

Statement of the delegation of the I.R. of Iran in the second FAO
Ministerial Meeting on International Food Prices
7 oct 2013
Rome - Italy

Mr. President,

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the government of the I.R. of Iran I should express my appreciation of the FAO Director General Mr. Da Silva for convening this important meeting.

Excellencies,

According to UN assessments, the world population will reach 9.1 billion in 2050 which is 34percent higher than the present population. At the same time, Therefore, there will be increasing demand for foodstuff and the people's diet will move towards further consumption. Despite the fact that agricultural products have experienced severe fluctuations, the consumption rate has been fairly increased and this trend will continue. This contributes to the increasing of the price of many agricultural, fishery, livestock, and renewable bio-fuels. Major reasons of increased consumption are: increased per capita income; population growth; increasing the income of the middle class in

the developing economies; development of urbanization; and the shift in the consumption patterns.

During the past 50 years, agricultural productions have increased 2,3 percent annually. In the past, the cycles of high prices have reacted to the enhancement of production in the agriculture sector and products with low demands have experienced a lowering price trend for many years. Nevertheless, the downward price of agricultural products have reversed since 2000 and has experienced an upward trend, as a result of which the price of agricultural products have been almost doubled during the past 10 years.

Excellencies,

Currently, the share of agriculture sector of the water supplies of the world is around 70 percent. The water and soil resources are not spread evenly in the world. Many nations in the Near East, north Africa, and south Asia are faced with the shortage of water supplies and suffer from lack of enough soil resources. The number of countries and regions of the world which suffer from lack of enough water supplies will increase in coming years. The main factor for coping with decreasing water resources is the enhancement of productivity in the use of water.

The most important challenges of the agriculture sector are low productivity rate and lack of stability in production. Considering the existing constraints, we should concentrate on increasing the productivity in the agriculture sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Increased production costs and increased demand for bio-fuels (which consequently lead to increased demand for agricultural products) are major reasons for higher prices.

On the other hand Increased prices encourage farmers and livestock breeders to increase their production through enhancing investment, productivity, and the use of better varieties, animal food, and advanced technology.

Dear delegates,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has obtained significant achievements in various subsectors of agriculture, such as livestock and poultry, organic production, and foodstuff. It has produced more than 100 million tons of agricultural products annually. the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared to share its achievements and experiences with other member states within the context of regional and international agreements. Considering the abovementioned issues, we propose following suggestions for enhancing sustainable food security and reducing price fluctuations in the agriculture sector:

- ❖ Encouraging and creating proper economic, technical, and legal context for innovation and empowering research, education, and extension systems.
- ❖ Paying due attention to the role played by the private sector in the development and introduction of new technologies and innovations.
- ❖ Paying due attention to the importance of reducing the loss of agricultural products, as one of the instruments for enhancing productivity
- ❖ Paying attention to the cycle of agriculture production and consumption chain
- ❖ Sustainable use of water and soil resources and proper control of the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

- ❖ Formulation and implementation of programs that are compatible with climate change in different countries.
- ❖ Technology transfer and extension in the agriculture sector
- ❖ Enhancing cooperation among major exporters of foodstuff
- ❖ Transparency in the foodstuff market
- ❖ Adoption of common procedures in international gatherings for the production and trade of foodstuff
- ❖ Prioritization of the production and trade of agricultural crops in international interactions

Thank you!