OPENING REMARKS

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NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON

"APPLICATIONS OF JUNCAO TECHNOLOGY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN TANZANIA"

8 March 2022

Dar es Salaam ▪ Tanzania

Hon. Mashimba Ndaki, Minister of Livestock and Fisheries,
Ms. Sarah Gordon-Gibson, WFP Country Director and Representative for Tanzania,
Prof. William Anagnisye, Vice Chancellor, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Mr. Carlos Watson, FAO Representative to China
Mr. YUAN Lin, Economic and Commercial Counselor, Embassy of PR. China in Tanzania
Prof. LIN Zhanxi, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University of China

Distinguished participants from Tanzania, and China,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Habari za asubuhi,

On behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, I am pleased to welcome all of you to this national workshop on the "Applications of Juncao Technology and its Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals in Tanzania".

Many thanks to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University for partnering with UNDESA to organize this workshop.

This workshop is a follow up to the online "Capacity Building Workshop for Policymakers and Farmers on the Juncao technology in Tanzania" that we organized in March 2021, in collaboration with the National Engineering Research Centre of Juncao Technology of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University of China (FAFU), and the University of Dar es Salaam.

During that online workshop, participants from Tanzania, Rwanda, Nigeria, China, and the UN Country Team had the unique opportunity to learn about the Juncao technology and its potential benefits. The workshop successfully established a close relationship between UNDESA and local universities and research institutions and provided a solid foundation for the implementation of the second phase of the Juncao project, which started in July 2021.

In the past year, notable progress has been made to promote Juncao technology in Tanzania. To allow farmers to obtain first-hand knowledge of Juncao, a Juncao learning manual has been

prepared in Swahili. Furthermore, a series of farmer workshops were organized in the Morogoro, Shinyanga and Kilimanjaro Regions. We have also seen strong interest in the Juncao technology from the Government, research institutions and other stakeholders.

We are therefore excited to have some of Tanzania's Juncao technology pioneers present here today and look forward to hearing their stories and experiences domesticating this innovative technology in their local communities as they all seek to improve food and nutrition security, ensure that their livestock have access to feed, and to protect the environment.

It is also a great pleasure to have the inventor of the Juncao technology, Professor Lin Zhanxi join us today. His invention is helping improve people's lives in more than 106 countries across the world. Participants have heard so much about Juncao technology and are looking forward to hearing from Professor LIN Zhanxi as well as Dr. Dongmei LIN and other Juncao experts from FAFU over the next 4 days.

I also look forward to hearing from the other participants as your perspectives are crucial to ensuring that Tanzania can fully harness this technology.

Dear Participants,

Progress on ending hunger and eradicating poverty has either stalled or reversed as a result on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years. The challenges of poverty, hunger and food insecurity were further compounded by job losses from the pandemic as well as disruptions to trade and agricultural activities that were caused by lockdown measures, dashing hopes of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the goals of ending extreme poverty and hunger.

These challenges have not spared Tanzania. In 2020, the GDP growth rate slowed to an estimated 2.0 percent, as the COVID-19 pandemic negatively impacted sectors such as tourism and manufacturing. The recent drought also negatively impacted rural livelihoods in some parts of the country. GDP growth in Zanzibar also slowed to an estimated 1.3 percent, due to a decline in tourism activity. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tanzania had recorded sustained strong income growth and a persistent decline in poverty over the past decade.

The consequences of climate change for agriculture and food security are also serious because of the country's reliance on rain-fed agriculture. In addition to being rural in character, poverty has mostly affected women and children and other groups in vulnerable situations.

These challenges are complex and multidimensional, requiring innovative solutions that are home-grown, sustainable, replicable, and scalable. Some of these solutions are also provided through South-South cooperation as exemplified by the Juncao technology that was developed by Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University and is implemented in over 100 developing countries, including in the United Republic of Tanzania.

This national capacity building workshop therefore aims to enhance knowledge and strengthen Tanzania's national capacities to improve its policies and programmes supporting sustainable agriculture through the transfer of Juncao technology.

In the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the workshop will highlight the benefits of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a means of enhancing access to science, technology and innovation, knowledge sharing as well as capacity building and to effectively

contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

Sustainable Development Goal 17 seeks to revitalize global partnerships to support sustainable development through funding, capacity-building, peer learning and knowledge sharing, debt sustainability, trade facilitation, effective public–private partnerships and access to technologies. It involves the means of implementation, without which none of the other Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063 goals could be realized.

Today, there is a global audience eager to learn more about technologies that can be applied to improve food systems, contributing to ending poverty and hunger, supporting climate action and gender equality, and protecting ecosystems.

By supporting Juncao grass production and mushroom cultivation, which is where Tanzania's interests lie, this technology will contribute to boosting food security and nutrition, enhancing livestock production and the transition to a green economy through environmentally friendly technology, more sustainable agriculture, and green jobs for women and youth.

Thus, the spark lit in Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University has shown the potential of a single innovation – if nurtured and deployed wisely – to change lives and improve livelihoods in Tanzania.

I therefore trust that that you will find this workshop interesting and fruitful. UNDESA and the UN country team looks forward to working with the United Republic of Tanzania as you seek to achieve your national development aspirations.

We wish you all success.

Thank you.

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