



THANK YOU, CHAIRPERSON, AND EXCELENCIES;

Kenya wishes to align herself with sentiments expressed by colleagues and wish to make her contribution in support of the overall goal of attaining tangible results on healthy, resilient and inclusive food systems as well realizing impacts of food systems on broader economic growth and development goals.

Indeed, Kenya in development of her blue print [Vision 2030](#) identified agriculture as a key economic pillar and prioritized 5 action areas, including Arid and Semi-arid Lands development, fisheries and blue economy development, establishment of Livestock Disease Free Zones, Fertilizer Cost Reduction, and Legislative and policy reforms. The document that was developed through a rigorous all-inclusive stakeholder consultative process provided a roadmap for Kenya to translate into a newly industrializing, “middle income country providing high quality life for all citizens by the year 2030”. Under the above mentioned priority areas, ASALs development were to be achieved through Increase in irrigated land by a million acres. A total of 500,000 hectares have been put under irrigation to date.

Excellencies,

Under Fisheries Development and Management, the strategy was to Increase fish production from capture and culture fisheries; reduce fish post-harvest losses per annum and increase exports of marine products by expanding the area of fish farming from the high potential areas to Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) and developing fisheries related infrastructure and strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance systems.



Excellencies,

Through the Establishment of four Disease-Free Zones, the volume of beef exports and other animal by products would facilitate access of Kenyan meat, leather and leather products to local, regional and international markets. The first zone was established at the Coast, covering the seven regional counties outside the Tsavo National Park. The other three zones were established in the Mount Kenya complex, Rift Valley and Northern Frontier pastoral region and Counties.

On Fertilizer Cost Reduction Strategy: This targeted to increase use of fertilizer by smallholder farmers to boost yield/output by improving access and affordability of fertilizer through establishing a local fertilizer plant and working with investors for blending.

Regarding implementation of the Consolidated Agricultural Reform Legislations, necessary regulations were actualized through implementation of the Acts and setting up institutions such as the Agriculture, and Food Authority and restructuring of the then Kenya Agricultural Research Organization in the new Acts. A number of bills have been enacted particularly in Livestock and Fisheries sectors.

Excellencies

In building and scaling up some of the achievements under Vision 2030, the government isolated and focused on four areas for implementation between 2018 and 2022 : better known as the Big 4 Agenda where again Agriculture was prioritized under 100% Food and nutrition security attainment through enhanced large scale food production, driving smallholder productivity, and



reduction of the cost of food to improve accessibility to all. The government's efforts to make food affordable and available to all Kenyans are bearing fruit with the various initiatives aimed at supporting farming, livestock rearing and fish production initiated. More farmers are accessing subsidized inputs to lower their cost of production and boost earnings. These initiatives are ongoing and we hope to hit the targets we have set for ourselves. By 2022, some of the aspirations under the Big 4 Agenda that we target to achieve include 34% increase in the average daily income of farmers, 27% reduction in malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, Create 1,000 Agro-processing SMEs & 600,000 new jobs, 50% reduction in the number of food insecure Kenyans, 48% increase in Agriculture sector contribution to GDP 47% reduction in the cost of food as a percentage of income.

Your Excellencies,

Beyond 2022, the Kenya's Agricultural Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy (ASGTS), 2019-2029, has identified nine bold and ambitious flagships that will help transform the agriculture sector in Kenya and make us a regional power house, drive 100% food and nutrition security and ensure food is affordable especially for the most in need. The ASGTS prioritizes three anchors to drive the 10-year transformation, with specific targets set for the first five years:

Anchor 1 aims at Increasing small-scale farmer, pastoralist and fisherfolk incomes: – Raise average annual small-scale farmer incomes by ~40% from USD 4.3 /day to USD 5.8 /day (~35% increase); Directly benefit ~3.3 million Kenyan farming households.

Anchor 2: aims to Increase agricultural output and value add: Expand agricultural GDP from USD 27 billion to USD ~36 billion; Grow contribution of agro-processing to GDP by KES ~130 billion over 5 years (~50% from KES 261 billion today).



Anchor 3: Targets to increase household food resilience: Reduce the number of food-insecure Kenyans in the ASAL regions from 2.7 million on average to zero, while reducing the cost of food and improving nutrition; Protect households against shocks: environmental and fiscal.

In preparation for the 2021 Food Systems Summit, seven Sub-regional dialogues were held across the country;

South Eastern Kenya Economic Block; Central Region Economic Block, Coast regional block (JKP), Lake Region Economic Block (LREB) Narok and Kajiado Economic Block (NAKAEB), North Rift Economic Block (NOREB) and the Nairobi City.

Moving forward the following dialogues have been scheduled as part of the bigger stakeholder involvement:

- ❖ **Kenya Agriculture Markets Information System** which provides farmers with information on the prices of various commodities.
- ❖ **The E-voucher systems** that enables farmers buy pre-prepared input packages of seeds, equipment and consumables from selected suppliers.
- ❖ **Use of GIS to map agricultural land**, working with county government to create spatial land plans that can be used to safeguard productive agricultural land and the creation of suitability maps to inform farmers on the best value chains to namely:
 - a. **Creation of soil maps** to understand soil fertility issues around the country.
 - b. Shifting the ministry officials towards **digital orientation** and enabling a cultural shift among them to enable a **digital transition**.



The results from these dialogues are shaping the Kenyan Contribution to the Food Systems Summit and further the National commitment on agriculture and food security.

The priorities identified in the regional dialogues are the basis for a next phase of vision articulation for Kenya's food system.

Across the regions, the recurring issues included:

1. The need for sustainable policies that support nutrition and health, foster climate smart solutions, reduce post-harvest losses as well as spur value addition and agro-processing.
2. Policy coherence and harmonization between county and national government was highlighted as crucial. The need to align agricultural policies at the county level was also noted.
3. Inclusivity in policy development was a key issue raised; the need for community, youth and multi-stakeholder engagement in policy was emphasized.
4. The need to strengthen the policy environment and protect agricultural land.

Proposed activities

1. A National dialogue for policy makers on creating an enabling environment for sustainable food systems through policy and legal frameworks has been scheduled on 21st July, 2021
2. An Apex National Dialogue has been planned to be held in mid-August, 2021 at a date to be communicated

I wish to thank the organizers of this pre-summit, it has come at the right when we are in the middle of the global Covid challenge, which calls for new innovative measures to ensure a free from hunger society.



In Kenya we came up with a Covid war room composed of multi stakeholders and multi agencies to ensure non-disruption of food production, supply, availability and affordability. This reduced the negative impact that Covid would have caused especially on the most vulnerable in remote areas and informal settlements.

I thank you