

GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA

MEMORANDUM

FROM: PERMANENT SECRETARY - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LANDS AND FORESTRY

TO: CLERK OF PARLIAMENT

DATE: 21st JULY 2026 REF:24/23

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Question No. 1

(a) What were the specific objectives, scope and technical specifications of the National Livestock Breeding Program?

The National Livestock Breeding Program is a strategic Government initiative designed to transform Grenada's livestock sector through genetic improvement, increased meat production, farmer capacity building and long-term food security. The program commenced following the importation of purebred livestock on 4 January 2025, which now serve as the genetic foundation of a national breeding system.

Objectives

The program seeks to:

- 1. Improve the genetic quality of Grenada's pig, sheep and goat populations through the introduction of elite purebred livestock.
- 2. Increase local meat production and improve carcass quality.
- 3. Reduce dependence on imported meat products and improve national food security.
- 4. Increase farm productivity, profitability and rural employment opportunities.
- 5. Establish nationally owned and adapted livestock populations known as the "Spice Breeds", including Spice Duroc, Spice Boer, Spice Dorper and other Grenadian-developed breeds.
- 6. Strengthen livestock housing, biosecurity systems, animal welfare practices, record-keeping and technical capacity among participating farmers.

Program Structure

1. Seedstock Pure Breeding Program

Imported purebred livestock are maintained on Government breeding farms as foreign pure lines to:

- Maintain genetic integrity of imported breeds.
- Produce elite breeding males.
- Conduct performance recording and pedigree documentation.
- Supply replacement breeding animals.

2. Improved Breeding Program

Elite breeding males are distributed to selected farmers and used to improve local livestock populations through a structured upgrading system using controlled breeding, record-keeping, sire rotation and genetic monitoring.

Technical Breeding Strategy

The program follows a six-generation graded backcrossing system:

Generation	Selected Breed Genetics	Local Genetics
F1	50.0%	50.0%
F2	75.0%	25.0%
F3	87.5%	12.5%
F4	93.75%	6.25%
F5	96.88%	3.12%

F6	98.44%	1.56%
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At F6, animals are designated Grenadian purebreds and registered as "Spice Breeds".

Breeding Protocol

- Local females are bred to imported purebred males.
- F1 females are bred back to the original sire to produce F2 animals.
- An unrelated purebred sire is then introduced to produce F3 progeny.
- The process continues through F6.
- All males from F1-F5 are removed from the breeding population and raised for slaughter.
- Females not meeting breeding standards are directed to meat production.
- Sires are rotated periodically to prevent inbreeding.

Artificial Insemination Component

Implemented for pigs with technical support from the Chinese Agricultural Mission. The program:

- Uses semen collected from elite boars.
- Provides access to genetics for small farmers.
- Reduces disease transmission risks.
- Follows the same F1-F6 upgrading system.

Farmer Selection Criteria

Applicants are evaluated based on:

- Access to land.
- Livestock experience.
- Housing and biosecurity standards.
- Feed and water availability.
- Record-keeping capacity.
- Commitment to breeding protocols.
- Participation in training and monitoring.

Selected farmers receive breeding males, technical support, farm assessments, training and infrastructure upgrades where required.

Infrastructure Support

Support includes:

- Construction and upgrading of pens.
- Drainage systems.
- Fencing and predator protection.
- Farrowing facilities.
- Lambing and kidding facilities.
- Feed storage systems.
- Water and sanitation facilities.

Expected Outcomes

Pig Industry

- Slaughter weights projected to increase from approximately 80 lbs. to 108 lbs. at six months.
- Estimated additional pork production of approximately 1,680 lbs. during the initial phase.

Sheep and Goat Industry

- Slaughter weights projected to increase from approximately 20 lbs. to 27 lbs.
- Estimated additional meat production of approximately 2,100 lbs. during the first cycle.

Long-Term Benefits

- Establishment of a Grenadian livestock breed registry.
- Creation of self-sustaining purebred populations.
- Stronger domestic meat supply chains.
- Increased farmer income.
- Reduced food import dependence.
- Job creation throughout the livestock value chain.
- Improved national food security.

(b) How many purebred animals were imported (by species and breed)?

Goats - 159 Head

Breed	Males	Females	Total
Saanen	11	18	29
Alpine	11	20	31
Anglo Nubian	16	25	41
Boer	11	25	36
Kiko	6	16	22
Total Goats	55	104	159

Pigs - 144 Head

Breed	Males	Females	Total
Yorkshire	12	19	31
Landrace	17	24	41
Duroc	12	29	41
Berkshire	12	19	31
Total Pigs	53	91	144

Sheep - 165 Head

Breed	Males	Females	Total
St. Croix	13	17	30
Katahdin	18	32	50
Black Belly	13	27	40
Dorper	13	32	45
Total Sheep	57	108	165

Grand Total Imported: 468 Purebred Animals

(c) What were the arrival, quarantine, and first distribution dates?

- Arrival of imported animals: 4 January 2025.
- Quarantine period: Six (6) weeks.
- First distribution to farmers: 5 September 2025.

The animals arrived at a young age and were retained until they reached sexual maturity before breeding and distribution commenced.

(d) What is the current status of the animals purchased - number distributed, number dead, number in Government possession?

Current Status

Species	Imported	Mortality Rate	Births Recorded
Pigs	146	17%	175 piglets
Sheep	163	7%	37 lambs
Goats	159	10%	58 kids

Production Outcomes

- Total pig births recorded: **175 piglets**.
- An additional **100 piglets** are expected from nine currently pregnant sows.
- Approximately **1,080 lbs. of F1 pork** from twenty finished animals has already entered the local market.

Causes of Mortality Confirmed by Post-Mortem Examinations

- Acute respiratory syndrome.
- Mycoplasma pneumonia.
- Gastric torsion with rupture.
- Acute trauma resulting from animal fights.

The remaining imported breeding stock continues to be maintained on Government breeding farms and participating partner farms as part of the ongoing National Livestock Breeding Program.

Question No. 2

(a) What was the total final cost of the program, including purchase price, air freight, quarantine facilities, veterinary services, and farmer facility upgrades, broken down by capital and recurrent expenditure?

Description	Capital Expenditure (EC\$)	Recurrent Expenditure (EC\$)	Remarks
Purchase of Breeding Animals	2,347,994.85	-	Acquisition of breeding stock
Air Freight & Transportation	-	-	Cost not separately detailed
Quarantine Facilities	-	-	No separate expenditure identified
Veterinary Services	-	-	Services provided by existing Veterinary Officers
Farmer Facility Upgrades	400,000.00	-	Support for farmer facility improvements
Pens Construction & Upgrades	1,692,295.37	-	Livestock housing construction and improvements
TOTAL	4,440,290.22	0.00	

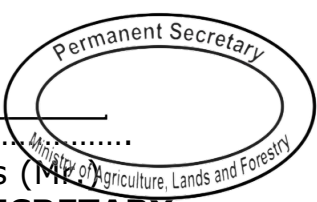
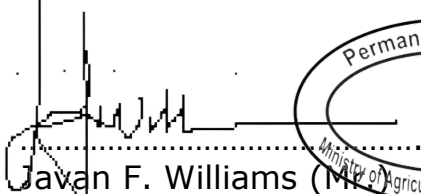
Financial Summary

- Total Capital Expenditure: EC\$4,440,290.22
- Total Recurrent Expenditure Identified: EC\$0.00

The program's infrastructure support and procurement arrangements were administered through the Ministry of Agriculture using approved suppliers and contractors for farm infrastructure improvements.

Summary

The National Livestock Breeding Program is a long-term national genetic improvement and food security initiative combining imported elite livestock, structured breeding protocols, artificial insemination technology, infrastructure development, farmer training, biosecurity enhancement and performance monitoring to create sustainable Grenadian "Spice Breeds" and increase domestic meat production over the long term.



Javan F. Williams (Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry)
PERMANENT SECRETARY

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