

Honourable chairs, fellow delegates,

The delegation of the Philippines is honoured and particularly proud to be here today, and sincerely hopes that we will have some very fruitful and rich discussions.

The Philippines is aware that industrial agriculture has negative impacts on the environment but also on public health. Indeed, forests are destroyed to create large open fields, and this could lead to soil erosion. Moreover, the use of commercial fertilizer causes water pollution, and statistics show a direct relationship between the consumption of food procured from intensive farming sites and an increase in the number of cancer patients and children born with defects. Researchers opine that the intensive use of fertilizers but also of pesticides could probably be one of the reasons for causing such damage in the human body. Besides, pesticides sprayed on crops not only destroy pest and contaminate the crops, but also kill beneficial insects.

Industrial agriculture is then an unsustainable way to grow our food over the long term. And better, science-based methods are available.

That's why, our government is promoting the Organic Agriculture. The government has mandated the Department of Agriculture to allot at least 23.70 million US\$ the organic agriculture programs in the country. President Benigno Aquino III believes that organic agriculture is the way of the future not only to address hunger but also to sustain health and environment. These programs aim to promote, propagate, further develop and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines towards a competitive and sustainable organic agriculture industry that contributes to: better farm incomes and sustainable livelihood, improved health, environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and resilience to Climate Change and finally social justice.

Moreover, agriculture has a huge impact on our economy since it accounts for 11% of the Philippines GDP and it employs 30% of the Filipino workforce. Therefore, much is expected from the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. As a landmark reform initiative for the country's agriculture sector, a systematic development intervention is needed to address the challenges and issues facing the sector including positively contributing to the over-all equitable growth and development of the country.

Furthermore, a lot of the Philippines' farmers are on a fair trade system which first of all provides them with a better deal and improves terms of trade but the fair trade also has climate standards which promotes and encourage eco-farming.

Besides, the Philippines is an importer country, we then want to make sure that the products we buy to other countries are respectful of our environment and are not of any danger to the customer's health.

To conclude, we encourage other countries to make the transition between the industrial agriculture which is unsustainable and eco-farming to guarantee a better future for ourselves but also for the next generations.

Thank you.

