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October 2019

**To: Ministers, Chaplains, and Congregational Development Agents**

The theme of this year’s Appeal is **‘Farming God’s Way’**. The Appeal continues, as it has for the previous two years, to highlight the challenges of sustainable development in fragile and dangerous places. This year the focus moves from gender justice to food security although it should remain clear that good development practices impact the life of a community and the relationships within that community in many ways. The Appeal highlights how the use of conservation agriculture techniques are proving transformative in addressing food security in some of the world’s poorest countries and invites us to share in enabling resourceful and resilient communities to plant the seeds of a more secure and sustainable future.

The projects being highlighted this year are in **Mozambique** and **Bangladesh**. The geographic location of Mozambique makes it a country particularly vulnerable to natural disasters. This means that food security is a major issue for the Mozambican people. We are supporting a Tearfund partner in Mozambique, **CEDES** (The Ecumenical Committee for Social Development), which is working to improve this situation through contextualised Bible study with local churches and the development of farming co-operatives and savings and loans groups. The 2019 Appeal will also support the **Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh** (CCDB) as it seeks to improve the socio-economic status of disadvantaged and marginalised men and women through sustainable agriculture technologies.

Thank you for your committed and sustained work on behalf of the World Development Appeal, and grateful thanks also to the Presbyteries and congregations you serve for their continuing generosity. May our own lives, as well as the lives of our partners, be shaped for the good by our giving.

Grace and peace to you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Fiona Forbes
Convener, World Development Committee

**Along with this letter, on DVD, or on the website are:**

* A summary document relating to this year’s Appeal
* Background information papers on Mozambique and Bangladesh
* Resources for worship
* A theological reflection paper
* Posters and leaflets
* PowerPoint and video presentations
* A list of last year’s contributions

Note that all these resources will also be available on the World Development pages, which can be found at: [www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/world-development).