

World Food Day/ TeleFood 2006
Asia-Pacific regional observance

**INVESTING IN
AGRICULTURE FOR
FOOD SECURITY**



Investing in agriculture for food security

The designation and presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

All rights reserved. Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial purposes are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for sale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission of the copyright holders. Applications for such permission should be addressed to the Meetings and Publications Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Atit Road, Bangkok 10200, Thailand or by e-mail to RAP-publications@fao.org.

FAO 2006

Photo credits:

Cover - FAO/A. Kimoto. Page 17 - FAO/A. Kimoto, Kesara Aotarayakul.

For copies write to:

Diderik de Vleeschauwer
Information Officer
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Maliwan Mansion, 39 Phra Athit Road
Bangkok 10200
THAILAND
Tel: (+66) 2 697 4000
Fax: (+66) 2 697 4445
E-mail: Diderik.deVleeschauwer@fao.org

Contents

World Food Day theme	2
Address by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn	4
Message of the FAO Director-General	6
Statement by He Changchui, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific	8
Keynote speech on <i>Investment in agriculture for poverty reduction and food security in Asia and the Pacific</i> , by Tadao Chino, Senior Advisor, Nomura Research Institute and former President of the Asian Development Bank	10
Model farmers – awards for outstanding achievements	17

Annexes

Annex 1	Media coverage	22
Annex 2	List of guests	26
Annex 3	Organizing secretariat	29
Annex 4	Publications distributed	30

**World Food Day/
TeleFood 2006 theme**

Investing in agriculture for food security

Agriculture may have become a minor player in many industrialized economies, but it must play a starring role on the world stage if we are to bring down the curtain on hunger.

Yet foreign aid for agriculture and rural development has continued to decline. From a total of over US\$9 billion per year in the early 1980s, it fell to less than US\$5 billion in the late 1990s. Meanwhile, an estimated 854 million people around the world remain undernourished.

Only investment in agriculture – together with support for education and health – will turn this situation around.

Most of the world's farmers are small-scale farmers. As a group, they are the biggest investors in agriculture. They also tend to have inadequate or precarious access to food themselves. If they can make a profit with their farming, they can feed their families throughout the year and reinvest in their farms by purchasing fertilizer, better quality seed and basic equipment.

Small producers face many obstacles beyond their control: lack of credit, insecure land tenure, poor transport, low prices and poorly developed business

relations with agribusinesses – to say nothing of natural factors such as drought, flood, pests and disease.

Agribusiness is the umbrella term for the local, national or international companies that handle or transform the farm produce as it is passed up the long supply chain to the consumer. These businesses typically invest their own capital in transportation, processing, wholesaling and retailing, selling commodities such as rice and wheat, high-value crops like vegetables and niche products such as cut flowers. Supermarkets are becoming the biggest players in national and regional food supply chains, setting grades and standards and even making cross-border supply chains work.

If the supply chain works well with fair returns on investment for everyone, the first link – the farmer – earns enough money to feed his or her family and to re-invest. Employment created by the many businesses in the supply chain enables still more people to live a decent life. Hunger declines and quality of life improves.

However agribusinesses in developing countries face problems: lack of good roads, railways and market infrastruc-

ture, absence of recognised grades and standards, weak legal structures for enforcing contracts, and the practical difficulty in developing business arrangements with large numbers of small-scale farmers.

A new model for cooperation between the public and private sectors in rural development is evolving. The model includes new ways to (1) bring together producers and agribusiness, (2) establish and enforce grades and standards, (3) improve the investment climate for agriculture, and (4) provide essential public goods such as rural infrastructure.

One major problem for processors and traders is getting enough quality farm produce in the first place. In this, the public sector can help by promoting cooperatives and "outgrower" schemes, both of which can grow crops or raise livestock to order. Cooperatives are already important players in agriculture. The public sector can support them with legal safeguards, management and business training, and by encouraging the private sector to assist cooperatives in areas such as market information and production technologies. Outgrower schemes – subcontracting arrangements in agribusiness – are enjoying a revival. Companies often provide technical assistance, materials and/or financing to local farmers to help them grow a particular product that the company agrees to purchase at a later date. Outgrower schemes can create local employment and improve farmer incomes.

Governments need to enact and enforce rules and regulations that create a safe and predictable environment for private investors. Take grades and standards, for example. Buyers and consumers of produce – in both developed and developing countries – are increasingly demanding high-quality food produced to rigorous standards of size, colour and shape. The more detailed and widely-known the standards are, the easier it is

for all the players in the sector to conform.

Any person or business with money to invest, including a smallholder, must decide where to invest the money. If returns on investment are better in another sector – such as land speculation or a small business in town – then an investor will logically put his or her money there.

Public policy and public investment can create an attractive climate to make agriculture a good investment – one where there is good governance and transparent public administration, where there is macroeconomic discipline and stability, and where there is political stability. On the other hand, cumbersome tax systems coupled with inefficient or corrupt tax administrations are amongst the greatest obstacles to investment and entrepreneurship. Lack of support for rural finance, venture capital and microfinance starve agribusinesses of the nourishment they need to flourish.

Labour markets, land tenure security, and food safety are the responsibility of government and are critical areas examined by would-be investors, both domestic and international. If they are weak, or if they are not clear and fair, investors will go elsewhere or invest in sectors judged less risky than agriculture.

Investment in infrastructure in rural areas, especially in water, roads, power and communications, has a crucial role in kindling agricultural growth. If countries get these conditions right, dramatic benefits to agriculture and poor rural households can be expected.

The public sector in many parts of the developing world has been slow to respond to the changes that globalization has brought to markets. Investment in building the capacity of governments to help their small farmers and to encourage private investors is money well spent.

Address by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

It is a great pleasure for me to join all of you again on the World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Despite rapid economic growth and the progress in reducing poverty and hunger, Asia and the Pacific region still has the largest number of the poor and undernourished in the world. Achieving the Millennium Development Goal for eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, therefore, remains at the top of the development agenda for many countries in the region.

While the region is witnessing rapid urbanization and the growth of manufacturing and service sectors, agriculture is crucial to the socio-economic well-being of its people. Some 70 percent of the poor in Asia and the Pacific developing countries live in rural areas. The majority of the labour force in these countries depends on agriculture, directly or through related activities. Given the extent to which poor people's livelihoods depend on agriculture, the critical importance of growth in this sector to ensure food security cannot be over-emphasized.

However, the agriculture sector is not growing as rapidly now as in the post-

"Green Revolution" period. For the last two decades, agricultural growth has gradually slackened in many countries. There are several reasons for this. The amount of land and water available for agriculture is declining with increasing urbanization and resource degradation. Rural wages and inputs prices have increased while real prices of agricultural commodities have declined over the long-term. In many communities, loss of agricultural profitability has forced people to abandon farming and move to overcrowded cities, while agricultural imports have increased.

This is not a happy situation, and not a sustainable one. Agriculture must be restored to health in Asia. How to do this is a complex issue. It is not possible for developing countries in the region to support agriculture through subsidies and protection. It's neither economically feasible nor sustainable in this era of trade liberalization and openness. We have to look for better options. We have to make agriculture more productive and competitive so that it can produce whatever is in the country's best comparative advantage. Countries in this region should also work together to get fair trade deals for our products in export markets.

Policy-makers must ensure that such a crucial sector is not starved of resources and promote effective public–private sector partnerships to mobilize necessary investment. There are several crucial public goods in which governments must invest to encourage private investment. The private sector in agriculture comprises different groups of people, from farmers to traders to processors and transporters. Their needs differ. Governments should recognize these and try to provide public goods that encourage them without discrimination.

Thailand's own experience in promoting public–private sector partnership in agriculture provides some important lessons for the future. Coordinated efforts of agricultural development agencies, financial institutions, farmers, and private traders and industrialists working together have greatly transformed Thai agriculture into a commercially-oriented sector responding to market opportunities, not only in Thailand but also in importing countries. The quality of farm products has significantly improved, benefiting both producers and consumers. It has drastically reduced the incidence of poverty and undernutrition. However, this does not mean that

we have solved all our problems in agriculture. What is important is to maintain the commitment to address the lingering and emerging issues as soon as possible with necessary measures, including investment for a broadly based agricultural and rural development. This is an essential component of the strategy to tackle the remnants of poverty and food insecurity.

Lastly, I join you all in congratulating FAO on this auspicious day for its achievements and offer Thailand's good wishes and full hearted support to the World Food Day theme. I am confident that FAO will continue to receive similar support from other Asia-Pacific countries in realizing the collective mission of ensuring food security for all.

Message of the FAO Director-General

Today, agriculture has contributed to human civilization by improving nutrition and living standards. It has ensured the production and distribution of agricultural, fishery and forestry products and enough food to feed everyone on this planet.

Despite the progress achieved in agriculture and rural development, more than 850 million people still remain hungry and poor. Our greatest challenge is to reach the World Food Summit and first UN Millennium Development Goal to halve by 2015 hunger and poverty worldwide.

The theme chosen for World Food Day and TeleFood this year is "**Investing in agriculture for food security**" so that "**the whole world will profit.**" The aim is to highlight the role of investment in agriculture – both public and private. Action should be supported to improve rural livelihoods by reversing the decline of public investment in agriculture over the last two decades.

Seventy percent of the world's hungry live in rural areas. That is where it is most critical to provide food and employment. The seed planted by a farmer leads to a flourishing agribusinesses that

pay taxes, and help build rural schools and roads. Agricultural development is the first step of a long-term sustainable economic growth. Everyone gains from investment in agriculture.

Since 1964, FAO has been a key player in the UN system in the mobilization of international and domestic financing for agriculture in favour of developing countries and countries in transition. Through its cooperation with financing agencies, FAO has helped 165 member countries to obtain funding for almost 1 600 agricultural and rural investment programmes and projects. That represents funding commitments of over US\$80 billion!

The challenge of increasing investment in agriculture is especially great in Africa. Governments in that region have recognized the urgency of committing their own resources to agriculture. In the "Maputo Declaration" in 2003, African Heads of State committed their governments to allocating 10 percent of their national budgets to agriculture and rural development within five years, thus doubling the present level of resources. Recently there has been a significant revival in lending for agriculture. Debt forgiveness programmes, strengthened

by the G-8 decision in 2005, have begun to release national resources for investment in the sector. But much still remains to be done and innovative actions are welcome.

Increasing the volume of public investment in agriculture is of absolute necessity and it is crucial to make such assistance more effective. One major mechanism is the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, a consortium of 26 donor development agencies, which FAO co-chairs with Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The platform seeks to improve donor aid effectiveness and focus action on achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

While increased development assistance, public investment and debt relief are key elements, equal importance should be given to private sector investment. Commercial farmers, traders, input suppliers, agro-processors and transnational agribusinesses all contribute to a global system of investment that can help rural people reap profits from agricultural production, marketing and trade. But, importantly, let us not forget that small farmers themselves are the biggest investors in agriculture.

"Promoting profitable partnerships" is the new model for cooperation between the public and private sectors. This means finding new ways of bringing together producers – small farmers and cooperatives – with agribusiness and governments to create profitable ventures. It places primary responsibility on governments to create stable socio-political conditions, establish legal frameworks for access to land and water, enforce grades and standards, foster a better climate for private investment and provide essential rural infrastructure. On this World Food Day, let us resolve together to increase the investment in agriculture so that the whole world may profit.

**Statement by He Changchui,
Assistant Director-General
and FAO Regional Representative
for Asia and the Pacific**

On behalf of the Director-General of FAO Jacques Diouf, my colleagues and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for the commemoration of World Food Day 2006 which marks the 61st birthday of FAO. In this auspicious year FAO joins the Thai people in celebrating the 60th anniversary of His Majesty the King's accession to the throne.

We are especially honored with the presence of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. We are grateful to you, Your Royal Highness, for your gracious acceptance of our invitation to preside over the World Food Day celebration here at the regional office.

Asia and the Pacific region has seen faster human and economic development during the past half century than during any previous comparable period in history. Almost everywhere, literacy rates are up, infant mortality is down, and people are living longer lives. Extreme poverty has come down from 32 percent of the total population in 1990 to an estimated 19 percent in 2005. Yet, the region is still home to 621 million poor people – or two-thirds of the world total – who earn less than US\$1 a day. Likewise, the latest figures indicate that in 2001–03, 524 million people, or 64 percent of developing world's hungry, lived among us. Reversing this shameful situation is the preeminent moral and humanitarian challenge of our age.

It is indeed sad that while Asia as a region is booming economically and several Asian cities have emerged as major centres of world finance and technology, Asian villages are still poor

and technologically lagging. The rural population, in particular agricultural households, are the poorest of the poor. The income equalities between rural and urban people and between agricultural and non-agricultural households are growing, mainly due to the slowing down of agricultural growth for many years.

Country experiences in the region show that overall economic growth is a primary and essential condition for mass poverty reduction, but not a sufficient condition. The responsiveness of poverty to economic growth is weak where access to land, credit, social services and infrastructure is highly unequal. Evidently, the nature of growth, not just its speed, matters. In this regard, the quality of growth has to be more broadly based than it has been for a number of Asian countries. Agriculture and rural development is the key to achieving broad based growth and the Millennium Development Goals for poverty and hunger reduction in the region. This has been confirmed by many studies.

The agriculture sector today is operating in an environment of rapid globalization and urbanization, rising incomes and their associated changes in food demand and marketing patterns. Asian agriculture also faces a shrinking and/or deteriorating natural resource base due to competing demands for urbanization and widespread intensification, rising input costs and falling output prices on a long-term basis. Not only have the costs of inputs increased, their "quality" has also declined, as indicated by small farm sizes, aging farmers, extreme weather conditions and new types of pests and diseases, such as the outbreak of Highly

Pathogenic Avian Influenza in several countries of the region. Asia-Pacific is also highly prone to natural disasters and conflicts – we are today still repairing the damage caused by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 26 December 2004. Moreover, there has been a decline in public sector resource allocation to agriculture. These conditions have naturally discouraged private sector investment in agriculture. As a result, there has been a net resource outflow from the rural to the urban sector. Future growth strategies for improving food security and winning the war against poverty need to take these realities into account and craft and implement suitable institutional changes, technological innovations, market reform and infrastructure development.

The significance of investing in agriculture for food security cannot be overstated. The experience of China and India amply show the importance of public expenditure in agriculture and the rural sector – in irrigation, agricultural R&D and rural infrastructure – in enhancing productivity, wages and employment in both the farm and non-farm sectors and in reducing the incidence of poverty and hunger. Moreover, cross-country studies by FAO show that those countries which spend more on agricultural and rural development obtain larger and more rapid reductions in poverty and hunger.

Given the realities of the region, we have to recognize that in addressing poverty and food insecurity the most important task is enabling the rural poor to improve their livelihoods through policy, investment and institutional reforms that enhance the efficiency of domestic markets and provide improved access to technology, infrastructure and education. Such an enabling environment allows rural growth benefits to be broadly based, thereby enhancing overall nutrition, human capital development, and productivity and economic growth in the medium- to long-term. Almost invariably, successful, sustainable

cases of rural development and poverty reduction are based to a significant degree on efficiency-enhancing reforms which reduce the production and marketing costs to farmers and the transaction costs of intermediaries.

In fact, the agricultural sector in the region has been adjusting and responding to changes in the external environment driven by globalization. It has been diversifying and commercializing to remain competitive. However, the opportunities for such restructuring are not evenly distributed among agricultural households. In particular, small farmers lacking access to information, technology and credit find it difficult to deal with the agribusiness sector on fair terms. They are more vulnerable to natural disasters and can easily fall into poverty traps in the absence of social safety nets. For those who are too weak to participate or are hurt in the process of restructuring, there is a role for the government to help through the provision of safety nets and building of social capital. Growth-oriented policies need to be well balanced with the quest for equity of opportunity.

For the last decade since the 1996 World Food Summit, FAO has emphasized the need for increased investment in the agriculture and rural sector in all major international forums including the Monterrey International Conference on Financing for Development held in 2002. Alongside, through its policy advice FAO has promoted efficient use of investment resources in the most productive sector that will enhance food security and reduce poverty.

On this happy occasion of the World Food Day, I wish to assure you all that this regional office remains fully committed to working with FAO member countries in the region and with development partners, including the private sector and civil society, in augmenting investment in agriculture for food security which will make a dramatic contribution to the well-being of the people in our region.

Thank you!

**Keynote speech by Tadao Chino,
Senior Advisor, Nomura Research
Institute and former President of
the Asian Development Bank**

Investment in agriculture for poverty reduction and food security in Asia and the Pacific

INTRODUCTION

Her Royal Highness, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Allow me first to convey my gratitude to the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for inviting me on this important occasion. I am delighted to participate in this anniversary of FAO, World Food Day. This year's theme, "Investing in Agriculture for Food Security," is very timely. Today is also the beginning of International Poverty Week. While the attention of the global development community is turning toward the problems of Africa, which is understandable, it is also true that, given the large number of poor in our region, the worldwide fight against poverty will be won or lost here in Asia.

I am particularly delighted to address this distinguished audience as a former President of ADB, the vision of which is to free Asia and the Pacific from poverty. In 1999, ADB adopted poverty reduction as its overarching goal. This was followed by ADB increasing its support to key areas including nutrition, early childhood development programs, alternative income opportunities, improv-

ing access to food markets, and addressing environmental issues in dryland, wetland, coastal and upland rural areas, which complement its assistance in agriculture and rural development for poverty reduction.

In its efforts to fight hunger and poverty in the Asia-Pacific, ADB has maintained a close partnership with FAO and the UN system as a whole. Some of our best success stories date back to the 1970s, when FAO, ADB and others formed the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). FAO was also involved in a major study by ADB in 2000 on Rural Asia, which suggested how to reduce rural poverty. Currently, ADB and FAO are closely cooperating on combating Avian Influenza, which has so severely affected poultry farmers in the region.

We all appreciate FAO's global expertise in agriculture and its valuable contribution to the welfare of mankind. ADB also possesses strong knowledge of agriculture and rural development in this region. In particular, ADB emphasizes investments to harness the potential of the rural economy for the benefit of the poor. These two organizations complement each other in their operations and

strategic approach in pursuing their common vision of an Asia-Pacific free from hunger and poverty. Strong collaboration between these two organizations can maximize synergies between their combined intellectual, financial and human resources; and strengthen their global and regional presence. Recognizing these, as early as in 1968, ADB and FAO entered in an Interim Arrangements for Cooperative Action, which was converted into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1981.

Asia and the Pacific region has seen some remarkable progress in agriculture, particularly in productivity of rice and wheat production through improved seedlings, fertilizer and irrigation. This is familiar to all of us as the Green Revolution. The Green Revolution did much to improve the livelihood and nutrition of the poor by way of increasing crop yields, incomes, employment, local demand, and lowering of food prices. But the fight against poverty and hunger in Asia and the Pacific is not over yet. As a result, today, the UN Millennium Project report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and many other reports, stress the need for a new revolution in agricultural research. New findings also highlight the importance of rural infrastructure provision, rural–urban mobility, and regional and international trade and cooperation for rural poverty reduction. Allow me to present to you a somewhat broad view on what I think we can do together to ensure food security, and reduce poverty. I will make this presentation in four parts.

1 POVERTY IS MULTIDIMENSIONAL

At the 1996 World Food Summit and the UN Millennium Summit six years ago, world leaders committed themselves to an eight-point, time-bound, measurable international development agenda. Collectively known as the MDGs, they now represent the latest consensus on

what developed and developing countries should do to meet the basic human needs and rights of every individual.

The MDGs remind us that poverty is multidimensional. Poor people sometimes suffer hunger, sometimes face lack of income, and sometimes lack access to affordable basic services. The poor are also frequently exposed to environmental degradation, and economic and natural shocks. They seldom have sufficient voice and decision-making power to fight for their interests.

Three poverty lines are commonly used in international discussions:

- The first one refers to those poor whose income is not sufficient to meet the basic food requirements of 2100 kcal. These severely poor are often affected by hunger. This poverty line (US\$0.6 a day per capita expenditure or income per day) is often consistent with the national poverty thresholds of many of our developing countries.
- The second poverty line refers to those poor whose per capita expenditure or income is less than US\$1 a day, just sufficient to meet their basic food and other needs.
- The third poverty line includes the near-poor whose per capita expenditure or income falls below US\$2 a day. The near-poor are highly vulnerable to economic, natural, social and even political shocks or life-crises, any of which can quickly push them below the US\$1 a day poverty line.

Despite progress in recent decades, Asia and the Pacific continues to be home to the bulk of the poor in the world by any of these three standards. In 2005, in Asia and the Pacific, about half a billion people are not able to meet basic food requirements of 2100 kcal; 625 million people earn below US\$1 a day; and nearly 2 billion people are near-poor or earn below US\$2 a day. These account for about half to two-thirds of

the total number of poor in the world by the corresponding standards.

Asia and the Pacific has made the fastest and biggest poverty reduction effort ever, improving the lives of 250 million people in two decades. The proportion of people living below US\$1 a day came down from 32 percent in 1990 to 19.3 percent in 2005. Starting from a higher base, rural poverty in the region declined during the last 15 years from 39 to 28 percent. While the region's performance was driven largely by China and India with their vast numbers of rural poor, major success in poverty reduction was witnessed in nearly all Asian countries with very few exceptions.

An increase in agricultural production was a key factor in strong pro-poor growth witnessed in most of the successful Asian countries. The Asian nations that grew earliest and fastest, such as China, Malaysia, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, also later witnessed rapid growth in industry and services.

The more successful countries have relied more on addressing food security issues indirectly through emphasis on rural household income and farm productivity in their strategic development approaches. Such countries implemented impressive reforms to diversify their rural economy. Perhaps the best example is Thailand; others include China and Viet Nam as well as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In India, the 10th five year plan considers diversification into higher value-added crops and upgrading irrigation infrastructure as critical for facilitating steady agricultural growth.

In many countries, agriculture may contribute a minor share to GDP. However, when forward linkages such as agro-business and marketing, and backward linkages such as seeds and

fertilizers are considered, the agriculture sector comprises a major share of national growth. It is estimated, for example, that in the Philippines about 74 percent of GDP is related to agriculture. Much of this growth is generated by the private sector, which critically depends on well developed infrastructure and continuing economic stability. Both are public goods that development assistance can support in order to promote pro-poor growth.

Thus, Asia was particularly successful in reducing income poverty. Agriculture, both production of food as well as broader forward and backward linkages in the rural economy, played a major role in this success story. However, with poverty having many faces, much work still needs to be done on addressing the social and environmental issues related to poverty. Further, despite progress on several fronts, more than one-third of Asian countries may not achieve all the MDGs.

2 FOOD SECURITY AND HIDDEN HUNGER

Rural poverty has many dimensions, hunger being only one of them. With increasing income, falling agricultural prices, and improving living standards, hunger defined as a lack of food has been decreasing in rural and urban Asia. However, micronutrient deficiencies, particularly among women and children, endanger health, shorten life expectancy, retard the cognitive potential of children, and reduce productivity in the region. The links between quality of diet, particularly access to essential vitamins and minerals, and health outcomes, educational achievements and economic productivity and growth have been better understood only recently. What is now frequently referred to as "hidden hunger" affects nearly 1.5 billion persons in Asia and the Pacific. This figure far exceeds the 0.5 billion figure for the poor in the

region based on an energy intake of less than 2,100 kcal, which is the main basis for calculating the severe poverty line.

The most serious micronutrient problem is iron deficiency anemia (IDA). Iodine deficiency, which is manifested by swollen glands in the neck – goiter – remains the single greatest cause of preventable mental degradation. The lack of vitamins is the third major aspect of hidden hunger. Vitamin A deficiencies cause blindness and raise death rates by 25–30 percent by weakening the body's immune system.

Hidden hunger extends beyond the poor. It is related to unhealthy food intake, and therefore, is a problem that also affects the non-poor population. Hidden hunger is particularly prevalent in Central Asia, the Pacific, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. It is imperative that the development community supports early childhood development programs in these countries as a priority. Programs that support education, provide clean drinking water and promote investment in agriculture and food production as well as better access to health facilities through improving the transport infrastructure can further supplement these efforts to tackle hidden hunger in the region.

3 NEW APPROACHES TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY

The regionalization and globalization of agricultural markets is rapidly altering the pattern of food production and consumption. Food production is increasingly promoted nowadays by large-scale commercial enterprises and competitive smaller agricultural farmers. Food for self-consumption is often cheaper in the market than through production in subsistence farming. The approach to agriculture development, poverty reduction and food security in

the future must take these factors into account.

During the next 25 years Asia's population is expected to increase substantially resulting in food grain demand rising by about 40 percent from the present level of 650 million tons. In both urban and rural areas food products will mainly be bought rather than self-produced. Thus one of the priority areas for ensuring food security will be how to increase the total production of food to match the increasing total demand.

The spectacular increase in agricultural production seen during the Green Revolution was largely due to enhanced agricultural productivity. For example, cereal production in the region doubled between 1970 and 1995. Almost all of this increase stemmed from higher productivity on practically the same amount of agricultural land. Particularly successful was the development of high-yield varieties such as hybrid rice and special varieties such as the vitamin-A rich golden rice. The required increase in food supply in the future will also have to come largely from higher agricultural productivity. This is likely to be led by commercial farming on irrigated land with good access to markets. A substantial increase from rainfed and marginal areas, using less labor, less water and less arable land will require major breakthrough in new varieties.

There is a need to increase investments in science and technology including biotechnology, and other research and training. In today's context, biotechnology research is also important for the development of industrial agriculture to meet new energy demands such as the demand for biofuels and for the demands of the booming paper and furniture industries in Asia. Governments should consider using both monetary and non-monetary incentives to promote R&D in this important area. The donor

community with the support of international agricultural research centers and research foundations (such as the Rockefeller Foundation) can also support biotechnology programs in Asia. Some of the major research on vegetables, trees, cereals, and legumes has been done with the support of private companies. Thus, involvement of the private sector in these efforts will also be important.

There is also a need to expand irrigation potential and diligently protect the environment to ensure the sustainability of the productive potential of all factors of agricultural and rural production. Demands to address rural environment issues, with particular emphasis on soil conservation and flood protection, are growing in the region. All development stakeholders have to pool their efforts to meet some of the challenges of the future.

While adequacy of production and supply of food is one factor, providing the means to the poor to buy these is another critical aspect of ensuring food security. Most of today's rural poor live in dryland and wetland areas, or coastal and upland regions. They have little opportunity to compete with commercial agriculture. Therefore, the bulk of the population, particularly the chronically poor, the landless poor, and the poor on marginal lands, require income sources other than agriculture. Food production may give them some livelihood, perhaps also some better nutrition, but it will not lift them out of poverty. Thus, efforts towards agriculture and rural development should focus on expanding the income earning opportunities – both farm and off-farm – of the poor.

4 INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY

It is estimated that less than one-third of the income of Asia's rural poor now

comes from the sale of agriculture products. Hence the new agenda for poverty reduction in the rural areas should be twofold:

- first, supporting market production, through rural infrastructure such as roads and harbors, research, trade and regional cooperation; and
- second, promoting rural poverty reduction through off farm employment, mobility, and promotion of new innovative products such as organic food and herbal medicine, forest produce, and biofuels.

Both strategies rely significantly on the dynamics of the private sector. The public sector will continue to have a major role, and the development of the private sector, as another source of investment in partnership with the public, is also important to put agricultural growth on a sustainable path. In today's context, closer cooperation with the private sector is critical, particularly to promote supply chains that benefit the poor's income opportunities in the world-wide-web of integrated markets. This will also protect the poor from being overwhelmed by globalization. Public investment in primary and post-agricultural production, particularly in rural infrastructure, creates the enabling environment for the eventual private capitalization and commercialization of agriculture.

It is high time that we let the power of trade do its full share in spreading prosperity all over the world. Promoting greater trade, regional cooperation, and giving developing countries better access to developed markets for agricultural exports should be a priority. Free and fair trade in agriculture, together with the trade investment that it brings, has greater potential than aid to generate resources to mitigate poverty and hunger.

The new agenda also calls for a new

partnership between governments, donors and the private sector. A vibrant and dynamic private sector can drive development, but governments need to create an environment conducive to such private sector growth. This will involve agricultural and trade reforms, rural infrastructure, and research and development. Governments also need to promote environmental investments for a more sustainable future of agricultural production. Further, there is a need to promote new innovative mechanisms for financing and enhancing knowledge support to the emerging needs of the region. This will also comprise a much closer look at public–private partnerships and the provision of regional public goods including infrastructure and trade.

Let me speak briefly about ADB activities in these areas. In line with other donors, ADB's financial support to agriculture and rural development has changed significantly since the 1990s. Direct investments in agriculture and natural resources have increasingly been replaced by other related rural investments in response to the changing demands of the region. In support of its poverty reduction strategy, ADB has made large investments in rural transport, rural electrification, rural microfinance and rural governance, all directly affecting agricultural productivity and environmental poverty. ADB's recently adopted Medium-Term Strategy II for 2006–2008 also mentions rural infrastructure as a high priority.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Your Royal Highness, Excellencies, distinguished guests, colleagues of the development community, let me now summarize and conclude my presentation.

There is now a widely shared understanding on the need to raise investment and research in rural development and

rural poverty reduction. Despite rapid urbanization all over Asia, the rural economy can be a driver of growth if it is properly linked to national, global and regional markets. Support to agriculture continues to be an important intervention to sustain growth and reduce poverty. However, a more comprehensive approach to poverty reduction would be needed that incorporates the broader realities in which the rural poor live today. It should address nutritional and other vulnerabilities of the poor, and generate off-farm employment opportunities – many of which are related to the food industry. These efforts must also comprehensively address the whole range of environmental issues facing us today.

In the new global scenario, public and private investments in rural infrastructure and science and technology are becoming increasingly important. There is a growing consensus that investments in agriculture, particularly in rural infrastructure (such as transport and communications, energy and water) need to be scaled up and new ways of mobilizing public and private finance resources for food security need to be explored. Governments and the donor community have a major role to play here.

For the development community the implications of this new paradigm of rural and agricultural development include diversified lending and provision of knowledge products in both farm and non-farm agriculture, in the key areas of agribusiness, rural infrastructure, support services (research, finance and markets), and ecosystem management. FAO and ADB are important institutions in the region. Let us more closely work together to jointly meet the challenges coming from globalization, market driven development and environmental factors.

Thank you for your attention.



**Awards for outstanding
achievements**

Model farmers

Model livestock farmer from Yunnan (China)

Although Wang Haiyan only completed eight years of schooling, she never lost her thirst for knowledge. And knowledge is often the difference between a successful farmer and one who just gets by.

Eight years ago, Wang and her husband, Yang Hong, decided to become pig farmers. Using the money they saved from working others' fields, they rented a third of a hectare on a mountainside near their small village of Laojiaozhai in Yunnan province of China. They still needed more investment, so they borrowed from a bank and got a grant from their village. With that seed money they planted vegetables and bought eight pigs.

Most farmers in their village have a few pigs. Wang Haiyan had bigger ideas. Pork is the most popular meat in Yunnan, and she believed her family and her village could benefit from a large-scale pig farm. So she began using some of the family's meager earnings to subscribe to animal husbandry newsletters. She invested time and money to acquire knowledge.

From those journals, Wang Haiyan learned about sanitation, hygiene, vaccinations and breeding techniques. She read that farmers in other provinces had crossbred swine from Shandong and Henan provinces and got pigs that were bigger and produced larger litters. She followed their example and soon her stock of swine was expanding. Today, her family breeds about 800 pigs each year.

Wang Haiyan didn't forget about her village or her neighbours who helped her whenever she was in need. She taught them what she learned, organized study trips for them to see pig farms in other provinces, and loaned them piglets for breeding so they could get started in the business. She allowed them to pay her back only after the piglets were mature and having their own litters. "I can't be happy unless my neighbours are happy too. This is our way of life," she says.

Wang Haiyan hopes her township and province will invest in farmers by providing vaccinations and medicine for their animals. Eventually she would like to use her profits to buy the family its own land. But not before investing in education for her son Yang Zhaiwei and daughter Yang Mingrong. Wang Haiyan is living proof that, for a farmer, investing in knowledge is an investment in the future.

Model sugar cane farmer from Mandalay (Myanmar)

In places where traditions are valued, change can come slowly. Rural Myanmar is such a place. Any visitor to this nation nestled between India and China can't miss the fact that much of the countryside is still farmland, inhabited by mostly poor rural dwellers.

Indeed, farmers are the backbone of the country. When Myanmar's farmers are doing well, Myanmar is doing well. One farmer who has done better than most is U Moe Win.

Born into a farming family in Phyote Khwe Village in Mandalay Division in 1955, U Moe Win was raised to till the soil. His father planted sugar cane, and he continued that tradition when he inherited the family's 10 acres. Though change may come slowly in a place like Myanmar, change does come. U Moe Win is a man who believes the future always has the potential to be better than the past, and so he made changes to the way he raised his sugar cane.

He did this after attending a training course given by the Myanmar Sugar Cane Association. He took what he learned back to his farm and began experimenting with different combinations of fertilizers and different watering regimes. He invested time and effort to try new things. Through trial and error, he found the optimum mix for his soil and his crop. The results were extraordinary.

Most sugar cane farmers harvest an average of 30 tons of sugar cane per acre each year. U Moe Win harvests between 40 and 45 tons. He is nearly 50 percent more productive than the average farmer.

That kind of success brings rewards. With his extra profits from his larger harvests, U Moe Win invested in more

land, expanding his family's farm to 24 acres. When the time comes, his three sons and one daughter will have an even larger inheritance than he had.

U Moe Win's family isn't the only one benefiting from his success. In keeping with local traditions that value the community over individualism, he has shared what he has learned with his fellow villagers. Several of them are also harvesting more cane from their fields than ever before, and the man they can thank for that is U Moe Win.

Caring for your community, investing in knowledge and building a better future for farmers are traditions that are valued everywhere. They're traditions that will never die as long as there are farmers such as U Moe Win.

Model seed farmer from Jacobabad (Pakistan)

The region around Jacobabad in Pakistan is a tough place to be a farmer. Jacobabad is hot. Its soil is salty and waterlogged. Getting rice to grow there is hard work that doesn't always bring rewards.

Rashid Hussain is making that work a bit easier for his fellow farmers. Rashid's father, Haji Abdul Rasool Khoso, was an educated man, and saw to it that his sons were educated also. They knew there had to be a better way. So, they appealed to the Nuclear Institute of Agriculture Tandojam. What they got were seeds for new strains of rice the Institute had bred to be more resilient in places such as Jacobabad.

The family transformed their 1 000 acres into a seed farm. The Arshad-Rashid Farm – setting a good example of public private partnership – grows various strains of rice from scientists, not to harvest for themselves, but to produce millions of seeds of higher quality, more

resilient rice to supply farmers in neighbouring provinces.

Hussain played an important role in the development of new strains of rice. He carried out field research. He experimented with different seeds, different combinations and levels of fertilizer, and various other farming methods to gauge their effects on how the different strains of rice grew. He monitored and evaluated the production and the results.

Then the family helped their neighbours. "When people work hard, they deserve to see the fruits of their labours," Hussain says. His farm shows others what can be done with new strains, such as "Shahkar" rice which gives very high yields in tough regions such as Jacobabad.

Although he sells his seeds, Hussain freely gives farmers technical support – knowledge and advice so their harvests will be bountiful.

Jacobabad is Pakistan's rice belt, "but our land is not very fertile," Hussain says. Farmers want the Government to invest in badly-needed drainage canals, or the salty waterlogged soil could turn completely barren in the future. Hussain hopes the Government will plant the seeds of sustainability for Jacobabad. In the meantime, he'll keep doing his part, seeding the futures of his fellow farmers.

Model fish farmer from Chumpon (Thailand)

A 57-year-old aquaculture farmer from the southern province of Chumpon, Phloiruedee Pitiworawong is a model of perseverance. Some 22 years ago, she and her husband Prawet pooled their money and founded an inland shrimp farm. Three years later, they lost everything. Typhoon Gay washed away their stocks. But Khun Phloiruedee and her husband persevered. They rebuilt their

farm. Then Prawet died, leaving her with 5 million baht in debt. Khun Phloiruedee worked harder, producing 40 tons of shrimp a year, and paid back the bank. But her troubles weren't over. An epidemic of disease wiped out her shrimp, leaving her in debt again by 2 million baht.

Others might have given up. Not Khun Phloiruedee. On a trip to the local market she noticed that sea bass fetched high prices. Listening to a distance learning program on radio sponsored by His Majesty's Chai Pattana Foundation, she heard that sea bass could be farmed. With fingerlings from the Department of Fisheries, she gave it a try. The yields weren't as high as shrimp, but it was more sustainable. She encouraged her neighbors to switch, and many have followed her example.

Then Typhoon Linda came and flooded her farm. Once again, Khun Phloiruedee rebuilt. What kept her going, she says, was her goal of educating her two daughters and one son. That goal has been achieved. All her children have now graduated from universities in Bangkok. With a degree in irrigation engineering, her 26-year-old son Piti has returned to work with her on the farm. She still, however, owes the bank. Farming requires investment, and the risk is all on the farmer. Khun Phloiruedee doesn't let the debt drag her down. "Be honest. As long as people see you trying, they will help," she says. "A farmer's life is one of struggle, but never give up. You must persevere." Those are words of which His Majesty would surely approve.

She is a fervent advocate of sustainable farming – making optimal use of land, water and other natural resources – motherly devotion, and love for the land and children of Thailand.

FAO today honours Phloiruedee Pitiworawong for outstanding achievement as fish farmer.

Annexes

Media Coverage

- 17 October
 - Announcement on Radio Thailand world service
An interview with He Changchui, ADG/RR on World Food Day celebration
(07:00 o'clock news)
 - Thai News Agency report on conferring of awards to the model farmers
 - 20:00 hrs. news report on WFD celebration at FAO Regional Office on all TV Channels – 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and iTV
- 18 October
 - Radio Thailand interview with Mr He after WFD celebration
 - Radio Thailand interviews with model farmers from China, Pakistan and Thailand
 - Xinhua report on conferring of awards to the model farmers
- 19 October
 - Photo of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Siridhorn arriving at RAP for WFD celebration, Thairath Newspaper
 - Thairath report on WFD celebration and model farmers with photo of the farmers
 - Siamrath photo report
 - Daily News photo report
- 3 November
 - Press release by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on national WFD celebration
 - DG's message delivery at national WFD celebration
 - An interview with ADG/RR on the national World Food Day celebration in Thailand by TV channels 9, 11 and local cable TV

Thairath
19 October 2006

ไทยรัฐ



สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จพระราชดำเนินไปทรงเป็นประธาน พิธีมอบโล่เชิดชูเกียรติเกษตรกรดีเด่นแห่งชาติ ประจำปี ๒๕๔๙ ของสำนักงานปศุสัตว์ ณ อาคารพิพิธภัณฑ์ เมื่อวันที่ ๑๗ ตุลาคม

Daily News
Thursday, 19 October 2006

วันพฤหัสบดีที่ ๑๙ ตุลาคม พ.ศ. ๒๕๔๙ แรม ๑๓ ค่ำ เดือน ๑๑ ปีจอ หน้า ๕



สมเด็จพระเทพรัตนราชสุดาฯ สยามบรมราชกุมารี เสด็จฯ ไปทรงเป็นประธาน พิธีมอบโล่เชิดชูเกียรติเกษตรกรดีเด่นแห่งชาติ ประจำปี ๒๕๔๙ และทอดพระเนตรนิทรรศการ ณ ด้านหน้าของพิพิธภัณฑสถานแห่งชาติเกษตรกรรมและปศุสัตว์ ณ อาคารพิพิธภัณฑ์ เมื่อวันที่ ๑๗ ตุลาคม

MCOT.ORG

FAO honours model farmers from Asia

BANGKOK, Oct 17 (TNA) - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Tuesday honoured model farmers from four Asian countries including Thailand for their outstanding achievements in aquaculture, livestock, industrial crop production and seed farming.

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presented FAO awards to four Asian model farmers--Phloirudee Pitiworawong from Thailand, Wang Haiyan from China, U Moe Win from Myanmar and Rashid Hussain from Pakistan.

They were honoured for their outstanding achievement and for providing that investments in agriculture can pay off, although even more can be accomplished if the right policies are in place to address the problems faced by small farmers.

The presentation ceremony was held at FAO's regional office for Asia and the Pacific here.

The model farmer from Thailand, was Phloirudee, a 57-year-old aquaculture farmer from the southern province of Chumphon who achieved success in sea bass farming.

She got the idea after listening to a distance learning programme on radio sponsored by His Majesty the King's Chai Pattana Foundation and heard that sea bass could be farmed commercially.

In an FAO statement, she was quoted saying that she fervently advocates sustainable farming -- making optimal use of land, water and other natural resources -- including applying motherly devotion and love for the land and children of Thailand.

The three other farmers honoured were Mr. Wang, U Moe Win and Mr. Hussain in the fields of livestock, industrial crops production and seed farming respectively. (TNA)-E003

Last Update : 2006-10-17 / 18:43:41 (GMT+7:00)



FAO honors four Asian model farmers

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Tuesday honored model farmers from four Asian countries for their outstanding achievements in their respective farming fields.

Thai Princess Sirindhorn presented the FAO awards at FAO's regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok to four Asian model farmers -- Phloirudee Pitiworawong from Thailand, Wang Haiyan from China, U Moe Win from Myanmar and Rashid Hussain from Pakistan, in the fields of agriculture, livestock, industrial crops production and seed farming respectively.

According to the FAO, the farmers were honored for their outstanding achievement and for providing that investments in agriculture can pay off, although even more can be accomplished if the right policies are in place to address the problems faced by small farmers.

Source: Xinhua
UPDATED: 10:04, October 18, 2006





World Food Day: Musharraf for a world sans hunger and poverty

ISLAMABAD (October 16 2006): The World Food Day being observed on Monday is an appeal to our collective conscience to act for the achievement of a world without hunger and poverty, said President General Pervez Musharraf here in his message on the day.

He said, the World Food Day theme for this year "Investing in Agriculture for Food Security" is a reminder of the stark reality that despite heavy investment in technological development, we are still far from ensuring food security for the world.

This theme is of particular significance to Pakistan because agriculture is the mainstay of livelihood of about 65.9 percent of the national population living in the rural areas and is the prime driver of national economy.

It employs about 44.8 percent of the labour force and is a major source of foreign exchange earnings. Investment in this sector will result not only in increased food production but would also help ensure food security and improve living standards of our people.

Realising the importance of investing in agriculture, the government has initiated a series of policies and programmes aimed at raising agriculture productivity, reducing poverty, improving living standards and enhancing human capital involved in agriculture.

This financial year, we initiated the first phase of productivity enhancement food security programme that shall, Inshallah, by 2015, enable food security for the rural population in 13,000 villages.

The programme is designed around an integrated programme of crops, livestock, fisheries and off-farm rural development activities for enhancing productivity, increasing rural income and improving living standards.

The key components of the project include establishing an easy access to credit for resource poor farmers, improvement of irrigation system, water use efficiency, adoption of modern technologies and empowerment of women so they may contribute positively for agriculture productivity.

I would also like to compliment and appreciate the efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for its drive to reduce hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the world. Its role as a policy advisor, a technical assistance agency and a centre of excellence on agriculture has been instrumental in assisting many food deficit nations in producing and procuring food for its population.

Its present effort for increased investment in agriculture will go a long way in assuring food security for the generations to come.

On the occasion of World Food Day, the government of Pakistan pledges itself to invest more for the cause of food security so that the farmers may reap maximum benefits and make the country self sufficient in food production.

Copyright PPI (Pakistan)

Minivan
World Food Day
By Phillip Wellman in Male'
October 16, 2006

World Food Day will be celebrated today with an aim to prevent children in the Maldives from going hungry.

The day was created by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, whose statistics reveal that 44 per cent of children in the country suffer from malnourishment.

To commemorate the 61st anniversary of the event, the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) has called on the government to take action in order to eliminate the chronic malnutrition and augment food security in the country.

"Child malnutrition is an extremely serious problem in the Maldives which the government has failed to address," said MDP Shadow Minister for Health, Dr. Aminath Jameel.



He went on to say that one out of every five children suffers from stunted growth and that over 80 percent suffer from anemia.

"More than two in five children suffer from some kind of malnutrition," said Dr. Jameel, "this is inexcusable for a country at our level of development."

But the government contests that it is doing much to improve the health of the nation.

"If the MDP had actually been looking, they would have seen that over the past seven years we (the government) have focused very much on nutrition and have made considerable progress," said Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

He told *Minivan News* that the government has "introduced numerous schemes that have reduced the infant mortality rate to the lowest in South Asia."

He also said that the MDP are "way off the mark", as the government "are the ones who are bringing attention to this issue".



But Dr. Jameel claims that it is not enough attention.

"Much more investment is needed to broaden the range and quality of food available in the islands," he said. "Community-based education programmes need to be widely implemented to change dietary preferences too."

This theme for this years World Food Day is: "Investing in agriculture for food security" and its organisers have called for greater public and private investments in agriculture.

Currently, an estimated 854 million people around the world remain undernourished

DECCAN HERALD

Wednesday, October 18, 2006
Bangalore Urban ZP: Inauguration of "World Food Day" Agricultural Department, Bangalore Urban ZP, Yediyurappa, Minister for Health and Family Welfare R Ashok, Karnataka Pradesh Krishika Samaj, Krishi Bhavan.

Speaking at a news conference yesterday marking the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's World Food Day, Wallop Pitchayapongsa, managing director of Capital Rice, one of the country's biggest rice exporters, called on the government to learn a lesson from the United States.

"Thailand's strength is rice that is not genetically modified. Last month many buyers switched to importing Thai rice after they discovered US rice crops were genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

"The market previously dominated by the US. And if the US markets could permanently occupy this niche, Thailand could permanently occupy this niche."



Myanmar encourages local, foreign investment in agriculture

Myanmar is encouraging local and foreign investment in the sector of agriculture, as there exists a great deal of land in the country to be utilized for the purpose, said a government official on Monday. A total of about 18 million hectares of fallow and cultivable waste land are available for agricultural expansion, said Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Major-General Htay Oo at a ceremony to mark the World Food Day in Nay Pyi Taw, the new administrative capital of Myanmar.

"For immediate expansion and investment in about 7 million hectares, investment laws and land tenures acts have been put in force for foreign entrepreneurs and local economic enterprises to cooperate and invest without any apprehension," said Htay Oo.

The theme of the World Food Day of the Food and Agriculture Organization is defined as "Invest in Agriculture for Food Security" this year.

Htay Oo said irrigation coverage in Myanmar has reached 12 percent of the total sown area, adding that 189 dams and irrigation works and 298 pump lift irrigation facilities were brought into operation, providing irrigation for nearly 2 million hectares against a net sown area of 12 million hectares.

On the livestock sector, he noted that better strains of livestock have been introduced in conjunction with rural development, while land tenure acts have been amended to encourage local as well as foreign entrepreneurs to invest and engage in the sector.

He reiterated that Myanmar has laid down suitable policies and strategies for food sufficiency, saying that the country does not foresee any problems for the present nor envisage any difficulties in the future.

He expressed Myanmar's confidence that the country will help tackle global and regional food need. Myanmar has a population of over 55 million, of whom nearly 70 percent live in rural areas, and are engaged in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry economic activities. These sectors remain the main pillars in the country's economy.

He assumed that Myanmar could one day reclaim its pre-eminent position as one of the top global exporter of food products.

At Monday's ceremony, Tang Zhengping, resident representative of FAO, read out the message of FAO Director-General and the Myanmar ministry presented prizes to those for outstanding contribution in agriculture.

According to official statistics, agricultural sector constitutes 41.2 percent of Myanmar's national economy and 11 percent of the export.

The agricultural sector grew 11.8 percent in the fiscal year of 2005-06 (April 2005-March 2006).

Source: Xinhua

NEWS

Drive to feed world's hungry 'falling short'
From correspondents in Rome
17Oct06

WORLD leaders and development experts called for greater investment in agriculture and greater compassion toward the world's poor today, as rich and poor capitals marked World Food Day with actions large and small.

In Rome, Pope Benedict XVI appealed for solidarity as the key to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment.

Local communities "must also be involved in the choice and decisions that concern the use of their territory, because arable land is increasingly directed to other uses to the detriment of the environment", the pontiff said in a message read by the Holy See's permanent observer at the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO).

According to the FAO, wealthy nations have fallen short in helping about 850 million hungry people around the world.

Foreign aid for agriculture and rural development has declined from an average of \$US9 billion (\$12 billion) in the early 1980s to less than \$US5 billion (\$6.6 billion) in the late 1990s, according to the FAO.

"Increasing the volume of public investment in agriculture but also making it more effective are of absolute necessity," FAO head Jacques Diouf said today, recalling that the World Food Summit in 2002 adopted as its core objective reducing world hunger by half before 2015.

In Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo's outgoing Agricultural Minister Constant Ndom Nda Ombel echoed Diouf's appeal for greater agricultural investment.

"Investing in agriculture can be justified in that it remains the most certain source not only of food but also of revenue and employment," the minister said on Congolese radio.

In drought-prone Afghanistan, officials handed tools and fertilisers to farmers during a ceremony in Kabul.

And in Bangladesh, a bleak report published today by the UN World Food Program found 15 per cent of the rural population suffered from chronic hunger.

Richer countries also marked the day with ceremonies recalling the plight of the poor. Charities in Brussels and Santiago de Compostela, Spain, erected giant hourglasses as reminders of the urgency of hunger and malnourishment, which primarily affects rural areas.

"That is where it is most critical to provide food and employment - the seed planted by a farmer leads to a flourishing agribusinesses that pay taxes, and help build rural schools and roads," Mr Diouf of the FAO said.

"Agricultural development is the first step of a long-term sustainable economic growth."

The theme for World Food Day 2006 reflects these priorities: "Investing in agriculture for food security so that the world will profit."

Mr Diouf said there has been a significant revival in lending and other actions promoting agriculture, including debt forgiveness programs.

"But much still remains to be done and innovative actions are welcome," he said.

The FAO - which has disbursed more than \$US80 billion (\$107 billion) in funding for agricultural project to 165 member nations over four decades - is today promoting "profitable partnerships" between private and public sectors.

"This means finding new ways of bringing together producers - small farmers and cooperatives - with agribusiness and governments to create profitable ventures," he said.

During the ceremonies today, Cuban pianist Chucho Baldes was named the FAO's "goodwill ambassador".

The Financial Express

Public and private sectors investment in agri-sector underscored 10/17/2006

Speakers at a seminar underscored Monday the need for further increasing government and private sectors investment in the agriculture sector ensuring food security in the country, reports BSS.

In the overall agri-sector, more investment in irrigation, seeds, extension works and production as it is considered as a driver they said.

Agriculture Minister M K Anwar attended Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Agriculture Secretary Kazi Abul Kashem w. The ministry of agriculture organised the seminar at the Research Council (BARC) auditorium on the Executive Director of BARC Dr Nurul Alam, I. Agricultural Research Institute (ARI) Shahac Karim and FAO Representative (acting in-char others, took part in the discussion. Mohammad paper.

Agriculture Minister M K Anwar said 25 per cent of the country through supply of adequate quantity of seeds. He said a revolution would take place in the seed sector to ensure supply of 50 per cent HYV seeds to the farmers from the existing only 10 per cent.

Laying emphasis on increasing private sector invest in the private entrepreneurs have to come forward to invest, especially in seeds, marketing and research, to boost poverty.

The minister asked the extension workers to discharge sincerely by making interaction with the farmers to this effect. Abdullah Al Noman laid emphasis on launching an integrated approach of food, fisheries and livestock with agriculture for achieving agri-sector with a view to removing poverty.



HERALD WEEKLY ISSUE 325 : 21 OCTOBER 2006

Friday's the day at market
FRIDAY is World Food Day, with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Minister of Agriculture Aunty Mau Munokoa will official open the The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations Ministry - celebrate World Food Day each year. This is done on Friday. Here's the programme for Friday's events in Rarotonga:
9am -10am: official opening, Minister Agriculture Aunty Mau
10.30am: open to the public
10.45am -12pm: Master of ceremonies Nga Mataia will interview each stall and talk about their root crops, vegetables, ornamentals, seedlings
Events: by various schools
Coconut Husking
Floral arrangement

HERALD WEEKLY ISSUE 325 : 21 OCTOBER 2006

The Right to Food
Global education project launched by Girl Guides, Scouts
A new global education project was launched this week to raise awareness about hunger and the right to food among children and young people around the world.
It is part of World Food Day activities around the world. These are marked in Rarotonga on Friday with events at Punanga Nui Market organised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

INITIATIVE
As part of the ongoing "Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger" initiative, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts produced a cartoon-style story book.
This is entitled "The Right to Food: A Window on the World." It comes with a companion "Resource and Activity Guide" educating young people and motivating them to join in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Speaking at a news conference, Alexander Muller, FAO Assistant Director-General for Sustainable Development, said:
"The right to food is, in principle, the right to feed oneself, and one's family, adequately and with dignity."
"Raising the awareness of young people about the inseparable nature of human rights, food security and good nutrition, and about how each of us can play a part in helping secure everyone's right to nutritionally adequate food is essential to this end."
Elspeith Henderson, Chairman of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts World Board, said:

SURE
"We at WAGGGS have a responsibility to make sure that the messages about the right to food and giving everyone access to nutritionally adequate and safe food get to all of our members, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 144 countries and that they and other young people around them are inspired to take action."
Keeping it simple

According to FAO, the materials present right to food issues in a simple, understandable and attractive style that captures the attention of young people.

The materials will help young people understand that each individual has the right to adequate food and that governments, consumer organizations, the private sector, communities and families have an obligation to help protect, promote and support that right.

The book consists of an introductory section providing an overview of selected right to food issues, and eight individual stories dedicated to illustrating aspects of food security and right to food issues in Brazil, Canada, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

CULTURAL
A unique feature of the publications is that the illustrations were planned and drawn by young artists and art students from the eight countries.

The cartoon-style drawings convey national differences in culture, lifestyles, food habits, environments and living conditions. In each of the selected countries, a national contest was organized among art schools and institutes for illustrating the chapter set in that country.

The book and the Resource and Activity Guide are available in six languages in both hard copy and electronic formats, including as a CD-ROM and as web-based HTML and PDF files.

To order the books, send an e-mail to: RTF-Youth@fao.org



An attendant stands behind the reception of a Vietnamese restaurant in Hong Kong October 12, 2006. World Food Day will be celebrated October 16, the day on which The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was founded in 1945. REUTERS/Bobby Yip (HONG KONG)
Reuters - Oct 12 4:07 AM



An attendant stands at a food concierge inside a shopping mall in Hong Kong October 12, 2006. World Food Day will be celebrated October 16, the day on which The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was founded in 1945. REUTERS/Bobby Yip (HONG KONG)
Reuters - Oct 12 3:56 AM

World Food Day to be observed today

Monday October 16, 12:32 AM
As part of World Food Day celebrations, the Indian Water Resources Society (IWRS) and Central Water Commission (CWC) are jointly organising a series of events in Gandhinagar on October 16. The events revolve around the theme 'Investing in agriculture for food security' declared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The events include a roundtable discussion on "Food and political security in India - a case study of blockades against water storage projects", workshop on "Preventive measures for national development and effective water management", World Food Day, and a management committee meeting of IWRS, in Gandhinagar. Along with IWRS and CWC, although agriculture may have become a minor part of many industrialised economies, it has to play a starring role on the world stage as hunger has to be eradicated. Yet, the foreign aid for agriculture and rural development has continued to decline, the bodies also added.

Worldwide, of over US \$9 billion per year in the early 1980s, it had fallen to less than \$5 billion in the late 1990s. Meanwhile, an estimated 854 million people in the world remain undernourished. In India, the organisations aim to urge the government to invest in agriculture, potable water and reliable power.



October 17, 2006

World Food Day: 'UN goal of halving hunger before 2015 to achieve'

The United Nations Millennium Development Goal to cut down hunger in the world by 2015 will be difficult to achieve, if crop production is not increased, said the FAO representative in India, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, at the World Food Day on Monday.

Participants of a function organised at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), he said, "A massive scaling up of food security efforts and poverty reduction globally would be required by all countries having high prevalence of hunger."
He pointed to the government's commitment to "revolutionise" the agricultural sector by enhancing investment in agriculture, technology interventions and policy support. He said this year's theme of "Investing in agriculture for food security" is the theme that included diplomats and scientists that the government should make agriculture a profitable profession and business.
He called for the adoption of modern technologies for crop production, water and livestock promotion and this year the government has funded the adoption of efficient agricultural technologies," he said.

Several protocols and MoUs have been concluded for trade promotion, especially enhancing export of fruits, vegetables, rice and other agricultural products. He thought that measures such as these would give a new direction to agriculture and at the same time create possibilities for increasing the revenue for the agriculture sector, which in turn would benefit the poor farming community.
"This approach of agriculture development will also help reduce rural poverty, ensure food security and make agriculture more competitive in the international market," he said.

Earlier, Bosan gave away the Norman Borlaug award to Dr Iftikhar Ahmad, the chief scientific officer and member Crop Sciences Division of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC).

Dr Iftikhar designed and established a national programme with a strong initiative of its large-scale implementation through farm level research and farmer education approach.

Meanwhile, a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative read out the message of the organisation's director general in which he said that despite progress achieved in agriculture and rural development, more than 850 million people still remained hungry and poor. "Our greatest challenge is to reach the World Food Summit and the first UN Millennium Development Goal to reduce hunger and poverty worldwide by 2015."

He said that recently there had been a significant revival in lending for agriculture. "Debt forgiveness programmes, strengthened by the G-8 decision in 2005, have begun to release national resources for investment in the sector, but much more remains to be done," he said.
Courtesy DailyTimes.com.pk

Afghanistan: Celebration of World Food Day

Kabul, 16 October 2006 - The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrates World Food Day (WFD) each year on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945. The theme chosen for World Food Day this year is "Investing in agriculture for food security" so that "the whole world will profit." The aim is to highlight the role of investment in agriculture - both public and private. Action should be supported to improve rural livelihoods by reversing the decline of public investment in agriculture over the last two decades. Seventy percent of the world's hungry live in rural areas. That is where it is most critical to provide food and employment. The seed planted by a farmer leads to a flourishing agribusinesses that pay taxes, and help build rural schools and roads. Agricultural development is the first step of a long-term sustainable economic growth. Everyone gains from investment in agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with FAO celebrated the WFD on Monday, 16th October 2006, 10:00 - 12:00 am at Ministry of Agriculture Conference Hall, Jamal Mina, Opposite Kabul University.

The Deputy of FAO representative in Afghanistan read the Dari translation of message of the FAO Director General for World Food Day on "Investing in agriculture for food security" in which he mentioned "the objective is to ensure food security through agriculture and rural development, as well as to underline the importance of incentives and institutions for targeted and managed resources that generate maximum social benefits".

The Ministry of Agriculture mentioned in the its message "Fortunately, Ministry of Agriculture completed the National Agricultural Master Plan based on its developed policy and strategy with assistance of Ministry professions and international colleagues, for investment in agriculture, increment of quality agricultural productions and crops, access to market and increment of export for national revenue, revenue of farmers, better life status and food security. No doubt that the basic and side needs of the implementation has been taken in to consideration".

UN Agencies, International NGOs, Ambassadors, donors, the representatives of Governmental authorities, Afghan farmers and national and international media were invited to the celebration. An exhibition of agricultural projects and activities of Ministry of Agriculture and FAO took place and a short film was showed which highlighted this year's WFD theme. The ceremony ended with distribution of agricultural inputs to the farmers and a package of local food was given to each participant.

Source: United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
Date: 16 Oct 2006

List of guests

The following is a list of selected guests who attended the regional observance of World Food Day at the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on 17 October 2006.

Guest of Honour

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn

Guest Speaker

Tadao Chino, Former President of Asian Development Bank

Model Farmers

Wang Haiyan, a model livestock farmer, China

Xie Qun, Wang Haiyan's accompanying Interpreter

U Moe Win, a model farmer in industrial crops production, Myanmar

Rashid Hussain Khoso, a model seed farmer, Pakistan

Phloiruedee Pitiworawong, a model aquaculturist, Thailand

Office of the Privy Councillors

HE Ampol Senanarong, Privy Councillor for Royal Agricultural Project

Royal Thai Government

Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives

H.E. Mr. Thira Sutabutra, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives

Banphot Hongthong, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Permanent Secretary

Suthiporn Chirapanda, Deputy Permanent Secretary and Secretary-General, National FAO Committee

Pinit Korsiporn, Deputy Secretary-General, Office of Agricultural Economics

Supranee Aimphitak, Vice Director-General, Department of Agriculture

Peyanoot Naka, Office of Horticulture Research Institute, Department of Agriculture

Surapong Pransilapa, Acting Director-General, Rice Department

Witthaya Chaisuwan, Deputy Director-General, Rice Department

Laddawan Kunnot, Director, Office of Rice Product Development, Rice Department

Busba Vrakornvorawat, Director, Bureau of Central Administration, Rice Department

Nopparut Muangprasert, Director, Bureau of Rice Policy and Strategy, Rice Department

Samlee Boonyawiwat, Director, Bureau of Rice Research and Development, Rice Department

Chairith Damrongkiat, Director of Bureau of Rice Seed, Rice Department
Duanghatai Danvivatthana, Deputy Secretary-General, National FAO Committee and
Director, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relation Division
Kasem Prasutsaengchan, Senior Policy and Plan Analyst, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relation Division
Pornprom Chairidchai, Policy and Plan Analyst, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relation Division
Kitima Kongsomruay, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relation Division
Sayfon Niranka, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relation Division
Yupadee Hemarat, Chief Protocol Sub-division, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relation Division
Kornrip Seneewong Na Ayudhaya, Director, Division of International Organization,
Office of Agricultural Economics
Supakit Sansuphakij, Office of Agricultural Economics
Masarat Sungkhawat, Office of Agricultural Economics
Chudchawan Suthisrisilapa, Director, Planning and Information Office, Department of National Parks,
Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department
Srisuda Techasarn, Agricultural Scientist 7, Department of Agriculture Extension
Boppha Mongkolsilp, Senior Subject Matter Specialist, Department of Agricultural Extension
Songsak Wongbhumwatana, Director-General, Department of Agricultural Extension
Narin Somboonsarn, Department of Agricultural Extension
Monthip Rujikorn, Agricultural Land Reform Office
Orayanee Sirivittayapakorn, Agricultural Land Reform Office
Sirinda Tuansuwan, Agricultural Land Reform Office
Yukol Limlamtong, Director-General, Department of Livestock Development
Thanee Pak-utai International Livestock Cooperation Section, Department of Livestock Development
Tanamad Tikampon, Department of Livestock Development
Visuth Somnuk, Royal Forestry Department
Waraporn Prompoj, Chief, International Cooperation Group, Department of Fisheries
Chalita Thongsmai, Office of MOAC Minister

Universities

Pornchai Matangkasombut, President, Mahidol University
Anadi Nitithamyong, Mahidol University at Salaya
Boonsom Siribumrungsuk, President, Prince of Songkhla University
Nipon Poapongsakorn, Dean, Faculty of Economics, Thammasat University

Other Ministries, Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and Associations

His Serene Highness Prince Bhisatej Rajani, Chairman and Director, Royal Project Foundation, Chiang Mai
Sumet Tantivejakul, Secretary-General, Chaipattana Foundation
Siri Ekmaharaj, Secretary-General, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre
Sirina Pavarolarvidya, Vice President, The National Council of Women of Thailand
Peerasak Chantavarin, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Organization
Petipong Pungbun na Ayudhya, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Sirirat Ayuwithana, Deputy Director-General, Department of Social Development and Welfare
Sudawadee Tejanant, Director-Special Project Management Division,
Bureau of Social Welfare Service, Department of Social Development and Welfare
Phongpenkea Devahusdin, Chief of Foreign Affairs Co-ordination Group,
Department of Social Development and Welfare
Krittima Rojanatappha, Social Officer 7, Department of Social Development and Welfare
Rosarin Smitabhindu, Assistant Director, Royal Chitralada Projects
Wolfgang Frank, Population and Community Development Association
Pisuth Paiboonrat, Deputy Director, Hydro & Agro Information Institute
Nonthiwat Juntanapalin, Silpakorn University

Pattareeya Sumanoe, Office of the Deputy Director-General, The Public Relations Department
 Masao Sasaki, Senior Advisor, Animal Disease Control Japan-Thailand Technical Cooperation Project
 on Animal Disease Control in Thailand and Neighbouring Countries, Department of Livestock Department
 Sitanon Jesdapipat, WWF
 J.R. Mayer, QI Services
 Donna Imson, QI Services
 Thitikorn Chintavalakorn, Operations Manager, QI Services
 Preeja Jumchai, QI Services
 Jesada Siraprapawan, QI Services
 Podthi Theppratum, QI Services

Embassies

BANGLADESH	H.E. Shahed Akhtar, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
BELGIUM	H.E. Jan Matthysen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
CANADA	Anderson Blanc, Second Secretary (Commercial) Surin Thanalertkul, Trade Commissioner
CHINA	Zhang Wanhai, Minister Councillor and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
FRANCE	H.E. Laurent Aublin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
IRAN	Aliakbar Nazari, Third Secretary
JAPAN	Jiro Usui, Counsellor Naoyasu Murayama, First Secretary
KAZAKHSTAN	H.E. Aidar Jundybayev, Charge d'Affaires
MYANMAR	H.E. U Ye Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary U Myint Soe, Minister
MONGOLIA	H.E. Yaichil Batsuuri, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
PAKISTAN	H.E. Lt. Gen(Retd) Khateer Hasan Khan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
PHILIPPINES	H.E. Antonio V. Rodriguez, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
SRI LANKA	H.E. J.D.A. Wijewardena, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to ESCAP
VIETNAM	Vu Thi Bich Dung, First Secretary

United Nations

ADB	Jean-Pierre Verbiest, Head
ICAO	Lalit B. Shah, Regional Director
ILO	Hugh Odhams, Senior Administrative and Finance Officer
OHCHR	Yanine Poc, Regional Representative, o-i-c Malinee Muangsiri, Administrative Assistant
UNAIDS	Prasada J.V.R. Rao, Regional Director
UNDP	Joana Merlin-Scholtes, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative
UNIDO	Uaychai Nitising, National Programming officer
UNIS	David Lazarus, Chief, UN Information Service
UNOPS	Fida H. Shah, Regional Coordinator
WFP	Anthony Banbury, Regional Director of the Asia Bureau and World Food Programme Representative
WHO	P.T. Jayawickramarajah, Representative to Thailand
World Bank	Naima A. Hasci, Senior Social Scientist

Annex 3

Organizing Secretariat

Steering committee

Changchui He, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative (Chairperson)
H. Konuma, Deputy Regional Representative
N.M. Hla, Chief, Management Support Unit
P. K. Mudbhary, Chief, Policy Assistance Branch
T. Ayazi, Meetings and Publications Officer
D. de Vleeschauwer, Information Officer (Secretary)

Organizing committees

Invitations, reception and protocol

H. Konuma, Chairperson
D. de Vleeschauwer
Kanokporn Chansomritkul (Ms)
Vishnu Songkitti (Master of Ceremony)
Kanjerat Boonyamanop (Ms)
Monpilai Youyen (Ms)
Panida Jongkol
Thapanee Tayanuwattana (Ms)
Navaporn Liangchevasunthorn (Ms)
Ornusa Petchkul
Rangrong Sodamak (Ms)
Kallaya Meechantra (Ms)
Umpaiwan Pipatanavilai (Ms)
Chanrit Uawongkun (Mr)
Supajit Tienpati (Ms)
Surwishaya Paralokanon (Ms)
Bongkoch Prasanakarn (Ms)
Kanyarat Singhaphun
Aruneepra Peansanong
Pawadee Chokoonkit
Siriporn Charoenkijgasat
Kasarin Sirisoondhornpaibul
Thanomkwan Rachtachat
Jintana Anunacha (Ms)
Duangporn Sritulanondh (Ms)
Sunee Hormjunya (Ms)
Thamrongsak Techatadukul
Chaturat Damrongrisakul
Navaporn Liangchevasuntorn
Suthep Rakpanyakaew

Officers for the outstanding farmers

Sunbok Lee - China
Peter Hoejskov - Myanmar
Francis Mangila - Pakistan
Don Triumphavong - Thailand

Liaison with Thai government

H. Konuma, Chairperson
Somchai Udomsrirungruang
Panida Jongkol (Ms)
Surawishaya Paralokanon

Logistics and catering

N.M. Hla, Chairperson
Sri Limpichati (Mrs), consultant
Tetsuji Nakata
Wichai Nomkhumtode
Cristina Sriratana (Mrs)
Suthep Charoenbutr
Pensri Yujang (Ms)
Prasert Huatsawat

Media, publications and photographs

D. de Vleeschauwer, Chairperson
Tarina Ayazi (Mrs)
Apinya Petcharat (Ms)
Kanokporn Chansomritkul (Ms)
Suthep Charoenbutr
Kesara Aotarayakul
A. Kimoto, photographer consultant
Robert Horn, journalist consultant

Publications distributed

- ❖ 2006 WFD information note
- ❖ 2006 WFD issues paper
- ❖ 2006 WFD poster
- ❖ *The State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific 2006*
- ❖ RAP publication *Selected indicators of food and agricultural development in the Asia-Pacific region, 1995-2005*
- ❖ *RAP publications catalogue 2004 to 2005*
- ❖ RAP publication *Regional strategic framework, second edition*
- ❖ Flyer *FAO is a knowledge organization*
- ❖ Flyer *Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK)*
- ❖ IMARK CD-ROM *Investing in information for development*
- ❖ Address by the guest of honour
- ❖ Message by the FAO Director-General
- ❖ Welcome and introductory statement by ADG/RR
- ❖ Keynote speech on *Invest in agriculture for food security* by Mr Tadao Chino, former President of the Asian Development Bank
- ❖ Citations of outstanding farmers

