



## Task Force to Present the Preliminary Territorial Agricultural Plan, Seeking Public Feedback

*Territory-Wide Hybrid Town Hall on Thursday, September 23; 5:30 - 7:30 pm*

**September 16, 2021, US Virgin Islands** - After months of research, consultation, and community outreach initiatives including three community town halls on three islands, focus groups, and surveys distributed to farmers, food retailers, and the general public, the Agricultural Plan Task Force will discuss the findings of the Preliminary Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan for additional public input on Thursday, September 23, 2021, during a territory-wide hybrid town hall from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The goal of the 2021 Territorial Agricultural Plan is to increase agricultural productivity in the Territory in an effort to make food security and sovereignty not just labels and catch phrases but a true reflection of the reality of the lives of people in the Virgin Islands.

“This is your plan, the task force is merely the architect,” explains University of the Virgin Islands President Dr. David Hall, co-leader of the Agricultural Plan Task Force. “We have listened to territory farmers, gardeners, the community and stakeholders to understand the challenges, concerns, successes, and priorities. We value your feedback immensely and now ask the public to review our preliminary plan to ensure we are on track so we can make any adjustments as needed.”

Farmers and interested members of the community are invited to join the Task Force’s Preliminary Territorial Agricultural Plan Town Hall via Zoom at [bit.ly/AGTownHall2](https://bit.ly/AGTownHall2) (*this link is case sensitive*) on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 5:30 pm AST. Alternatively, you may access the meeting via Meeting ID: 946 3309 6097.

Website: [doa.vi.gov/ag-plan](https://doa.vi.gov/ag-plan)  
Email: [agplan@doa.vi.gov](mailto:agplan@doa.vi.gov)



There is also limited seating available for in-person participation on St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John. To ensure the health and safety of attendees, social distancing and proper masks usage will be strictly enforced. Pre-registration for those attending in-person is required. If interested, please call (340) 693-1003.

The Locations for in-person attendance are as follows:

- ST. CROIX: University of Virgin Islands, the Great Hall
- ST. JOHN: Cleone H. Creque Legislative Conference Room
- ST. THOMAS: University of Virgin Islands Administration & Conference Center

The initiative to create an Agricultural Plan was directed by Act 8404, and it must contain policy and funding recommendations to support and expand the local food system, to increase locally grown food production and to provide an avenue of food security in the Territory. The agricultural plan must include short-term and long-term goals, including proposals for legislative enactment.

We thank the many farmers, community members, plan reviewers, surveyors, and researchers that took part in our active discussions about farming in the Territory!

More information on the 2021 Agricultural Plan can be found online at [doa.vi.gov/ag-plan](https://doa.vi.gov/ag-plan) or if you would like to share feedback about your ideas, please email [agplan@doa.vi.gov](mailto:agplan@doa.vi.gov).

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