

Statement delivered by
His Excellency Chalermchai Sri-on
Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)
3 July 2023

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Water security is a big challenge particularly since climate change has disrupted the global water cycle. Thailand although blessed with abundance of water is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Our agricultural sector relies on 70 percent on rain effected agricultural and is particularly effected by the chain of precipitation patterns. Thailand is determined to achieve the sustainable development goals through the implementation of the sufficiency economy philosophy.

In respond to the crisis Thailand has adopted a concrete national water resources management plan for implementing effective mechanisms and action to uphold water security for consumption and production, water disease prevention, water quality management, water conservation and restoration and water resources administration and management both in the short term and long term plan. In the short term, we aim to increase the effect and efficiency of water use in the agricultural sector and to increase the yearlong stability of water supplies. In the long term, we will invest in water infrastructure and water use efficiency.

In the past 40 years, Thailand conducted successful re-forestation projects aimed at restoration and rehabilitation of water and resources through the implementation of nature based solution. We would like to share our experience with all Member countries and work in collaboration with FAO in addressing the big challenges of sustainable and efficient management of more domestic and transboundary waters.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This year marks the 10 years anniversary of the United Nations designation of the 5 December as World Soil Day to raise awareness on the key role of soil for the SDGs. World Soil Day 2023 highlights the interlinkage between soils and more land that brings soils and water a source of life. On occasions of the General Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership, Thailand will organize a side event on healthy soils for healthy food and nutrition. We will promote the concept of speeding up soils and speeding up partnerships. You are kindly invited to attend the side event on 13 July 2023 to create the partnerships for the sustainable management of soil and water resources to collectively achieve the SDGs.

Thank you.