Remarks by the Campus Principal

The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS) – Trinidad & Tobago Chapter - Workshop
“New Innovative and Emerging Technologies in Food and Agriculture”

In honour of CAS’ 25th Anniversary

Lect. Room B, Sir Frank Stockdale Bldg., Faculty of Food & Agriculture, UWI St. Augustine
Monday 2nd June, 2014 1.00pm

Salutations
➢ Thank you Chair, Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes
➢ President of CAS, Dr. Trevor Alleyne
➢ Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Brian Copeland
➢ Dean of the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, Dr. Isaac Bekele
➢ UNESCO Chair on Eremology, Department of Soil Management, Ghent University, Belgium, Professor Donald Gabriels (our Guest Speaker)
➢ Other Colleagues of The UWI St Augustine Campus and CAS
➢ Workshop Participants
➢ Students
➢ Specially Invited Guests

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• Good afternoon!

• As Principal of The UWI St. Augustine Campus, I am truly pleased to be a part of the formal opening of this workshop entitled, “New Innovative and Emerging Technologies in Food and Agriculture” hosted by The Caribbean Academy of Sciences (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter) in collaboration with EDULINK, and our Departments of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and Food Production! Thank you for inviting me!

• Let me begin by extending heartfelt congratulations to the President of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS), Dr. Trevor Alleyne and the rest of the CAS Executive Team on their 25th anniversary! Twenty-five years is a significant milestone in the life of any organization. I must say that during these twenty-five years, the Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS) has earned the reputation of one of the most fervent promoters of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development, not only in the English-speaking Caribbean, but also throughout the French, Spanish and Dutch speaking Caribbean! Well done colleagues!
Let me also take this opportunity to commend the President of CAS (Trinidad and Tobago Chapter), Professor Emeritus Winston Mellowes and his team for choosing what I think is an extremely timely and relevant topic, “New Innovative and Emerging Technologies in Food and Agriculture”, especially for us here at the St. Augustine Campus! I say timely and relevant, not only because we have recently established two new Faculties (Food and Agriculture & Science and Technology, which may I add were formally launched just last month), but we have also acquired prime land at Orange Grove for a new Agriculture Field Station. As I speak, these lands are being utilized to support a robust approach to sustainable agricultural development with science and technology, integrated with commerce, business and entrepreneurship. We are in the process of partnering with the China Agricultural University (which is the most respected university in agriculture sciences in China) to create an Agriculture Innovation Park! We intend to demonstrate how productivity and efficiency in agriculture can be improved significantly, through the maximization of science, technology and innovation! And I am certain that many of the presentations to be made in this workshop (on topics such as irrigation, harvesting, agro-processing, and the application of geophysical techniques, among others) will be relevant to
our thrust to developing a sustainable agriculture sector through the use of new and innovative emerging technologies.

- I therefore would like to thank and commend the various presenters at this workshop, including our special guest - UNESCO Chair on Eremology from the Department of Soil Management, Ghent University, Belgium, Professor Donald Gabriels! Professor Gabriels – a special welcome to you. It is a pleasure to have you share your ideas and thoughts on innovation and technology in food and agriculture.

- Colleagues, I truly believe that Universities such as ours have an important role to play in using science, technology and innovation to address societal challenges! We must respond to the changing demands of our region, and continuously seek to inform our people, our companies, our industries, our entrepreneurs, and our societies on the pathway to progress. I can think of no better area to apply this science, technology and innovation but to – agriculture! This workshop is therefore an excellent example of how CAS and EDULINK in collaboration with The UWI are engaged in research and knowledge transfer for the benefit of those we serve!
• In closing, I say congratulations once again to the Caribbean Academy of Sciences (CAS) on its 25th anniversary and its success in promoting sustainable development through the use of science, technology and innovation throughout the wider Caribbean region. You are indeed a dedicated and committed organization making a real impact on improving the lives of people in our region. I wish you great success for many more decades to come.

• On that note, I wish you all a productive and successful workshop and I do look forward to hearing about some of the outcomes, and how it will improve food and agriculture in our country and region for the benefit of our people!

• I thank you!