

**Agenda Item 25:
Agriculture Development,
Food Security and Nutrition
24 October 2016**

INDIA STATEMENT

First Secretary Mr. Ashish Sinha
at the Second Committee of the
71st Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

Madam Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

We thank Secretary-General for his Report on Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition and a Note transmitting the report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.

India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77.

Madam Chair,

Thousands of years ago, the practice of farming transformed the human society by sustaining much larger populations and indeed civilization itself. Last century, the large scale industrial farming practices further introduced significant changes in the way food is produced and distributed for the global market.

While, the human population has multiplied several times over the last few decades, putting extraordinary pressures on food production, there is enough food produced to feed the global population and yet millions of poor go hungry every day.

Improving agricultural productivity while pursuing sustainable agricultural practices at an affordable cost, improving farm incomes and ensuring equitable availability of nutritious food, remain important for inclusive growth and development.

Ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture are, therefore, central to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The relationships between SDG 2 and the other Goals illustrate the fundamental role of agriculture, food security and nutrition in the 2030 Agenda. The SDG 2 is related closely to almost all other goals, especially those relating to water, energy, soil, climate, economic growth, consumption and production patterns, gender equality, political stability and means of implementation.

This also is a reflection of the global nature of agriculture production and food security in today's world.

Madam Chair,

India represents one-sixth of human population. Our experience in this regard, therefore, has a significant relevance to the global experience.

Madam Chair,

India successfully transitioned from a situation of a food deficient nation at the time of our independence 70 years ago, to one that achieved self sufficiency in food production through a Green revolution within a couple of decades.

Today, we are not only self sufficient in production of food grains but also one of the major exporters of farm produce and animal products. Agriculture continues to be a vital sector of India's economy.

India is world's largest producer of milk, one of the top producers of fruits and vegetables and one of the three leading producers of fisheries.

We have world-class institutions of research and training in agriculture, dairy and live stocks under every possible climatic condition. Indian scientists have developed farming techniques and farm equipment that are affordable and effective. India is actively working to expand the use of micro irrigation systems.

There are, however, challenges to further improve agriculture productivity to meet the growing demand, introduce more sustainable farming practices, making available agriculture inputs at affordable cost, connecting farms to markets, increasing farm incomes and improving food distribution systems.

Madam Chair,

The Indian government is taking several steps to meet these challenges. I would like to refer to some of them here.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Modi launched e-NAM, the electronic-trading platform for the national agriculture market to significantly improve the linkage between the farmer and the market.

Several schemes have been launched for improving the availability of credit, crop insurance and direct benefit transfer for farmers.

For ensuring implementation of these schemes, the biometric-based unique individual identification system Aadhar with banking services and mobile phone technologies has been introduced and is proving to be a huge success.

In keeping with UN's declaration of 2015 as the International Year of Soils in India, a new ambitious scheme has been launched to provide Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country in a time bound manner to better match soil quality and crops being grown. By next year, more than 140 million Soil Health cards would be issued.

India is aiming for 'Water to every field' in next four years by augmenting irrigation coverage through massive investments.

In terms of improving availability of nutritious food, the Mid-day Meal Scheme in government schools has been remarkably successful and has also helped in ensuring greater enrolment of students.

There are positive results from the enactment of the National Food Security Act that aims to provide food and nutritional security to all by ensuring access to quality food at affordable prices.

Madam Chair,

International collaboration is very important to achieve our collective goals. Such collaboration in research had facilitated India's first Green revolution.

On its part, India has since long shared its experience and expertise with fellow developing countries in the context of training and capacity building. India is expanding its development cooperation with Africa and developing countries in other parts of the world in facilitate projects for irrigation and improved agriculture productivity.

India remains committed to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture both in India and globally.

I thank you.
