



Address at the Global Food Summit

Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment - Dr Mahendra Reddy

23rd September, 2021

UN General Secretary – Mr Antonio Gueterres

UN Secretary General's Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit – Dr Agnes Kalibata

Heads of State, Ministers, Excellences

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentleman

Bula Vinaka and thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share with you Fiji's pathway for transforming the current Food systems into a sustainable, resilient and equitable food systems vide the UN 2030 Agenda.

Without degrading our natural resources, we saw the need to transform our food systems as; an economic, social, environmental, health, security issue that we would like to, bring about stability and harmony in our nation.

Fiji is a small island state, its 332 islands are spread across 18,274 square kilometres at which the smaller islands are very remote lacking inter connectedness, Developing a transformative food systems pathway is very critical for Fiji to sustain itself.

Using the SDG as our compass, the success of Fiji's pathway will be denoted by the outcome of these five priorities;

1. Benchmark level of productivity in food systems and healthy, vibrant society with access to safe and nutritious food.
2. Balanced and sustainable equation of green and blue food consumption patterns that fully meet domestic food requirements as well as position Fiji as a net exporter of food.

3. Well-developed and sustainable food production systems that prevent biodiversity loss, limited use of inorganic inputs and replacing monoculture with poly culture farming practices.
4. Thriving primary sector that is a leading contributor to Fiji's economic growth agenda and is an attractive commercial proposition that ensures a sustainable and equitable livelihood for all.
5. Innovative, efficient, climate smart and resilient food system that is ably positioned to cushion the impact of future shocks.

The outcomes will be achieved through the creation of an enabling environment that carefully considers multi-sectoral potential and includes them in national plans and policies.

Technology, market development and facilitation of market access efforts are to include E-commerce and digital solutions. Enhancement of scientific research and improved production practices are needed to increase access to Blue and Green Foods. This will upscale regenerative agriculture and fisheries food systems and help reduce food loss and waste.

Fiji is susceptible to Natural Disasters, Alliances with financial institutions and international development partners are to be enhanced to build social and economic resilience and eliminate multi-dimensional vulnerabilities.

The intended transformative pathway development is inclusive, strengthening coordination and advocacy in our policies to provide women and youths with opportunities to contribute effectively to Agriculture Development.

Thank you, Vinaka vakalevu.

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