

Opening Speech

by

Amb. Diar Nurbintoro,

Acting Director of NAM CSSTC

**on the occasion of the “Online Training Course on Hydroponics
for Caribbean and Latin American Countries”**

29 September 2021

Zoom Meeting

The Director for Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Mrs. Maria Renata Hutagalung,

The Director for Indonesian Centre for Agricultural Training, Dr. Leli Nuryati,

Distinguished Speakers,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege for me to commence the "Online Training Course on Hydroponics for Caribbean and Latin American Countries". Let me begin by welcoming you on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation-NAM Centre.

Madame Directors,

NAM Centre recognises the effort that is done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia to enable increased South-South cooperation by virtually promoting agricultural activities among individuals from Caribbean and Latin American countries. In particular, because the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated farming problems with, especially, our attempts to prevent the phenomena of climate change to attain food security.

Surely this effort, this measure, is not an easy undertaking. I would like to praise the decision to renew the South-South cooperation efforts, in spite of the pandemic, via the virtual platform.

Madame Directors,

In terms of agricultural programmes and activities, expert dispatch and training has been strengthened since 2018. Our

partnership was greatly appreciated in four tissue cultures and integrated disease and pest management training sessions.

The Caribbean and Latin American countries such as Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Panama, Peru and Suriname attended our training session, and hopefully until our next food labelling and packaging training the number of participants will grow.

Madame Directors,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Agricultural cooperation between emerging economies cannot be overlooked. It is essential.

The NAM Centre wishes to concentrate on the issue of training: "Hydroponics." This just suggests for me that it is time for hydroponics to aid to boost society's food requirement.

We are able to supply Caribbean and Latin American countries with know-how on the technological processes in the growth of plants through our international training platform. Trainees will have more access to a hydroponic system that comprises media, equipment, nourishment and greenhouse management.

The NAM Centre and other actors will help achieving SDGs, in particular SDG 2, on zero hunger through training. The exchange of information and experience in vegetable and fruit cultivation would enhance the value chain of vegetables in emerging economies, enabling people to access the diversity of vegetables and fruits that are essential for their health with vitamins, minerals and phyto-chemicals. They also improve cost-effective and adaptive technologies which increase small farmers' production and earnings.

An online training such as this offers its own benefit. We can foster inclusive involvement in a global development cooperation.

If government backgrounds often participate in physical or face-to-face activities at the NAM-Centre, an online platform like this will also offer an opportunity to Higher Education and Corporate sector to engage in South-South Cooperation programmes. For this reason, our focus on socio-economic development and empowerment is widened at all levels. It demonstrates greater respect for scholars and private actors in international development.

Distinguished lecturers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The trouble today is not only to enhance, but to ensure that the offered technology complies with international standards and that they can be reproduced in Caribbean and Latin American countries. The challenge is to make substantive ideas.

I have no doubt that your ability to make a meaningful input to this process will contribute to capacity building and self-reliance. I am convinced that participants are working very hard to

effectively participate both in asynchronous and in synchronous learning in order to discover the important areas for closer collaboration between the institutions from which you originate as a sustainable way to achieve agricultural growth. I therefore advise everyone to take this training seriously and to interact to attain these objectives as much as possible.

Finally, in the interest of our collective strength and progress, I hope this training to be a wonderful success.

I therefore proclaim the opening of the “Online Training Course on Hydroponics for Caribbean and Latin American Countries.”

Thank you very much.