

**Statement delivered by  
His Excellency Momon Rusmono  
Acting Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia  
on the occasion of the  
41<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)  
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Thank you Chairman,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to join the previous speakers in congratulating the newly elected Director-General of FAO for the next four years, Excellency Dr Qu Dongyu. I extend my best wishes and pledge Indonesia's support to you and to the whole Organization.

I also would like to take this opportunity to convey high appreciation to the outgoing Director-General of FAO, Dr Graziano da Silva, for his strong leadership for the past eight years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Align with this year's Conference theme, Indonesia has placed her strong concerns on the interrelationships between migration, agriculture, and rural development to food security and nutrition.

In Indonesia, migration has long been seen as an important aspect of regional socio-economic development. It presents both opportunities and challenges.

On the positive side, the migrants send remittances to their relatives. In 2016, migrants overseas remitted almost 10 billion USD, equivalent to 1 percent of the Indonesia's total GDP. This shows the significant contribution of remittances to poverty alleviation in rural areas.

On the negative side, however, migration has drained human resources in rural areas, particularly the youth; and left behind the old, who are often reluctant to adopting innovation and technology, to work on agriculture. Nearly 10 million Indonesian are estimated to be temporary internal migrants, while 7 percent of the total workforce are accounted as international migrants. It is hence the need to re-engage youth to agriculture is becoming crucial.

Similar to other developing nations, Indonesia also views challenges arising from climate change and lack of socio-economic incentives to work in agricultural sector, as deep root causes of migration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Indonesian Government, in the last five years, has developed a set of policies to improve income-earning opportunities in rural areas, and attract the interest of youth in agriculture.

We implement concrete actions based on a modernized, innovative, and holistic approach. This includes changing existing policies, promoting regional development, building agricultural infrastructure and downstream industry, managing the supply chain and providing agriculture insurance.

We have done numerous efforts in promoting gainful employment and entrepreneurship for youth through formal and informal education. For example, we established Agricultural Polytechnic, based on vocational education, whose graduates are ready to enter the job market or become Agripreneurs. We provide internship program abroad, as well as better access to various domestic supports, such as financial aids, modern technologies and digitalization. Through these, we manage to provide rural young millennial and farmers, including fishers, with more viable livelihood option to combat the root causes of migration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our efforts in an integrated manner resulted in a remarkable reduction in national poverty rate during the last five years, where it reached a single digit for the first time at 9.7 percent in 2018.

To conclude, on behalf of the Indonesian Government, I wish to commend and value highly the efforts of FAO through its Regional and Country Offices in addressing the migration challenges. Indonesia renews her firm commitment to support the FAO's endeavor in eradicating poverty and food insecurity throughout the world.

I thank you Mr Chairman.