

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UWI techAGRI EXPO 2019 addresses Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship!**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 9 am to 6 pm**  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>th</sup> March, 9 am to 8 pm**  
**Administration Building West Field, The UWI Campus**

The only national agricultural exhibition of its kind in Trinidad. Going on its third successful year, techAgri Expo at the UWI promises exciting learning opportunities for students and the public to see a new face of food production. Learn about modern technologies in food production; composting, vermiculture, aquaponics, hydroponics, tissue culture, controlled environment systems of production and lots more. Get your fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, milk, plants and lots more value added products on sale each day.

The Faculty of Food and Agriculture, The UWI St. Augustine, will be hosting this techAgri Expo from 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019. This is being done under the leadership of Dr. Wayne Ganpat, Dean of the Faculty. The goal is to raise the profile of agriculture nationally and regionally, stressing less on the drudgery that has typically been associated with food production and projecting the scientific methods which are presently available. If people can be introduced to the technology that now exists in food production, they might encourage their children to pursue a career in agriculture. It is a field that can never be saturated, since there are so many dimensions to explore. And this is exactly what techAgri Expo will be highlighting. This year, some emphasis will be placed on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship.

A special booth will be hosted by the Faculty to highlight its dynamic, innovative work, research and programmes. Students of the Faculty will also have a booth of their own to showcase their entrepreneurial talents.

There will be guided tours to various parts of the Faculty, including the National Herbarium, where samples of every species of plant existing in our country is stored.

There will be over 100 booths at the Expo displaying the different facets of agriculture. Booths will showcase all the valued added products in "The Entrepreneurs Village". Here you will find the locally made soaps, candles, jewelry from paper, coconut oil, jams, wines, cassava flour, sweet potato flour and baked products from them. Flavoured ponche de crème and local teas

such as orange peel, fever grass, and bamboo. Chocolate booths will offer locally manufactured chocolate products, as well as chocolate beverages. There will also be a number of handicraft booths, all showcasing the creative genius of the people. On sale also will be lots of vegetables, meat and milk. So patrons can make their Sunday market at the Expo.

There will be plants and seedlings on sale – horticultural, exotic fruit trees including nutmeg, mauby, canistel, Moringa and Neem.

Companies will also be exhibiting their farming equipment – tractors, brush cutters, chemicals, poultry equipment.

Secondary and primary schools throughout Trinidad and Tobago have been invited and over 1,200 students and teachers have registered to attend. These students will be given tours to see the Technology Demonstration Park, Tissue Culture Laboratory, Composting Facilities, the National Herbarium, Plant Factory and Wildlife and Neo Tropical Animal Centre, etc.

On the weekend, there will be free mini workshops on Landscape Management, Hydroponics, Composting Essentials, Basic Home Gardening, Aquaponics and Wildlife and Neo-tropical Animal Management.

This is a family oriented event, so we did not leave out the children – there will be a mini zoo, where they will observe and pet some animals from our Field Station, and a play area with a childrens' bouncy castle.

The expo will be held on the Administration Building West Field. Patrons can enter from the North Gate by the tunnel. There is an admission fee of \$25 for adults and \$15 for children.

**All roads will lead to UWI Faculty of Food and Agriculture from 29<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Come and Experience the Future of Agriculture!**