

**TICAD Official Side Event:
Impacts of Investment and the Principles for Responsible
Agricultural Investment on African Agriculture**

***A closing remark by Dr. Toshiko ABE,
Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs***

(Introduction)

His Excellency Dr. Graziano da Silva (グラツィアーノ・ダ・シルバ), Director General of FAO,
Dr. Nwanze (ヌワンゼ), President of IFAD,
Dr. Draganov (ドラガノフ), Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the government of Japan which co-hosts TICADV, it is my great honor to address a closing remark for this official side event on agricultural investment, which is a crucial theme for African agriculture.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce Japan's efforts for African agricultural development including those committed at TICAD, with giving a special focus to agricultural investments.

(Japan's assistance to increasing agricultural production in Africa)

Increasing agricultural production has been one of TICAD's crucial themes, because it is essential for reducing poverty and enhancing food security.

Five years ago, at TICADIV, Japan - together with FAO, IFAD, the World Bank and other stakeholders- launched "the Coalition of African Rice Development (CARD)" initiative, which aims at doubling rice production in sub-Saharan Africa by 2018. TICAD this time identifies farmers at the center of growth in Africa. From this perspective, Japan commits itself to expanding "the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Project (SHEP)." This capacity-building project is to help farmers increase their incomes, by enabling them to conduct, among others, market surveys and select marketable commodities by themselves.

As the second largest ODA donor in the agricultural sector, Japan will continue to extend various assistances in such areas as development of varieties, diffusion of technologies, and empowerment of farmers including smallholders and women. We hope this would contribute to supporting sustainable agricultural development in Africa.

(Japan's contribution to responsible agricultural investment)

In addition to the aforementioned public assistances, agricultural investments are also essential for increasing agricultural production. However, while agricultural investments could bring about various developmental benefits, they might also entail unintentional risks as discussed in this official side event. It is therefore extremely important that agricultural investments should be conducted in a responsible manner that harmonizes the benefits of receiving countries, local communities including smallholders, and investors.

With this conviction, Japan has promoted the initiative of “responsible agricultural investment” since 2009. Also, the four international organizations, the hosts of this side event, have made significant intellectual contributions which have been welcomed by many international fora such as TICAD, G8, G20, and APEC. One of their works is a research and analysis on agricultural investments funded by Japan. I am pleased to witness that its outcome is widely shared at this side event and discussed with the stakeholders represented by you all.

Building upon those efforts and today's discussion, Japan will continue to actively contribute to the consultative process to develop “principles for responsible agricultural investment” which is being undertaken by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome.

(Conclusion)

Finally, towards poverty reduction and the enhancement of food security in Africa, I would like to reiterate Japan's commitment to steadily implement assistances for increasing agricultural production there. I also sincerely wish that “responsible agricultural investment” will be promoted by the cooperation and support from all of you and other broad stakeholders.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.