**Ministry of Agro-Industry & Food Security**

**Press Communiqué**

**Household Gardening Scheme**

The Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security hereby informs the public that a new Household Gardening Scheme is being presently implemented in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI).

The said scheme primarily aims at promoting intensive gardening in backyards to encourage food crop cultivation at household level. The scheme proposes to facilitate access to mini-sheltered units, aquaponics/mini-hydroponics/vertical farming structures or other innovative production systems acceptable to FAREI.

Prospective beneficiaries are eligible to a cash grant representing **75%** on cost of farming structures/systems to be purchased, up to a maximum of Rs15, 000 per household on a first come first serve basis.

Those interested to benefit from this Scheme are invited to submit their applications by filling in an application form prescribed to that effect. The form can be downloaded from the website of the Ministry at <https://agriculture.govmu.org> and FAREI at https://farei.mu or collected at its regional offices, namely:

North: Mapou Model Farm: Tel.: 266-1587 or 266-2087;

South: Plaisance Demonstration Centre: Tel.: 637-8112;

 Rivière des Anguilles Demonstration Centre : Tel.: 626-2554 ;

East: Flacq Model Farm: Tel.: 413-8125 or 413-4617; and

Centre: Extension and Training Department, Level 1, FSC Building, St Pierre. Tel. 433-9350 or 433-4378

 Vacoas Extension Sub office: Tel.: 606-3087

Duly filled in application forms, together with copies of National Identity Card and proof of residential address of applicants, in addition to relevant quotation from supplier of structure/s to be acquired must reach FAREI Sub offices as mentioned above, at latest, by **Friday 28th May 2021**, according to sanitary protocol in place and in alphabetical order.

***Ministry Agro-Industry & Food Security***

***Level 9, Renganaden Seeneevassen Building,***

***Cnr. Jules Koenig & Maillard Street, Port-Louis***

***12 March 2021***