

## FAQs for Applying to the Women's Farmers Academy

### 1. What is the purpose of the Women's Farmers Academy?

The Women's Farmers Academy will provide access to virtual coursework in sustainable agriculture and agri-business development. This will involve training in crop production and management, climate resilience, nutritional marketing, and agri-business development.

### 2. What are the organisations responsible for the Women's Farmers Academy?

The Women's Farmers Academy is a collaboration between "Improving Household Nutrition Security and Public Health in the CARICOM" also known as the Food and Nutrition (FaN) project and Helen's Daughters.

The FaN project is associated with Food4ChangeCaribbean, and its main goal is to improve dietary diversity across the CARICOM region by increasing healthy eating and improving sustainable livelihoods. The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre and managed by the University of the West Indies' Caribbean Institute for Health Research. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Helen's Daughters is a St. Lucian non-profit organisation with a special focus on the economic development of rural women through adaptive agricultural techniques, capacity-building and improved market access. Learn more at the [Helen's Daughters website](#).

### 3. Who can participate in the Women's Farmers Academy?

Persons must meet each of the criteria below to be eligible to participate in the Women's Farmers Academy.

- Be a woman aged 18 years or older.
- Be a national or legal resident of the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines or St. Kitts and Nevis.
- Be a farmer or woman interested in working in agriculture or agro-processing.
- Be willing to attend at least 80% of the online classes.

*\* Spaces for enrolment into the programme are limited. Kindly note that we are accepting applications on a first-come-first-served basis.*

### 4. Do I need to have a computer and Internet access to join the Women's Farmers Academy?

Yes, persons enrolled in the Women's Farmers Academy will need computer and Internet access to actively participate in online classroom activities. Online classes will be hosted using the Zoom software programme, showing PowerPoint presentations and other audio and video materials.

### 5. How long is the Women's Farmers Academy?

The Women's Farmers Academy will last anywhere between 6 to 8 weeks. The exact length of time depends on the course modules that will be taught, and students' availability.

### 6. Is the Women's Farmers Academy only offering online training courses at specific times?

Yes, courses will be delivered **online only** by local and experienced facilitators who will receive training from Helen's Daughters in the application of virtual agricultural advisory services (agricultural extension).

Online course modules include the following:

- Sustainable Farming
- Post-Harvest Management
- Food Safety
- Agri-business
- Financial Literacy
- Marketing
- Customer Service
- Market Linkages

The **tentative** class schedules are as follows:

- St. Kitts and Nevis: Wednesday (6:00 – 8:30 PM) & Thursday (7:30 – 9:00 PM)
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Tuesday (6:00 – 8:30 PM) & Thursday (6:00 – 7:30 PM)

### **7. Am I expected to complete assignments?**

Students of the Women's Farmers Academy will not be given any in-class or homework assignments, but they will be required to complete pre-and post-evaluation surveys to assess their knowledge and skills before the training begins, and after training ends.

### **8. Will I have any support if I need assistance with course work?**

Yes, students will receive mentorship from training facilitators and their student peers.

### **9. What proof will I have of my participation in the Women's Farmers Academy?**

A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to students. To qualify, students must attend 80% of online classes and successfully complete the post-evaluation survey.

### **10. Who can I contact locally for more information about the Women's Farmers Academy?**

You can contact your local Ministry of Health for more details.

- St. Kitts & Nevis: Ms. Latoya Matthew-Duncan, Nutrition Surveillance Coordinator, Ministry of Health, P.O. Box 186, Lot 6B Bladen Commercial Development, Basseterre; Tel: 869-467-1236
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Ms. Wendy Michael, Nutrition Surveillance Officer, Ministry of Health and the Environment, Ministerial Building, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Tel: 784 -496-8003.

### **11. How do I apply to join the Women's Farmers Academy?**

Please complete the online Application Form by clicking [here](#). For help applying please contact the FaN project at [caribbeanfanproject@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanfanproject@gmail.com)

### **12. What is the deadline for applying to join the Women's Farmers Academy?**

The deadline for applications is September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **13. What happens if I miss the deadline?**

If you miss the application deadline unfortunately you will **not** be able to participate in the Women's Farmers Academy.

**14. After I apply online, what happens next?**

You will not be able to make any changes to your application form. We will review all application forms within one month of the closure of registration, and if you are selected to participate in the Women's Farmers Academy, you will be invited to a virtual meet and greet session held over Zoom.

**15. I still have questions, what should I do?**

The FaN Public Information and Communications Team is ready to answer any of your questions. Please contact them by sending an email to [caribbeanfanproject@gmail.com](mailto:caribbeanfanproject@gmail.com).