



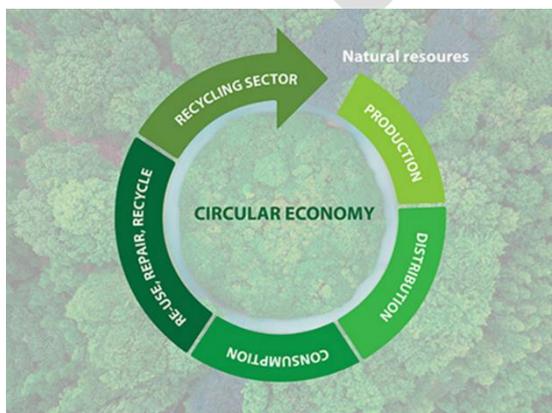
## GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Responsible consumption and sustainable production practices have taken centre-stage in the way Mauritians act. Since an early stage, successive Governments have consciously engaged in setting regulations and legislations to protect the environment thereby ensuring the survival of the Mauritian biodiversity.

In 2008, Mauritius selected as a pilot country, implemented Rio+20 decisions by adopting the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption Patterns. A *National Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)* was developed with the support of *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*. It encompassed around 44 projects in priority areas such as agriculture, manufacturing, integrated waste management and tourism.

Along the same vein, a series of initiatives were introduced to influence consumer behaviour, including the banning of plastic bags and encouraging use of energy efficient electronic appliances.

As the SCP paved the way to accelerating the transition of Mauritius to an eco-efficient economy, production patterns changed and adapted. Adoption of innovative and creative solutions in agricultural production patterns spurred productivity and self-sufficiency. In addition, the enactment of the *Pesticides Act* in 2018 encroached further the necessity to produce healthy and safe crops for the population. Furthermore, financial and fiscal incentives are provided to support



farmers in investing in sustainable production systems involving rainwater harvesting, sheltered farming, hydroponics as well as aquaponics. A *Bio-farming Development Certificate* is also in place. Land, to an extent of 27 hectares, has been made available to planters at Britannia, located in the South, for bio-production.

Tourism is another sector where practicing SCP has led to a direct positive impact on environment, enhancing productivity, created jobs and alleviated

Leading Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2014, Rodrigues boldly banned the use of plastic bags.</li> <li>• After a levy of Rs 1 in 2006 and Rs 2 in 2010, Central Government followed this initiative and applied a complete ban in 2015.</li> <li>• A number of domestic electrical appliances are required under the <i>Energy Efficiency Act</i> to have energy labels affixed.</li> <li>• In collaboration with Business Mauritius, some 106 energy audits were conducted under the <i>Programme National d'Efficacité Energétique (PNEE)</i> since its implementation in 2015.</li> <li>• The Building Control Act incorporates sustainability requirements that encourage water and energy conservation and sound onsite waste management.</li> <li>• A <i>Building Rating System</i> is also in place to ensure compliance and the <i>Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)</i> conditions were improved accordingly.</li> </ul>

poverty among communities, thereby directly contributing to increasing the economic, social and environmental welfare of the island and its people.

The introduction of the **Stock Exchange of Mauritius Sustainability Index (SEMSI)** in 2015 has increased interests of private companies in having more meaningful engagement towards the society, the economy and the environment. The SEMSI also offers a useful tool for domestic and international investors with an appetite for responsible investment in frontier markets.

## BRIGHT SPOTS

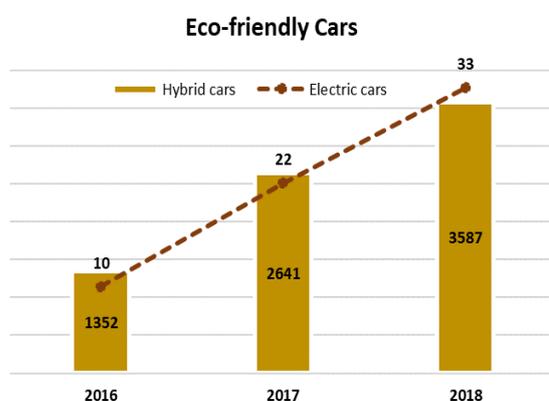
### CERTIFICATION TO GREEN AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

In 2016, a local Good Agricultural Practice standard, the MauriGAP, was developed. The aim was to establish basic principles for sustainable crop production that will ensure that the crops are free of chemical substances and hence safe and healthy for human consumption.

In parallel, the standard also encourages the adoption of environmentally sound practices for natural resources and biodiversity preservation.

The initiative is supported by the European Union and implemented under the SWITCH Africa Green project. To date, some 500 planters have been trained and there are around 75 who are MauriGAP certified.

### ENCOURAGING USE OF ECO-FRIENDLY VEHICLES



### Skills and Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Educated Youths

The project aims at attracting young unemployed graduates to engage in modern and sustainable farming activities.

Government has provided appropriate space – a sheltered farming park on state land in Plaine Magnien, located in the southern region of the island. 10 trainees were also provided with capacity building by FAREI.

Trainees are allocated each a modular unit covering a floor area of 1,989.7 m<sup>2</sup> and equipped with irrigation and fertigation<sup>1</sup> facilities. In addition, each trainee is provided with appropriate technical support and other handholding assistance by the FAREI.

The pilot project is operational since early 2018 and is expected to allow trainees to gain skills and experience they need to create self-employment opportunities with decent revenue generation potential in the non-sugar segment through the adoption of innovative production technologies such as vertical production and fertigation.

<sup>1</sup>Fertigation is the practice of injection of nutrients through the irrigation system.

With a dual aim of encouraging the use of eco-friendly vehicles and reducing consumption of fossil fuels, existing excise duty on hybrid motor cars, between 1,001 to 1,600 cc, was lowered from 55 per cent to 25 per cent in 2016. In the same year, all excise duty was removed from electric cars of up to 180 KW and made more accessible to the public. Since its introduction, the number of hybrid cars registered has more than doubled. On the other hand, that of electric cars tripled in two years' time.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

While opportunities exist for the recovery and disposal of hazardous wastes such as waste oil, e-wastes, healthcare and asbestos wastes locally, it is not economically viable for other types of hazardous chemical wastes produced. To address this issue and in line with obligations to international Conventions (*Basel, Bamako* and *Minamata*), an interim storage facility was set up in 2016 at *La Chaumière, Bambous*, off the west coast of Mauritius.

The facility is designed to store up to 1,700 tonnes of hazardous chemical wastes such as laboratory and industrial chemical wastes (acids, alkalis, heavy metal wastes, spent organic solvents, organic sludges and other inorganic and organic chemical wastes), paint wastes, obsolete pesticides, pharmaceutical wastes, waste gas cylinders and waste aerosols, amongst others. It is equipped with an on-site laboratory, quarantine and repackaging building and three separate storage buildings and fire-fighting system, where hazardous chemical wastes are collected, analysed and prepared for interim storage before exporting to licensed facilities for recovery and disposal.

A private company operates, manages and maintains the facility. So far, around 180 tonnes of hazardous chemical wastes from more than 200 organisations, public and private, have been collected for interim storage.

In addition, generators of hazardous chemical wastes are required to pay a subsidised fee for the disposal of their wastes.

## GREENING OF THE HOTEL INDUSTRY



Mauritius is set to acquire the *Green Destination* status by 2030. In this regard, a series of strategies and policies set out in the Tourism Strategic Plan 2018-2021 are being implemented. The Plan advocates for a skill-intensive and technology-driven model of tourism development.

Provisions have also been made to encourage hotel promoters to adopt eco-friendly and energy-saving practices, including through the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, use of economic bulbs, renewable energy supply, among others. It is also mandatory for hotels with at least 50 rooms and located on the seaside to provide for a desalination plant, while those with 75 rooms and above, be equipped with a wastewater treatment plant.

In 2018, the *Improving Sustainable Tourism in Mauritius through Greening the Value Chain of Tour Operators* – SUS-ISLAND Mauritius project was launched. Funded by the EU under the SWITCH Africa Green Programme, it aims at promoting sustainable tourism in Mauritius by demonstrating and scaling up self-sustaining mechanisms for improving sustainability impacts along value chains. It will also raise awareness for sustainable tourism products and thus establish a market for them, while improving on the positive sustainability impacts such as community development, cultural preservation, ecosystem quality, authentic experience, and reduce negative impacts such as resource overuse, emission, social consequences.

## CENTRE DE FORMATION AGRICOLE FRÈRE REMY IN RODRIGUES

The Centre, which is considered as a model for SCP practices and eco-entrepreneurship development, provides young people, aged 12 - 18 years, with academic difficulties and who no longer attend school, an opportunity to undertake vocational training in the field of agriculture and farming.

Since 2015, with the support of the EU, under the SWITCH Africa Green initiative, some 64 girls and boys were initiated. The aim is to

contribute to poverty reduction by supporting private sector-led inclusive green growth actions.



## FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change, pests and diseases are major challenges in the adoption of sustainable production practices.</li> <li>• The outbreak of the <i>Foot and Mouth Disease</i> (FMD) in 2016 highlighted the need for improvement in phyto-sanitary and quarantine surveillance system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The enactment of the new <i>Use of Pesticides Act</i> 2018 is a stepping stone towards adoption of chemical-free production.</li> <li>• In an attempt to preserve good and healthy produce, Government is also strengthening the quarantine surveillance and phyto-sanitary border controls related to import and export inspections.</li> <li>• On-field surveillance for animal diseases, crop pests and vectors as well as treatment standards and processes and certification methodologies will also be adopted.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land abandonment relates mainly to sugar cane sector. Declining prices of sugar on the international market is making it more difficult for the planters to engage in sugar production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In view of increasing self-sufficiency, Government is encouraging diversification from sugar to vegetables and fruits production.</li> <li>• Farmers are also being sensitized to engage more in crop cultivation via numerous schemes, incentives and capacity building.</li> <li>• Re-engineering of the agricultural sector into an Agro Industry with a view to increasing the efficiency and profitability of the sector, rendering it more attractive for young entrepreneurs.</li> <li>• Developing Eco-tourism as a new economic pillar for job creation and wealth generation;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting the development of sustainable agriculture and organic farming through environment friendly production techniques and efficient management of natural resources.</li> <li>• Boost up food production including via cross-border initiatives to ensure food security and improve livelihood of farmers.</li> <li>• Establish an Agricultural Risk Management Framework to increase the resilience of farmers to address their vulnerability to climate changes;</li> <li>• Encourage value addition of agricultural products for domestic, regional and international markets.</li> <li>• Ensure continuous capacity-building programs across the sector.</li> <li>• Strengthen the position of women, youth and vulnerable groups in the value-chains;</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste management is another major challenge. Due to the continued increase in solid wastes generation, the lifespan of the Mare Chicose landfill is rapidly shortened.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is need to find alternative solutions, including possible new sites for waste disposal, including hazardous wastes.</li> <li>• In addition, the possibility of increasing the capacity of Mare Chicose by at least 5 years, vertical expansion of the landfill is being explored. Additional land for the disposal of waste is being identified.</li> <li>• Government through the waste-to-energy programme is facilitating greening of industries. In particular, the PNEE, in collaboration with Business Mauritius, is being extended through 2018 to 2022.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycling is at the moment at a very initial stage. Attempts are being made to stimulate industrial symbiosis through the establishment of a recycling industry and a circular economy in Mauritius. However, lack of legislation and adequate facilities are obstacles to be overcome in this direction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote the recycling practices in the industry, a comprehensive Waste Recycling Framework is being developed.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tourism sector is ever challenged by uncertainties and vulnerabilities such as rising fuel prices, climate change as well as evolving awareness of the new consumer of tourism products.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given that tourism is a cross cutting sector, there is need to strengthen coordination among different policy areas and governmental institutions to ensure better policy coherence and for more effective and efficient deployment of resources.</li> <li>• The Strategic Plan 2018-2021 developed for the tourism sector is geared towards intensifying the visibility of the destination, improving accessibility to</li> </ul>

the destination, enhancing the attractiveness of Mauritius and fostering sustainable tourism development to promote a globally competitive and sustainable tourism industry with a well-diversified tourism product portfolio catering for different tourist profiles. It incorporates some 84 projects and programmes.

- In addition, an eco-label certification has also been developed and submitted to the *Global Sustainable Tourism Council* (GSTC) for the international accreditation.

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