
Intervention of the Republic of Korea

Food System Transformation in Practice-Successes, Challenges and the way Forward(Day2, Plenary1)

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

Excellencies, Honorable ministers and distinguished delegates,

I have the honor to deliver these remarks on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

At the 2021 Summit, Korea set three key objectives in Korea's national pathway: △ensuring a stable supply of food, △fostering sustainable production and consumption, and △ensuring access to healthy food. We also pledged to partake in international cooperation to alleviate hunger worldwide.

After that, the intensifying global food supply crisis has posed a significant challenge to Korea, a country that depends heavily on imports for food crops except for rice. In response to this, Korean government has established several national initiatives aimed at transforming the food system, including increasing food self-sufficiency.

To this end, Korea is actively promoting strategic crops such as "floury rice," a rice variety that can act as a substitute for wheat. Additionally, we are providing agri-food vouchers to mitigate the impact of rising food prices on vulnerable groups. Moreover, we are ambitiously pursuing a shift towards low-input, environmentally friendly agricultural production.

In addition to these measures, Korea is bolstering its resilience to extreme climate change impacts by investing in critical water infrastructure, including reservoirs and drainage facilities, while adopting smart water quality monitoring through digital technology. We are also expanding crop disaster insurance coverage and adjusting disaster classifications to better protect farmers and enhance their ability to cope with unexpected challenges.

Recognizing the essential role of international cooperation in the food systems transformation, Korea is actively increasing its official development assistance in the agri-food sector. Korea, once a recipient of food assistance as one of the least developed countries, has now achieved self-sufficiency in rice and transitioned into a food assistance donor within a single generation.

We are currently collaborating with eight African nations to share Korea's agricultural innovation experience. This is not merely financial assistance, but a project designed to disseminate Korea's unique experience and expertise, which is a rare success story in the world. We're sharing our success story to help improve Africa's nutrition, especially for children.

In addition, starting next year, we plan to double our food assistance contribution through the U.N. World Food Program to address urgent humanitarian needs.

Until the 2025 Stocktaking Moments, we'll carry out these tasks. We'll also consult closely with international organizations to increase our global contribution. Thank you.