

# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2015

## World Food Day, “Hunger Banquet” Kicks Off Observance

On Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, the UVI Cooperative Extension Service begins its World Food Day activities with the “Hunger Banquet” at the Great Hall on the grounds of the University of the Virgin Islands’ Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix. This activity is open to 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders, representatives from the Department of Education, and other community leaders. These groups will join us in this unique event and experience the challenges of poverty and world hunger first hand.

The activities continue on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from noon until 6 p.m. While admission is free, visitors are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the day's food drive. All food collected is donated to local food banks. World Food Day—officially celebrated on Oct. 16, but observed world-wide during the month—is to bring attention to the plight of the hungry and undernourished in the Territory and the world. This year’s World Food Day theme selected by the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is *“Social Protection and Agriculture-Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty.”*

Sunday’s – October 19<sup>th</sup> activities include a formal outdoor ceremony, food vendors’ court, farmers’ market, workshops, demonstrations, entertainment, and **FREE** vegetable seedlings. Each year, three agricultural products are highlighted, and this year’s selections are okra, soursop, and goat. We are also having the *World Food Day 4-H Youth “Super Chef”*

**Competition**, which is open to all students of junior and senior high schools. Come and support junior high and high school students as they compete in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual World Food Day **4-H Youth “Super Chef” Competition**. And that’s not all! There will be an open **Soursop “Blast” Competition** for the public. Come and WOW the judges with your best desserts, preserves, and drink recipes.

You don’t want to miss this event—**WORLD FOOD DAY, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup> Noon until 6:00 p.m.** UVI St. Croix campus.

World Food Day is sponsored by UVI’s Cooperative Extension Service, the UVI Agricultural Experiment Station and the V.I. Department of Agriculture. For more information, call Clarice Clarke at (340) 692-4060

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