

**Country Statement to be delivered by Mr. Kyaw Swe Lin, Director General,
Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation**

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar,
at 35th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference**

Virtual Meeting

3rd September 2020

Good Afternoon,

Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, it is a great pleasure and honor for me to deliver the country statement in this 35th session of Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference focusing on the measures to build sustainable and resilient food systems, to prepare agriculture for a productive future in the face of increasing water scarcity and to improve food security and nutrition across the region by using innovation and digital technologies.

On behalf of Myanmar Government and our people, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to FAO for supporting Myanmar in the area of food security and agriculture development. I also would like to express my gratitude to the Royal Government of Bhutan for hosting Conference and the FAO Regional Office for the arrangement of the virtual meeting.

On this great occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to brief the development of agriculture sector of Myanmar, which is a high priority for our Nation. Agriculture sector contributes 28 percent of total national GDP and about 70 percent of rural population relies on crops, livestock and fishery activities for their livelihoods and incomes. To ensure the improvement of their livelihoods and the development of agriculture sector, Ministry has laid down its vision to 2030 and Myanmar Agriculture Development Strategy (2019 to 2023) has developed to

implement food security and nutrition as a national development agenda. So far, we are in process of agriculture and food system transformation by encouraging farmers and private sector to bring synergy for crop- livestock and agro-processing industry. The Ministry has been paying more attention on increasing safe and quality production intends to contribute regional and global food security.

At present, most of the countries including Myanmar suffering disruption in functioning of food supply chains as negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic, and eventually, relief and recovery plans and actions are more considerable for us to endeavor. Thus, Government of Myanmar gave high attention to mitigate economic impacts of COVID-19 and released COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), there, relevant programs relating to support farmers, small Agri-Processors, Agri-Business and cash for work are being undertaken by the Ministry and with assistance of UN Agencies, Development Partners. With the fullest cooperation of UN FAO, Rapid Assessment of COVID 19 on the Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fishing Sectors in 5 states and regions of Myanmar was conducted to recommend suitable relief and recovery programs.

We are pleased to learn that FAO is initiation Hand- in- Hand approach, and Myanmar is in one of priority countries among others. We would like to express our appreciation to FAO for this significant initiative for its Member State, we believe, this collective efforts will reach win- win situation for all development partners and host country. We assure, we can identify and implement the most appropriate HIH TCP/TCPF program in consultation and assisting of RAOR, Myanmar soon.

Mr. Chairman, Excellences, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me also little touch upon on challenging of water scarcity due to the consequences of global climate change. Agriculture, the major consumers of freshwater itself, is a driver of water scarcity. The productivity of agricultural water use, particularly in irrigation will need to increase to match food demand

and meet food security policy targets. As right time treatment, FAO successfully launched the Global Framework for Action to Cope with Water Scarcity in Agriculture in the context of Climate Change. If FAO is planned to implement Water Security Program, Myanmar will fully cooperate to get maximize advantage for water users in the country.

Moreover, building sustainable and resilient food systems in Asia and the Pacific and leveraging Digital Agriculture for SDGs are other important topics to be addressed in this Conference. We have to acknowledge that digital technologies will play a more prominent role of food and agriculture systems in the future and that are expected to transform food and agriculture systems into Agriculture 4.0 (the Fourth Agriculture Revolution). I would like to urge all Member countries to make use of FAO's initiative as much as possible in the area of Digital Agriculture.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all delegates and once again proffer my appreciation and thanks to the Government of Bhutan and FAO for giving all of us this opportunity of meeting together and discuss plans for the future. And also I believe that this Conference will be able to pave the way for the sustainable food security and nutrition for our region and the Government of Myanmar will actively and closely cooperate with FAO and Member States in future cooperation.

Thank You!