

(Minister Address)
UN-States Food Systems Summit, 2021
(Statement for Video Recording)

Excellency UN Secretary General, Antonio Gutress;

Dignitaries from Member States,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalam-o-Allaikum and Greetings from Pakistan

I am extremely pleased while recording this Statement for United Nations Food System Summit -2021 Summit as Federal Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Pakistan is facing food and nutritional insecurity challenges for its population of above 215 million. It is costing us **US \$ 7.6 billion** annually or 3% of our national GDP.

Pakistan agriculture sector share in national GDP is 19.2%. It is lifeline of national economy from many perspectives.

Pakistan is blessed with diversified climate making 10 highly diversified agro-ecologies available. The country has 23 million ha of cultivable land, 1000 km of costal line with 3 big dams and more than 100 small dams.

All this signifies that system-based approach is more appropriate for us.

Your Excellency;

Pakistan considers this Food System Summit as an opportunity to review progress on SDGs and meeting the challenges in achieving zero hunger through establishing robust partnerships and coalitions.

Pakistan has prepared Working Papers on all five Action Tracks through all-inclusive consultative process and have chalked out action plans to implement Game Changing Solutions .

Pakistan intends to enhance diversified food production in all agro-ecologies, minimizing post-harvest losses and promoting kitchen gardening and promoting value chains.

Pakistan also wants to promote organic farming, cultivation of green manure crops, use of resource conservation technologies, build the capacity of all stakeholders and the SMEs and also focus on building resilience through devising innovative site-specific technologies.

Our underlying intension is to shift our consumers from staple cereals dominated diets to sustainable diversified and healthy consumption patterns.

I am pleased to mention that Government of Pakistan has set-up Agriculture Innovation Fund.

I would like to appreciate great support from the partners including PARC, FAO, GAIN, IFAD and WFP. I hope such partnerships shall continue in future also.

Finally, I would like to mention that Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team is committed towards achieving zero hunger and other SDGs.

Thank You All

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