

Five minutes' Introduction

Esteemed Government representatives,

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Development partner representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to represent Lao PDR at the Pre-Summit of the Food Systems Summit 2021 today.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Lao PDR hosted a National Dialogue on June 2nd with the aim of creating a national pathway towards more sustainable food systems in the country. With the support of the UN Country Team the event was attended by a wide range of stakeholders including various ministries, government authorities at central and provincial level, development partners, representatives from civil society organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

Moreover, Lao PDR participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Food Systems Summit Dialogues (18-19 June 2021) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (18-19 June 2021).

Whilst the dialogue has helped revitalise and build on existing initiatives, it also presented an opportunity to analyse food systems in a more holistic manner and think of ways to advance the objectives of the five action tracks there are certain trade-offs between different goals.

Secondly, the National Dialogue showed that vulnerable groups such as women and children face the biggest risk of being negatively affected by unsustainable food systems. Therefore, we need to ensure that the 'Leaving No one Behind Principle', as outlined in the 2030 Agenda, is effectively implemented across all initiatives.

I would like to underline that Lao food systems are not isolated and must be understood in connection to regional and international economies.

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