

Address by H.E. Mr. Taku Eto  
Senior Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Government of Japan  
at the 38th FAO Conference  
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FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Thank you, Chairperson.  
Distinguished delegates and participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I would like to express my deep appreciation to His Excellency Dr. José Graziano da Silva, the Director-General of FAO, and the secretariat for the organization of this 38th Conference.
2. I am truly honored to have this opportunity to deliver our contribution to the global food security and our vision on agriculture.
3. We have been observing the food price volatility in recent years. Even now, international food prices remain above historical averages.
4. At the Ministerial Meeting on Food Price Volatility held at the FAO Headquarters last October, Japan expressed that we should avoid the impact on the most vulnerable people.
5. We have been emphasizing that in order to ensure food security, each country is expected to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity, considering the diversity of environmental conditions worldwide and multiple roles of agriculture.
6. To increase agricultural production and productivity, it is extremely important that agricultural investments should be conducted in a manner that harmonizes the benefits of receiving countries, local communities including smallholders, and investors. With this belief, Japan has promoted the concept of “responsible agricultural investment” since 2009.
7. Japan intends to continue actively contributing to the CFS consultative process to develop principles for responsible agricultural investment. As a part of our contributions, Japan will financially support a forward-looking research and analysis program for responsible agricultural investment as well

as the implementation of “*Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forest in the Context of National Food Security*,” both of which will be conducted by FAO and other relevant international organizations.

8. In addition, transparency of markets should be enhanced by sharing timely and accurate agricultural information through the Agricultural Market Information System, which was agreed at the Meeting of G20 Agriculture Ministers.
9. Based on these viewpoints and promoting these initiatives, Japan would like to continue our utmost contribution to achieving the global food security.
10. From this point of view, I would like to introduce the outcomes of “the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development,” namely TICAD V, that marks the 20th anniversary this year. TICAD V has just been held in Yokohama, Japan at the beginning of June, with the presence of the heads of state and ministers of 51 African countries as well as the heads and other representatives of various international organizations, including His Excellency Dr. Graziano, the Director- General of FAO himself. Taking that opportunity, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan would support African growth through public and private means of 3.2 trillion yen or approximately 32 billion USD over the next five years.
11. Agricultural development has been one of the TICAD key themes as it is indispensable for economic growth and food security in Africa. TICAD V has also identified farmers as main players of the economy. The Conference reached the consensus to sustainably increase food production and productivity, as well as to expand agriculture and agribusiness with a view of generating employment, increasing rural incomes, and improving livelihood of women and smallholders. And also, at TICADV, the official side event on responsible agricultural investment was held with the presence of the Director-General of FAO.
12. In considering the future vision on agriculture in respective countries, we cannot disregard the co-existence of various types of agriculture and multiple roles that agriculture plays. Based on this point of view, last month, we hosted the International Forum on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, namely GIAHS, in collaboration with FAO.
13. This international partnership on agricultural heritage was launched by FAO in 2002. It aims to identify, support and conserve important agricultural systems and biodiversity to be inherited to the next generations. Six sites

were designated as GIAHS sites at this Forum, bringing about a total of 25 GIHAS-designated sites in 11 countries around the world.

14. GIAHS respects the co-existence of various types of agriculture and enhances multiple roles of agriculture. It is an effective framework for local communities to promote and vitalize their sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries on their own initiatives. Communities very often rediscover their great value and regain their self-confidence and vitality by the GIAHS designation.
15. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce recent development in Japan's agricultural policies.
16. Since the inauguration of the Abe Cabinet last December, Japan has been making efforts in reviving our economy, while our rural society faces a number of challenges, including shrinking and aging agricultural population as well as increasing abandoned farmlands.
17. Having re-examined these circumstances, to make agriculture, forestry and fisheries as a new growing industry, we have outlined a new strategy. In particular, we endeavor to strengthen the production side and improve producer-consumer value chains, while increasing demands for agricultural products.
18. Last but not least, we intend to contribute to ensuring food security not only nationally but also globally by supporting developing countries' efforts as the second largest donor in the agricultural sector, promoting the principles for responsible agricultural investment and implementing initiatives that enhance co-existence of various types of agriculture, such as GIAHS.

Thank you very much.