

Statement delivered by
His Excellency Kang Hyoung-Seok
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Republic of Korea
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)

3 July 2023 Thank you Madam Chair. Excellences, honourable ministers, and distinguished delegates. I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea at the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Chair, Director-General, and the staff of FAO for their hard work.

First of all, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Director-General for his re-election. My sincere appreciation goes to you Honourable Director-General, for your dedication during the past four years. I hope that you will continue to make a significant contribution to the transformation, to more innovative, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood system, leaving no one behind.

Honourable Chair, Excellences and distinguished delegates, climate change is a key driver behind food insecurity and has a negative impact on all forms of agricultural resources, including water resources and land in both direct and indirect ways. Taking this opportunity, I would like to introduce the policies and efforts of the Korean Government for the integrated water resources management in order to better respond to climate change.

Based on the framework on water management, Korea established the first mass plan for national water management. The plan focuses on a mature balance between surface and ground water, the establishment of a digest prevention system for droughts and floods, management and efficient use of agricultural and domestic water, and the preservation of water quality.

The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of the Republic of Korea recently announced the improvement of the Agricultural Production Base Plan for decades, which encompasses water safety, water use, water environment to advance agricultural water management.

First, in response to droughts and floods, we are continuously reinforcing our digest preparedness and the response capability of the related facilities.

Second, we have been adapting major land and T-Based Smart Water Management Systems to save water resources, and promoting collaboration with governments, which includes the government, farmers, water management agency and various experts.

Third, we have improved the water quality for the reservoirs that failed to meet the quality criteria with regular monitoring.

Through these efforts, we are striving to improve the water quality that can contribute to the production of eco-friendly agricultural products and the rural environment.

Lastly, Korea will continuously expand its contribution to global food security, nutrition improvement and agricultural and rural development. Together with the K-rice belt project that the Korean Government has been promoting in African countries from this year. Korea will continue to jointly walk with the FAO and its Member countries to provide support for developing countries grappling with the climate crisis, including supply of high yielding crop varieties, transfer of climate change mitigation and adaptation technology, and establishment of a water resource infrastructure.

I truly hope this Session will serve as an opportunity for honourable ministers and distinguished delegates to pool wisdom together and take a leap forward based on concerted discussions.

Thank you for your kind attention.