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## World Food Day 2024 Promotes Food Security and Education in U.S. Virgin Islands

**UVI's School of Agriculture hosts World Food Day, promoting local food production, education, and community efforts to tackle hunger in the Virgin Islands. The event featured seedling giveaways, workshops, and support for local food assistance programs**

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Ernice Gilbert **October 21, 2024**

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**Youth participate in a martial arts activity, one of several events featured during World Food Day on October 20, 2024, at the Albert A. Sheen Campus on St. Croix. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM**

The University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture marked another successful celebration of World Food Day on Sunday. The event, held at the Albert A. Sheen Campus from 12:00 p.m. to

6:00 p.m., embraced this year's global theme, "Leave No One Behind: Right to Food for a Better Life and a Better Future." The occasion drew attention to food security and the right to access nutritious meals, particularly for children.

Marthious Clavier, Assistant Director for Communications, Technology & Distance/Online Learning, as well as an Extension Instructor at the UVI School of Agriculture, spoke about the significance of this annual observance. "World Food Day is all about eradicating hunger in our society, and we believe it's possible," Clavier stated. He emphasized that the university aims to address hunger through education, community engagement, and direct action.

Clavier highlighted the seedling giveaway as one of the day's key activities, offering participants a six-pack of seedlings to plant at home. "We encourage the community to plant in their backyard, grow, and eat fresh produce," he explained. Clavier pointed out that this effort serves as a starting point for residents to source food locally, reducing dependency on external food supplies—especially relevant during times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic or supply chain disruptions.

The event featured various educational workshops and activities for all age groups, including cooking demonstrations, composting, and sustainable gardening practices. Attendees could also participate in youth-focused programs and enjoy cultural entertainment.

When asked about the state of hunger in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Clavier acknowledged that while it may not be as severe as in other parts of the world, there are still individuals in need. "We have people on the streets, and organizations like My Brother's Table and the Lighthouse help feed those who are hungry," he said. The UVI School of Agriculture also contributes by organizing food drives to support these local groups.

Despite the dry weather, which contrasted with the rain typically expected during the event, Clavier reported a steady flow of participants throughout the day. He expressed optimism about the turnout, noting that attendance tends to increase later in the afternoon.

World Food Day at UVI has been observed for over 20 years, evolving into a vital initiative to educate the community and combat hunger. As Clavier concluded, "We are committed to doing our part to try to eradicate hunger here in the Virgin Islands."

The 2024 World Food Day event was sponsored by the UVI School of Agriculture in collaboration with the V.I. Department of Agriculture. For more information on upcoming programs and how to get involved, community members are encouraged to contact [UVI's School of Agriculture](#).