



Ministry of Planning,
Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport
& Development

Cayman Islands Government



A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation



A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation

CAYMAN ISLANDS Agriculture Land-Use License Policy

2022-2036





CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure
The Cayman Islands Agricultural Land-Use License Policy (CI-ALLP)
2023-2038

August 30, 2023

[Table of Contents](#)

FOREWORD	3
List of Acronyms.....	7
Keywords and Definition.....	7
1.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
2.0. INTRODUCTION	9
2.1. Vision and Purpose:	9
3.0. Link to Sustainable Development Goals, Strategic Broad Outcomes and Policy Goals.....	10
4.0. BENEFITS OF THE POLICY	12
5.0. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION.....	12
6.0. POLICY MONITORING.....	12
7.0. POLICY EVALUATION AND CHANGE	13
8.0. POLICY CHANGE	14
9.0. COMMUNICATION PLAN/STRATEGY.....	14
10.0. CONCLUSION.....	15
11.0. APPENDICES	16

FOREWORD

In the evolving landscape of global challenges and opportunities, the Cayman Islands emerges as a testament to perseverance, innovation, and unity. At the core of any nation's vitality is its ability to sustain its people, to treasure its natural resources, and to nurture growth that is both inclusive and forward-thinking. Recognizing this intrinsic connection between land, livelihood, and legacy, the Cayman Islands Government, through the dedicated efforts of the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, and Infrastructure, presents the Cayman Islands Agricultural Land-use License Policy (CI-ALLP).

This policy is more than a set of guidelines or directives; it is a reflection of a deep-seated commitment to the very soul of the Cayman Islands: its people, its land, and its future. The CI-ALLP encapsulates the collective aspirations of a nation on the cusp of an agricultural transformation, seamlessly integrating principles of sustainability, innovation, and community engagement.

Charting a course that addresses the immediate concerns of the farming community while laying foundational stones for a vibrant agricultural horizon, the CI-ALLP stands as a holistic blueprint. Its vision extends from ensuring equitable land access to fostering state-of-the-art agricultural practices and promoting a culture of inclusivity.

Arriving at this juncture has been a journey marked by rigorous research, extensive community consultations, and a synthesis of global best practices. Every page of the CI-ALLP resonates with the voices of local communities, experts, and stakeholders, making it a harmonious blend of local wisdom and global foresight.

As this policy unfolds to the public, it is the collective hope that each individual, whether directly involved in agriculture or not, recognizes the transformative potential of the CI-ALLP. The power to reshape the agricultural landscape, secure food sources, and foster economic growth lies within the unified efforts of the entire community.

The CI-ALLP is not just a policy; it is a promise—a promise of sustainable growth, shared prosperity, and a brighter future for all in the Cayman Islands.

Cayman Islands Government



Minister's Message

Honourable Minister, Johany "Jay"
Ebanks Ministry of Planning,
Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure,
Transport & Development

To all the residents of the Cayman Islands, It brings me immense pleasure and pride to introduce the Cayman Islands Agricultural Land-use License Policy (CI-ALLP), a groundbreaking initiative, years in the making, aimed at bolstering our nation's agricultural foundation and ensuring a robust and sustainable future for all. Access to agricultural land has always been a pivotal concern for our farming community.

Recognising this, our Ministry, in collaboration with our esteemed colleagues from the Ministry of District Administration and Lands, has identified parcels of Crown land across Grand Cayman. This land, while limited, offers a monumental step towards reshaping our nation's agricultural prospects.

The CI-ALLP's vision is clear and profound: ***"Bolstering the Cayman Islands' food and nutrition security through greater land access and tenure for the farming community."*** Through this policy, we aim to support our farmers by facilitating land access, enabling high-level agricultural production, and ultimately fortifying our nation's food security.

The importance of this initiative cannot be overstated. It is not merely about allocating lands but about creating a brighter, more secure future for the Cayman Islands. Our policy aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals, including ending hunger, promoting gender equality, and ensuring clean water and sanitation, among others. These are global objectives, and with this policy, we are ensuring that the Cayman Islands stands tall in its commitment to these ideals. Our goals are comprehensive. From ensuring affordable land access for our farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices to modernising our agricultural sector, we have meticulously crafted a strategy that will cater to the diverse needs of our farming community and, by extension, our nation.

This policy isn't just about today, but also about tomorrow. We envision an agricultural landscape where our youth and women play an integral role, where innovation thrives, and where every individual has access to nutritious, locally-produced food. We understand the transformative potential of the CI-ALLP and thus have established robust mechanisms for its implementation, monitoring, and periodic review. Our goal is to ensure that we remain adaptive, efficient, and effective in our approach, always keeping the needs of our citizens at the forefront.

Lastly, communication is key. We are committed to keeping you informed every step of the way. Through a comprehensive communication strategy, we aim to ensure that every resident of the Cayman Islands is aware of our endeavors, our progress, and the benefits of this policy.

In conclusion, the CI-ALLP is more than just a policy; it's a promise. A promise to our farmers, to our citizens, and to future generations that the Cayman Islands will continue to grow, innovate, and prosper. We are on the cusp of an agricultural revolution, and with your support, we will ensure that our nation stands as a beacon of progress, resilience, and sustainability.

Yours in Faithful Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Johany Ebanks', written in a cursive style.

Hon. Johany “Jay” Ebanks, Minister
The Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure, Transport & Development

Cayman Islands Government



Chief Officer's Message

**Mr. Eric Bush Ministry of Planning,
Agriculture, Housing and
Infrastructure.**

Dear Residents of the Cayman Islands,

As the Ministry's Chief Officer overseeing Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport, & Development, I am both honoured and excited to share our comprehensive Cayman Islands Agricultural Land-use License Policy (CI-ALLP). Having been deeply involved in the intricate process of shaping this policy, I have witnessed first-hand the dedication, research, and collaboration that has gone into ensuring its effectiveness and far-reaching impact.

Our primary goal has always been clear: to address the pressing need for agricultural land access and use, thereby strengthening the backbone of our island's farming community. Under the esteemed leadership of our Minister and with the unwavering support of our dedicated team, we have crafted a policy that not only addresses immediate needs but also lays the foundation for a sustainable and prosperous agricultural future for our beloved Cayman Islands. The CI-ALLP isn't just a document; it's a testament to our commitment to bolstering the Cayman Islands' food and nutrition security. It reflects our vision of an empowered farming community, thriving Agro-Parks, and a nation resilient in its food sources and sustainability. I understand the transformative power of collaboration and communication. As we embark on this journey, I assure you that we will be working closely with all stakeholders, ensuring transparency, and fostering an environment of mutual growth and understanding. Your feedback, insights, and participation will be invaluable in ensuring the success of this initiative.

In closing, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to every individual who has contributed to the creation of the CI-ALLP. This policy is a culmination of our collective vision, effort, and determination. Together, we are paving the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for our Cayman Islands.

Warm regards,

Mr. Eric Bush
Chief Officer
Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing, Infrastructure, Transport &
Development

Cayman Islands Government

List of Acronyms

ABP	-	Agro-Business Plan
APL	-	Agreed Production Levels
CI-ABIS	-	Cayman Islands Agriculture Business Information System
CI-ALLP	-	Cayman Islands Agricultural Land-use License Policy (CI-ALLP)
CIAS	-	Cayman Islands Agricultural Society
CIFNSP	-	Cayman Islands Food & Nutrition Security Policy
CIG	-	Cayman Islands Government
DOA	-	Department of Agriculture
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
MDAL	-	Ministry of District Administration & Lands
MPAHI	-	Ministry of Planning, Agriculture Housing & Infrastructure
ALLERC	-	Agricultural Land-use License Evaluation and Review Committee

Keywords and Definition

Agro Park/Production Zone – An Agro Park is an area of an intensive, contiguous, parcel of land for agricultural production that seeks to integrate all facets of the agricultural value chain from pre-production to production, post-harvesting, and marketing.

Sustainable Agriculture - has many facets. Environmental sustainability, for example, means good stewardship of the natural systems and resources that farms rely on. This includes: Building healthy soil and preventing erosion; managing water wisely; minimizing air and water pollution; storing carbon on farms; increasing resilience to extreme weather; and promoting biodiversity. Another facet of an economically and socially sustainable agriculture system which enabling farms of all sizes to be profitable and contribute to their local economies.

Gross Domestic Product - the total value of goods produced and services provided in a country during one year.

Post-harvest facilities – are used to store crop produce immediately following harvest, which facilitates the handling, cooling, cleaning, sorting, and packing of them.

Crown land - is a territorial area belonging to the British monarch, who personifies the Crown.

1.0. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Access to land for agricultural purposes remains one of the greatest needs within the farming community. The Crown owns parcels of land across Grand Cayman that are suited for this purpose. The M-PAHI (hereafter referred to as “the Ministry of Agriculture”) commissioned the development of a Land-use License policy with the support of the Ministry of District Administration and Lands (M-DAL) to identify and subdivide these important state assets for agricultural purposes.

While the parcels of land identified are limited, the economic and social impact is very significant. The CI-ALLP sets forth clear goals and objectives that the CIG expects to achieve. It outlines the license arrangements that will provide the right to use the designated properties for a specified period at a specified cost; the title remains with the Licensor. At no time will the licensee build equity in the property.

“The CI-ALLP vision is to Bolstering the Cayman Islands’ food and nutrition security through greater land access and tenure for the farming community.”

In keeping with the CIG Broad Outcomes, the CI-ALLP will facilitate the government’s goal of *“supporting the farming community to build a stronger, more vibrant, and modern agricultural sector to bolster the Cayman Islands’ food and nutrition security efforts¹”*.

The Ministry of Agriculture will govern the licensing of Crown lands and other facilities that will be constructed on these properties. It will be the custodian and retain oversight responsibility. Through the relevant committees and the departments by which the lands will be allocated, operationalized, maintained, and monitored. These lands will be solely for developing Agro-Parks/Production zones.

To support the CI-ALLP, a framework, and procedures have been developed with the view to harmonizing the mechanisms and procedures and setting out a comprehensive approach to handling Land-use License applications. The goal is to ensure the effective management of the lands in such a way as to generate optimum benefits to the agricultural sector and the overall economic development of the Cayman Islands. This CI-ALLP also outlines the delegation of authority and provides guidelines for the application approval process and periodic review of the licenses.

¹ <https://www.caymancompass.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2022-2024-Strategic-Policy-Statement.pdf>

2.0. INTRODUCTION

As part of its strategic vision to bolster the food security efforts of the Cayman Islands and continue the modernization of the agricultural sector the CIG, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has created the **CI-ALLP**.

The CI-ALLP has been developed to facilitate access and distribution of Crown agricultural lands to the farming community for commercial purposes in a structured and organized manner. The lands once identified will be developed into Agro-Parks/Production Zones which will be the primary sites across the Grand Cayman for high levels of agricultural production.

Scope of the Policy.

The CI-ALLP seeks to serve as a guide for the oversight, operation, and allocation of the lands, the license and the application process for the lands, and the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the process. It will also outline the conditions of how the lands can be distributed and the license agreement between the CIG and the applicant.

2.1. Vision and Purpose:

“Bolstering the Cayman Islands’ food and nutrition security through greater land access and tenure for the farming community.”

In keeping with the CIG Broad Outcomes, the CI-ALLP will facilitate the government’s goal of “supporting the farming community to build a stronger, more vibrant, and modern agricultural sector to bolster the Cayman Islands’ food and nutrition security efforts²”.

2.2. National Policy:

The Cayman Islands Food & Security Policy: CIFNSP's objective is that the Cayman Islands will be **A Food and Nutrition Secure Nation**.

*The overarching Strategic Outcome of the CIFNSP is **to ensure the availability and accessibility of adequate, affordable, safe, and nutritious food for all people at all times in the Cayman Islands, especially the vulnerable, to meet their dietary and food preferences for an active and healthy life.***

The CI-ALLP is one of the strategies of the Government to support the implementation of the Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Policy (CIFNSP). This will be through the provision of Crown lands to promote an increase in sustainable domestic production; strengthen the resilience of the farming community; increase the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and promote greater participation in the sector for youth and women.

² <https://www.caymancompass.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/2022-2024-Strategic-Policy-Statement.pdf>

The lease will be for a period not exceeding 2 years. Applicants will be able to renew such licenses at the end of the period. (*see appendix 4 and 7*)

3.0. [Link to Sustainable Development Goals, Strategic Broad Outcomes, and Policy Goals](#)

Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG 1: No Poverty

SDG 2: End Hunger

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 6: Clean water and Sanitation

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

SDG 13: Climate Action

SDG 15: Life on Land

Strategic Broad Outcome:

- I. Broad Outcome 3- Providing solutions to improve the well-being of our people so they can achieve their full potential
- II. Broad Outcomes # 5: A Supporting Climate Change Resilience and Sustainable Development. 5) Build a legacy of sustainability j) Bolster food security efforts.
- III. Broad Outcome 8- Building a modern infrastructure to ensure a successful future for our Islands.

The following are the goals of the CI-ALLP:

Goal 1 – Increase access to affordable lands for the farming community for agricultural purposes:

Recognising one of the major needs within the farming community is access to land for agricultural purposes.

Goal 2 – Enhance overall sustainable agricultural production to support the Cayman Islands Food and Nutrition Security Policy: promoting the balance between agricultural production and the protection of the environment.

Goal 3 – Enhance the growth, modernization, and development of local agriculture: develop the lands with the appropriate technology and facilities.

The Goals are supported by the following Strategies and Objectives :

Goal 1 – Increase access to affordable lands for the farming community for agricultural purposes: Recognising one of the major needs within the farming community is access to land for agricultural purposes.

3.1. Strategy: Ensure crown land availability for use

- 3.1.1. Objective 1: Ensure that an inventory is conducted to ascertain the acreage of Crown lands that are available for licensing for agricultural purposes
- 3.1.2. Objective 2: Provide arable crownlands for farming consistent with legislation and policies for agricultural purposes.
- 3.1.3. Objective 3: Establish clear guidelines, procedures, and mechanisms to ensure transparency and fair, equal access in Land-use License arrangements.
- 3.1.4. Objective 4: Promote the use of CIG crown land for sustainable agricultural use to the farming community.
- 3.1.5. Objective 5: Support the full utilization of crown agricultural lands, ensuring their full maintenance and revenue-earning potential.
- 3.1.6. Objective 6: Ensure that the cost to use crown lands under the CI-ALLP is affordable and that the financial support is there to promote access.
- 3.1.7. Objective 7: Promote greater access to agricultural lands for women and youth.

Goal 2 – Enhance overall sustainable agricultural production to support the CIFNSP: promoting the balance between agricultural production and the protection of the environment.

3.2. Strategy: Promote sustainable agricultural production to support the CIFNSP

- 3.2.1. Objective 1: Promote good agricultural practices and sustainable use of agricultural lands and protect the environment.
- 3.2.2. Objective 2: Promote farming practices that will lead to increased agricultural production and enhance efforts to bolster overall food security.
- 3.2.3. Objective 3: Increase the cultivation of certain high-yielding commodities that will result in reduced importation.
- 3.2.4. Objective 4: Support the farming community to access agricultural inputs that will enhance sustainable production and protect the environment.
- 3.2.5. Objective 5: Increase competitiveness and productivity within the sector.
- 3.2.6. Objective 6: Enact policies and practices that will lead towards carbon-net zero operations within the lands under this CI-ALLP commensurate to the Climate Change Policy.

Goal 3 – Enhance the growth, modernization, and development of local agriculture: developing crown lands that will be made available with appropriate technology and facilities.

3.3. Strategy: Enhance the growth and modernization of the sector through sustainable farming

- 3.3.1. Objective 1: Identify and secure crown lands that are to be made available and outfitted with the requisite resources and infrastructure that are required to drive agricultural production

- 3.3.2. Objective 2: Provide the technical support that will lead to the optimum use of the land and success of the investors/farming community
- 3.3.3. Objective 3: Provide the incentive and support to access technology to continue the modernization of local agriculture
- 3.3.4. Objective 4: Promote climate-smart and smart agriculture practices on crown lands to be used to drive overall production in line with the Climate Change Policy.

4.0. BENEFITS OF THE POLICY

- a) Provide irrigable Crown land with facilities (sanitary and post-harvest facilities) to farmers for agricultural purposes at an affordable cost.
- b) Provide land tenure through the use of lands to the members of the farming community.
- c) Increase production of safe, nutritious, high-quality local agricultural produce for local consumption.
- d) Reduction in food imports of certain commodities.
- e) Increased efficiencies and sustainable practices in local agriculture.
- f) Supports the overall implementation of the CIFNSP and the Government's Broad Outcome.
- g) Increases job opportunities and potential income for the farming community.
- h) Increases the contribution of the sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

5.0. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The CI-ALLP implementation will include determining the conditionalities of the policy, how the crown lands will be allotted, and transferred, the associated fees, the permitted crown land uses, the establishment of infrastructure and the maintenance thereof, and forfeiture provisions, among other matters as outlined in (Appendix 4 **Principles and Procedures for Granting License**) The implementation will begin as soon as Cabinet approves the policy. The Agricultural Land-use License Evaluation and Review Committee (ALLERC) will be established to allocate the crown lands based on the scope of the policy (refer to Appendix 2: Institutional Framework for more information on the Committees). All crown lands to be allocated and distributed under this policy will be identified by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with MDALS and the Department of Planning, and subject to approval by the Cabinet.

6.0. POLICY MONITORING

The ALLERC will receive quarterly reports from the DOA on the operation of the CI-ALLP to enable the successful monitoring of the CI-ALLP and license arrangements. The ALLERC shall provide a progress report to the Chief Officer of the M-PAHI on any actions taken along with any other pertinent operational update.

The DOA will provide technical and extension support to ensure the implementation of the CI-ALLP is in keeping with its scope and its stated objectives. The resources provided under the CI-ALLP including, plots of land, irrigation systems, and infrastructure (roads, post-harvest facilities, restrooms, etc.) will be monitored and maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Lands the Public Works Department, National Roads Authority, and the DOA.

Farmers will be selected based on the approved criteria. Their farm practices will be monitored by the DOA to ensure they are environmentally friendly and climate-smart. All chemicals (fertilizers and chemicals) that will be used on the lands provided will be approved and monitored by the DOA. This is to ensure that all resources are fully functional, operational, and maintained for the successful implementation and operation of the CI-ALLP.

7.0. POLICY EVALUATION AND CHANGE

It is expected that every four years, the Ministry of Agriculture through its external partners such as the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development, Institute (CARDI)) will conduct an external review of the CI-ALLP framework, the implementation of action plans, and supporting documents. This independent and duly appointed body will conduct a review that is independent, non-biased, and fair.

Factors influencing review and evaluation may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) The overall achievements of the CI-ALLP goals and objectives, and the weaknesses, and strengths of the policy. The progress towards the overall operationalization of the CI-ALLP might determine amendments/changes.
- b) Legal changes affecting the CI-ALLP in related regulation or to better meet the requirements of an international convention, treaty, act, agreement, or similar document that influences the CI-ALLP and the Cayman Islands is a party to, whether directly, or as a British Overseas Territory. In other words, the Policy may be subject to review based on a legal obligation.
- c) Public sentiments (including key stakeholders and beneficiaries).
- d) A request by a CIG through one of its Ministry/Departments or other key stakeholders, detailing reasons for such request. The reasoning may include, but not be limited to, bullet b).
- e) The need to review goals and/or strategies in light of new information.
- f) The availability of resources (experts, funding, etc.) to carry out the review and evaluation

Judgments on the CI-ALLP in meeting its scope may be advanced on how well the policy is doing from a “big picture” as well as detailed perspectives. Evaluation considerations may consist of, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) What was exemplary in meeting or exceeding targets and why? How can this information be used to further acknowledge, reinforce, and inform good practice?

- b) Conversely, what was inefficient or ineffective? Why so? How can inefficiency and ineffectiveness be addressed?
- c) What was incomplete or not done, and why? What lessons can be learned? In other words, were there any implementation gaps - i.e. what should have happened but didn't? Also, were there any unforeseen omissions?
- d) Conversely, in hindsight, what was completed, despite good intentions, that should not have been? Why?
- e) Based on the extent of implementation, as well as expectations in the CI-ALLP, what "grade" should be awarded for the implementation of Goals, Strategies, and Objectives? How do these grades inform and impact the CI-ALLP moving forward?
- f) What could have been improved if a different approach was taken?

All of the above considerations should inform the Ministry of Agriculture's development and implementation of a review and evaluation plan to assess how well the CI-ALLP is doing and as a "blueprint" toward enhancing policy implementation accountability and effectiveness. The template of this plan could serve as a good practice model for any other national policy to be created and for similar regional policies.

8.0. POLICY CHANGE

At the end of each review period, any recommended policy change will be informed by policy monitoring, review, and evaluation. The CI-ALLP is subject to change by the Cabinet of the Cayman Islands on the recommendation of the ALLERC through the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for agriculture.

Policy change is necessary to keep the CI-ALLP in sync with altered priorities, obligations, and expectations. The timing of change should be influenced by considerations mentioned in the previous section on policy review and evaluation. The process of policy change (i.e. preparation and submission of Cabinet Papers, etc.) is well-known to entities involved in that process and need not be detailed here.

9.0. COMMUNICATION PLAN/STRATEGY

This CI-ALLP will require a comprehensive communication strategy to communicate the scope, the benefits to be realized, and other details of the policy. The Ministry of Agriculture will work will be outsourcing this effort to a third party to organize a public relations campaign through Grand Cayman. The Ministry of Agriculture will utilize all the approved communication mediums approved by the CIG to ensure that the stakeholders and the wider public are consulted, involved, and informed about the CI-ALLP.

10.0. CONCLUSION

The CI-ALLP aims to make Crown lands available to the farming community at an affordable rate and with tenure not greater than two years. With the support of key stakeholders, lands outfitted with the requested inputs and facilities will be made available to the beneficiaries within Agro-Park/Production Zones. This 15-year CI-ALLP is designed to support the success of the CIFNSP and the achievement of related Broad Outcomes of the Government. The appendices that follow outline how this CI-ALLP will be implemented through the action plan, the license application process, the conditions for the license, and the lands identified to be made available to the farming community among other matters.

11.0. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Background

Appendix 2: Institutional Framework

Appendix 3: SWOT Analysis

Appendix 4: Principles and procedures for granting the license

Appendix 5: CI-ALLP – Action Plan

Appendix 6: License Application Process

Appendix 7: Conditionalities for allocation of lands

Appendix 8: CI-ALLP – Evaluation Sheet

Appendix 9: Acknowledgements/ Stakeholders Consulted