

Statement of Intervention

INDONESIA

**At the 49th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
(Virtual Meeting, 11 – 14 October 2021)**

Agenda Item 6: PROMOTING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Indonesia appreciates the work that has been undertaken by the HLPE and we congratulate the Project Team for their excellent presentation on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.
2. We share the view of the HLPE regarding core principles that underpin the central role of youth as individual and collective agents of change to accelerate food systems transformation, as well as the need to adopt a context-specific and acknowledging the diverse and dynamic roles and aspirations of the youth.
3. Indonesia is now reaping demographic bonus as the share of youth and the working-age population continue increasing. At the same time, we face a significant decrease in youth participation in the agriculture sector, followed by a significant increase in youth migration to the non-agriculture sector and urbanization, as well as a decrease of the workforce in agriculture.
4. The current context of the COVID-19 pandemic has possibly increased their labor market vulnerabilities as the youth are being hit hard by the COVID-19 in respect of employment.
5. Facing these challenges, Indonesia has carried out various efforts to regenerate farmers and increase agricultural workforce productivity, among others by establishing Agricultural Young Agripreneur Development (AYAD/PWMP), where agricultural tertiary graduates are educated to become young agripreneurs which are ultimately expected to be the driving force and job creator in the agriculture sector.
6. We also appoint a group of Millennial Farmer Ambassadors (aged between 19-39 years) to encourage young people to be involved in agriculture and they are expected to be able to attract other millennial to be agricultural entrepreneurs.

7. In line with HLPE recommendation, we recognize the significant contribution of strengthening digital technologies to attract youth engagement in the agri-food sector.
8. In this regard, to increase youth access to market, capital and technology, we promote and support various agritech startups, which are driven mostly by the youth, to provide innovative solutions targeted to solve key problems in the agricultural sector. This includes promoting public-private partnerships (PPP) to ensure the long-term sustainability of the businesses.
9. We also have one collaboration project with the IFAD, which focusing specifically to increase engagement of rural young women and men in the agri-based sector through employment and entrepreneurship, “the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Support Services (YESS)”, which also became the first IFAD project on rural youth.
10. We believe the youth and millennial farmers are the backbone of agriculture in the future. With this statement, Indonesia endorses the HLPE Report on Promoting Youth Engagement and Employment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.