



A Success Story in Food Crop Production

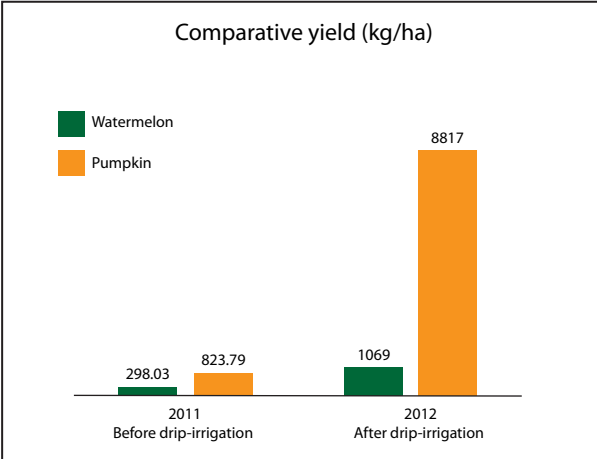
Moving from subsistence farming to a sustainable livelihood

Vegetable production in the Eastern Caribbean is traditionally carried out by small scale subsistence farmers. Production is very limited, and farmers tend to use minimum inputs and very low technologies. These factors, together with low rainfalls in the first six months of the year, result in very low vegetable crop productivity. Farmers consequently do not have much market opportunities, and their income levels decline significantly.

The **CARICOM Farm to Fork Food Security Project** has contributed to year round vegetable production, increased markets, and higher income for small vegetable growers. Vegetable farming is being transformed from subsistence scale to high value enterprises for traditional small farmers. These farmers are witnessing levels of unprecedented production, unbelievable prior to the Project.

For example, by making use of drip irrigation and improved agronomic management practices, pumpkin production in excess of 8000 kg/ha is being achieved – a ten-fold increase.

The **CARICOM Farm to Fork Food Security Project** is demonstrating that vegetable farmers can move from home and community production to more commercial scales, thereby transforming their livelihoods and, at the same time, diversifying and improving the dietary intake of the people of the Caribbean.



By introducing drip irrigation, farmers have realized significant increases in crop yields: a three-fold increase in watermelon production and a ten-fold increase in pumpkin production.

