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|  | **Press Release** |
| **Embargoed until August 19, 2021** | |
| Agricultural Commerce Division, Director Yang Ji-yeon (044-201-2051), Deputy Director Hwang In-seon (2058) /Provided on August 19 (5 pages) | |
| **MAFRA attended the APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security**  **- Joint declaration to address health and economic crisis of the region was adopted -** | |

<Summary>

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| ◈ On August 19 (Thu.), Deputy Minister Park Byoung-hong of MAFRA virtually attended the  APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security. He introduced how to promote digitalization and  innovation within the region for food security amid the COVID-19 and emphasized cooperation  among the member states.  ◈ APEC member countries agreed on ① addressing health and economic crisis caused by the  pandemic, ② introducing 2030 Food Security Roadmap, and ③ the joint declaration including the  meeting's contribution to the United Nations Food Systems Summit |

□ At 11am on August 19 (Thursday), Deputy Minister Park Byuong-hong of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Minister Kim Hyeon-soo, MAFRA) attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)[[1]](#footnote-1) Ministerial Meeting on Food Security.

○  The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. New Zealand, the hosting country, announced 2030 Food Security Roadmap and led the discussion on cooperation among the member countries for food security.

□ The member countries announced 2030 Food Security Roadmap, a mid-to long-term plan of digitalization, innovation, productivity and sustainability under the APEC's goal of sustainable and resilient food system within the region, and discussed how to jointly implement it.

○ Also, they emphasized how to deal with health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19, promoted the participation of small-and-medium sized companies, women and youth in the agri-food sector, and adopted the joint statement including the region’s contribution to the United Nations Food Systems Summit.

□ Deputy Minister Park, head of the Korean delegation, introduced policies of Korea to nurture smart farms and reiterated cooperation with the international community to contribute to strengthened food security, under the theme of "Advancing digitalization and innovation of food systems in the region."

○ Digital and innovative technologies should be accessible and usable by all the people including the vulnerable within the region. To this end, Korea is laying the foundation for digitalization and innovation in the agricultural sector as a whole by promoting smart farms and increasing start-up incubation centers and specialized graduate schools for youth.

○ The case was introduced as an example where the export of agricultural products even amid the COVID-19 was possible thanks to digital and innovative technologies used on the site such as virtual quarantine screening and electronic documents.

□ A head of the United Nations Food Systems Summit to be held this September, the meeting reached consensus on the need for the international community's efforts to maintain safety of people, food security and stable supply chain of agricultural products by the 21 member states in the Asia and Pacific region. The meeting also suggested joint actions between the UN agencies and the private sector.

○ An official from MAFRA said, "As cooperation among countries is becoming more and more important to deal with global climate and health crisis. Korea will actively participate in the global discussions such as the UNFSS, in order to contribute to improving food systems and enhancing food security."

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is the largest regional economic forum aimed for policy dialogue, economic growth and prosperity of the Asia and Pacific countries [↑](#footnote-ref-1)