

Opening Speech

by

Amb. Diar Nurbintoro,

Acting Director of NAM CSSTC

on the occasion of the Online Training Course on Food Labelling
and Food Packaging

29 June 2021

Zoom Meeting

*The honourable Director for Indonesian Centre for Agricultural
Training, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia, Dr.
Leli Nuryati,*

The honourable trainers,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by thanking the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Dili, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia and all those who have **enabled and organised** the virtual training.

Distinguished trainers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we all know, the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-NAM Centre-has decided on the area it works for, and the agricultural post-harvest sector is a focus of the NAM Centre. And when I say the post-harvest sector, I mean not only the processing, but also labelling and packing of agricultural products.

To achieve synergy with the goal of the NAM Centre, we expand efforts to further increase the capacity of connected

stakeholders for **research on current developments**, the **sharing of experience** and the recognition of food labelling and packaging problems, issues and **opportunities**.

In invitation we gave to you days ago, the training goals and expected results have been outlined. These are actions agreed by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the NAM Centre, which will support the **dissemination of guidelines** on food labelling and packaging, the proper allocation of resources for food labelling and packaging and **know-how** on food labelling systems and packaging.

The guidelines focus on the key questions of food packaging and food labelling: Packaging type, small industry design packaging, food labelling requirements and the design of food labelling.

Of course, you will discuss all these aspects in the following two-day trainings and we hope that you will come up with results

that you can show to colleagues, peers, students and farmers in your esteemed countries. In the next years, the NAM Centre will endeavour to incorporate the findings of the discussions into the short-term and medium-term NAM Centre's plan.

There are various concerns that have to be explored, particularly **roles that the government might take** in food labelling and packaging; **information on the labelling** of food goods; and the roles that packaging plays in the **maintenance of a national food supply**. There are other sub-topics concerning the competitive benefit of food packaging that a food manufacturing company can obtain, good food packaging practices and food packaging materials which are certified eco-friendly. These are the trainers who definitely be included in the curriculum.

And of course, there are certain regional disparities between participating countries in adopting the Indonesian standards,

which we hope will also be explored in your deliberations over the next two days in order to find a one-size-fits-all solution.

In a number of headlines, I will try to mention the perspective of the NAM Centre.

On the subject of food security, the NAM Centre will execute agriculture programmes on the basis of locally-oriented, collaborative, transformational, resilient and sustainable principles.

Therefore, the NAM Centre will focus on training activities which can be even implemented by smallholders and young people in businesses such as local and/or direct sales of agricultural products, diversified cultivations, methods of organic production.

With regard to collaboration, we stress arrangements for pooling resources for mutual benefits. Pooling resources include:

Skills, agricultural practices expertise, marketing and distribution plans, and agricultural networks.

In the field of transformation, the NAM Centre will take efforts in order to improve our training programmes-that meet an increasing number of challenges and constraints, particularly in the context of the present Covid-19 pandemic.

With regard to resilience and sustainability, the NAM Centre uses an approach that uses existing natural resources sustainably to achieve higher productivity and income under climate and economic variability.

Of course, when the NAM Centre goes that way, it expects to also be supported in many areas by the governments of Non-Aligned countries. It cannot be a one-man show; everybody needs to work together.

In particular, this might be facilitated by agricultural professionals-in the spread of skills, information and other marketing and business models. This is a case in point.

Finally, I want to stress the need to develop a monitoring method to carry out deliberations of this training. I would invite people from government, university and corporate sectors to participate in this training by also offering feedback to our co-organisers.

The honourable Director and trainers,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to offer you **a very successful training** and therefore, **formally open the “Online Training Course on Food Labelling and Food Packaging” to the Asian and Pacific countries.**

Thank you.