

## Joint Statement on Sustainable Agricultural Production and Food Systems

23 July 2021

We, the Ministers in charge of Agriculture of Cambodia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, jointly recognize the crucial importance to achieve sustainable agricultural production and food systems on the occasion of the Pre-Summit of the Food Systems Summit.

As countries belonging to the Monsoon Asia region, we share several regional particularities with regards to agricultural production, including distinctive climate conditions such as high humidity and high temperature, abundance of paddy fields, and high percentage of small- and medium-sized farmers.

Taking into account these regional particularities, we will make our maximum efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable agricultural production and food systems as well as the SDGs, while recognizing that there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution leading to those goals, including an approach to the reduction of chemical pesticides and fertilizer usage.

We believe innovation in the realm of agriculture and related industries is the key to sustainable agricultural production and food systems, especially for small- and medium-sized farmers, and private sector investments need to be encouraged to enhance this innovation.

Also, international collaboration is important to introduce innovative and sustainable agricultural practices and technologies such as digital tools, machineries and pest control tools, and we decide to promote and deepen our collaboration through joint research projects and existing frameworks for bilateral and plurilateral cooperation to achieve a balance between productivity and environmental protection.

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H.E. Nogami Kotaro, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan

H.E. Dr. Phet PHOMPHIPHAK, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

H.E. Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, Malaysia

Hon. Dr. William D. Dar, Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines

H.E. Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, Singapore

H.E. Dr. Chalermchai Sri-on, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Thailand

H.E. Le Minh Hoan, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam