

**Statement of**  
**H.E. Mr. Yukol LIMLAMTHONG,**  
**Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand**  
**at the FAO Ministerial Meeting on International Food Prices**  
**Monday 7 October 2013**  
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Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Kingdom of Thailand, may I extend my sincere appreciation to FAO for the invitation to attend the FAO Ministerial Meeting on International Food Prices today.

Since 2007, according to the UNDP report on food price fluctuations, all regions of the World have been inevitably faced with sharp increases in prices for major food commodities. Meanwhile, many factors influence food price volatility such as agriculture and energy policy, commodity prices and market speculation, extreme weather events and rising global demand. As if increasing agricultural production and improvement in food distribution are not significantly concerned, this situation would considerably impact on the world's poorest populations.

Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Having said that, in term of food price volatility, production cost and market cost are the key factors. If the production cost and market cost increase, high price of food and agricultural products are also increased significantly. Therefore, increasing the productivity and reducing the food losses and food waste should be more emphasized on leading more stable and reasonable manner.

By saying that, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives has launched the policy on Agricultural zoning for increasing the productivity by giving recommendation to farmers for matching and planning the appropriate commodity with appropriate soil, climate condition along with selecting proper inputs. This policy will urge farmers to plant or raise the selected commodities that will provide the maximum yields with good quality of those commodities. By doing these, we enable to manage the demand and supply of food and agricultural product, especially energy crop, in Thailand not only for domestic consumption but also for global consumption as well. Therefore, demand and supply management plays a crucial role in response to fulfill needs of consumer.

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Similarly, distribution of food and agricultural products and logistics need to be cautiously planned in systematic manner to connect to the market point for transferring all food and agricultural products to the point of consumer's need. In addition, the package of training to farmers and officers has to be installed to transfer them to be smart farmer and smart officer who are capable to improve the farming activity with high knowledge and active information. In supporting the information for farmers and officers, Thailand, as a lead country, launched ASEAN Food Security Information System or AFSIS which is one of a regional cooperation on supply of agricultural products information. And also, AFSIS can be used for formulating policies and plans to eliminate the food price fluctuation

In agricultural development for smallholders, Thailand has applied Philosophy of self-sufficiency which farmers will grow and raise their interested commodity for their own consumption. Based on this concept, the farmers are able to save cost of buying food that means the farmer would have less impact from food price volatility.

Besides, reducing food losses and food waste need to be taken in order to provide more stable and reasonable food price. On the other hand, food education is one of the most important concerns that disseminate to all consumers and stakeholders in order to raise the public awareness of food losses and food waste. Furthermore, it would be thoughtful as learning on how to utilized food waste according to the zero waste concepts such as bioenergy and biomass.

We do believe that this practice will assist farmer to gain better living. As consequence, seller will provide food with reasonable price, consumers can access to a safe and quality food, and eventually the world enables to overcome in food waste as well as these will ultimately bring more reasonable food price at national, regional and global levels. Thailand is thereby willing to share experience to all country and hope that we will reach the target of food security under the UN Millennium Development Goals in the coming future with the well-being of people and safety food system.

Mr. Chairman,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen

Lastly, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the FAO Director-General, distinguished Ministers and delegates for joining with us and to exchanging vigilant views on this vital issue flagged up concerns at the regional and national levels. Thailand continuously positions to cooperate with one another on all aspects of food related issues, so we can come up with useful policy recommendations for further cooperation in the future.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

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