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IS ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES FOOD SECURE? In terms of energy intake, per capita, per day – YES. But when this energy intake is broken down by food groups – NO.

“...Food Security in the Caribbean is also related to obesity, stroke and heart attacks...”

Thus, countries agreed in 2011 to a “25 by 25” target: to reduce premature death from 4 main non-communicable diseases — (cardiovascular diseases, chronic respiratory diseases, cancers, and diabetes) by 25% from 2010 levels by the year 2025.

FOOD IMPORTS IN SVG

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FOOD IMPORTS

- Food imports cost USD$736 per peson in SVG in 2018, as compared to USD$326 in Jamaica or USD$996 in Barbados.
- Imports are dominant in the health-retarding food groups such as sugar, food from animals, and fats and oils, but not in health-promoting food groups such as vegetables, legumes and fruits.
- The supply of both sugars and fats and oils (import and local sources) was more than double the health goal.
- Foods that are more than minimally processed account for 46% of the food imports. More importantly, the dangerous health-retarding ultra-processed foods contributed 17% of the food import bill. Cornflakes, flour, rice, biscuits are the biggest contributors, costing US$13.5 M in 2018.
- There is a decline in local food production over several decades.

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Can SVG meet the CARICOM Heads “25 by 25” target?
2. What are the local substitutes for the “unnecessary” imports?
3. What are the replacements for the ultra-processed food imports?