

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**THE QUADANGLE**  
**BANJUL**

**Governing Council 2022 – Forty-fifth session (GC45)**

**Theme: Leveraging innovations and finance for a  
climate-resilient and inclusive Recovery**

**Wednesday, 16 February 2022**

**Statement by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture –  
Madam Amie Fabureh**

**The Chairperson of the Governing Council**

**Your Excellency President of IFAD Mr Gilbert F.  
Houngbo,**

**My colleague Honourable Ministers here present**

**All protocols respectfully and duly observed**

It is my profound joy and singular honour to deliver a statement to this virtual IFAD Forty-fifth session of the governing Council meeting with theme “Leveraging innovations and finance for a climate-resilient and inclusive Recovery.

The theme chosen for this council virtual meeting is not only relevant to today's global agriculture and rural development challenges but I personally find it well attune to my sector development challenges.

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted on The Gambia's small, undiversified economy that was already susceptible to external shocks which had a significant negative effect on agriculture in general and food and nutrition security in particular. The Ministry of Agriculture provided responses such as immediate food assistance, resilient building by providing farming inputs such as certified seeds, farm implements, fertilizers and extension training on Good agricultural practices and climate smart agriculture.

I wish to take this golden opportunity to inform this body that The government of the Gambia through my Ministry has formulated several policy frameworks and strategies that are climate and resilience sensitive. To this end, it is my pleasure to inform you that in my country The Gambia there are increasing number of the private sector players that are being engaged in climate financing and climate-related activities such as vegetable production using drip line irrigation and in the agro-processing industry. A case in point is the RADVILLE Farm Ltd, Gambia Horticulture Enterprise (GHE) and TROPPINGO just to mention a few.

Several projects have been conceived and are currently being implemented by the Ministry that are not only climate and resilience focus but majority of these projects have windows of leveraging the private sector to invest into climate resilience initiatives designed to address adaptation as well improving the green economy. Although, private sector efforts on adaptation are not widely understood or seen as good business practice, and generally face several obstacles.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Distinguish Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

The theme fits quite well into our transformation agenda. As you may be aware, The Gambian staple food is rice. It is being consumed in all households and less than 40% of the quantity consumed is produced locally hence, Millions of USA Dollars are being spent to import the deficit. To halt this trend, my Ministry in collaboration with AfricaRice have introduced climate risk varieties that are resistant to flood and water stress into the farming systems.

Today as a state Minister, I am happy to report to this August body that many farmer organizations and private sector players are not only involved in the production but investing Thousands of Gambian Dalasi in the multiplication of a number of certified rice seed varieties.

This is one of the approaches that is contributing to food system recovery as some of the varieties e.g. the NREICA L19 and the ORYLUX do well in drought condition and flood prone areas respectively.

Mr. President, Distinguish Guest,

My Ministry in close collaboration with key development partners has just concluded the National Food Systems National Pathway which consists of several milestones designed to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).

These key milestones are:

- (1) Increase access to land, financing and other productive resources for women and youth,
- (2) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the health delivery system,
- (3) Exploit sustainably the country's natural resource base,
- (4) Double food production,
- (5) Coordinate a harmonized policy environment that affect food systems,
- (6) Increase private sector investment in the food systems and
- (7) Respect regional and international fiscal obligations by Government of The Gambia.

All these key milestones will one way or the other will be attracting the private leveraging investment along the food value chain—from input supply and production of crops, livestock, fish, and other food commodities to transportation, processing, wholesaling, retailing, and preparation of foods at household level, disposal and food waste management.

To conclude President, please allow me to extend my sincere thanks to IFAD for their sustained financial and technical support that this noble financial institution has been rendering to The government of The Gambia through the agriculture sector.

Thank you for your patience and kind attention