

REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, ACTING DIRECTOR FOR NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT CENTRE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
TECHNICAL COOPERATION, AMB. DIAR NURBINTORO, AT THE
ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ON RICE PLANT MANAGEMENT
FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES,
ZOOM MEETING, ON NOVEMBER 22, 2022

15.30 JAKARTA TIME

I am delighted to welcome all of you African participants in today's capacity-building activities. Our activity is titled "Online Rice Plant Management Training Course for African Countries."

In 2022, the FAO published a report on The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, estimating that by 2030, there will be 670 million undernourished people worldwide.

Food insecurity and malnutrition are exacerbated by conflict, COVID-19, extreme weather, and economic shocks.

According to the 2021 Welt-hunger-hilfe annual report, 20 percent of the African continent's population suffers from chronic hunger. The situation in Somalia is dire, with seven other African countries classified as "very serious," including Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Comoros, and Madagascar. Only a few countries are classified as having "low" or "moderate" chronic hunger.

We identify potential solutions to the chronic hunger problem. Initiatives that support research and capacity-building activities with the goal of increasing access to climate information services and validating agriculture technologies in Africa are viewed as one solution to the chronic hunger problem. These are a novel approach to filling the void by bridging the gap between organisations that provide agricultural knowledge and individuals who use that knowledge and technology.

The participation of African countries today, as well as the meeting with Indonesian experts, are expected to result in spillover benefits to neighbouring countries, as well as the formation of a new network of technical human resources related to agriculture and technology.

The capacity-building strategy that we are implementing today will boost agricultural cooperation between the Republic of Indonesia and African countries. Experts and participants can also collaborate to improve their knowledge and skills, as well as share rice cultivation knowledge with agricultural extension workers. Participants can try to solve the knowledge gap in modern rice cultural practise by updating knowledge, conducting an independent assessment of the impact of training on changes in farming skills, and exploring opportunities for technology adoption and agricultural performance in their respective countries.

In the next two days, we will talk about:

- Success Story of Rice Management Training Cultivation in Senegal;

- The Rice Integrated Crop Management in Indonesia;
- Field preparation;
- The implementation of Rice Superior Varieties;
- Rice planting;
- Fertilising and irrigation;
- Pest and disease control through IPM; and
- Rice Harvest and Postharvest Management.

In order to make this virtual programme more sustainable, the NAM Center and the implementing agency have decided that by 2023, selected participants will be invited to attend training in Indonesia with a more hands-on, interactive, and focused learning process. Of course, at the training sites in Indonesia, participants will be able to try out the training facilities and possibly available rice plant management technology.

Honourable Directors,

Distinguished Experts,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

An important aspect of this training for the NAM Centre is that it is closely related to NAM's goals. Since 1987, NAM has focused on the issue of undernourishment and hunger. This was later reaffirmed at the 2019 NAM Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, where the heads of government of NAM member countries from developing countries fully committed to preventing all forms of malnutrition worldwide, particularly undernourishment, stunting, wasting, and underweight, particularly in children under the age of five, in paragraph 855 of the Summit's Outcome document. NAM member countries also applauded the adoption of UN General Assembly resolutions,¹ including the declaration of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025.

The NAM Center's assistance in the implementation of this training and the one that will be held in 2023 is a tangible effort to alleviate the main contributor to undernourishment and hunger, namely agriculture with low yields.

¹ No. A/RES/70/259

I have studied the success of rice farming activities in Indonesia over the last few decades, and only a few months ago, Indonesia was awarded for three consecutive years of rice self-sufficiency in meeting domestic rice needs. Of course, this extraordinary achievement is possible due to the development and use of high-variety rice, irrigation water supply regulation that meets farmers' needs, proper fertiliser and pesticide use, and institutional and policy support for rice crop intensification.

I sincerely hope that what Indonesia has accomplished can inspire and even be transmitted to African countries, so that people in African countries can also benefit from the success of optimal food self-sufficiency, including the positive implications of making rice prices more affordable for millions of economic consumers worldwide.

Of course, geographical differences, weather, the availability of human resources, and land conditions can become factors that impede the adoption of agricultural techniques from one country to the next on a global scale. To summarise, there is rarely a one-size-fits-all solution.

As a result, I expect the experts to also be able to assist the participants in developing accurate rice farming techniques that are in accordance with the agricultural conditions in each participant's country.

Honourable Directors,

Distinguished Experts,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, I want to thank you again for your contribution to this activity. I wish you fruitful deliberation.