Good afternoon everyone.

My name is Shulang Fei. I am a research scientist from the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, working on urban agriculture and food system policies at the local level. I am now a member of the World Food Forum Young Scientists Group and a part-time FAO consultant.

Thanks very much for this opportunity to share our observations and lessons learnt from the agri-food sector at the city level.
The urbanization process is getting fast and bringing increasing challenges for the growing cities. At the local level, we hope to provide solutions for cities through a food lens, to not only provide sufficient/stable/healthy food supply, but also contribute to the broader development goals of cities in social equality, environmental sustainability and high-quality economic development.

From a research point of view, I would like to share three points today.

1. **Science and technology innovation is a key driver for smarter cities, so as their transformation in the field according to the local needs.**
An example from China is the increasing collaborations between research institutions and local governments, where R&D platforms have been established in cities with advanced research expertise provided by the research institutions and city government providing resources and connections to local industries and their needs. As such, a multi-stakeholder collaboration mechanism can be established to enable local innovation capacities and tailored solutions for local needs.

2. **Systemic perspective in urban planning is a crucial basis, building on which the nexus of food, economy, environment and society can be highlighted and technologies can be applied in a cross-sector manner.**
Taking the example of Chengdu (a mega-city of our research interest), a few years ago the "Park City Initiative" was announced as an overarching goal of the city development, which uses a people-centered perspective and incorporates multiple dimensions such as rural revitalization, agri-food systems, residents' living environment and social connection in the planning.
So we see better balance of the land use in the spatial planning for agriculture, built-up areas and forestries, with increasing digitalized technologies such as remote sensing, big data etc. to be used cross-sector in a wiser way. We also see increasing people-led initiatives to redesign their community spaces in a more engaging and sustainable way, such as building community garden/school gardens.

3. **Public-private partnership is an effective approach to empower practitioners on the ground and accelerate the achievements towards a shared vision for food and for cities.**

An example I would like to mention, based on a recent analysis of the urban food systems resilience in Chengdu, is that the city government is collaborating with more than 80 local agri-food companies for the local food emergency plans, where the private sector makes use of their excellent capacities and digital technologies in logistics, stock coordination, delivery

arrangement etc. to guarantee the food supply of the city, under enabling environment provided by the public sector. It turned out effective after the several COVID-19 outbreaks in the city.

In addition, to empower the local agri-food actors, We also see a great model locally, that the public sector provides regular training and certificate systems for the small producers, along which subsidies are provided to allow further activities and innovations among them. Resources are also allocated to support collective initiatives such as the establishment of new types of agribusinesses, such as the specialized farmers cooperatives.

In conclusion, based on the evidence we observed, we think it is very significant to apply systemic and multi-stakeholder approaches and evidence-based policy making to empower local innovations, while in the meantime, concrete actions can be tailored in different contexts.