

Statement delivered by
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Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Israel
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Honorable Ministers,
distinguished Chair,
Respected delegates,
ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to stand before you today at this esteemed gathering, the 43rd Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

I stand here before you today, since all of us, regardless of religion or nationality, are confronted by a pressing global challenge of great importance to our lives and the future of our children and planet – food security.

Regardless of whether rich or poor, the looming threat of food scarcity affects us all.

The global population is projected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, and with the growing impacts of the climate crisis, as well as conflicts and bloodsheds around the world, ensuring sustainable, affordable, and nutritional food systems, is no less than paramount.

As we all already know, Climate Change intensifies the challenges associated with food insecurity.

Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and extreme weather events, disrupt agricultural production and jeopardize the availability and affordability of food.

The consequences affect not only the agricultural sector but also state's economy, social stability, and the human well-being.

A quick and decisive reaction is crucial to make our food industry more secure and sustainable. We must promote resilient agricultural practices that maximize productivity, conserve resources.

Not only diminishing environmental impact but also benefit it. Not only for the purpose of feeding our population, but also for the sake of ensuring our future.

We cannot fail!

The consequences of failing to address food security are too risky to bear.

As the competition for limited resources intensifies, the potential for conflict and instability increases.

Lack of food and water can intensify social disparities, fuel migration, and spark geopolitical tensions.

It is imperative that we act collectively to prevent such a future.

Ladies and Gentlemen, promoting sustainable food systems goes beyond agricultural practices alone. It includes the entire food value chain, from production and processing to distribution and consumption.

This is why it is my pleasure today to stand in front of you to not only present an fascinating innovation emerging from the State of Israel that hold tremendous potential for addressing this crisis, but also to

inform you of an exciting way to utilize it. Please bear with me few more minutes.

Israel has not only overcome geographical and climatic challenges, but also within a few years of its establishment, Israel was able to generate a prosperous agricultural sector, that even set a shining example for the world, moving from Food insecurity to abundance.

Please keep in mind that our country is mostly characterized by arid and semi-arid regions;

Yet, it has transformed its agricultural landscape through visionary practices and pioneering ideas.

Israel has overcome water shortage, infertile and lack of soils, and unfavorable climatic conditions and has turned itself into a thriving oasis.

The necessity has proven to be the mother of remarkable innovation.

Through cutting-edge technology, research, and a deep commitment to agricultural advancement, Israel has pioneered groundbreaking solutions that can help secure food for the world's population.

One of the key Israeli innovations revolutionizing agriculture is precision agriculture.

By utilizing advanced techniques such as drip irrigation, precision farming, climate smart technologies, Israel has overcome water scarcity and optimized resource utilization.

These practices enable farmers to grow more crops with less land and water, reduce waste, and improve overall efficiency.

The success of these methods has been widely recognized, and they hold great potential for countries dealing with similar challenges.

Furthermore, Israel has become a global leader in water management, utilizing advanced irrigation techniques, desalination, and reused water treatment.

Israel has developed state-of-the-art water treatment plants, that have transformed agriculture irrigation and water uses thus, enabling us to reach water security in one of the climate change hotspots on the globe.

These techniques, combined with advanced water management practices, have helped Israeli farmers thrive in arid regions and expand their agricultural production sustainably.

In addition to water management, Israel has also embraced digital technologies to revolutionize farming practices.

Due to Israeli innovation in agriculture, Israeli farmers are empowered with real-time information, enabling them to make informed decisions and optimize their operations.

Israeli scientists are helping farmers mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve yields, and increase resilience.

Distinguished guests, the innovative spirit of Israel, coupled with its dedication to sustainable agricultural practices, has given rise to solutions that can transform the future of global food security.

It is crucial for us to collaborate and share knowledge, leveraging these innovations to improve agricultural practices worldwide.

By adopting and adapting, we can collectively take a giant leap towards achieving food security for all.

I am pleased to inform you that Israel has joined the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

This will enable our researchers and scientists to join hands with researchers around the world to exchange genetic materials of plants to preserve our plant vegetation and develop new crops.

The Ministry of Agriculture has engaged in a very constructive and fruitful cooperation with two of the

leading development banks:

The World Bank and The Inter Development Bank (IDB).

This wonderful cooperation will provide eligible member states with the opportunity to introduce climate smart agricultural technologies developed in Israel, to assist in their agriculture and food production challenges.

Those funds will provide opportunities to member-states to take advantage of Israel's technologies.

I would like to use this opportunity to call for other countries to join us in this important endeavor.

Let us unite in our efforts for the sake of our planet and the future of generations to come.

Thank you very much.