

Remarks by Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide  
at the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021

Secretary-General,  
Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

The spread of COVID-19 and the increasing number of natural disasters have escalated global food insecurity.

The holding of this summit is indeed timely, and I would like to commend all those who have made this possible.

In addressing the various issues concerning the state of global foods, including eradicating hunger, I believe it is vital to consider the entire process of food production and distribution as integrated “food systems”.

Japan will work toward establishing better global “food systems”, focusing on the following three points.

First, is to “achieve both productivity improvement and sustainability”. The key to achieving this will be to drive innovation, digitalization, and the utilization of science and technology.

Through the “Strategy for Sustainable Food Systems (MeaDRI)” launched in May, Japan will promote the development of sustainable food systems with lower environmental burden, including decarbonization of the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries industries.

Second, is to “maintain and strengthen free and fair trade”. Restrictions on the import and export of food should be kept to a bare minimum. In addition, we believe restrictions should be based on scientific evidence, not on arbitrary measures. Japan will continue to play a leading role in promoting free and fair trade in the food sector as well.

Third, is to “take the climate and food culture of each country and region into account”.

Japan will continue to promote appropriate initiatives for each region, emphasizing a hands-on approach and maintaining dialogue with the local people.

Japan will host the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in December. Building on the outcomes of this Food Systems Summit, we are determined to lead international efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, and to improve nutrition for people around the world.

I thank you very much for your attention.

(END)