



THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

P.O Box 608, Kingstown, St Vincent and The Grenadines

Tel: (784) 456-1600, Fax (784) 456-2430

Email: apisvg2023@gmail.com

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SANDY BAY GOVERNMENT AND GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL TOP SCHOOLS' IN GARDENING COMPETITION

The Sandy Bay Government and the St. Vincent Girls' High School took the top spots in the Ministry of Agriculture's National Schools' Gardening Competition. Nine Primary Schools and Four Secondary Schools participated in the competition, held under the theme "Stronger Agricultural system for stronger Food Security".

The competition is aimed at providing students with life skills, teaching the value of food security and promotes healthy eating.

The judging panel determined the most outstanding performers in both Primary and Secondary categories in the areas of Management of Crop, Management of Livestock, Sustainability Award, Technology and Innovation, Record Keeping, and best TikTok Videos.

Senior Technical Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Mrs. Currell Thompson-Fergus explained the said that Agriculture is the backbone of society and initiatives such as these help to encourage food security.

Acting Chief Education Officer, Joycelyn Blake-Browne noted Climate Change, inflation, and threats of war affect food supply, hence small island developing states must make Agriculture a priority and it is fundamental we encourage agriculture among the future generation.

Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer, Colville King commended the students and recognized their efforts, noting that fresh commodities always provide the best nutrition.

"Our importation bill can be reduced if we grow and eat more locally produced goods which are healthier and less costly," King said.

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Transformation, Hon. Israel Bruce noted that the Government recognizes the importance of food sovereignty and the freedom of eating what you grow. The Minister said that too often food shortage occurs because of threats of war, and the population is left to tackle high costs.

He commended the students for participating in competition noting that it exposes them to healthier lifestyle practices, and teaches them the importance of Agriculture. However, he expressed disappointment that more schools did not participate in the competition.

He further stated that there are plans of hosting a Windward Island's Schools' Gardening Competition where students can be recognized regionally.

The Awards Ceremony was held earlier today at the Methodist Church Hall.

The Awards are as follows:

Best Crop Management

Primary School – Sandy Bay Secondary School

Secondary School- St. Vincent Girl's High School

Best Livestock Management

Primary School- Westwood Methodist School

Best Technology and Innovation

Primary School- Sandy Bay Government School

Secondary School- St. Vincent Girl's High School

Sustainability Award

Primary School-Calliaqua Anglican School

Secondary School-St. Vincent Girl's High School

Best- Record Keeping

Primary School- Calliaqua Anglican School

Secondary School- St. Joseph's Convent Marriaqua

Best TikTok Video

Third place- Owia Government School winning Cash Prize of \$300 dollars

Second Place- St. Vincent Girl's High School winning Cash Prize of \$500 dollars

First Place- St. Joseph Convent Marriaqua winning Cash Prize of \$700 dollars

Secondary

1st - St. Vincent Girl's High School.

2nd - St. Joseph Convent Marriaqua.

3rd - Troumaca Ontario Secondary School

Primary

1st - Sandy Bay Government School

2nd - Calliaqua Primary School

3rd - Westwood Methodist School

All participating schools were awarded Trophies, certificates, Gloves, and Hand Tools.

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