Reactie op: "Only one country in the world produces all the food it needs, study finds" — BBC Sience Focus Magazine, Siencefocus.com, June 2026

It Goes Deeper Than Government

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The article is accurate in what it describes. But accurate isn't always complete.

I've been close enough to this sector for eleven years — talking to farmers, sitting in rooms where the frustration is real and shared, looking at my own reflection in those conversations — to know that the story doesn't start and end with policy cycles.

What the article doesn't reach is the pattern underneath. The one that outlasts every government, every expert, every new framework. The hesitation to truly support each other. A government that keeps looking abroad while its own experts wait to be seen. The discomfort when a neighbor gets traction. The way we organize around shared frustration but rarely around shared trust.

Aruba is an island shaped by centuries of colonial conditions that made scarcity feel permanent and trust feel risky. That doesn't just disappear when the formal structures do. It gets passed forward, sometimes in ways we don't recognize as inherited.

And the soil is worth looking at.

What we call Aruba's landscape — dry, stripped, compacted — is not nature. It is a record. Of every decision made from scarcity rather than care. Of land treated as something to take from rather than tend with. The land doesn't lie about how it has been treated.

Neither does the sector.

We cannot keep pointing only outward — at the government that changes course, at the expert who doesn't understand the context, at the import prices that make local food uncompetitive — and expect something different to grow. Not because those things aren't real. They are. But the shadow we haven't looked at is our own. The part we each play in the fragmentation. The knowledge we hold back. The success we quietly resent in someone standing right next to us.

I've been in that shadow too. I'm not writing from the outside.

The question the article doesn't ask is the one worth sitting with: what would this sector look like if we stopped waiting for the other person to move first? If a government trusted what grew here before reaching elsewhere? If a farmer celebrated a neighbor's harvest as proof that it's possible?

Nature shows us this every time a system begins to regenerate. Nothing recovers in isolation. Every element depends on what surrounds it. The pattern only shifts when the parts stop protecting themselves from each other and start functioning as a whole.

We know this about the land. We haven't applied it to ourselves yet.

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