

Opening Speech

by

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Acting Director of NAM CSSTC

on the occasion of the Online Training Course on
Horticulture Seed Propagation with Tissue Culture

25 March 2021

Zoom Webinar

The Honourable Director of Indonesian Center for
Agricultural Training, Mr. Bustanul Arifin,

The Honourable Representative of Directorate of
Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Bob Felix Tobing

Distinguished Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

What a pleasure to have a meeting with a variety of different nationalities at this Zoom Webinar this morning to talk about the progress of the propagation of seeds through tissue culture.

Let me comment formally before I go into the subject, as this is a great opportunity for me to applaud the commitment of the participants.

May I start by recognising, appreciating and thanking everyone participating and making this training possible.

The next hours we will spend with participants from:

- **Bangladesh;**
- **Fiji;**

- **Indonesia;**
- **Lebanon;**
- **Nepal;**
- **Pakistan;**
- **Solomon Islands;**
- **Vietnam;** and
- Other countries

can assist in providing insights into how superior seeds can be propagated, without seasonal restriction and with limited planting materials, in Asia-Pacific countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is known that South-South Cooperation has played a major role in international relations.

Technical cooperation between developing nations is not new and has existed for several decades.

We also have a history, which dates back in Belgrade at the First NAM Summit in 1961. The Summit cannot, to date, be forgotten, as it is an impulse for us to be more sovereign to determine our own destiny and to build international relations freely. We have been exploring how to resolve global issues at the time.

Today it is even more essential to have solidarity and cooperation among developing countries. South-South cooperation could play a major role as well in the field of agricultural development for trainers and all farmers internationally. Together we can find ways to increase production and prevent crop failure, which could ultimately sustain food supplies.

The training initiative, **fully supported by NAM Centre**, is praiseworthy effort aimed at studying recent developments, exchanging experience and understanding issues, challenges and opportunity to implement guidelines, utilise available resources and promote systematic approach in agriculture.

Common challenges lie ahead for countries. Most importantly, we jointly control seed genetic defects that have contributed to the risk of cultivation failure. This problem has to be solved in our collective interest. For agriculture, our South-South cooperation partnership is of the utmost importance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For these reasons, **NAM member countries' cooperation, agriculture and collective efforts** are central to NAM Centre's programmes. Over the

years, therefore, NAM Centre has made numerous efforts to support our member countries. We have assisted to disseminate ideas and information regarding agriculture.

We further improve skills and expand information on agricultural resources.

Recently, we have programmed an Agriculture Training Assistance project for Asian Pacific Countries – which we hope will keep people connected and promote applied science, despite the pandemic situation.

In order to promote **sustainable agriculture**, we pledge to organise at least four virtual training courses until June 2021 – in the tissue culture technology fields, integrated pest management, hydroponic crop and post-harvest. This event is the

project's first programme and I am very happy to open this session.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me say that the NAM Centre, is **prepared** to facilitate enhanced relations between developing countries, which is based on common interests of agricultural communities. Therefore we are fully committed to helping our brothers and sisters achieve the goals of sustainable agriculture. We believe that sustainable agriculture can play a central role and help to leverage Global South's economic potential.

I would like to conclude by thanking the Government of Indonesia for its cooperation in organising this event with NAM Centre. I would like to wish you all a successful discussion. I hope you

can implement anything that you discuss, agree on and deliberate upon, and if something can be done by the NAM Centre, you are sure that you can rely on us.

Let us collaborate to achieve our real potential.

With these remarks, I therefore declare this training officially open.

Thank you very much, Ladies and Gentlemen.