

Japan's comments (remarks) at the OEWG meeting on April 14, 2020

1. Regarding to general in VGFSyN

The current proposal divides the guidelines into seven items. However, some issues are not correctly categorized in particular items. For instance, 3.2.3 is “Promoting nutrition within agriculture and food production.”, but, it contains e) stating “To reduce excessive food volatility, governmental actors should promote market information systems”. Like this, further elaboration would be needed to correctly categorize individual issues.

2. Nutrition for Growth Summit

The Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 is scheduled to be held in an important year during which an interim evaluation of various international goals related to nutrition improvement is planned. FAO will act as an agent and discuss nutrition-sensitive food systems, especially in theme 2. Speculation. Since the results will be shared at the Food System Summit 2021, MAFF Japan requests that the Secretariat also add the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 as a target for attention. Our specific sentence to be added is indicated in the attachment.

3. Dealing with novel coronavirus infection

- With regard to the joint statement conducted by FAO, WHO and WTO at the end of last month, Japan fully agrees with its main message stating not to stop food production and distribution.
- In creating this voluntary guideline, the pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus should be recognized as a new risk, and also the need for policies to secure a robust food system even under such circumstances should be emphasized. Specifically, the following phrases should be mentioned.
 - Enabling all people to obtain information on food-related trade measures, levels of food production, consumption and inventory, and food prices in real time, and the importance of international cooperation for this purpose
 - Importance of consideration in risk management to minimize potential impacts on food supply and unintended consequences for world trade and food security
 - In addition to transparency and predictability, the importance of risk management based on scientific evidence
 - Sharing countries' good practices associated with risk response.
 - Importance of food stockpiling

4. Promotion of digitalization of agriculture

- As pointed out in “Policy recommendations on agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable food systems that ensure food security and nutrition”, promoting digitalization is decisively crucial for the transformation toward a sustainable food system for nutrition improvement and food security.
- The importance of digitization should be clearly stated in this voluntary guideline.

5. Specific comments (See attachment)

- Inclusion of the sentence referring Nutrition for Growth Summit
- Technical indications related to food safety (use of antibacterial agents for livestock)
- Input/comments on the sentences dealing with foods and beverages containing specific commodities