

THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT
Fifth Edition, held on 28 and 29 August 2026

Motion:

The Member of the National Youth Parliament (Mr Jamalooddeen)

“The National Youth Parliament resolves that Mauritius strengthens national food security by strategically reducing dependence on food imports, expanding sustainable and climate-resilient domestic agrifood production, and enabling meaningful participation of young Mauritians throughout the agrifood value chain.”

THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT,

RECOGNISING that food security is essential to the health, nutrition, well-being and economic stability of Mauritius, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal 2; and

NOTING WITH CONCERN that Mauritius has an overall food self-sufficiency ratio of approximately 25%, while agricultural imports amounted to approximately US\$1.6 billion, or 24.4% of total imports, in 2024; and

NOTING that total food-crop production increased by 11.6%, from 169,700.8 tonnes in 2024 to 189,372.1 tonnes in 2025, while open-field production increased by 9.9% to 175,122.2 tonnes and covered-cultivation production by 36.7% to 14,249.9 tonnes, demonstrating opportunities to raise productivity without proportionately expanding cultivated land; and

ALARMED that climate change, cyclones, floods, droughts, irregular rainfall, pests, diseases, soil degradation, water scarcity and other environmental pressures threaten agricultural and marine production, noting that Mauritius received 3,402 million cubic metres of precipitation in 2025, 16.6% less than in 2024; and

FURTHER RECOGNISING the importance of youth engagement and agricultural succession, particularly given an ageing farming population and a youth unemployment rate of 18.4% among persons aged 16–24 in 2025, while acknowledging the barriers young people face in accessing land, finance, training, technology, infrastructure and markets, and welcoming youth-focused initiatives; and

RECOGNISING the potential of Artificial Intelligence, precision agriculture and other digital technologies to monitor soil and crop health, pests, diseases, weather, irrigation and yields and to improve forecasting, inventory management, e-commerce, business analytics and resource efficiency, while combining technology with farmers' knowledge and ensuring affordable access, training, data, finance and technical assistance for smallholders, Small and Medium Enterprises and cooperatives; and

RECOGNISING the strategic importance of the fishing and seafood sectors of Mauritius for food security, employment, livelihoods and exports and the opportunities offered by its extensive Exclusive Economic Zone, while remaining concerned by pressures from climate change, marine pollution, resource depletion, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and high operating costs; and

ACKNOWLEDGING the 25by35 Food Security Initiative and related national measures intended to increase domestic production and food resilience by 2035,

THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT HEREBY:

1. RECOMMENDS the implementation of a comprehensive National Youth Agri-Entrepreneurship and Decent Work Programme combining accredited training, mentorship by experienced farmers, start-up finance, social protection, mechanisation, improved working conditions, market access and incentives for climate-smart practices to make agriculture an attractive and viable profession for young Mauritians; and

2. URGES for the implementation of a transparent Young Farmer Land Access Scheme providing affordable long-term leases of suitable underutilised State agricultural land, including a defined allocation for youth-led and women-led agricultural enterprises, supported by sustainable-production obligations, low-interest financing, mentorship, technical assistance and measurable food-production objectives, thereby promoting equal and meaningful participation of women and young people in agricultural production and agrifood entrepreneurship; and

3. CALLS UPON Government to progressively expand Agriculture as a mainstream secondary-school subject, building on the 40 grant-aided schools currently offering same, including schools in Rodrigues Island, while developing the required Grade 7–9 curriculum and qualified teaching capacity, to equip young Mauritians with practical agricultural skills and strengthen the future domestic food-production workforce; and

4. CALLS FOR the implementation of a National Post-Harvest and Inter-Island Food Logistics Programme supporting solar-powered cold storage, regional aggregation and processing facilities, and refrigerated, low-carbon transport links between and within mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues Island and the two Agaléga Islands to reduce food losses and facilitate the reliable movement of agricultural and fishery products; and

5. CALLS UPON Government, through the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Agricultural Services and existing seed institutions, to implement a National Climate-Resilient Seed and Agricultural Research Programme supporting the domestic development, multiplication and distribution of locally adapted and climate-resilient seeds, alongside research into sustainable agricultural technologies and appropriate biotechnology subject to robust biosafety standards; and

6. CALLS FOR the implementation of an AI-enabled precision-agriculture and advisory system using sensors, drones, satellite data and weather forecasts to optimise irrigation, monitor crops and soil conditions, improve productivity, conserve water, and provide early warnings of flooding and other climate risks, supported by practical training and affordable access for smallholder farmers; and

7. CALLS UPON Government to strengthen sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through scientific stock assessments, monitoring of illegal fishing, sustainable catch limits, marine spatial planning, local hatcheries, aquaculture research, fishing training and responsible expansion of domestic fish production; and

8. CALLS FOR a National Food Security Implementation Framework aligned with the 2030 objectives and future food-security legislation, establishing measurable targets for domestic production, import dependence, affordability, nutrition, water security, productivity, strategic reserves, climate resilience and post-harvest losses, with coordinated implementation across relevant ministries and institutions; and

9. FINALLY, RECOMMENDS the implementation of a National Food Loss and Waste Reduction Programme requiring appropriate measurement, reporting and reduction targets for major hotels, supermarkets, caterers and public institutions, providing municipal food-waste collection points and promoting redistribution, composting, responsible consumption and public education consistent with SDG 12.3.
