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Video Message

**WORKSHOP ON APPLICATIONS OF JUNCAO TECHNOLOGY AND ITS
CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE
AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AFRICA**

**UNECA, Addis Ababa
Monday, 18 December 2023, 10:00 AM**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Regional Workshop on “Applications of Juncao Technology and Its Contribution to the Achievement of Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa.”

Let me begin by thanking:

- Ambassador HU Changchun, Head of Mission of China to the African Union and Representative of China to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa,
 - Ms. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner, Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union, and
 - Representatives of Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University of China
- for joining the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to co-organize this meeting.

At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, there are growing concerns that the progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline.

In Africa, economic growth is projected to remain subdued with a volatile and uncertain global environment compounding domestic challenges, including a debt crisis in a growing number of countries and extreme food price volatility.

In these tumultuous times, Heads of State and Government resolved at the 2023 SDG Summit to accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and to address the crisis of climate change and its impacts.

To realize this commitment, promoting sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems is a choice we must make.

Today, we have a unique initiative that is the thematic focus of our dialogue.

It has two interrelated components – Jun, which means fungi, or mushroom, and Cao, which means grass. These two ordinary components, put together, give rise to an extraordinary means of production and means of sustainable livelihoods, as well as a powerful tool for ecosystem protection.

Professor Lin, in a short while, will brief us on the science of *Juncao*; but I want to take this opportunity to highlight the multiple benefits of this technology and how it embodies, in concrete ways, the integration and interlinkages of the SDGs.

Juncao technology has been used to combat land degradation and desertification, conserve water, and restore and maintain soil fertility, contributing to progress in achieving SDGs on sustainable agriculture, water, sustainable energy, and ecosystems.

Second, the economic benefits from *Juncao* technology are likewise remarkable. Country experiences show that farmers who have learned to plant *Juncao* grass have successfully expanded livestock production, grown nutritious mushroom for meeting local and regional demands, creating jobs and improving household incomes.

Furthermore, the use of *Juncao* grass as livestock feed is contributing to reducing conflicts between pastoralists and farmers.

Dear Participants,

The Juncao technology is a small idea with proven big potentials.

In that regard, this Regional Workshop offers a valuable chance to exchange national experiences in furthering the application of Juncao technology toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also facilitates a dialogue on how partnership activities between the African Union and the UN System are actively contributing to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and AU Agenda 2063 through synergistic efforts.

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs is fully committed to expanding this valuable partnership. I look forward to a fruitful discussion.

Thank you.
