



Republic of Zambia

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**Statement by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture,  
Michael Z.J Katambo, MP at the 47<sup>th</sup> Committee on World  
Food Security (CFS47) held virtually from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>  
February 2021**

**YOUR EXCELLENCY,**

**THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL, MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES**

**THE CFS CHAIRPERSON, MR. THANAWAT TIENSIN**

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
(FAO), MR. QU DONGYU.**

**FELLOW MINISTERS,**

**HEADS OF VARIOUS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS,**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

MAY I CONVEY TO YOU ALL WARM GREETINGS FROM THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA. ALLOW ME TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION FOR CONVENING THIS IMPORTANT GLOBAL MEETING TO DISCUSS VARIOUS CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURE, AND FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY IN PARTICULAR, AT THE TIME WHEN THE WORLD IS FACING AN UNPRECEDENTED COVID- 19 PANDEMIC WHICH HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, WE HAVE THROUGH THIS ENGAGEMENT, AN OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM OUR COLLECTIVE RESOLVE TO CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF ELIMINATING

HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION AND IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS FOR FARMERS IN OUR COUNTRIES.

THE COVID-19 CRISIS HAS PRESENTED MANY CHALLENGES FOR THE WORLD. I AM PROUD TO SHARE THAT IN ZAMBIA, WITH SUPPORTIVE POLICIES AND DETERMINATION FROM ALL STAKEHOLDERS, WE HAVE MANAGED TO UNDERTAKE ALL PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2020/2021 FARMING SEASON ON TIME AND WITH STRICT ADHERENCE TO RECOMMENDED HEALTH GUIDELINES. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT MOST FARMERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY CAN TESTIFY THAT GOVERNMENT HAS DELIVERED SUBSIDIZED FARMING INPUTS ON TIME AND BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE RAIN SEASON.

AS GOVERNMENT OUR MAIN CONCERN IS IN DEALING WITH LOW CROP PRODUCTIVITY AND PRODUCTION, AND HIGH POST HARVEST LOSSES AMONG SMALL SCALE FARMERS, WHICH AFFECTS FOOD SECURITY. IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THIS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, THROUGH MY MINISTRY IS PROMOTING THE ADOPTION AND USE OF POST HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES AND INVESTING IN STORAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AIMED AT REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES, AND PROMOTING GOOD AGRICULTURE PRACTICES, AS WELL AS THE DELIVERY OF APPROPRIATE EXTENSION SERVICES TO FARMERS SO AS TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY. THE MINISTRY OF

AGRICULTURE IN ZAMBIA IS ALSO PROMOTING TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS IRRIGATION AND MECHANIZATION AIMED AT MITIGATING THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY.

**YOUR EXCELLENCY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT FARMERS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE ADEQUATE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD FOR DOMESTIC AND EXPORT REQUIREMENTS. IN SUPPORTING THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN ZAMBIA INTO AN EXPORT ORIENTED SECTOR, THE GOVERNMENT IS CURRENTLY DEVELOPING A CREDIBLE STOCK MONITORING INFORMATION SYSTEM TO INFORM THE AVAILABILITY OF CROP STOCKS IN THE COUNTRY IN ORDER TO FACILITATE INFORMED DECISIONS ON EXPORTS.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT THAT ZAMBIA, LIKE MOST AFRICAN NATIONS HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY TRANS BOUNDARY PESTS LIKE MIGRATORY AFRICAN LOCUSTS AND FALL ARMY WORMS. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE THEREFORE ENSURED TIMELY CONTROL OPERATIONS ON A LARGE SCALE TO AVERT FOOD INSECURITY AND POTENTIAL FOOD CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY.

IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO URGE THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION, TOGETHER WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS TO FIND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND TO DEVELOP MULTI SECTORAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES OF TRANS BOUNDARY PESTS, CLIMATE CHANGE, HUNGER AND NUTRITION FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COUNTRIES AND THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.

CHAIRPERSON, I THANK YOU.