

Japan's Proposal for Strengthening Cooperation with Global South Countries
towards
Enhancing Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Food Systems
for Ensuring Regional Food Security
- Japan's Global MIDORI Cooperation Plan -

1. Background

In September 2021, the United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) was held in the context of increasing recognition of the importance of stable food supply and resilient and sustainable agricultural development. The concept of enhancing resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions has been positioned as a core concept in agricultural policy and government initiatives. At this time, UN Secretary-General António Guterres noted that there was no one-size-fits-all solution for achieving sustainability. And he pointed out that sustainable food production systems are essential solutions to the challenges such as hunger, climate-change, biodiversity etc.

The United Nations Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment (UNFSS+2) was held in July 2023. According to the UN Secretary-General's report, 67% of countries integrated a vision for developing national pathways for food systems transformation into their national strategies and sectoral plans and half of countries recognized the necessity to urgently adapt their food systems to climate change and promote environmental resilience.

At the UNFSS, Japan expressed its position that Japan would work toward establishing better global "food systems" and emphasized the importance such as:

- (1) achieving both productivity improvement and ensuring sustainability,
- (2) maintaining and strengthening free and fair trade,
- (3) taking the climate and food culture of each country and region into account.

Through the "MIDORI Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems (MIDORI Strategy)", Japan has been promoting the development of sustainable food systems with lower environmental burden, including decarbonization of the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries.

In addition, at the UNFSS+2, Japan, based on the outcomes of the G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Miyazaki and the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, highlighted as follows:

- (1) agricultural sustainability should be increased in a manner which enhances productivity ,
- (2) food systems in each country should be strengthened by utilizing existing domestic agricultural resources,
- (3) all forms of innovation should be promoted to achieve sustainable agriculture.

Japan also supports 'Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action' adopted at the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai in December 2023 and will collaborate with each country on sustainable development of food and agriculture sectors and accelerating climate action.

Furthermore, at the G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting held in September 2024, Japan expressed its commitment to expand cooperation similar to the “ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan” launched in 2023 to other regions outside Asia, as it is necessary to implement the results of innovation in a manner suited to each region in order to achieve sustainable agriculture from Japan. In addition, at the G20 Summit held in November of the same year, the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty was established to support and accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty. The Prime Minister of Japan expressed his intention to utilize Japan's advanced technologies to expand sustainable and productive agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, including the reduction of GHG emissions, to new partners, including countries in Latin America and Africa.

2. Direction of the cooperation

While the international community is highly interested in balancing agricultural productivity and sustainability and establishing resilient food systems, and each country is addressing them on its national strategy and sectoral plan, Japan strengthens its collaboration with the Global South Countries and promote initiative to utilize the knowledge and technology of the public and private sectors for the rapid transformation of the global food systems as well.

In Japan, a medium- to long-term strategy for sustainable food systems, MIDORI Strategy was formulated in May 2021 to make compatible with both productivity and sustainability in the food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries through innovation, and is promoting the development and social implementation of innovative technologies and production systems.

In this context, based on the ASEAN-Japan MIDORI Cooperation Plan adopted in October 2023, Japan has been already implementing cooperation projects utilizing technologies that Japan has developed to build resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through innovation in the ASEAN region, which has similarities in weather and agricultural production conditions.

In the Global South Countries other than ASEAN, each region has various natural and social conditions of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and procurement, production, processing, distribution and consumption in food-system are carried out according to the conditions.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution for achieving resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food systems and SDGs. It is necessary to promote initiatives to tailored to the conditions in each region. Japan will facilitate tailor-made cooperation based on its experience of cooperation between Japan and ASEAN.

In order to contribute to ensuring regional food security and accelerating climate action in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, Japan takes into account regional particularities in terms of agricultural production such as climate, soils, irrigation systems etc., and will support efforts to achieve resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through close collaboration with the Global South Countries. We will also fully apply industry-academia-government-finance

partnership mechanisms to utilize the technical capability and financial resources of the private sector, public research institutions, institutions supporting industry and financial institutions based on the following principles:

- (1) agricultural sustainability should be improved by increasing productivity,
- (2) food systems in each country should be strengthened by utilizing domestic agricultural resources,
- (3) all forms of innovation should be promoted to achieve sustainable agriculture.

We will also cooperate with international organizations such as FAO, WFP and IFAD.

3. The scope of cooperation

Based on the above three principles, Japan will promote the mutual cooperation with the Global South Countries toward "building resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through innovation with public-private partnerships" as the core concept of future collaboration. In order to build resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, the Global South Countries and Japan will select and trial initiatives and technologies tailored to regional particularities in implementing the cooperation between the Global South Countries and Japan. The specific scope of cooperation that Japan considers as important and should be addressed through collaboration with public and private sector in each Global South Country are as follows:

- i) Development, demonstration and dissemination of technologies for building resilient and sustainable agriculture and food systems through innovation, such as technologies enhancing precision (smart /digital) agriculture, circular economy including efficient use of agricultural materials, bioenergy, reducing GHG emission. Integrated Pest Management (IPM), new varieties and optimal food processing that contribute to improved human nutrition and efficient agricultural water management, as well as leveraging the technologies possessed by the private sector in Japan,
- ii) Collection, and characterization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture,
- iii) Support including human resource development for building resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food systems,
- iv) Dialogue on food assistance in emergencies and stable supply of products, above all major grains,
- v) Promoting measures against natural disaster caused by climate change, transboundary animal diseases and plant pests
- vi) Promoting investment in logistics infrastructure to enhance stability in supply of major crops and,
- vii) Support for the implementation of voluntary initiatives of the Global South Countries to build resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry fisheries and food systems.

In implementing such cooperation in each region, it should be noted that it is necessary to understand its natural and social conditions in each region and to fully consider the applicability of the cooperation.

4. Implementation

In order to achieve cooperation through initiatives and technologies appropriate to the natural and social conditions of each region, each Global South Country and Japan will promote dialogues

among various stakeholders in the public and private sectors. As necessary, each Global South Country and Japan will establish a framework such as concluding a memorandum of cooperation between government agencies or private companies. It is noted that these cooperations should be mutually beneficial and should serve as a framework to encourage private investment through the utilization of Plant Variety Protection.