

Reduce Hunger for a brighter SVG

A drive through the country will attest to the high level of wastage of fruits and ground provision because the farmers cannot find workers to work in the fields.

The trend is to eat fast, ready-prepared foods. Most parents simply do not have the time to prepare and serve a proper meal from locally grown ingredients. If it is already prepared some may complain that the locally grown foods are too expensive or dislike the taste.

Imagine the joy of planting, growing and harvesting your own food then preparing a meal straight from your garden for your family.

As a student at the Calliaqua Anglican School, I was impressed with seeing a chicken coup with young chickens that were donated by the Zero Hunger Trust Fund, to the poultry farming project at the school. Everyday, on arrival and departure. I will visit the chicken coup and gaze at the chicken as they grow. I convinced my granny to purchase two local chickens and built a coup to start poultry rearing for myself. Now I have so many chickens and fresh supply of eggs which I consume regularly.

I know what my chickens eat and I know the source of my egg supply. During my vacation I invited a friend over, who now wants to get involved in poultry rearing.

The Ministry of Agriculture has taken a bold move in stressing the need for more backyard gardens. The joy of growing my own, I would like to expand on that bold and empowering move, by visiting people in my community and encouraging them to start planting their own gardens. I encourage them to use barrels, tyres and sacks as well, not only for food security but for food sustainability. The 2019-2021 Covid pandemic and the closure of borders caught many Caribbean countries off guard but not St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Every school should have a technical area attached to it whether for agriculture, Woodwork or Home Economic for training of young minds at an early age. The produce from the agriculture classes can either be used in the home economics classes which can also teach food preservation methods to prevent wastage or in school's school feeding program providing highly nutritious meals for students. Farmers after receiving sales of their produce can donate the excess to school's school feeding program. Making it one less food bill to pay for by the government. Also helping students to avoid the poverty line when they are older. We can be more responsible citizens and look out for each other. Supermarkets can give preference to locally grown produce and import less.

I would like the Ministry of Agriculture to establish an agriculture seed capsule. Where seeds can be safely stored for future access and greater yields. Given the prevalence of G.M.O. I would like organizations such as: Girls Guides, Cadets and Churches in the community to make a list of all the less fortunate people in communities and make a pledge to ensure no one goes to bed hungry.

Restaurants can donate unsold foods and have organizations arrange pickups and drop-offs to the needy.

Encourage junior savers to save, so that when they are older they have access to their money to start up businesses. With so many natural resources to be used to make products from, there should never be a word like HUNGER attached to S.V.G.

word count
569