tropical Fruit Wines of the Caribbean: Creating Value from Local Fruits</p> <p><i>Mrs. Michker Edwards-Porter¹, Dr. Vidya de Gannes¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p>	<p>3. Genetic Considerations in the Development of Production and Management Models for Mazama Americana Trintatis in Trinidad</p> <p><i>Ms. Jeanette Browne¹, Dr. Romano MacFarlane¹, Prof. Gary Wayne Garcia¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>4. Agroecological Transition Strategies and Natural Capital Outcomes in Caribbean Agri-Food Value Chains</p> <p><i>Mr. Brandon Murphy¹, Dr. Wendy-Ann P. Isaac²</i> Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Extension, UWI · ² DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine</p>
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TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Afternoon Break	

3:30 – 5:00 PM – Oral Presentation Session

"Terroir, Innovation, Food Festivals, Nutritional Knowledge, and Cultural Dimensions of Food Security"

Chairperson: Ms. Tynessa Gay | Venue: Engineering Auditorium

1. Nutritional Knowledge among Young Adults in Trinidad: A Preliminary Study

Dr. Fareena M. Alladin¹
Dept. of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine

2. Cocoa Terroir in Practice: Value-Chain Sustainability and Flavour Profiling in Lopinot–La Pastora, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr. Naailah Ali^{1,2}, Dr. Darin Sukha¹, Ms. Karen Lee Lum¹, Ms. Vickeisha Lall¹, Ms. Anilinda Anamalay¹, Mr. Oma Jaikaran¹, Mr. Lincoln McDonald¹, Mr. Marvin Lewis¹, Prof. Pathmanathan Umaharan¹
Cocoa Research Centre, UWI, St. Augustine · ² Dept. of Chemical Engineering, UWI, St. Augustine

3. Food Festivals in the English-Speaking Caribbean: The Nexus of Local Foodies and Tourists

Dr. Arlette Saint Ville¹, Mr. Allister Glean², Dr. Wendy-Ann Isaac¹
UWI, St. Augustine · ² Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Barbados

4. Cultural Dimensions of Food Security in the Caribbean

Dr. Jeanelle Joseph^{1,2}, Dr. Tessa Barry³, Dr. Norma Samuel⁴
Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Extension, UWI · ² Just Research It (JRI) Consultancy · ³ UF/IFAS Extension, U. of Florida · ⁴ CAEPNet, Caribbean

5. Bridging the Harvest and the Horizon

Mr. Andrew Welch¹
Banwari Experience Limited, Trinidad and Tobago

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE
5:00 – 5:30 PM	<p>Closing Ceremony</p> <p>Review of Key Outcomes</p> <p>Student Awards and Certificates</p> <p>Sponsor Appreciation</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Wendy-Ann Isaac, Chair, Conference Steering Committee</p>	Engineering Auditorium
5:30 PM	Official Conference Close — Shuttle of registered participants back to hotels	



POSTER PRESENTATIONS

No.	Poster Title	Authors & Affiliation
P2	Tourism as a Catalyst for Food Security and Youth Entrepreneurship in Small Island Developing States	<i>Samisha Maharaj</i> UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
P4	Edible Plants in the Basellaceae Family as Supplemental Functional Feed Ingredients for Monogastric Animals	<i>Arianna S. Jahoor¹, Kegan R. Jones¹²</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² School of Veterinary Medicine, FMS, UWI
P5	Consumer Ethnocentrism: Examining Consumer Purchase Intentions within Developing and Developed Economies	<i>Satesh Sookhai</i> Dept. of Management Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine
P6	Garden-Based Learning: Using an Innovative Pedagogy to Support Curriculum Implementation and Food Security	<i>Vishal Ramjattan</i> School of Education, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
P8	What Plantation Agriculture Left Behind: An Invasive Shrub Threatens Water and Farming in St. Croix	<i>SaVaughna D. John-Baptiste, David A. Hensley</i> School of Agriculture, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Croix, USVI
P16	Genetic, Environmental, and Viral Constraints to Tuberization and Yield in Caribbean Sweet Potatoes	<i>Junior Green¹²</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² CARDI, Trinidad and Tobago
P17	Sustainable Gastronomy Tourism: Business Models for Community Resilience and Visitor Experience	<i>Devon Samlalsingh</i> UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
P18	Front-of-Packaging Nutritional Labelling Systems in the Caribbean: Implications for Industry, Consumers, and National Development	<i>Hazel Roberts¹, Neela Badrie¹, Sa'eed Bawa²</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² Dept. of Agricultural Economics and Extension, UWI
P20	The Significance of Trend Analysis in Forming Strategic Plans for Successful Market Entry	<i>Joel Fraser</i> FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
P21	Kenyan Wambugu Tropical Apples as a Strategy for Apple Import Substitution in Trinidad and Tobago	<i>Megan Douglas¹, Catherine Wambugu², Latoya Johnson Panton³</i> Sprouts of Jack Farming, T&T · ² Wambugu Apples, Kenya · ³ My Jamaica Food Forest, Jamaica
P24	Lean-Circular-Agroecological Framework: Restoring Caribbean Soils Towards Food and Nutrition Security for Sustainable Domestic Tourism	<i>Ramgopaul Roop¹, Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹, Mohammed Matouq², Miles Weaver³, Ana Fonseca⁴, Mark Wuddivira¹</i> UWI, St. Augustine · ² Al-Balqua Applied University, Jordan · ³



		Edinburgh Napier University, UK · ⁴ University of Dundee, UK
P28	Vermicomposting of Broiler Poultry Litter using Eudrilus Eugeniae through Carbon-to-Nitrogen Ratio Optimisation	<i>Sivakumar Karuppusamy¹, Saravanan Narayanan Ramanathan², Vidya de Gannes¹, Thiruvenkadan Aranganoor Kannan¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, India
P29	Unsafe Greens? Coliform Contamination in Watercress — Evidence of Enterobacteriaceae Highlights Potential Public Health Risks	<i>Vidya de Gannes¹, Marcus Edwards¹, Wendy-Ann P. Isaac¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
P30	Mapping Alternative Food Networks: Food Hubs, Food Strips & Food Villages in Trinidad	<i>Meera Mahase-Forgenie¹, Arlette Saint Ville¹, Marquitta Webb², Wendy-Ann Isaac³</i> Dept. of Geography, FFA, UWI · ² Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Extension, FFA, UWI · ³ DFP, FFA, UWI
P31	Climate-Smart Technologies for Food Security: Optimizing Aquaculture, Hydroponics, Aquaponics and Native Black Soldier Fly Production	<i>Rakesh Bhukal^{1,2}, Wendy-Ann Isaac¹, Ronald Roopnarine¹</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² Aquatik Solutions, Trinidad and Tobago
P32	Policy Coherence and Gaps in Building Climate-Resilient Farming Systems in a Small Island Developing State	<i>Brandon Murphy^{1,2}</i> DFP, FFA, UWI, St. Augustine · ² The Cropper Foundation, Trinidad and Tobago
P33	University Students' Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Nanotechnology for Food Safety and Sustainable Food Systems	<i>Andrea Dookhu</i> UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago



POST-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES — 2–5 APRIL 2026

Additional registration required. Costs are indicated below. *Denotes optional paid activity.

Date	Activity	Details
April 2	Technical Tour 1: Agro-Ecological & Heritage Sites Cost: \$90 USD	Field visits to Paramin and Cocoa Estate traditional food processing units and heritage sites. Facilitated by Banwari Experience Ltd.
April 3	Technical Tour 2: Culinary & Tourism Innovation Cost: \$75 USD	Visits to Café-Vega tourism enterprises. Focus on supply chain linkages. Facilitated by Banwari Experience Ltd.
April 4	Caribbean BeachFood Festival (CBF) Cost: \$450TTD	Public festival celebrating Caribbean cuisine, music, and culture. Featuring chefs, farmers, and artisans. Venue: International Waterfront Centre (next to Hyatt Regency), Port of Spain. Facilitated by Banwari Experience Ltd.

NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Registration & Payment: Required for all sessions, meals, and tours. Additional costs apply for Technical Tours and the Caribbean BeachFood Festival.

Attire: Business casual for conference days; comfortable attire for tours and the festival.

Attendance Certificates: Available for all presenters and registered attendees at the close of the conference.

Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

in collaboration with Banwari Experience Limited
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