エリザベス・マルマ・ムレマ
国際連合生物多様性条約（CBD） 事務局長

Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema,
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,
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エリザベス・マルマ・ムレマ氏は２０年以上に渡り国連環境計画(UNEP)に取り組むと共に、法務部長、生態系部副部長、野生動物の移動性種の保護に関する協定の事務局の事務局長を含む様々な役割を果たしてきました。UNEPでの彼女の仕事は、国、地域、国際レベルでの環境法の開発、履行、施行に焦点を当ててきました。2021年、国際自然保護連合(IUCN)の世界環境法委員会は、UNEPと共同で彼女にニコラスロビンソン環境法優秀賞を授与しました。

She has worked with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) for over two decades and has served in various roles, including as Director of the Law Division, Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Elizabeth's work at UNEP has focused on the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws at national, regional and international levels. In 2021, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, in collaboration with UNEP, awarded Elizabeth with the Nicholas Robinson Award for Excellence in Environmental Law.

Convention on Biological Diversity

Opening remarks by

ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA
Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

at the 2021 Overseas Agricultural Science Seminar: Sustainable Agriculture in the Age of Climate and Biodiversity Crisis

Hokkaido-Alberta Dairy Science and Technique Exchange Association &
Rakuno Gakuen University

22 February 2022, 09:00 - 12:00 (JST)

Greetings to you all! *Thank you, Dr. Hiroyuki Taniyama, for your introduction,*

Dear Experts, Colleagues and Friends,

It is my honour to participate in this year's Overseas Agricultural Science Seminar, organized by the Hokkaido-Alberta Dairy Science and Technique Exchange Association and Rakuno Gakuen University.

Let me begin by highlighting the strong collaborative nature of the Hokkaido-Alberta Dairy Science and Technique Exchange Association. Established in 1973, the Association has helped promote dairy farming through the exchange of science and technology and has strengthened bilateral relations between the two regions.

Social and economic sectors of our societies rely on healthy ecosystems to flourish. Biodiversity, on which our agriculture, forests, aquaculture and fisheries depend, lays the foundation for the health, livelihoods, food security and nutrition for people around the world.

From Hokkaido, Japan, to Alberta, Canada, cultivation continues to outcompete other sectors for land. Industrial agricultural practices have often degraded ecosystems and accelerated biodiversity loss, expecting a trade-off for more productivity and lower costs.

However, modern techno-centric thinking has put a new focus on what indigenous peoples and local communities have always known and continue to teach – that is to build systems that works with biodiversity rather than against it.

Healthy ecosystems are vitally important for agricultural production however, we continue to see the loss of biodiversity, land degradation and pest and disease outbreaks – compounded by the impacts of climate change through unprecedented warming, extreme weather and unpredictable precipitation patterns.

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Alternatively, biodiversity conservation as well as restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems can help reverse these trends and can simultaneously be a solution to the environmental crises we face today. Sustainable agricultural practices such as agroecology and ecosystem-based approaches can deliver multiple benefits to food and water security while also mitigating and adapting to climate change and reversing land degradation.

For example, encouraging integrated production systems such as agroforestry, no-till agriculture and appropriate crop rotation can be simple solutions that are biodiversity-friendly and can help reverse ecosystem and land degradation. In fact, many ecosystem-based approaches also help ecosystems become more resilient to extreme weather while contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

For these solutions to be fair, equitable and truly sustainable, they need to be implemented with the full inclusion and participation of all stakeholders, including smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities, who often grow a large portion of regional produce and who hold knowledge on the land they cultivate.

Colleagues,

We will not be able to reverse the loss of biodiversity or limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees unless we transform our food systems.

I would like to draw your attention to the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which outlined two major transitions that are relevant today.

First – the sustainable agriculture transition aims to redesign agricultural systems and recognize the role of biodiversity through agroecological approaches that minimize negative impacts, while enhancing productivity and resiliency, and making efficient use of land, water and other resources.[1]

Second – the sustainable food systems transition focuses on enabling more sustainable and healthier diets. More diverse foods and food systems have obvious nutritional benefits. More moderate consumption of meat and fish and a deep reduction of food waste can reduce global demand-driven pressures and ensure food security for all people.[2]

Dear decision-makers,

These ideas for more sustainable agriculture are not new. Leaders around the world have already agreed that change is needed, under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the world will adopt a global biodiversity framework that aims to bridge the gap between where we are and where we need to be, regarding the state of nature of our planet.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will enable us to maximize synergies between international processes and instruments so that they not only address the issues of climate change,

[1] GBO-5 Sustainable Agriculture Transition
[2] GBO-5 Sustainable Food Systems Transition

biodiversity loss, desertification and ecosystem degradation in a more holistic way, but that they also support the transformation of our food systems.

The current draft of the framework includes a target that aims to ensure that all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably. We need to ensure that this target is ambitious and holistic and secures the productivity and resilience of food systems.

In addition, agroecology and the importance of soil biodiversity have gained significant international attention. The CBD will also adopt a plan of action for the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity,[3] produced in consultation with FAO.

The plan aims to encourage the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of soil biodiversity, including through agroecological practices, with a view to support the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Since biodiversity plays a critical role in the sustainable management of food systems, the full and active participation of agricultural sectors within the post-2020 framework will be essential for its success.

Lastly, and most importantly, the framework is intended to be a global framework for all and thus universally applicable. To attain this, we must recognize and support the roles and rights of indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers and small-scale food producers so that we can reverse biodiversity loss.

It is with these successes that we will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature.

Thank you. I wish you great success in today's seminar.

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[3] Annex contained in CBD/SBSTTA/24/L.7