

Opening Speech

by

Amb. Diar Nurbintoro,

Acting Director of NAM CSSTC

on the occasion of the “Online Training Course on Hydroponics
for African Countries”

27 September 2021

Zoom Meeting

The Director for Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Training,

Dr. Leli Nuryati,

Deputy Director for Technical Cooperation, Ministry of

Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Muhammad

Rifqi Fikriansyah,

Distinguished Speakers,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the privilege of starting this “Online Training Course on Hydroponics for African Countries.” Let me start with hearty welcomes on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-NAM Centre.

Madame Director,

Mr. Deputy Director,

NAM Centre recognises the great work that is being done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia to ensure that South-South cooperation is enhanced by bringing people from African countries virtually for agricultural activities. Particularly, since agricultural issues has been aggravated with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic particularly while we struggle to achieve food security through our endeavours to hinder the phenomenon of climate change.

This endeavour, this action, is certainly not an easy task. May I commend the decision to renew attempts to South-South cooperation through the use of the virtual platform, notwithstanding the pandemic.

Madame Director,

Mr. Deputy Director,

Since 2018, expert dispatch and training has been strengthened with respect to the agricultural programmes and activities. Our partnership in four tissue cultures and integrated pest and disease management training courses was very much appreciated.

The African countries such as **Burundi, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Zanzibar** attended our training session, and hopefully until our next food labelling and packaging training the number of participants will grow.

Director and Deputy Director,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

South-South cooperation in agriculture cannot be ignored. It is important.

The NAM Centre would like to align with “Hydroponics,” the theme of the training. To me, this simply indicates it is time for hydroponics to help to the increased food demand in society.

Through our international training platform, we can provide know-how for the African countries on the technological processes of vegetable cultivation. A hydroponic system, which includes its media, equipment, nutritional management and greenhouse management, will be more accessible to trainees.

With the organisation of training the SDGs, in particular, SDG 2, on zero hunger, are going to be attained by NAM Centre and other stakeholders. Exchanging information and experience in vegetable production development will boost value chains of vegetables in developing countries to allow people to access the diversity of vegetables with vitamins, minerals and phytochemicals required for their health. They also enhance cost-effective and adaptive technologies that raise productivity and profits for smallholder farmers.

An online training like this, despite its shortcomings, has its own advantage. We can promote inclusive participation in a global partnership for development. When persons with government backgrounds usually take part in physical or face-to-face activity at NAM Centre, an online platform like this would also offer the opportunity to participate in South-South Cooperation programmes for **higher education groups and corporate sectors**. This is why, at all levels, our attention has been broadened to socio-economic development and empowerment. It shows more respect in the international development work towards researchers and the private actors.

Distinguished lecturers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The problem we have today is to make significant suggestions not just enriching but ensuring that the presented hydroponic technology **conforms** with worldwide standards and can be copied in other African countries.

I have no doubt that your capacity to contribute significantly to this process will contribute to building capacity and self-reliance. In order that important spheres for closer collaboration between participants' institutions, and the institution from which you come, be discovered as a sustainable way to achieve agricultural growth, I am convinced that the participants will also work hard to participate effectively in both asynchronous and synchronous learning. Therefore, I urge everyone to take this training seriously and interact as much as possible to achieve those goals.

Finally, I wish this training a great success in the interest of our collective resilience and development.

I declare to open the “Online Training Course on Hydroponics for African Countries.”

Thank you.