

PH Statement for COFO 26
Agenda 6: Agriculture and forestry linkages
October 3, 2022

The Philippines would like to thank the panel for its enriching comments.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Philippines acknowledges the multiple linkages between the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, and we wish to underscore the need to achieve better synergies between them through inter-sectoral approaches, for more sustainable agri-food systems; While fisheries is part of agriculture in the Philippines, for clarity, we will mention fisheries here separately from agriculture.

We enjoin FAO to continue to collect and analyse necessary data and evidence, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, by further enhancing consistency between agricultural and forest data sets, and by compiling case studies and best practices, and to report back to the next respective sessions of COFO 27 and COAG 29 and even to COFI36, if relevant;

We likewise agree to the recommendations put forward in COFO/2022/4 on Agriculture and forestry linkages for FAO to do in order to improve complementarity between the agriculture, fisheries and forest sectors, strengthen coordinated policy responses in addressing common challenges, and improve understanding of synergies and trade-offs between agriculture, fisheries and forestry;

In addition, as applicable, the Philippines proposes the use of the ridge-to-reef approach as an integrated management approach between and among agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors. In the Philippines, we use the ridge-to-reef approach as a tool for our interventions in the convergence areas to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of strategies for sustainable rural development. We welcome support in moving forward through this approach.

This management approach works on addressing threats in the uplands, lowlands and coastal areas in an integrated and inclusive way.

Ecosystems are interconnected; what happens in one will ultimately affect the other. Forest denudation, for example, results in soil erosion causing siltation of rivers and estuaries. Improperly managed solid waste/waste water end up in coastal areas and pollute these resources, a major source of food and livelihood for millions of Filipinos. Development efforts – establishment of industries, ports, tourism programs, various sources of livelihood on land and water have to take into consideration the carrying capacity of our environment and natural resources.

Thank you. ###END###