

Agriculture Department

Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture, and Blue Economy.

Mid-Year Recap filled with Exciting News Ahead!

JUNE 2026, NEWSLETTER

The first half of 2026 has been marked by progress, collaboration, and dedication across the Agriculture Department. From supporting farmers and strengthening biosecurity to advancing sustainable agriculture and community outreach, our teams have worked tirelessly to achieve our shared goals.

Recent News Updates:



Seychelles Participates in High-Level Ministerial Panel on Reducing Post-Harvest Losses and Enhancing Food Supply Chain Efficiency

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Bringing Veterinary Care Closer to the Praslin Community

In June 2025, the Agriculture Department took a significant step towards improving animal health services by deploying Dr. Timothy Chepkok, a veterinary doctor, to Praslin Island.

Over the past year, Dr. Chepkok has been providing essential veterinary care to both livestock and companion animals, supporting farmers with the health and productivity of their livestock while also assisting pet owners with the care and treatment of cats and dogs.

Before his deployment, veterinary services on Praslin were limited to scheduled visits from Mahé due to budget constraints, making it challenging to respond quickly to animal health concerns. Having a resident veterinarian has greatly improved access to timely veterinary support, allowing farmers and pet owners to receive professional assistance when they need it most.

The initiative reflects the Agriculture Department's commitment to strengthening animal health and welfare across Seychelles. By bringing veterinary expertise closer to the community, the Department is helping to improve livestock production, promote responsible pet ownership, and contribute to a healthier, more resilient agricultural sector on Praslin.

One year on, the presence of a dedicated veterinarian continues to make a meaningful difference to the lives of farmers, pet owners, and the wider Praslin community.



A New Chapter for the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture

The Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH) welcomed 60 enthusiastic new students during its 2026 induction programme, held on 24–25 February. The intake marks the beginning of another exciting academic year as students embark on their journey towards careers in agriculture and horticulture.

The Institute also entered a new era of leadership with the appointment of its Director, Dr. Barry Nourrice, who joined in December 2025. A proud alumnus of the former School of Agriculture (1998–1999) and a member of the first cohort at the Farmers' Training Centre at Anse à la Mouche in 1999, Dr. Nourrice's return to lead the institution is both a professional achievement and a meaningful homecoming.

Another proud milestone came in April 2026 when SIAH celebrated its annual graduation ceremony. A standout moment was the presentation of the prestigious President's Cup to Nishon Charles, honouring his exceptional commitment to extracurricular activities and his outstanding contribution to campus life.

With new students, new leadership, and new graduates, SIAH continues to cultivate the next generation of agricultural professionals for Seychelles.



Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems Installed to Support Sustainable Agriculture in Seychelles

The Agriculture Department, in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), has completed the installation of three solar-powered water pumping systems to improve irrigation for agriculture in Seychelles.

The installations, carried out by Shakti Pumps (India) Limited, include a 5 HP submersible solar pump at Val D'Endor, Mahé, and two 2 HP surface solar pumps at the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH), Anse La Mouche, and Grand Anse, La Digue.

The new systems will provide farmers with a reliable and sustainable water supply, reduce dependence on conventional energy sources, lower operating costs, and strengthen irrigation capacity for agricultural training and crop production.

The initiative supports the Agriculture Department's commitment to promoting climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable water management across Seychelles.



Women Breaking Barriers in the Agriculture Department

As we celebrated International Women's Day in March 2026, we reflected on the invaluable contributions of women within the Agriculture Department. Among them are Ms. Mary Silva, Ms. Maryse Hollanda, and Ms. Doreen Souris, three dedicated officers who have spent years working in the field, proving that agriculture is a profession where commitment and passion matter more than gender.

Fieldwork is often perceived as a man's job, but Mary, Maryse, and Doreen continue to challenge that stereotype through their dedication, resilience, and love for serving the agricultural community.

In this feature, we learned from these inspiring women about their experiences, their challenges, and what motivates them to continue making a meaningful difference in the field of agriculture.

Ms. Doreen Souris - Livestock Technician

"I have been working in the livestock sector for the past eight years—three years at the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture and the last five years with the Agriculture Department. My work focuses on livestock husbandry, a field that I am truly passionate about.

One of the biggest challenges I face is that my workstation is located far from most essential facilities in Anse Royale and Victoria. Despite this, I remain dedicated to my work because I enjoy caring for animals and contributing to the livestock sector. My greatest wish is to see continuous improvement in livestock production and the overall well-being of our animals in Seychelles."



Ms. Mary Silva – Senior Research Technician

"I have proudly served the Agriculture Department for 43 years. My journey began after attending farmers' training at the School of Agriculture, where I developed a passion for both crop and livestock production, particularly crop cultivation.

Over the years, I have gained valuable experience in planting and harvesting, pest and disease management, and irrigation systems. One of the greatest challenges is dealing with issues beyond our control, such as pest infestations and poor seed germination.

What motivates me most is knowing that my work contributes to feeding our community. I also appreciate the strong support of my colleagues, who make every day enjoyable, and the satisfaction of seeing happy farmers. I believe that, as a woman in agriculture, my work has made a meaningful contribution to the Department and the people we serve."



Ms. Maryse Hollanda- Veterinary Public Health Officer

"I joined the Agriculture Department in 2013 as an Authorisation Officer before moving to the Biosecurity Section as a Border Control Officer. Today, I serve as a Veterinary Public Health Officer in the Veterinary Import and Export Unit, where I process import and export permits and inspect imported meat, animal products, and live animals to ensure they meet Seychelles' biosecurity requirements.

My work comes with many challenges, from incomplete documentation and non-compliance with import conditions to preventing restricted goods from entering the country without the necessary permits. Despite these challenges, I remain committed because I know my work helps protect Seychelles from animal diseases and safeguards public health.

As a woman in this profession, I am proud to contribute to the safety of our country's food supply and the wellbeing of our people. Serving my country in this role is both an honour and a responsibility, and it motivates me to give my best every day."



Products from Tanzania Approved Following Pest Risk Analysis

A delegation from the Agriculture Department's Biosecurity Services Section, comprising Mr. Allen Suzette (Principal Officer for Plant Biosecurity), Mr. Steve Denis (Health Department – Food Unit), and Ms. Maryse Hollanda (Veterinary Health Officer, Import/Export), undertook an official mission to Tanzania from 29 March to 3 April 2026.

The visit formed part of a comprehensive Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) and sanitary assessment conducted in collaboration with Tanzania's National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) and other agricultural stakeholders. The mission focused on evaluating meat production and processing facilities for compliance with Seychelles' sanitary, veterinary, and food safety requirements.

Following inspections, the Union Meat Group Abattoir was found to meet international standards in food safety, veterinary controls, hygiene, laboratory testing, biosecurity measures, and operational management. Based on the findings, the facility was recommended for market access approval to export goat, sheep, and cattle meat to Seychelles. The recommendation was subsequently endorsed and approved by Cabinet, strengthening trade opportunities while ensuring the continued protection of public health and biosecurity.



Quarterly Farm Visit Strengthens Support for Praslin Farmers

From 5th to 9th April 2026, the Agriculture Department conducted its quarterly farm visit to Praslin, reinforcing its commitment to supporting farmers and advancing agricultural development on the island.

During the visit, officers met with farmers from 17 farms to discuss their progress, address challenges, and provide technical guidance to enhance productivity. The team also interviewed five new applicants interested in entering the agricultural sector, supporting the next generation of farmers. Officers visited key agricultural projects, including the National Abattoir and the new Agroforestry Zone, to monitor ongoing developments and identify opportunities for further growth.

These quarterly visits remain an important initiative, enabling the Department to strengthen relationships with farmers, better understand their needs, and continue providing effective support to the farming community.



Celebrating the International Year of Women Farmers

In recognition of the United Nations International Year of Women Farmers 2026, the Office of the First Lady, in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, the British High Commission, UNDP, and ESA, organised a week of activities to celebrate and empower Seychellois women farmers during the first week of May, 2026.

The programme featured farm visits on Mahé and Praslin, an all-women bazaar, and a Women Farmers' Forum, providing participants with valuable information on financing, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The events also showcased a variety of locally made products, including beauty and wellness items derived from fruits, vegetables, coconut, and cinnamon.

The initiative strengthened collaboration among women in agriculture while highlighting their important contribution to food security and sustainable development. The Agriculture Department looks forward to continuing these partnerships and supporting the growth of women in the agricultural sector.



Seychelles Participates in High-Level Ministerial Panel on Reducing Post-Harvest Losses and Enhancing Food Supply Chain Efficiency

Principal Minister Wallace Cosgrow, Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, led the Seychelles delegation to the High-Level Ministerial Panel on Agriculture: Reducing Post-Harvest Losses – Enhancing Efficiency in the Food Supply Chain, held on 6 June 2026 in Istanbul, Türkiye.

The international forum, organized by the Zero Waste Foundation, brought together ministers and agricultural experts to discuss practical solutions for reducing food loss and building more resilient and sustainable food systems.

During his address, Principal Minister Cosgrow highlighted the unique challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), where seasonal surpluses of fruits and vegetables often result in post-harvest losses due to limited storage and processing facilities. He emphasized Seychelles' commitment to expanding agro-processing, value addition, and circular economy initiatives to reduce food waste, improve food security, create new market opportunities, and generate additional income for farmers. He also highlighted the potential of transforming fish processing by-products into valuable products such as animal feed, organic fertilizers, and bio-products.

The Principal Minister was accompanied by Mr. Keven Nancy, Principal Secretary for Agriculture, and Mr. Michael Nalletamby, Principal Secretary for Industry and Enterprise. The forum reaffirmed Seychelles' commitment to strengthening sustainable food systems and improving food supply chain efficiency.



Chinese Delegation Explores New Agricultural Partnership Opportunities

On 19 June 2026, a delegation of agricultural specialists from China visited the Seychelles Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (SIAH) and the Anse Boileau Crop Research Centre to assess sites for proposed agricultural development projects that Seychelles is seeking to implement with Chinese support.

The visit focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration in modern agricultural technologies, including hydroponics, to enhance local food production and strengthen agricultural innovation.

The delegation was accompanied by Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. Keven Nancy, Director of SIAH, Dr. Barry Nourrice, Chief Officer for Crop Research, Mr. Roy Govinden, and Chief Officer for Extension Services, Mrs. Sandra Sinon, who presented the proposed projects and highlighted Seychelles' agricultural priorities.



(DPA) Honoring Long Service and Dedication

The Agriculture Department proudly congratulates 12 dedicated officers who were recognised for their 40 to 48 years of outstanding public service. They received Long Service Certificates from the Department of Public Administration during a recognition ceremony held at the International Conference Centre Seychelles (ICCS) in June 2026.

The recipients are Georgette Gabriel, Philippe Hoareau, Jacqueline Labiche, Andre Labrosse, Georgette Labrosse, Serge Larue, Julien Louise, Georgette Nibourette, Jones Rigodon, Mary Silva, Jean Abel, and Maryanne Marie.

Their decades of commitment, professionalism, and invaluable contribution have played a significant role in the development of Seychelles' agricultural sector. The Department extends its sincere appreciation and congratulations for their exceptional service.



Agriculture Department Shines at the 50th Golden Jubilee National Day Expo 2026

The Agriculture Department proudly celebrated a successful participation in the 50th Golden Jubilee National Day Expo 2026, showcasing the remarkable evolution and achievements of Seychelles' agricultural sector over four exciting days.

The Expo provided an excellent platform for farmers from across the islands, both Mahé and Praslin, to market and sell their fresh local produce, while businesses involved in agriculture, horticulture, and agro-processing promoted their innovative products and services. Visitors turned out in large numbers, demonstrating strong public support for local producers.



A highlight of the exhibition was the visit by President Dr. Patrick Herminie, who toured the Agriculture Department's Technology and Innovation booth. The President was briefed on the Department's latest initiatives, modern agricultural technologies, and innovative solutions aimed at strengthening food security and promoting sustainable agricultural development in the Seychelles.

The successful participation at the Expo overall showcased the Department's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and public engagement, while reaffirming its dedication to advancing a resilient and sustainable agricultural sector for the nation.

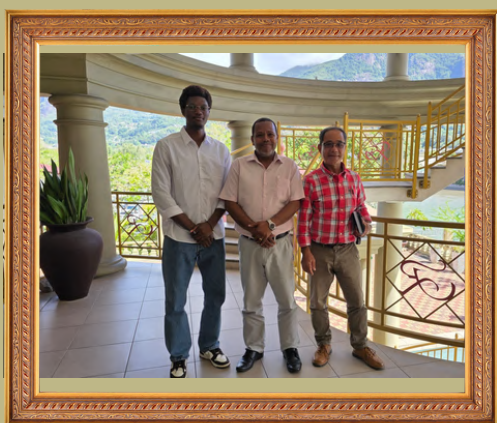


International Research Supports the Future of Seychelles Honey

The Agriculture Department recently welcomed Sena Alban SOEDJI, a 26-year-old research intern from Togo, West Africa, who is undertaking a one-and-a-half-month research mission in Seychelles as part of his internship with CIRAD, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development. His work focuses on the development of a Geographical Indication (GI) for Seychelles honey and is being conducted within the framework of the INTERREG ITALIQ project “Innovations Technologiques et Organisationnelles pour des Aliments de Qualité”, co-funded by the European Union and the Réunion Region.

Sena is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Social and Solidarity Economy at the University of Rennes in France while completing an internship in La Réunion. He also holds a Master's Degree in Agro-economics from Institut Agro Montpellier, with a specialization in value chain analysis and producer organization support. His research aims to assess how stakeholders within the beekeeping sector can work together to successfully establish a Geographical Indication for Seychelles honey. Although his knowledge of beekeeping is mainly theoretical, the mission has allowed him to gain valuable practical insights into the local industry.

During his stay, Sena met with key stakeholders, including the Principal Secretary of the Agriculture Department, the Seychelles Bureau of Standards (SBS), the Trade Division, the Enterprise Seychelles Agency (ESA), and the Beekeepers Association of Seychelles. These discussions focused on understanding the legal framework, quality standards, innovation support, and the coordination required to successfully implement a GI for Seychelles honey.



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According to Sena, one of the most encouraging aspects is the existence of a national GI subcommittee, which brings together several institutions and is currently focusing on Seychelles honey as the country's first potential local GI, which demonstrates the country's commitment to developing the initiative through public-private collaboration.

Visits to local apiaries also provided valuable insight into the realities of beekeeping in Seychelles. Sena observed a wide range of experience among beekeepers, from newcomers to highly experienced producers, each applying different techniques to improve honey production.

However, the study also highlighted several challenges facing the sector. High investment costs, limited access to equipment, exposure to pesticides, and insufficient technical training continue to hinder the growth of commercial beekeeping. In addition, many beekeepers currently view the activity as a hobby or a secondary activity rather than a full-time economic activity, often maintaining only one or two hives for personal honey production.

"My main focus is to understand how stakeholders across the beekeeping sector can coordinate effectively to make the future GI initiative for Seychelles honey successful," Sena explained. "A Geographical Indication depends on strong collaboration and collective action among all stakeholders."

His study builds on previous research conducted by CIRAD in 2024, which identified Seychelles honey as a suitable product for a GI, and the 2025 AfrIPI programme, which provided training and awareness on Geographical Indications and further confirmed the product's potential for GI registration.

Upon completing his research, Sena will inform on ongoing discussions on the future GI by providing a socio-economic and organisational analysis of stakeholder needs, expectations, relationships and possible roles. The findings are also expected to help identify the conditions needed to strengthen the collective organisation of the sector, which could support progress in the GI process and contribute to recognising the link between Seychelles honey and its specific territory.



News Highlights!

Solar-Powered Chiller Supports Farmers in South Mahé



The Agriculture Department, in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA-India), continues to support local farmers through the introduction of a solar-powered chiller. Farmers in the southern region of Mahé are now benefiting from the facility, which helps preserve the quality and freshness of their produce, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve access to sustainable agricultural technologies.



Engaging with La Digue Farmers

On 16 May 2026, Minister Wallace Cosgrow and the Agriculture Department team held their first regional meeting with the farming community on La Digue.

The meeting provided an open platform for farmers to discuss the challenges they face, identify new opportunities, and share their vision for the future of agriculture on the island. The interactive session strengthened dialogue between the Department and the farming community, reaffirming the Government's commitment to supporting sustainable agricultural development across Seychelles.



Strengthening Market Access for Local Farmers

The Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy participated in a Ridge to Reef (R2R) workshop to review the findings of a study on farmers' access to the hotel market and the Draft Market Analysis and Replication Potential Assessment Report.

Through the Ridge to Reef project, implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Energy and Natural Resources, the Agriculture Department continues to support sustainable land management while creating new business opportunities for local farmers.

Building on earlier training in business planning and recordkeeping, the initiative now focuses on improving market access by strengthening links between farmers and the tourism industry. The project aims to provide farmers with reliable markets, supply hotels with fresh local produce, and contribute to a more resilient and sustainable food system in Seychelles.



Thank You, Mr. Alex Labiche

After 26 years of dedicated service, Mr. Alex Labiche retired from the Agriculture Department in June 2026. Since joining the Department in 2001 as a driver, he has served with commitment, professionalism, and reliability, making a valued contribution to the Department's daily operations.

The Agriculture Department extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Labiche for his years of loyal service and wishes him good health, happiness, and every success as he begins this new chapter of retirement.



In recognition of the dedication and hard work displayed during the National Day Expo 2026, Minister Wallace Cosgrov hosted a small appreciation reception for staff and stakeholders at Espace Bar Café. During the gathering, the Minister expressed his sincere gratitude to everyone whose commitment and teamwork contributed to the success of the Agriculture Department's participation in the national celebrations.

Building on this success, the Agriculture Department now looks forward to Seychelles Food Week, October 2026, where it aims to further engage with the public by showcasing its programmes, services, and innovations. The Department remains committed to bringing agriculture closer to the community while promoting local food production, sustainable farming, and national food security.



The Agriculture Department team....

"Together, we are cultivating a resilient, innovative, and food-secure Seychelles."



“Ensuring food and nutrition security and sovereignty for the people of Seychelles.”

Continue to eat Locally.

Thank you so much for reading! We can't wait for you to check out our next newsletter—it's going to be great!

PR & Comms, Ms. Barbara Jean-Baptiste



LENDEPANDANS SESEL
“Nou Pep, Nou Lidantite, Nou Desten”