



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL
RESOURCES (MINAGRI)**

**Opening remarks for the African regional
workshop on “applications of Juncao technology
and its contribution to the achievement of
sustainable agriculture and the sustainable
development goals”**

By

Dr. Olivier KAMANA (Permanent Secretary)

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- **Your Excellency Wang Xuekun, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Rwanda**
- **Mr. Ozonnia Ojielo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Rwanda**
- **Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief of National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DESA)**
- **Dr. Florence UWAMAHORO, Deputy Director General in charge of Agriculture Development at Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB)**
- **Dr Lin Dongmei, Deputy Director General of the National Juncao Research Center and International cooperation Exchange Department**
- **Distinguished delegates from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Eritrea, China and USA**
- **Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good morning!

1. It is my honor and pleasure to be delegated to open this AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “**APPLICATIONS OF**

JUNCAO TECHNOLOGY AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS” jointly organized in the country of thousand hills (Rwanda) by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of DESA, the National Engineering Research Centre for Juncao Technology of the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) of China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources of Rwanda, and Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board (RAB).

2. Agriculture is among key pillars of the Rwandan economy, contributing about third of the GDP. The sector employs 62.2% of the labor force, contributes 63% of foreign exchange earnings and meets about 90% of the country’s food needs.

3. Considering the country’s challenges of the agriculture sector, the Government of Rwanda promotes technologies and innovations that allow achieving high levels of productivity on small land and promotion of high value crops. In this regard, the Government of Rwanda considers Juncao technology (a technology based on growing mushrooms using low-cost and locally materials such as grasses) among innovations to be prioritized.

4. Juncao technology is among high potential agricultural technologies to enable achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), and East African Community's Agenda for Agriculture.

5. For the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the agriculture sector plays a key role to achieve the SDG 1 (end extreme poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems, forests, and land). By highly increasing productivity of agriculture on a small land, Juncao technology enables to achieve the graduation from poverty and fight malnutrition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. The adoption of Juncao technology in Rwanda involved (1) Research and demonstration activities, (2) Introduction and adaptation of suitable JUNCAO grass varieties, (3) Trainings and extension activities, and (4) Post-harvest management.

7. Different demonstration models on mushroom cultivation including triangle mushroom shed, flat-topped mushroom shed, grass ecological mushroom shed, and mushroom indoor

cultivation have been adopted. The best formulation on one variety of *Pleurotus ostreatus* was developed and is currently used by more than 50 mushroom seed producers, companies and cooperatives. Through a training carried out in August, 2022 supported by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Rwanda, the cultivation of button mushroom was initiated, and is currently adopted by mushroom farmers along with other mushroom varieties. Preliminary research on local wild edible and medicinal mushroom resources will start soon.

8. To date, 56 training courses on cultivation of Juncao mushroom were conducted for the benefit of about 35,000 mushroom farmers including women's associations, cooperatives, youth, orphans, AIDS organizations, and students from vocational and higher-learning institutes.

Distinguished guests, Ladies & Gentlemen,

9. Many people in Rwanda and abroad are not yet aware that mushroom farming is a profitable business that can help fighting poverty and malnutrition. Upscaled adoption of Juncao technology will certainly boost profits of mushroom producers, Small and Medium Enterprises along the food systems (such as ability to pay school fees for their children and meeting other household needs). Further, Juncao technology will continue to

contribute to job creation, food security and generating income for rural communities as well as tackling malnutrition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The Government of Rwanda will keep up efforts to develop and adopt technologies and innovations for achieving agriculture transformation and improvement of farmers' livelihoods.
11. The Government also highly appreciates cooperation in this regard especially with the Government of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations, in pursuit of a transformative economy growth no one being left behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. Before concluding my remarks, I would like to wish you a pleasant sojourn in our country as Rwanda is blessed a spectacular scenery and warm and friendly people.
13. I wish you good deliberation, and
14. On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources, I hereby declare African regional workshop on "applications of Juncao technology and its contribution to the

achievement of sustainable agriculture and the sustainable development goals” officially opened.

I thank you for your kind attention.

END.