

Welcome! The Pope invites people of different faiths to come together and pray:

**That land cultivators may earn the profits they deserve for their precious work.**



### Getting started:

I find a quiet spot and get comfortable so as to be prepared for prayer. I become aware of what is going on inside of me. I take a deep breath while becoming aware that God is casting a loving gaze upon me and those around me.



### Short story:

Nicholas had been wondering where to obtain a variety of fruit and vegetable seed and seedlings for his field. The previous year, very bad weather had ruined all his produce, leaving him hardly enough to feed himself, let alone to sell at a profit. He had just made a big capital investment in machinery to pull up potatoes with much less fatigue. He had also repaired the irrigation system.



The very time he imagined that he would have greater produce was the time of disaster. He was broke. Nicholas met up with his cousin, who is a land cultivator too. It so happened that he had some seedlings left over and decided to hand them over to cousin Nick. A broad, relaxed smile spread over Nicholas' face. Already in his mind, he was planning on planting them the next day. He bought some more seed and, so as to try to avoid the hot part of the September day, went early to his field. A road that was often used for strolls ran by Nicholas' field. A man who happened to be walking by stopped to look at Nicholas labouring on, in his fatigue. This man realized what a long series of events, labour, toil, sacrifice and risk takes place to put on his table the vegetables and fruits he consumes and how few are they who realize this. Nicholas quickly got into a chat with this man and told him: "My friend, the field is hard work and its produce not guaranteed. Do appreciate this when you happen to be enjoying some delicious fruit."



### Time to reflect:

Do I know a land cultivator who earns his livelihood from his field?

Have I ever stopped to think about the toil land cultivators face?

Have I ever wondered how much work goes into the cultivation of agricultural products?



### Let us pray:

Lord, give land cultivators the strength and energy they need so as to go on with their work and may their work be ever more appreciated by all.



### Inspiration:

If the farmer is poor, so then is the whole country. *(Polish proverb)*



### Hands on:

Pray throughout the week for land cultivators.

Appreciate much more the fruits and vegetables that they provide.