

Ministerial Statement - H.E. Dr. Chalermchai Sri-On
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Pre-Summit of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit
26 July 2021, 18.30-19.30 น. (Teleconference)

Chairman, Ministers and Distinguished Guests,

I am honored to inform that Thailand is determined to become the “Kitchen of the World” and has therefore adopted the policy of the ‘3 S’, namely ‘Safety’, ‘Security’ and ‘Sustainability’, for our agriculture and food sectors. The Thai government also adopted the ‘Bio-Circular-Green’ or ‘BCG’ economic model to be implemented in five strategic areas: 1) food security, 2) public health, 3) energy security, 4) employment and occupation and 5) environmental sustainability. Scientific research, technology and innovation shall enable us to build ‘forward’ better and prepare us for the ‘new’ normal by enhancing national competitiveness in line with Thailand’s vision of “Stability, Prosperity and Sustainability”

Since last January we have organized several National Dialogue Events, called “Welcome to think and chat”, involving all stakeholders including the United Nations Agencies and the FAO/RAP in Thailand. I am delighted to summarize the four key points and the game changing solutions to transform the food system that emerged from the National Dialogue:

1. Self-reliance in food production. People must be able to be self-reliant in food starting from household level. This is in line with the Principle of-Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” and “New Theory Agriculture in every district nationwide aiming to strengthen the food and agriculture system to enable Thailand to survive in times of crisis.

To achieve this objective, Thailand successfully implemented several initiatives, such as the ‘Agriculture for School Lunch program’, the ‘School Milk Supplement Program for Children and Youth’, the ‘Provincial Crop Calendar’, the promotion of tradition herbal medicine for health, and the ‘Future food’ from insects and plants. All these initiatives aim to support food security and food safety and grant that all people have access to healthy food:-

2. Equitable balance among sustainability dimensions. We must enhance cooperation and inclusive participation of all stakeholders at all levels in order to achieve an equitable balance among the three dimensions of sustainability whereby economy shall thrive, all people shall be sated, "full" and "healthy", and our food production and agriculture systems shall have minimum negative impact on natural resources and climate change or eventually become ‘nature-positive’.

3. Biodiversity protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources. Ensure that all stakeholders, beginning from farmers, local communities, people's networks and businesses, producers and consumers to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity and sustainably use terrestrial and marine natural resources. In this endeavor, Thailand will use the successful lessons learned in tackling IUU problems, advocating for the designation of World Soil Day and King Bhumibol Adulyadej World Soil Day Award on December 5 every year, and implementing the "New Theory Agriculture" as a guideline to sustain transformation of food systems and agriculture to achieve the key objectives of enhancing Food security and Nutrition, and Environmental sustainability.

4. Good Governance. Good Governance is the key to transform principles into practice, for example by supporting farmers to access arable land and natural resources, promote the production of safe agricultural products, allocate budget for research and development of knowledge and technology, to encourage people-centric learning, promote social responsibility of private investments as well as reform the relevant regulations to be more updated.

In conclusion, the Royal Thai Government and I would like to reiterate the importance of collective collaboration at all levels, beginning from the Governing Bodies of the various Agencies and Organizations, both at domestic and international level, working on the ground.

Thank You.