

Closing Remarks

by

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**on the occasion of the Online Training
Programme on Good Agricultural Practices,
Replanting Programme and Integrated Pest
Management to Sustain Coconut Development**

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Zoom Meeting Platform

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**Let me begin by thanking the International
Coconut Community-ICC- for its excellent
support for this Online Training Programme on
Good Agricultural Practices, Replanting
Programme and Integrated Pest Management to
Sustain Coconut. Thank you, Dr. Jelfina Alouw,
for your kind facilitation. I would also like to**

thank Interim COGENT Coordinator Mr. Vincent Bernard Johnson, Ms. Mridula and Mr. Alit Pirmansah for their hard work.

I express my gratitude to the numerous extension officers, researchers and coconut producers from more than 18 countries for their participation in the last three hours.

I am very grateful to all the resource persons who have given the time to address at this particular training. I am glad to have participation from all of you in this training.

When I took on the role of *Acting* Director of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-NAM Centre, I realised that we had to resolve the problems faced by developing nations in coconut industry, among others, low productivity and development in order to meet global demand. I think we started to do that.

But we need a huge transformation that will turn it into technical cooperation which is enabling many countries and millions of agricultural farmers to increase production and increase sustainability. The NAM Centre cannot do it all by itself.

Therefore, as I speak before you, I am pleased to see a true form and sense of technical cooperation today. It is all-inclusive, collective solidarity.

I have seen something I never saw before this event. There are hundreds of people from more than 18 countries being present.

That is fantastic news. Finally, we are transmitting the message to all agriculture-related countries.

I have seen researchers from Australia, India, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka leading the development of solutions to unlock coconut productivity in developing countries.

I saw our women assembled behind the event – not only from academics but also non-profit women’s empowerment activists.

You can also sense my enthusiasm, as I know that we have set out to increase the sustainable production of coconut.

Let me reflect a little about the concrete acts coming out of this forum.

First: We accept that innovative technologies, technology transfer and capacity building must be integrated.

Second, we decided to follow a holistic approach by using good agricultural practices that would sustain coconut productivity.

Thirdly, we agreed to further investigate, including selection and testing of additional biocontrol agents, the impact on pest control, and the role of coconut volatiles as vectors of pest diseases.

Four: We have agreed to optimise the Satellite-Based Surveillance technology to detect pathogens in coconut tree and its future technical applications in developing countries.

We have an MoU with the ICC to establish training, technology transfer and workshops and research and development cooperation for all these activities. NAM Centre also agreed that these platforms could lead to investments in resources, science and technology for pest management.

Better management must be taken of integration between farm family and farm system – assessing resources, needs and problems for farm families and continuing on-farm and farmer R&D, testing consultancy with researchers.

We should note that provided agricultural models are appropriate for local climate and adapted to the coconut farmers' resource.

We all know that the unsustainable development of coconut is not something that we can become used to. We want to get out of it. The coconut producing countries must take the moment and take advantage of it. I trust that researchers and extension officers will take the lead with intergovernmental organisations as we fulfill our dream of sustainable coconut production.

Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished participants,

Optimism can no longer be delayed – now is the time to act. When you leave this platform, you have the lively dreams of farmers on your shoulders. The farmer’s dream is not going to be ruined.

We joined this platform as individuals, now, we are moving towards tangible steps we have formed together, united and deeply committed.

We will work together to help farmers harvest the natural resources of their beautiful countries.

Thank you very much.