

## PM Gonsalves Receives Award from UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

16 June 2013

**Rome, ITALY:** Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves received on behalf of the Government and people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) a prestigious Achievement Award from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) at its Headquarters.



R-L: Prime Minister - Dr. Ralph Gonsalves receiving award from UN FAO Director-General - José Graziano da Silva

SVG was among 38 countries who met the internationally established targets, particularly Goal One of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ahead of the set deadline - 2015.

More impressive was the fact that SVG was among an additional elite 18 countries, who reached both the MDG Goal One and the more stringent World Food Summit (WFS) Goal - reducing by half the absolute number of undernourished people between 1990-92 and 2010-2012.

These achievements for SVG are remarkable considering the current global financial/economic crisis and being awarded alongside better resourced countries. The focused leadership to drive state entities to fashion and adopt programmes, aimed at reducing the level of under-nourishment in our country, is even more outstanding.

The FAO statistics show that under-nourishment in the country between 1990 to 1992, was 19.2% or around 20,000 persons. In 1995, there was an increase to 20%, or around 22,000 Vincentians who were deemed by the FAO to be under-nourished.

The figures began to decline after 2001, and at the end of the period 2000 to 2002, under-

nourishment was assessed by the FAO at 11% or about 12,000 persons. The most recent assessment showed that by 2012, the level of under-nourishment was 4.9% or around 5,000 persons. So during the period 1995 to 2012, some 17,000 persons had been removed from under-nourishment, a truly remarkable achievement. Many countries in the Caribbean, especially in CARICOM and the OECS, cannot boast of such an achievement.

Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves has announced: "a policy of "zero undernourishment" in St. Vincent and the Grenadines that will be detailed in the coming weeks, and will require even more hard work by workers in the state enterprises; but we must keep our focus."

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