

**“Theme: -Growing Together -Transforming Pacific  
Agriculture & Forestry”**

Salutations:

- Excellencies;
- Distinguished participants;
- Colleagues;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring warm greetings of KAMORALE, Kaselehlie, Mogethin, Rannanim and Lenwo from the Federated States of Micronesia.

I would like to thank the host for the warm welcome, my appreciation to FAO, SPC, and the Government of Fiji for the opportunity to be part of this 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services Meeting.

It is with immense honor to make a statement on my country's behalf on the topics of priority areas and commitments in the Agriculture and Forestry Sector as a call for support from Partners.

The vision of the FSM Strategic Plan for the Agriculture and Forestry sector is to provide **1) food security, cash incomes and healthy livelihoods; and 2) opportunities for domestic and export markets, while promoting environmentally sustainable production within a stable and consistence policy framework.** The FSM has made some progress, but not much, as we need to translate our National Food Systems Dialogue into action since presenting our report and list of transformative change enablers to the UN Food Systems Summit

in New York in September of year 2021. The FSM continues to speculate innovative approaches to address contributing factors confronting FSM's Food Security and Forestry sector issues.

Geographically, the FSM is comprised of 607 islands with a total land area of 271 square miles dispersed over 1,003,866 square miles of ocean Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), consisting of higher volcanic or limestone islands and the remainder being primarily atoll reef islands. Lying along the equatorial region in the western central Pacific Ocean, the islands are periodically subject to El Nino and Southern Oscillation conditions that affect the climate and economy, and fairly tropical cyclones that devastatingly impact crop production and community which leads to the country's priority area, FOOD SECURITY.

Climate change is a never-ending battle, and it is increasingly affecting the availability and accessibility of our food security through changes in weather patterns, heavy rainfall, and drought. These conditions make it increasingly difficult for our islands to adapt, disturbing not only our source of food commodity, but our source of income as well. Climate change is an alarming issue to our agriculture and it needs OUR immediate attention.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is undoubtedly apparent that these food security issues require a long term-commitment from the national and state level governments, community level members, and partners. Although there's been effort and on-going support to achieving these priorities, additional funding support is still highly needed for solid engagement with community and state producer organizations.

The Federated States of Micronesia consists of constitutionally distributed and layered systems of one national, four state and numerous local governments as well as traditional systems. There is a significant diversity of cultural groupings, languages, geophysical landforms and climate regimes. The FSM is

challenged by international and internal distances. We have rather a unique structural reality in our nation and the diversity of the FSM will continue to significantly shape our implementation processes in addressing food security issues given the fact that, we have an extensive system of local government in place across all four FSM states that needs an institutional form and legislative mandate to devise a framework that would support communities to establish and maintain appropriate community management and policy advocacy. The FSM needs sustained funding and technical support to develop an integrated process to address the interconnected nature of food systems and to address and resolve conflicts that invariably arise. Transformative change will take time but communities will want to see realistic support mechanism and commitment to long term support that will help us to examine and adopt available regional and global innovations that can be applied in the FSM to bring meaningful benefits.

KAKAKIKU, Kalahngan, Kamagar, Kinisou and Kulo for your attention.