

**Statement of Hon'ble Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Minister,
Shri Narendra Singh Tomar in the UN Food Systems Pre-Summit
26-28 July, 2021.**

(Recorded on 20th July, 2021 at 5.00 P.M.)

- “The UN Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister of Italy H.E. Mr. Mario Draghi, and all the dignitaries from different countries present at this UN Food Systems Pre-Summit, **Greetings to you all from India.**
- At the outset I thank the UN Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres and H.E. Mr. Mario Draghi, the Prime Minister of Italy for organizing this big event.
- India has a strong conviction that agriculture has to play a vital role in socio economic transformation of developing countries and in securing sustainable future for the people and the planet as out of 17 SDGs, 12 SDGs are directly dependent on agriculture.
- Today, India has catapulted from a country with food shortages to leading food grain exporter country.
- The Green revolution followed by white revolution, blue revolution and the public distribution system and the price support system for farmers in India are unparalleled in the World.
- Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji, India has taken several initiatives for increasing farmers' income, eradication of unemployment and development of post-harvest infrastructure.
- The Government of India focuses on small and marginal farmers and has taken many steps one after the other, towards making farming beneficial.
- Our farm sector performed exceedingly well even in the pandemic crisis with production surpassing earlier records and agri exports touching new highs thus contributing to the global food security too.

- Our focus now is to enhance productivity, provide infrastructure facilities to the farms and give farmers and buyers a unified national market for optimizing benefits to both.
- The Government of India has created a dedicated Agriculture Infrastructure Fund worth USD 14 Billion to create farm gate and agriculture marketing infrastructure. To provide large scale advantage to small farmers, the Government has launched a scheme for formation of 10000 Farmers Producers organization.
- The Government of India has launched PM KISAN Scheme to provide income support of Rs.6000 per year to small farmers through DBT. Under the scheme a total of about 18 billion USD has been credited to the bank accounts of 110 million farmers.
- Excellencies, we are fully conscious of our commitments on the climate change issues and we have taken various steps to make agriculture sustainable. 'Per Drop More Crop' scheme for irrigation and 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' for organic farming have been launched.
- "Soil Health Card" Scheme has been launched where free soil testing services are provided to the farmers.
- To bring the millets on to the center stage at global level, the Government of India had proposed to celebrate year 2023 as the "International Year of Millets" to the United Nations. I am happy to share that the UN has accepted our proposal with overwhelming support from member nations and has declared the year 2023 as the "International Year of Millets".
- Agriculture by its very nature is seasonal and the Government of India has launched the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to provide insurance protection covering the risk of farmers.
- To address the issues of under nutrition and Malnutrition, India is running the world's largest food based safety net programmes which include the Targeted Public Distribution system (TPDS) and the mid day meal scheme.
- These are the important small steps we have taken to make our agri food systems sustainable, to increase farmers' income, as well as to address the problem of hunger in the country.

- We will continue with our efforts achieve the targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 with full hope and will definitely meet the expectations of people.
- On this Occasion, I would like to congratulate all the participants of this conference and pray for all of you to stay safe, happy and continue with the good work.
- Thank you.
- Jai Hind”.