

**REMARKS BY THE HON. INDAR WEIR, MBA, M.P.,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY AT
THE CHURCH SERVICE TO MARK WORLD FOOD DAY 2018
HELD AT ST. MARTINS ANGLICAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 14, 2018**

Mr. Seibert Frederick, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of

Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)

Dr. Lystra Fletcher-Paul, Regional Representative – Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Mrs. Ena Harvey, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on

Agriculture (IICA) Representative in Barbados

Mr. Shawn Tudor, Chief Executive Officer - Barbados

Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation

Dr. Leroy McClean, Consultant, MAFS

Chairpersons of Boards

Staff of the MAFS

Specially Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning

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It gives me great pleasure this morning to join with you in worship at the St. Martins Anglican Church on the eve of World Food Day (WFD) 2018. Every year, it is customary for Ministry officials and our partners in the agricultural sector to commence our celebrations with a church service on the Sunday prior to World Food Day. In this regard, I wish to express my appreciation to Reverend Massiah and her congregation for accommodating the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security today, October 14, 2018.

This year, WFD will be observed around the world on Tuesday, October 16, 2018. It is one of the most celebrated days in the United Nations Calendar in support of the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) mission to use this particular day to raise awareness of world hunger and to garner support for the approaches that can alleviate or help to end world hunger

considering the theme: *Our Actions are our future: A Zero Hunger World by 2030 is possible.*

Today, figures from the FAO indicate that there is an estimated 815 million people (or one out of 8 persons) who go to bed hungry every night and more than 99 million children under age 5 who are still undernourished and underweight.

The second Sustainable Development Goal adopted by member countries in 2015 speaks to attaining Zero Hunger by the year 2030. Indeed, significant progress has been made in this fight but we are cognizant that there is still much more to be done.

Ladies and gentleman, this goal remains very much on the agenda today as there is still the determination to eradicate hunger in all forms and dimensions, to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

We recognize that agriculture has a significant role to play in reducing hunger, however, the purpose of agriculture is not only to grow crops and produce livestock for food but to help develop healthy, well-nourished people; being mindful of the fact that one of the most important task in agriculture is the production of food in sufficient quantities and quality to enable human beings to lead healthy, productive lives.

While some people may be getting too little food, others are getting too much of the wrong food. We note that too often, the nutritional quality and value of food are reflected in the price of the food thereby putting commodities out of the reach of poor people. This means that there is a need for interventions to improve affordability.

Thus, the links between agriculture and health must be meshed to enable us as a Government, to make the policies and programmes necessary to achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture. Clearly, there is the potential for agriculture and the health sectors to work together to enhance

human health and well-being. Hence, World Food Day is a chance to show continued commitment to sustainable development goals to end hunger and malnutrition.

I note the token of gifts provided by the Ministry and I do hope these gifts will be accepted in the spirit in which they have been offered. Again, I wish to thank Reverend Massiah for allowing my Ministry to join with her and the congregation in this morning's worship here at St. Martins Anglican Church.

I thank you.