



A Statement of the Minister for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment of Seychelles, Mr. Flavien Joubert for the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, to be held between the 14th and the 18th June, 2021

The Chairperson of the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference, the Director General of the FAO, excellencies, the member states' delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I convey to you warm greetings of the government and of the people of the Republic of Seychelles.

I join the other member states' delegations in sending best wishes to the organizers of the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference for a successful outcome of the deliberations.

I stand in solidarity with the other members to renew the commitments and pledges to achieve a better national food and nutrition security status.

***Agriculture Food System Transformation: from Strategy to Action*, the theme under which the 42nd Session of the Conference is being held, provides member states with the battle cry for further engagement in these most unprecedented times.**

High external dependence on food, in excess of 80%, is a huge threat to the socio-economic development of small island developing states.

The food production systems of the Seychelles embody the soul of those of the other small island developing states. These are being severely impacted upon by the prevailing pandemic.

The Seychelles supports the motive of the 42nd Conference towards actions for transforming the world's agriculture food systems.



However, the peculiar small economies of SIDS cannot operate like large ones which have large production bases.

The environment, the pandemic, climate change, energy and agriculture/food production nexus is heavily burdened. The current mixture of challenges which be-faces us is getting ever more complex.

It is time for us with small economies, unduly high external dependence, fragile environments and limited natural resources to recognize that a philosophy of sustainable actions towards the SDGs will not suffice.

It is time to pay greater attention to the restoration of our immediate environment, the first resource towards resilience building.

Acting alone will be a futile option. In this seemingly un-ending list of challenges, the Seychelles is committed to its pledge to the organization.

With the support of the organization, especially the Hand-in-Hand initiative along with the conventional support with the technical cooperation assistance, it will continue to work towards better production, better nutrition, better environment and a better life for its people.

The Seychelles will soon be launching its agricultural strategic actions for the period 2021-2023. These will address 15 connected areas towards improving the national food and nutrition security status. The actions are concerted with one pre-occupying motive.

I would like to thank the 42nd Conference organizers for providing member states with a voice.

I thank the organization's support and other multilateral parties who have had an input in the socio-economic development of the Seychelles to date.



Thank you for your attention.