

INTERVENTION BY MR KEVIN KHNG, SENIOR DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE SINGAPORE FOOD AGENCY, AT CFS 49, 12 OCTOBER 2021

Agenda item II: State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021, its policy implications and the role of CFS in the context of COVID-19

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Introduction

1 Allow me to begin by thanking CFS for convening this discussion on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, and for the opportunity to share on this topic.

Food security and nutrition in the world

2 The SOFI report has reemphasised global challenges to ensuring food security and nutrition, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We must find solutions for sustainable agriculture and food systems to ensure food security.

Singapore's experience in transforming our food system

3 I will like to share Singapore's experience for pathway 2 on "scaling up climate resilience across food systems".

4 As a small city-state, Singapore has limited natural resources. To provide for our food needs, over 90% of our food is currently sourced from over 170 countries and regions. We aim to raise local food production to supplement our food supply and have set an ambitious goal to produce 30% of our nutritional needs by 2030. To do so, Singapore needs to leverage advances in technology to transform our agriculture sector to one that is high-tech, innovative, and sustainable.

5 High-tech urban agriculture has shown its potential to be more productive, climate resilient, and sustainable. Innovations such as purpose-built closed containment aquaculture farms can produce many more times the production level of coastal farms; indoor vertical vegetable farms can reach yields of 10 to 15 times that of traditional soil-based farms, while using less land. These controlled growing environments also minimize the impact of climate change and extreme weather.

The role that CFS can play

6 Given global trends of climate change and a growing world population, it is important for agriculture and food systems to become more productive, climate-resilient, and sustainable. In this regard, more focus should be placed on innovation and technology. With increasing rural-urban migration, urban food solutions can be an important part of countries' food systems. It can complement conventional farming techniques and can also help reduce carbon miles by producing food right where people live.

7 With this in mind, we encourage the CFS to provide greater focus on urban food solutions and consider coming up with policy guidance to help governments take advantage of this approach.

8 Singapore will be happy to share our experience as we progress on our food journey.

9 Thank you.

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