

Statement at the High-Level Segment of the “4 per 1000” Initiative Forum

By

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December 9, 2020

**President MAYAKI, Vice-President LEFOLL, Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Greetings from Taiwan. Thank you very much for hosting this important event, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although life in Taiwan fortunately remains normal because of the effective control of the virus, severe restrictions in other countries have greatly impacted the global food supply chain and the future of the agriculture sector. Now is indeed a crucial time to highlight the importance of “4 per 1000 Initiative”. It is even more important for us to work cooperatively and seize this opportunity to create a new dimension for the agricultural sector.

Taiwan has coordinated the effort of 13 agencies to conduct six measures for soil health and soil carbon sequestration (refer to ppt.1) ; they are including **Manure Reuse, Green Manure, Organic Farming, Biochar, Orchard Grass Cultivation and Flatland Afforestation**, However, Taiwan is a small, humid, subtropical and tropical island, which makes it very difficult to reach the target of 4 per 1000 (Refer to ppt.2).

After trying various measures, we have found the promotion of alkaline **Biochar** could be the best practice for Taiwan to get closer to the target and it can also help to improve 300,000 ha of strong acidic soil in cultivated land (refer to ppt. 3).

Subscribing to the 4 per 1000 initiative has pushed Taiwan to “rethink” and “relink” all kinds of resources to enlarge the potential SOC

sequestration. Taiwan hopes to reach 3.5 per 1000 (refer to ppt. 4) and the Government has conducted different strategies to assist farmers financially and technically to attain the goal (refer to ppt. 5).

For example, we provide financial support for manure application in farmland and implement a two-track system of “**Guaranteed Purchasing Prices**” and “**Green Direct Payment in Farmland**” in order to encourage farmers to engage in organic and eco-friendly farming. In 2019 a total of 134,374 hectares of land were cultivated under contract, representing an increase of 1.43% over 2018. Furthermore, Taiwan is applying biotechnology to transmute agricultural waste into biochar for the soil. This year (2020), a management platform for biochar supply and application was set up to integrate resources more efficiently in producing biochar.

In addition, Taiwan is cooperating with other courtiers on improving SOC (refer to ppt. 6). Taiwan is sharing her agricultural experiences and technologies with countries’ under her New Southbound policy to try to achieve the sustainable agricultural development in the region.

In the future (refer to ppt. 7), we will adopt five measures. We believe agriculture can contribute significantly to a sustainable future. With her agricultural experience and expertise, **Taiwan can help and is helping.**

We look forward to closer cooperation with all of you and believe that the concerted efforts of all will make a great difference. Thank you.