

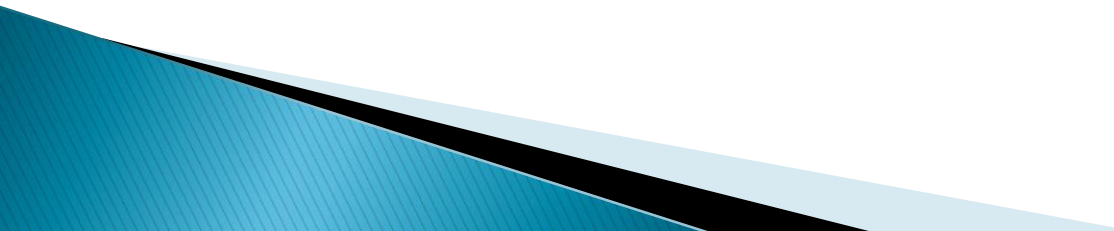
Gaps in Production, Research & Opportunities to develop the Crop sector



Saidi Achari
Crop Extension



Outline

- ▶ Importance of Agriculture
 - ▶ Current Production
 - ▶ Current Exports
 - ▶ Challenges and possible solutions (opportunities)
- 

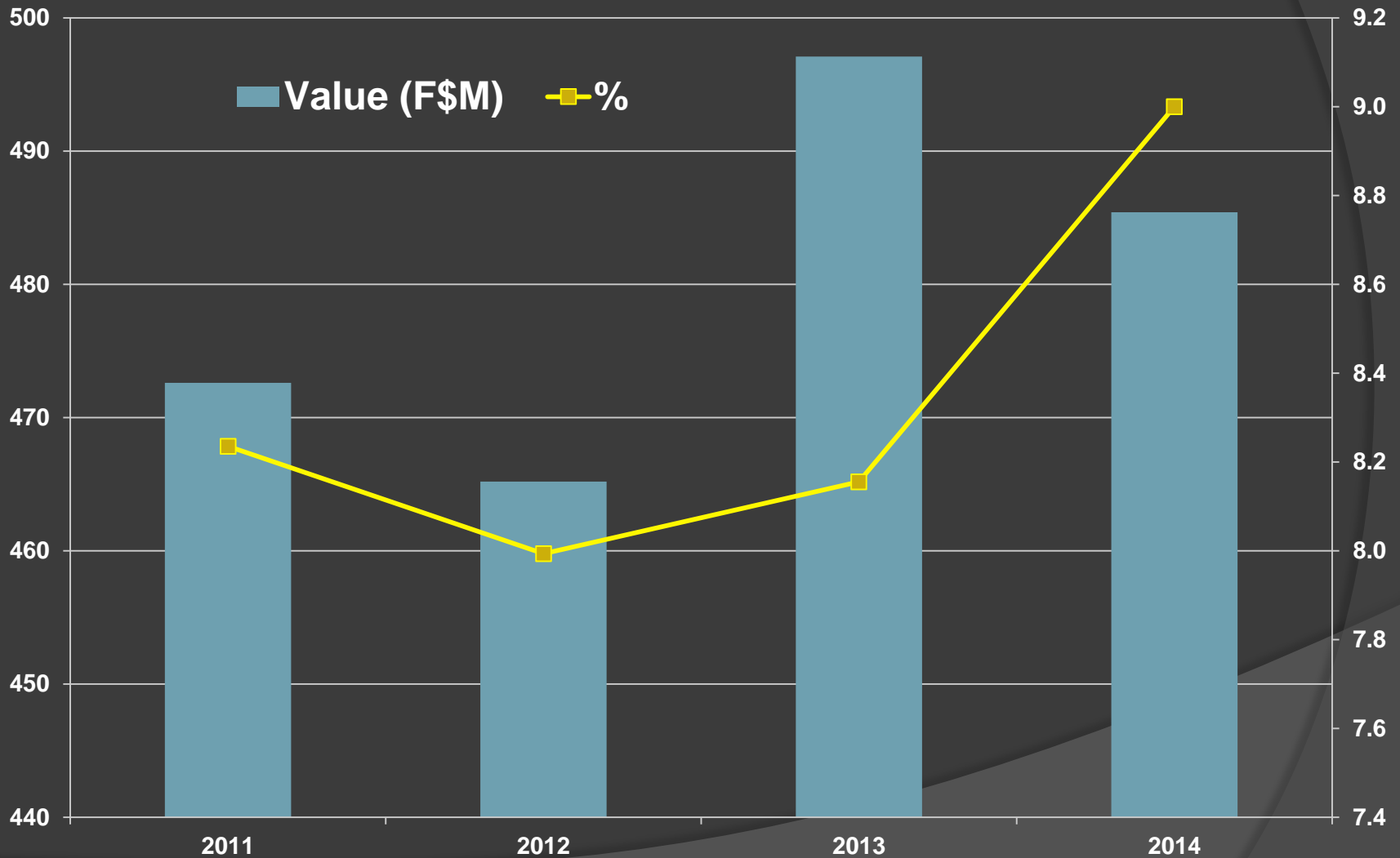
Agriculture's contribution to the Economy

▶ Sustains livelihoods

- ▶ Food security to >800,000 people
- ▶ More than 30,000HH involved in Agricultural farming (MoA survey)
- ▶ Provides employment to 28% of the population in formal sector and many more in the informal sector

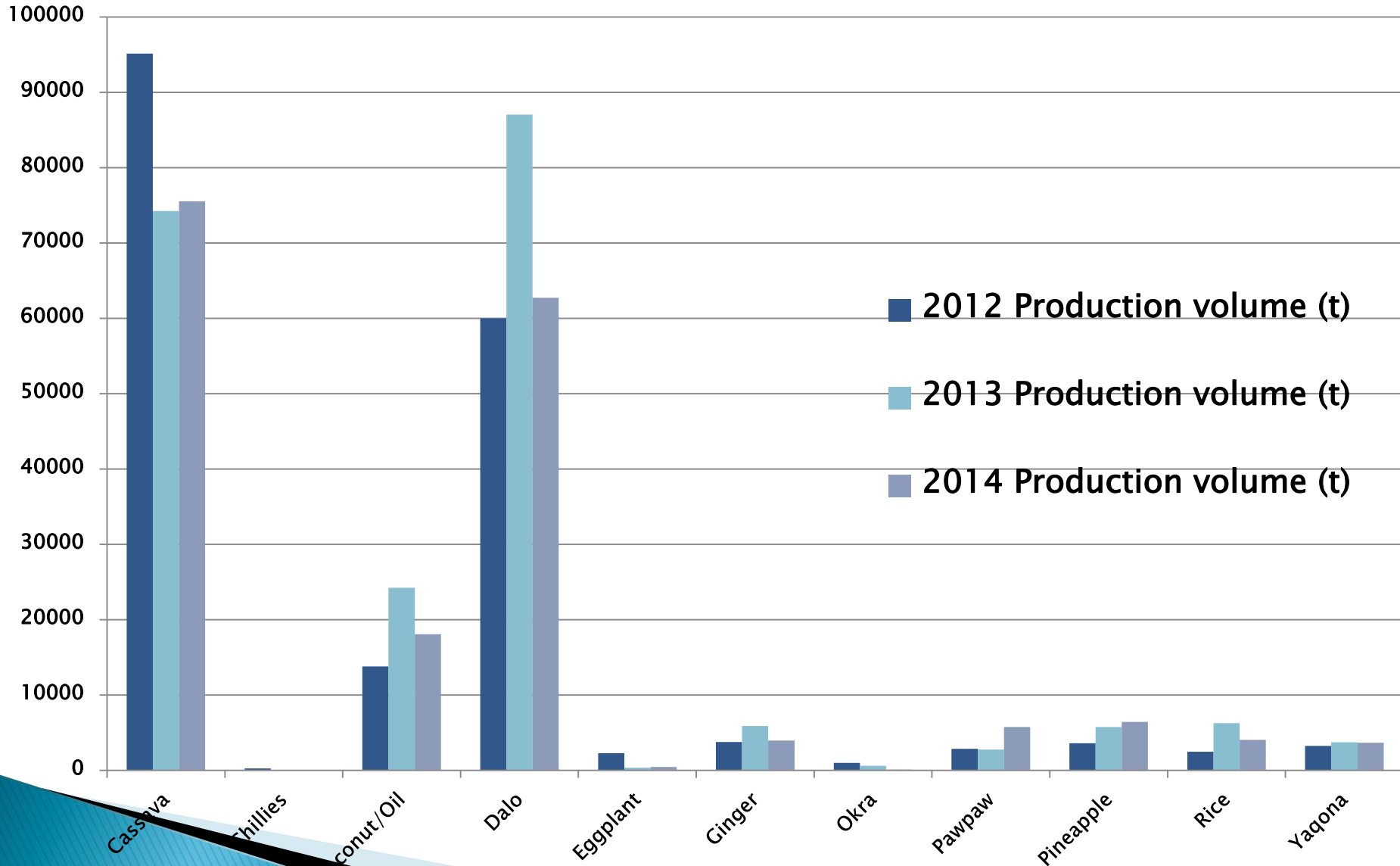
▶ Is an important economic sector

Agriculture's contribution to National GDP based on constant basic price



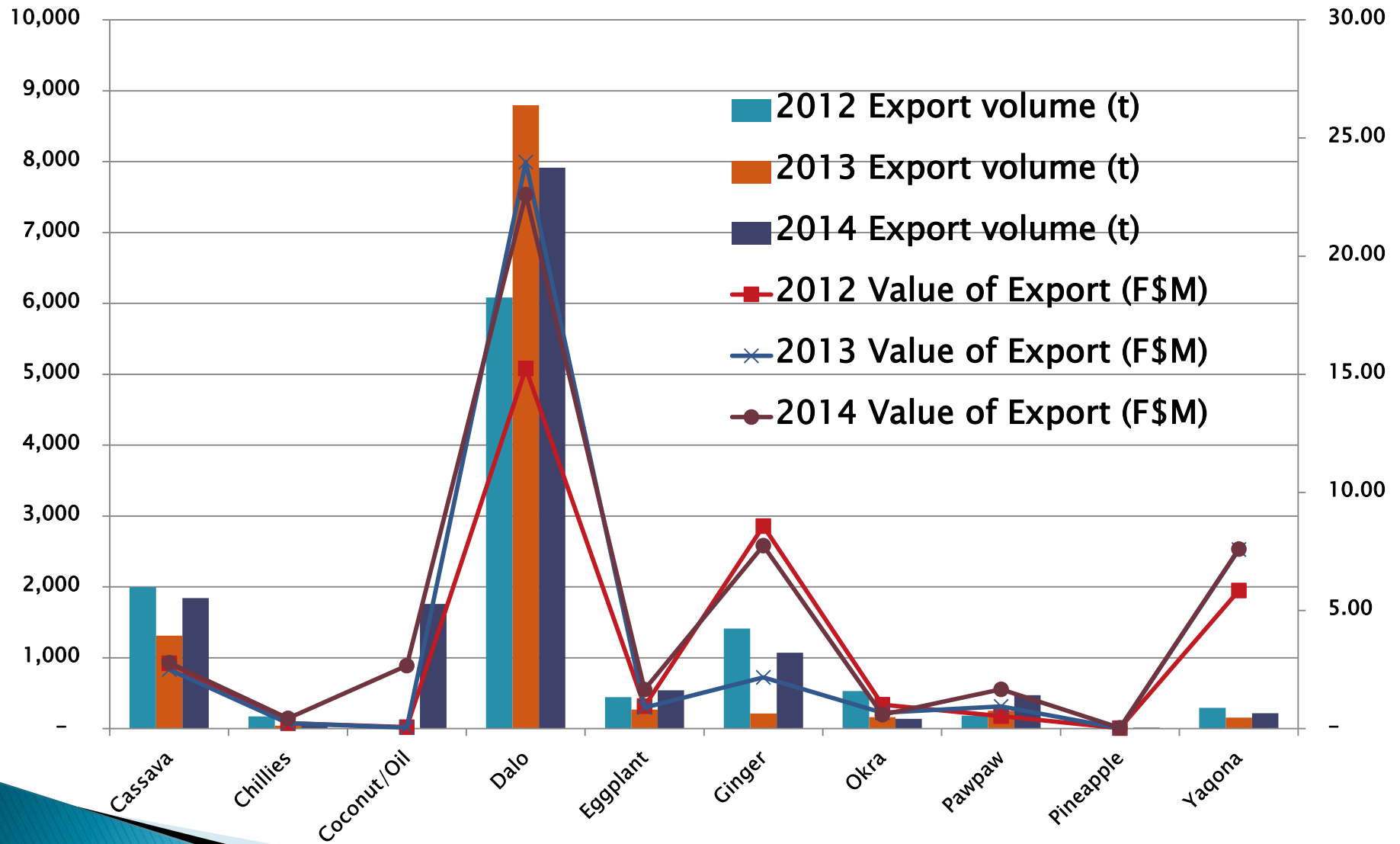
(Source:FBOS)

Current Production



(Source: MoA Extension Division Report)

Current Exports



(Source: FBOS)

Challenges & Opportunities

CHALLENGES	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Natural Disasters, Climate Change and Climate variability (extremes, salt water intrusion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- DRM & DRR-Preparedness- Drought & Flood tolerant crops/varieties- Market potential- Infrastructure for mitigation (ponds, flood gates etc)- Efficient management of water resources (irrigation method)- IPM for pest/disease control
Diminishing arable land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Effective Land use policy guide- Efficient management of soil resources (nutrient, chemical application etc)
Volatile market (price, volume) (farmers are price takers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contract farming (economies of scale, farm gate price)- Value addition (to improve shelf life, combat import, export crops that cannot be exported fresh)- Increase production to justify local processing- Enticing investment in value addition (increase contribution to GDP)

Challenges & Opportunities

CHALLENGES	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Ageing farming population, competition with other sectors for young labour force	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Modernising agriculture (technology, precision agriculture)- Agriculture to be part of curriculum from Primary school- Science based solutions/reasons to agricultural issues- High rate of return per unit area
Comparatively lack of investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Declaring Tax free zones- Tax exemption in income- More vigorous promotion of agricultural sector with the incentives in foreign countries
Rural urban drift	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Infrastructure upgrade in the rural sector- Create means of economic activities in rural sector (partnership with Provincial Development)
Freight/shipping cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Value addition locally (reduce fresh produce exports), Sea freight

THANK YOU