

Rwanda Ministerial Statement
By Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources
At Pre- UN Food Systems Summit, [Live-Virtually](#), on 27th July 2021,
Session: 11:30-12:30 (Rome Time); 5 Minutes duration

Excellencies;

Distinguished participants,

The preparation of the UN Food Systems Summit in Rwanda through National food system dialogues provided the opportunity to evaluate our current food systems. We examined existing gaps, strengths and opportunities in relation to the triple challenge of food and nutrition security, decent livelihoods, environmental sustainability.

Our current food systems still face many challenges including gaps in crop and livestock productivity that are associated with low uptake of modern technologies, knowledge and skills gaps among small scale farmers who constitute the majority of our food producers; Weak logistics and processing infrastructures in rural areas lead to post-harvest food loss and limited job creation; Limited awareness and high cost of healthy and nutritious foods lead among others to high levels of stunting among children below five years of age; and susceptibility to shocks due to climate change and weather variability.

The dialogues also shaped up our renewed commitments to deliver on national, continental and the 2030 SDGs Agenda while building back better from COVID-19 pandemic. They served as wakeup call for even more need of stronger partnerships and synergies between all the stakeholders in food systems.

Rwanda's food systems transformation will focus on actions that will:

1. Promote Sustainable Production and Productivity of crops and livestock to ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of safe and nutritious food by leveraging science and modern technologies that enhance food nutrient content, reduce Green House Gas emission and land degradation.
2. Increase healthy and nutritious food awareness and education programs and upgrade the laboratory capacity for food safety and Surveillance.
3. Promote and de risk Agri-food investments in post-harvest management and agro-processing facilities to reduce food losses and create jobs
4. Promote Social & environmental resilience through increasing the coverage of agricultural insurance and social protection programs to enhance graduation from poverty and extreme poverty;
5. Enhance the contributions from women and youth for sustainable and equitable food futures

Current and past success stories that supported our progress such Crop and livestock intensification, One cow per poor family, small livestock promotion, Kitchen gardens, Early Childhood Development Centres at village level, National Strategic Food Reserves will be scaled up.

In keeping with continental coalitions effort such as *African Common Position in Food Systems Transformation*, Rwanda is strongly committed to join other leaders of the United Nations, civil society, academia and the private sector to scale up school meals programmes to combat child hunger and reach healthy and nutritious meal in schools by 2030.

In conclusion, Rwanda does recognize multifaceted nature of the Food Systems. Therefore, delivering on the promise of a well-functioning food system requires a concerted effort nationally, regionally, and internationally between stakeholders to show a united front in tackling the numerous food system challenges and to promote its wide adoption.

I thank you all and I wish you an enjoyable and productive pre-summit.

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