



**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
MARINE RESOURCES &
FAMILY ISLAND AFFAIRS**

BAMSI EGG ACADEMY POULTRY RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE

GRAND OPENING

APRIL 17, 2023

11:00 A.M.

GOOD MORNING,

JUST A FEW YEARS AGO, THE WORLD WAS STUNNED BY THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND OTHER CONFLICTS, WHICH CREATED A FOOD CRISIS WHERE MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE BAHAMAS, WERE FORCED TO PAY MORE FOR STAPLE FOODS LIKE POULTRY. HOWEVER, OUT OF CRISIS, THIS ADMINISTRATION SAW AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIVE OUR DOMESTIC POULTRY SUPPLY.

TODAY IS CERTAINLY A PROUD DAY FOR THE BAHAMAS AS IT WAS JUST SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT WE HELD THE GROUNDBREAKING FOR THE GOLDEN YOLK PROJECT AND NOW WE ARE HERE AT BAMSI TO LAUNCH

ANOTHER LAYER OF OUR HOLISTIC OVERALL EGG PRODUCTION PLAN – THE BAMSİ EGG ACADEMY POULTRY RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE.

THE ACADEMY WILL AID IN CREATING A SUSTAINABLE POULTRY PRODUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE BAHAMAS. SOME 3,800 BIRDS WILL BE HOUSED IN THIS ENRICHED CAGE SYSTEM. THESE BIRDS WILL COMPLEMENT OUR EGG PRODUCTION PROGRAMME AND IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE AN ESTIMATED ONE MILLION EGGS ANNUALLY. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WILL BE FREE-RANGE CHICKENS THAT WILL ALSO PRODUCE EGGS. WE EXPECT THAT THIS POULTRY RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE WILL BE ABLE TO OFFER TERTIARY-EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BAHAMAS AND THE REGION AND PROVIDE REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE SEEKING TO ENTER THE LUCRATIVE BUSINESS OF POULTRY FARMING. FURTHER, THE INSTITUTE WILL HOLD POULTRY COURSES AND SEMINARS ON LAYER HUSBANDRY, INCUBATION, QUALITY ASSURANCE METHODS AND NUTRITION.

CURRENTLY, THE BAHAMAS SPENDS OVER \$12.5 MILLION ON IMPORTED EGGS AND A STAGGERING \$1 BILLION ON IMPORTED FOOD OVERALL. THIS GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO MAKE A PARADIGM SHIFT BY MAKING THE BAHAMAS MORE FOOD SECURE. WE NOT ONLY WANT TO REDUCE OUR IMPORTS BUT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE WE CAN INCREASE OUR EXPORTS AS WELL. I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THE BAHAMAS HAS NOT TAPPED INTO ITS FULL POTENTIAL WITH FOOD PRODUCTION. THIS EGG

ACADEMY PREPARES US FOR THE FUTURE. WE KNOW THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY PROGRAMS THAT BAMSI WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY IN OUR COUNTRY. THE INSTITUTE IS ALSO SEEKING TO LAUNCH GREENHOUSE PARKS IN SEVERAL ISLANDS, WHICH WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE HEALTHY LEAFY GREENS YEAR-ROUND EVEN UNDER EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS. BAMSI WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR FARMERS WISHING TO USE NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR MORE EFFICIENT FARMING. THE PROFESSION OF AGRICULTURE IS TRULY LIMITLESS. WE ARE SO PROUD THAT THIS SECTOR IS NOW ATTRACTING YOUNGER MINDS TO EXPLORE ITS POSSIBILITIES AND THAT BAMSI WILL ASSIST GREATLY IN THIS REGARD. I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL DRASTICALLY CHANGE AGRICULTURE AND GROW MUCH MORE FOOD FOR THE FUTURE. I WANT TO THANK BAMSI'S CHAIRMAN SENATOR TYREL YOUNG, GENERAL MANAGER MR. ALAANIS BRAYNEN, PRESIDENT OF BAMSI DR. ERECIA HEPBURN, ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK. EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS ONE CAN MAKE AND WHEN IT COMES TO AGRICULTURE AND MARINE SCIENCES, WE ARE HAPPY THAT BAMSI WILL GIVE BAHAMIANS A HEADSTART TOWARDS A PROGRESSIVE AND FLOURISHING FUTURE. THANK YOU!