Opening Remarks

Mr. Alongkorn Ponlaboot, Counselor to Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

The regional food systems stocktaking

30 March, 2023 (09.00-09.20 am.)

the United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Mr. Jong Jin Kim, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Food Systems Networking Group; Assistant Director General FAO

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP

Mr. Stefanos Fotiou, Director Food Systems Coordination Hub

Excellency,

1. Today I was assigned by Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives to deliver the opening remarks today.

2. The Thai government and I would like to thank our international partners working collectively to exchanges and present ways to transform food and agriculture systems as well as stocktaking what we had achieved and not yet implemented and also to monitor progress after World Food System Summit in 2021 so that our planet can overcome the crisis and strengthen the stability and sustainability of the agricultural and food sectors, and importantly to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has always been the focal point in the driving activities organized during the World Food System Summit and we are preparing a food and agriculture stocktaking presenting the impact on food and agriculture stocktaking moments in July as a pathway towards SDG Summit in September 2023.

4. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives would like to take this opportunity to invite and convince network of international partners who
have actively participated in agricultural and food projects in Thailand to share with us vital information you had collected with the aim to formulate food and agriculture stocktaking in Thailand.

5. I would like to emphasize that we urgently need to take urgent action to transform agriculture and food systems to be sustainable, flexible and fair, especially through tangible financial, timely and accurate information, scientific and innovative support. While, Thailand adopts bioeconomic, circular economy and green economy policy or "BCG economic model" to rebuild economic recovery towards sustainability. The Ministry has mobilized agricultural and food system in a sustainable way, as the "BCG Economic Model" is an economic development tool that aims for sustainability in all 3 dimensions namely: economic, society and environment in order to drive Thailand in a balanced and sustainable way, there is integration and development from the beginning, middle of the way and final destination, using scientific knowledge, cutting-edge technology and modern innovation to create added value from the base of biodiversity and culture.

6. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives aims to mobilize the agricultural sector to 3 highs which mean high efficiency, high standard and high income. The initiative will be implemented at the pilot area level in 5 provinces to develop as an initial modality to expand to other potential provinces by using "BCG Economic Model" to drive all projects that are already in operation to be more efficient, sustainable, and enhance the livelihoods of Thai farmers.

7. Let me emphasize that the pathway to sustainable food and agriculture requires collaborative effort with all sectors involve in thinking process, action plan, co-create, at all levels. The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives is ready and willing to exchange academic knowledge that Thailand has potential for member countries in the region to pursue.

8. Finally, on behalf of the Thai government. I would like to thank you FAO Asia Pacific for the wonderful arrangement of this meaningful gathering.
We sincerely hope that this seminar can be a platform for everyone and all sectors to participate and express their opinions. We will continue to exchange useful ideas in response to the 5-dimension of crisis for a sustainable agricultural and food system, and we will all be "fulfill our appetite and stay healthy".

9. Let's move on together without leaving anyone behind.

10. Thank you