

Statement

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Mr. Chairman,

Director General CIRDAP,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great pleasure to attend the thirty-third of CIRDAP Technical Committee Meeting. I would like to take express my sincere thanks to the Fijian government for warm welcome and hospitality.

Thailand has strong intension to ending poverty. After adopting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, the Royal Thai Government has integrated the SDGs into our 20-year National Strategy and the Agriculture and Cooperatives strategies plan. All national strategies and implementing plans have been carried out in accordance with His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy that emphasize on the sustainable development aiming at reducing poverty, bring better livelihoods reforming agricultural sector. It brings better livelihoods for all, according to the vision of Thailand through "Stability, Prosperity and Sustainability of people and nation.

Mr. Chairman,

His Majesty the King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bordinradebayavarankun (มหาวชิราลงกรณ บดินทรเทพยวรางกูร) has also given importance to addressing the problem of vulnerable people and poor farmers. His Majesty has his strong intention and inspiration to continue the Royal Projects of the late King to help farmers and reduce poverty .

Recently, the Royal Thai Government has initiative a “Sustainable Thainess” program, and the government allocated 3.2 billion US dollar for project implementation. One of key activities focuses on agricultural sector reform and restructuring.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government intend to reduce farmers’ poverty by decreasing expenditure and increasing income. The government also focus on implementing all projects through active participation and partnership among public, private, and civil society so-called “ Civil state” (or ประชาธิปไตย). We promote the active participation of communities in solving their problems by using “poverty advisor” who will assess the needs and problem at community level. Then suggest ways and means, including occupational training , to solve the problem in sustainable manner.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand has been implementing many projects and programs to tackle poverty and improve better farmer’s livelihoods, for example:

- Upgrading agricultural production standards to meet market demand, using the concept of “ Market leads production”.
- Developing agricultural knowledge and innovation and supporting new generation of farmers or “Young smart farmers” who intend to come back home as professional farmers. This will help reducing migration of people from rural areas to the city and to promote sustainable rural development.
- Promoting safer food for the whole supply chain in cooperate with promoting organic farming, food processing, and agro-tourism.
- Reducing chemical usage in agricultural production such as pesticides, and antibiotics to prevent antimicrobial resistance in crop, livestock, and fisheries. The Multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches through “One Health” concept have been implanting in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health, other line ministries, farmers, producers, and consumers.

Soil is one of important resources for agriculture, environment, and livelihood. Thailand would like to emphasize the importance of sustainable management of soil for food security. We invite CIRDAP Member Countries to jointly the continue event in order to raise awareness on sustainable soil management, within the 2018 theme “Be the Solution to Soil Pollution!”

As a Chairperson of Asian Soil Partnership (or ASP) between 2016-2018, Thailand is pleased to share with you the success of the ASP during our chairmanship. This includes the establishment of the Center of Excellence on Soil Research in Asia, the Soil Laboratory Network in Southeast Asia, Global Soil doctor Program, producing digital Soil carbon map of Asia and utilizing Agri-map.

In addition, Thailand gives priority to sustainable management of water resource. Recently, we have established a new National Bureau of Water Resource to oversee water resource management policies. Thailand also set up a Smart Water Operation Center as well as adopted the King’s Philosophy in sustainable water and soil conservation practices. Rainmaking operation has been using in Thailand for a long time to reduce the risk from drought, air pollution, forest fire and hail storms. We also sow airborne seedling to increase number of trees and extend forest areas. Thailand is pleased to share our knowledge and experience with Member Countries, not only on soil and water management, but also agriculture, forestry, fisheries and sustainable rural development.

The Royal Thai Government intends to reduce farmers poverty by decreasing expenditure and increasing income. The Government and Thai people have adopted the King Philosophy and the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as a guideline for national development and agriculture. The Philosophy is in line well with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you