Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. We thank the Secretary-General for his Reports under this agenda item. India associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77.

Mr. President,

Accelerated growth in the agricultural and rural economies is essential for breaking the vicious cycle of extreme poverty, undernourishment and malnutrition.

The advent of technological advancement in the agrarian sector has improved the way food is produced and distributed in the global market.

However, the irony is that while there is enough food produced in the world today to feed the global population, millions of poor go hungry every day. Ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition remain major roadblocks to the inclusive achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals.

It is a matter of concern that in recent years the number of chronically undernourished people in the world has increased and so has food insecurity.

Mr. President,

With over fivefold increase in food production, India successfully transitioned from a situation of a food deficient nation at the time of our independence 70 years ago, to one that achieved self sufficiency through Green revolution within a couple of decades, and is now a net food exporter.

The growth of food-grain production has been largely due to institutional efforts in raising the levels of technology used in agriculture through research and extension, investments in rural infrastructure and human capabilities, credit support, procurement at minimum support prices and the strengthening of supportive institutions.
Many of India’s agricultural successes emerged from its ability to develop and apply innovative, cost-effective solutions to farming challenges, such as low-cost tractors, seed systems, and water management technologies.

There are, however, challenges to further improve agriculture productivity to meet the growing demand, introduce more sustainable farming practices, making available agriculture inputs at affordable cost, connecting farms to markets, increasing farm incomes and improving food distribution systems.

Mr. President,

Two years ago, we gave to ourselves a dream of doubling farmers’ income in India by 2022. To realize this, there are Government schemes in place to handhold the farmers’ right from procurement of seeds to access the produce to the markets.

For ensuring that benefits of these schemes reach the intended recipients, the biometric-based unique individual identification system called Aadhar linked with banking services and mobile phone technologies has been introduced and is proving to be a huge success.

Recognizing the importance of local and domestic food markets for smallholders, National Agriculture Market (NAM) has been launched which is a pan-India electronic trading portal. E-NAM networks the existing small markets to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.

The new crop insurance scheme provides insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities, pests & diseases. It encourages farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices and ensures flow of credit to the agriculture sector.

Cooperatives have been asked to venture into new business areas like beekeeping and seaweed farming to help farmers double their income by 2022 and boost the rural economy.

Soil Health Cards are being provided to all farmers in the country to better match soil quality and crops being grown.

India is aiming for ‘Water to every field’ in next three years by augmenting irrigation coverage through massive investments.

Mr. President,

Efforts to end hunger and malnutrition must be accelerated. In line with our steadfast commitment to South-South Cooperation, India remains dedicated to sharing its technical assistance to ensure food security in fellow developing countries for ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture.

I thank you.