



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn has been praised by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for her role in combating hunger and improving malnutrition in Thailand and other countries of Asia and the Pacific.

Minister of Agriculture and Cooperation Grisada Boonrach attended the 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which took place in Nadi, Fiji, from 9 to 13 April 2018. Mr. Grisada told the conference about the operations of the Thai government in adopting His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He said that, at the conference, FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva spoke in honor of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn as FAO Special Zero Hunger Goodwill Ambassador for Asia and the Pacific. There was a video presentation on the message of Her Royal Highness to the conference.

In the video message, Her Royal Highness stressed the need for a holistic approach in eradicating hunger and malnutrition in all its forms and called for greater agricultural diversity. The Princess said, "Over-reliance on few crops means we are not spending enough time and resources producing other more nutritious food such as milk, eggs, legumes, fruits, and vegetables. We must strive to diversify agriculture to create dietary diversity to ensure healthy diets and address malnutrition in all its forms."

The acceptance of Her Royal Highness to act as FAO Special Ambassador for Zero Hunger is another step toward helping all countries in the region to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero Hunger by inspiring FAO to encourage collective action to create food systems that deliver for all people.

Concerned about the malnutrition of rural children in remote areas in Thailand, Her Royal Highness has initiated various projects to improve their quality of life. She started with launching the "Agriculture for School Lunch project for Border Patrol Police schools and other schools in remote villages, based on the concept that children should be in good health as the first step to good education.

Under this project, schools are encouraged to grow vegetables and fruits, as well as raising animals in accordance with local geographical conditions. By so doing, rural livelihood resilience will be built.