

# SECTORAL RECOVERY CAPACITY ASSESSMENT FOR GUYANA'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR

## CONTEXT

The Caribbean region is highly prone to disasters, causing destruction of infrastructure and property, loss of income, and costs as individuals and businesses work around disruptions. Disasters jeopardize sustainable development and economic growth prospects and have a disproportionate impact on the poor. Indeed, the economic damages and losses related to natural hazards in the Caribbean represent a yearly average of 3.6 percent of the regional Gross Domestic Product.<sup>1</sup>

Fast and inclusive recovery efforts in the aftermath of disasters can lower social and economic burdens and allow a more rapid recovery of development levels<sup>2</sup>. With climate change and the prospect of more frequent hydrometeorological disasters, resilient recovery planning and investments have become a priority for the region. This involves assessing and building the capacity needed to ensure the fast and efficient restoration of services, economic activities, and infrastructure.

Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment (SRCA), developed by the Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF)<sup>3</sup> and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), analyzes the capacity of key sectors for efficient and coordinated recovery and provides recommendations to improve recovery processes along three main axes: Governance, Competencies and Resources and Tools. Results are part of CDEMA's Comprehensive Disaster Management Audit tool.

## THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN GUYANA

- Contributes 17.6 percent of GDP (2019)<sup>4</sup>.
- Most of the agricultural land is located on a thin stretch of the coast, where 90 percent of the population lives<sup>5</sup>.
- Provides 15.4 percent of employment<sup>4</sup>, of which 9 percent is occupied by women<sup>6</sup>.
- Is highly exposed to natural hazards, including coastal and river flooding, and vulnerable to climate change.
- The sector is heavily influenced by the intermittent cold and warm phases of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation.

1 Rozenberg, J. et. al (2021). 360° Resilience: A Guide to Prepare the Caribbean for a New Generation of Shocks. World Bank, Washington, DC.  
2 Hallegatte, S., Rentschler, J. and Walsh, B. (2018). Building Back Better: Achieving Resilience through Stronger, Faster, and More Inclusive Post-Disaster Reconstruction. World Bank, Washington, DC.  
3 The Canada-Caribbean Resilience Facility (CRF) is hosted by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) at the World Bank Group.  
4 World Bank. 2019. World Development Indicators: Guyana. Available online at: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/GY>  
5 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). 2015. AQUASTAT Country Profile – Guyana. Available online at: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca0428en/CA0428EN.pdf>  
6 International Labor Organization (ILO). 2018. Gender at Work in the Caribbean: Country Report for Guyana. Available online at: [https://www.ilo.org/caribbean/information-resources/publications/WCMS\\_651947/lang-en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/caribbean/information-resources/publications/WCMS_651947/lang-en/index.htm)

## KEY RESULTS

The capacity of Guyana's agriculture sector to implement climate resilient and inclusive recovery projects in a timely, efficient, and effective manner is evaluated as moderate.

### STRENGTHS:

- Progress has been made in national and sectoral policy and legislation to enable recovery

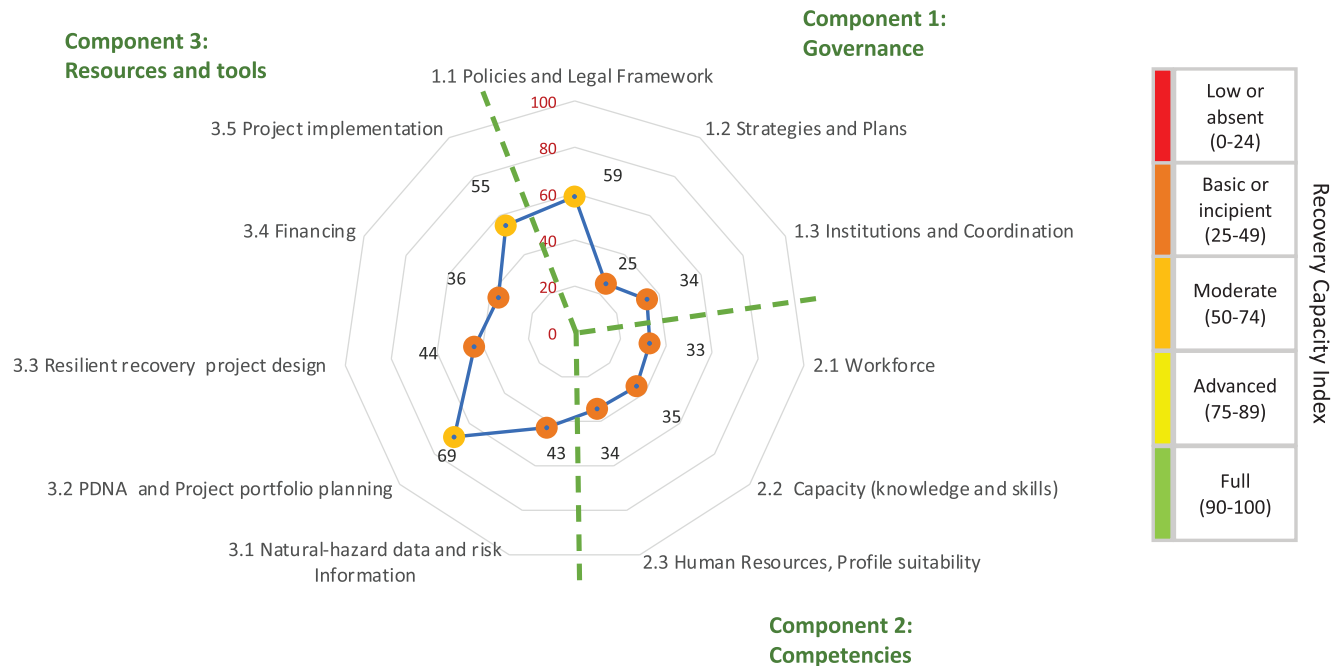
### CONSTRAINTS:

- Limited enforcement of legislation relevant to disaster risk management, particularly in terms of building codes and gender integration
- Insufficient knowledge and skills to design and implement a resilient and inclusive recovery project portfolio
- Low level of adoption and use of tools for mainstreaming resilience into sectoral projects
- Insufficient resources and tools available for recovery

## THE SRCA FOR GUYANA'S AGRICULTURE

With the objective of assessing the capacity Guyana's agriculture sector to plan, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate climate resilient and inclusive recovery processes, the SRCA was implemented in the country's agriculture sector under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), with the support of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the CRF.

# RECOVERY CAPACITY INDEX (RCI) FOR THE 11 KEY ELEMENTS ASSESSED



## SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT READINESS FOR RESILIENT RECOVERY IN GUYANA'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR<sup>7</sup>

### INSTITUTIONAL READINESS

#### Policies

- Develop a National Recovery Strategy that integrates resilience-building measures, gender and disability considerations and guidance for the implementation of the Build Back Better approach.
- Establish tools, mechanisms, or institutional mandates for sectoral authorities at different levels to develop and coordinate the implementation of recovery strategies and plans.
- Enhance the enforcement of legislation relevant to disaster risk management and recovery, particularly in terms of building codes and gender integration and disability inclusion.

#### Knowledge and tools

- Institutionalize training in disaster risk management, disaster cycle management, recovery and gender analysis and integration for public stakeholders.
- Develop and establish the use of tools to ensure project designs incorporate the Build Back Better approach, gender-specific requirements and the needs of persons with disabilities.

#### Data and information for risk-informed decision-making

- Create a data and information portal for sectoral stakeholders to access hazard, risk, and other data and information relevant to disaster management and recovery.
- Update existing and generate new risk data and information at appropriate scales for decision-making.
- Develop detailed flood models for coastal areas.

#### Resilient infrastructure

- Identify and prioritize the river flood control and coastal defense infrastructure in need of reconstruction, rehabilitation, and maintenance.
- Strengthen and enforce building codes to follow the Build Back Better approach and include specific disaster risk management and recovery components.

#### FINANCES

- Accelerate the approval of the Disaster Risk Management Bill to enable the establishment of the Disaster Risk Management Fund.
- Conduct a needs assessment of the sector's budget including the need for a contingent annual recovery allocation.

<sup>7</sup> Detailed recommendations are provided in Annex 1 of the Sectoral Recovery Capacity Assessment report.