

**Statement delivered by**  
**Her Excellency Yael Rubinstein, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the State of Israel to**  
**FAO**  
**on the occasion of the**  
**42nd Session of the FAO Conference (14-18 June 2021)**  
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*Thank you, Chair,*

*Dear colleagues,*

*Dear Director-General.*

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on our everyday life has driven us to a crossroad of transformations. We found ourselves making difficult and sometimes on the verge of impossible choices, all to provide and protect our people to the maximum extent.

This crossroad has emphasized the necessity of the world for crosscutting systems, especially systems dealing with food and health. This is our moment to rise, build and rebuild stronger, more sustainable and resilient systems.

In its 75 years of existence, the State of Israel has dealt with aged old challenge, feeding a rapidly growing population in a semi-arid land. Short on water and land, but enforced by a highly educated and professional workforce, Israel was able to transfer necessity to innovation and create ground-breaking and profitable solutions in the world of agriculture. Putting together new innovative technology with cyber, software and mobile allows agriculture to be a self-standing field, reducing the dependency on natural resources and making it available and accessible for all.

Developing and investing in agro-tech, Israel was ranked number five in the world in 2020 in the field of innovative development in agrifood, with an overall investment of more than USD 480 million. Every one of us holds a great asset information. The knowledge and data we have are priceless and we believe that by sharing and exchanging them we can move from ideas and strategy to action. Data is not a number and research, data is solutions that can be crossed and fitted throughout the system locally, regionally and globally.

Taking, for example, a drip irrigation, an Israeli invention in the irrigation field allowing to save water by targeting the plant and not the soil. This innovative solution is used in only 3 percent of the world. Can you imagine the long-term water saving possibilities if this technology was tailored to other countries in need? And in water saving is our goal, among others! Can you imagine using Israel's water purification technology around the world? In the last 20 years, 80 percent of Israel's water use for agriculture has been coming solely from using this technology.

The COVID-19 crisis has downsized the world to a tiny global village. The world realized that we all share the same goals and share the same challenges. Now is the time to share the solutions, leading to a world where no one is left behind. By 2050 global food production will have to increase by 70 percent. However, the suitable land for agriculture is already used up to 80 percent. The only resource we can enlarge to our benefit is our knowledge and the only way to do so is to share the technology we rely on.

As we look forward to the Food Systems Summit in September 2021, we are working to unite the food systems currently operating in the world under a wide umbrella of understanding. We hope to rebuild and integrate food systems that can provide, among other things, a joint platform to exchange data and information.

The delegation of Israel looks forward to share with all Member States our experience and lessons learned and to contribute to the discussion during the FAO Conference in our mutual efforts to bring better solutions and better future for all.

Thank you.