Prairie View, TX---Imagine eating one meal a day or worse no meal at all or watching your child/children perish because there is no food to eat or the food is unaffordable. Unimaginable for many in developed countries, especially people in the United States of America, huh? Unfortunately, the grim reality is that there are 925 million hungry people in the world. And alarming considering the wealthiest nation, USA, has about 14.5 percent of households that go hungry.

The hunger issues of many nations are based on food scarcity, but the USA’s hunger problem is perpetuated by poverty. To directly reduce hunger, nations must come together and confront the issue head on. In accordance to the challenge, Prairie View A&M University’s College of Agriculture and Human Sciences joined the movement to combat hunger during World Food Day (WFD). Taking action in the community and around the world amidst growing concerns of the world’s food supply is the path to resolution.

Many believe that modern agricultural practices and food control are tools to build corporate profits and monopolies rather than feed and nourish the world’s inhabitants. Fortunately, the current administration committed to strengthening agriculture in poor countries and ending world hunger through the Feed the Future program. When one in seven people are undernourished, it proves that small farmers are underutilized because they offer a breadth of resources to feed the world. This year’s WFD theme “Agricultural Cooperatives: Key to Feeding the World” is critical in curbing the hunger pandemic.

Local farmers provide a sound business environment if the government establishes favorable policies, transparency in laws and regulations because they have grassroots commitment. “There is an environmental need for cooperatives to develop, form, thrive and compete with big businesses. Having cooperatives are better for tracking where our food is produced; hence improving food security. For instance, Sysco Foods flies food from Australia to our neighborhoods making silos a huge issue,” says Jay Crossley of Houston Tomorrow, a non-profit that explores urban issues and growth in the Houston, TX region.

Too many in this world are struggling to find their next meal. However, there are programs in the USA to enable the vulnerable to find a way out of hunger and poverty. To raise awareness on food, health and nutrition programs, program director, Faye Walker, and third year student, Jordan MaClin from CAHS’ Human Nutrition and Foods, prepared a humble meal. The meal comprised of rice, beans and corn muffins had the audience asking “Where is the meat?” and engaged conversation about food insecurity. Clearly, this meal was a means to understand the situation people face around the world and here in America.