

Statement by Mr. Hiroshi Moriyama
Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan
at the OECD Agricultural Ministerial Meeting,
Paris, 7-8 April 2016

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I am Hiroshi Moriyama, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the OECD Secretariat for organizing the Agricultural Ministerial Meeting. I find it opportune that this meeting is held for the first time in six years and that we are discussing new policy changes to achieve a productive, sustainable and resilient global food system.

A new era of agricultural policy

The basic agreement of the Trans-Pacific Partnership finalized in October 2015 presents a huge challenge for Japan's agricultural policy. For Japan, it is the most critical negotiation since the Uruguay Round. Taking this opportunity, we are working on developing "robust, rich agriculture, forestry and fisheries" and "resplendent, vigorous rural areas" with a great deal of consideration for the people actually making efforts on the ground against the background of a new international environment.

First, Japan will intensively implement measures to strengthen the agricultural structure toward a "conversion to aggressive agriculture, forestry and fisheries" in order to remove uncertainty about the future for workers in those sectors and support private investment in business development.

More specifically, Japan promotes the development of the next generation of commercial farmers with excellent business acumen, further expansion of farmland partitions, and internationally competitive innovation that leverages the advantages of production areas. We are also exploring the demand frontier, including exports of Japan's high-quality agricultural, forestry and fishery products and enhancing the profitability and production base of livestock and dairy industries. In addition, we promote consolidation of farmland through "farmland banks" which are public

corporations to consolidate farmland to core farmers through renting and subleasing.

We will continuously employ ourselves in pushing forward agricultural policy reform with expanding farming opportunities for developing agriculture and food industries into a growth sector as well as revitalizing rural communities for promoting the maintenance and implementation of the multifunctional roles of agriculture, thereby achieving a productive, sustainable and resilient global food system.

G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting

Japan will host the "G7 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting" in Niigata, one of our prominent agricultural regions, right after the OECD Agricultural Ministerial Meeting. During this meeting, we will discuss with the G7 member countries, the FAO and the OECD the topic of strengthening global food security, taking account of the discussion at the OECD Agricultural Ministerial Meeting. Japan would like to contribute to global food security through the discussion at the G7 Niigata Agriculture Ministers' Meeting and through our efforts for agricultural policy reform.

Thank you for your kind attention.