

Remarks

by

Amb. Diar Nurbintoro,

Acting Director of NAM CSSTC

on the occasion of the Dispatch of Experts on Rice Sector
Development Programme Kick-Off Meeting

18 March 2022

Zoom Meeting

Your Excellency Mr. Dindin Wahyudin, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Senegal, also accredited to the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, and Sierra Leone,

Honourable representatives of Directorate of International Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia,

Honourable Mr. Hendro Wijayanto, President Director for CV. Karya Hidup Sentosa,

Honourable Mr. Daniel Annerose, Chief Executive Officer of Manobi Africa,

Moderator and speakers,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and CV. KHS for their cooperation in this "Dispatch of Experts on Rice Sector Development Programme Kick-Off Meeting" with the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-"NAM Centre."

Our cooperation has been based on what world leaders from Asia and Africa called a "encouragement of cooperation and common interests" in 1955. The strong mutual solidarity between the NAM Centre, the Indonesian government, and CV. KHS to encourage cooperation, particularly technical cooperation, between Indonesia and Africa has been well demonstrated over the last two years.

This spirit was most recently seen following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between CV. KHS and Manobi Africa, which serves as the foundation for deeper collaboration between the two institutions in agricultural mechanisation. The NAM Centre virtually attended the signing ceremony on March 11, 2022 as a symbol of solidarity with strengthened business-to-business relationships between the Indonesian and Senegalese private sectors. During the ceremony, I expressed NAM Centre's willingness to support agricultural mechanisation progress in West Africa through technical cooperation programme activities that are also in line with NAM Centre's mission.

One cannot help but notice the significant cooperation between Indonesia, West Africa, and the NAM Centre over the last few years. We saw this spirit in 2021 during the Agricultural Training Project, in which participants from West Africa attended online trainings with Indonesian speakers as facilitators. Participants from West Africa exchanged ideas on tissue culture, integrated pest and disease management, and hydroponics that could be derived and implemented in their projects and vocations.

West Africa's active participation in NAM Centre programmes is evident in its consistent contributions in sending participants. We have seen a lot of enthusiasm from the people of West Africa when it comes to the Action Plan they created for our activities, which ranges from a commitment to put the knowledge they gained into practise to making agricultural activities more environmentally sustainable.

NAM leaders recognise West Africa's commitment to supporting NAM Centre activities, as we regularly reported its participation to the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York to be presented in front of delegates from 120 NAM member countries.

The "Dispatch of Experts on Rice Sector Development" programme is an excellent opportunity to investigate ways to strengthen ties between Indonesia, West Africa, and the NAM Centre by improving, strengthening, and modernising West Africa's agricultural output base in order to achieve rice security. In this regard, we await the outcome of the Expert Dispatch in Saint Louis in May 2022, where Indonesian extension officers and West African farmers will discuss the expansion of agricultural economy and agricultural education.

The continued strengthening of the Indonesia-West Africa partnership contributes to developing countries' strengthened national capacities and collective self-reliance, which is the core vision of the NAM Centre. I am confident that the NAM Centre will continue to regard Indonesia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone as its most dependable, trustworthy, and supportive member countries.

I am confident that the NAM Centre, Indonesia, and West Africa will continue to fortify and revitalise their time-tested and enduring partnership. We are all hoping for a successful Kick-Off Meeting to better plan the "Dispatch of Experts on Rice Sector Development" programme.

Thank you.