

**Remarks by Mr. Tetsuo Morimoto,  
Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan,  
at the 4th Berlin Summit of Agriculture Ministers**

**Opening**

I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the Government of Japan in exchanging views with other national representatives here at the Berlin Summit of Agriculture Ministers. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Federal Minister Ilse Aigner and the other German government officials.

**Efforts to rebuild and revitalize Japan's agriculture, forestry, and fisheries**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Europe and the other countries and regions throughout the world for such warm support and cooperation after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Japan will steadily advance efforts with top priority put on rebuilding from this disaster.

**Easing import restrictions on Japanese food products, etc.**

In our response to the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, which was caused by the earthquake, Japan currently employs efforts to ensure the safety of food products produced in Japan through monitoring and inspection conducted on a continual basis and by implementing restrictions of distribution on food products for which radioactive materials have been detected that surpass the provisional regulation values based on the Food Sanitation Act.

There are progressively fewer cases where food products are detected that have radioactive materials surpassing the provisional regulation values. Moving forward, Japan will continue to exert every effort to provide prompt and accurate information to the international community, so I would like to again ask that countries make decisions based on scientific evidence when responding to the issue of importing food products from Japan.

**Food and agricultural issues and food security**

**Food and agricultural issues**

Under such circumstances as a growing world population, climate change, and a destabilizing global economy, the world currently faces increasingly noticeable, diverse risks related to food and agricultural production and food security, including volatile food prices and a growing population of undernourished people.

**Ensuring food security**

As the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting agreed in France last year, it is vital to expand

sustainable agricultural production and boost productivity in order to ensure food security. It is also significant to mitigate the adverse impacts of food and agricultural product price volatility and to promote international coordination to stabilize market.

In particular, under the current situation where weather disasters occur on a frequent and global basis, in order to strengthen food security it is important for all countries, whether developed or developing to increase domestic agricultural production, making use of resources such as land and water to the maximum extent possible while boosting food production through sustainable agriculture within the context of international coordination.

### **Efforts and contributions by Japan**

I would now like to introduce some of the undertakings being promoted by Japan in the relevant food security sector.

#### **Revitalizing domestic agriculture**

Working towards the objective of improving Japan's food self-sufficiency ratio, we are making efforts to rebuild domestic agriculture featuring the "delicious, safe, and environmentally friendly" brand of Japanese food.

#### **Addressing global food security**

Last year, as an effort of ASEAN Plus Three, which comprises the 10 ASEAN member countries plus Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea, Japan signed the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) agreement. Moreover, Japan promotes the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS) as a project to enhance regional cooperation.

#### **Assistance for developing countries**

As the second largest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the field of agriculture, Japan actively implements assistance to countries and regions of the developing world. Focusing on Africa particularly, Japan promotes efforts to double the rice production in Africa by 2018 and joins hands with Brazil to provide joint assistance in Africa.

#### **Contributions to biodiversity, national land conservation, etc.**

The sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries contribute to positive externalities, such as preserving biodiversity and national land conservation. It is important to maintain and develop rich rural areas where people can live in harmony with nature and to ensure that those areas exist into the future.

In June of last year, Japan's Sado and Noto regions were designated as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) by the FAO, making Japan the first developed countries to receive this recognition. In Sado, paddy rice is being produced in harmony with the

local environment, which is home to the Crested Ibis 'Toki', an endangered species of bird. In Noto, conservation activities are underway to preserve traditional rural culture that has been fostered in unison with the local agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

Just as shown by the concept of the GIAHS, it is important for countries to promote the coexistence of diverse agricultural systems while utilizing their land, water, and other resources to the maximum extent possible and paying consideration to their country's own diverse agricultural requirements.

### **Conclusion**

This meeting is an invaluable opportunity for ministers from all over the world to congregate and discuss food security. This is an important step for boosting food production through sustainable agriculture, enhancing regional and international cooperation and partnerships, and contributing to the success of Rio+20.

Thank you very much.