

**Ministerial Session
The 35th of the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference
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**Statement by H.E. Dr. Syahrul Yasin Limpo,
Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Indonesia**

Agenda 11: Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

**Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,**

- I am privileged to speak on behalf of my Government at this 35th Ministerial Session of the FAO Asia Pacific Regional Conference. My appreciation goes to the work by FAO and the Royal Government of Bhutan for organizing this important meeting.
- We commend the role of FAO in promoting and supporting sustainable development, and formulating a strategy for world food security.
- At this unprecedented time, this forum has become critical to discuss our priorities for policy coherence among countries in the Asia Pacific region.
- Today, Indonesia's agriculture comprises almost 14% of our GDP, and providing employment for almost half of its total population.
- Amid the dynamic development in the region, the Government of Indonesia continues to play an important role in addressing rural employment, improving farming families' incomes, and ensuring national food security.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has just launched the new five-year Strategic Development Plan for 2020-2024. This plan aims to achieve an **independent, modernized and prosperous agriculture** by increasing food security and agricultural competitiveness. The strategy highlights the shift from a production-based approach to a food system approach. We believe that achieving food security in Indonesia will contribute to the regional and global food security.

- In this regard, to sustain the availability of food for all in the new normal era, we have developed a set of policies called **4 Ways of Action**:
 - **First, increasing production capacity** through (i) acceleration of rice planting; (ii) conversion of sub-optimal land into farmland, as well as (iii) expansion of new cultivation areas for strategic commodities.
 - **Second, local food diversification** through (i) promotion of local wisdom-based dietary diversification; and (ii) optimal utilization of home-yards and marginal land to produce local healthy food through a Sustainable Food Garden Program, as part of our commitment to the UN Decade of Family Farming.
 - **Third, strengthening the food reserves and logistics system** through (i) the development of food reserves at provincial and community levels; and (ii) improving the national food logistics system for stabilization of supply and prices.
 - **Fourth, development of modern agriculture** through promotion of (i) agricultural mechanization; (ii) smart farming; (iii) food estates; and (iv) farmers' corporations.
- Despite the economic slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, our efforts have resulted in an increase of GDP growth in the agricultural sector about 2.19% compared to the previous year (year-on-year). We have also achieved agricultural sector growth of 16.24% compared to the previous quarter (quarter-to-quarter).
- On the Global Food Security Index, Indonesia's food security rank improved from 74th in 2015 to 62nd in 2019. The prevalence of stunting declined from 30.8% in 2018 to 27.67% in 2019.
- Indonesia will continue to synergize with FAO and the other two UN Rome-Based Agencies in addressing the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on food systems and take necessary measures to improve Indonesia's resilience.
- Last but not least, I would like to call on our fellow Excellencies and partners to strengthen our collaboration and support the Hand-in-Hand Initiative. Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, we are ready to share our experience with every country in the region and beyond, together, to contribute to the attainment of the SDGs in these challenging times.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.