

MESSAGE

Renato U. Solidum, Jr.

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology

My warmest greetings to the participants of the 46th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) hosted by the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL), with the theme *“Beyond Farm Productivity: Transforming the Philippine food system to address equity, consumer health, and environmental issues.”*

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) focuses on the role that science, technology, and innovation (STI) will play as the country progresses towards achieving a food-secure nation.

As we navigate the intricate aspects of Philippine agriculture, it is a privilege to share insights into our work toward a revolutionary Philippine food system that goes beyond traditional productivity operations. This is manifested under the updated Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda in Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources (HRNDA-AANR) 2022-2028, which provisions the development of programs and projects to support AANR that is smart, green, and S&T-based. In addition to promoting social equity, empowering and assisting marginalized groups like our farmers and fishers can escalate agricultural output in general.

Transforming the Philippine food system transcends the idea of increasing only farm productivity. We must address the critical issues of equity, consumer health, and environmental sustainability. Focusing on integrating an approach that considers social, economic, and environmental factors would help build a resilient and inclusive food system.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to NAST PHL for their unwavering commitment to promoting STI through events like the ASM. Moreover, my sincerest appreciation to all DOST Regional Offices and Provincial Science and Technology Offices for their vigorous collaboration with NAST PHL in executing the three (3) Regional Scientific Meetings in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao that foster knowledge dissemination while creating scientific networks.

I hope that the 46th ASM will serve as an avenue for the discussion and exchange of insightful ideas, encouraging greater cooperation in integrating STI applications in our agricultural sector to build a nation that can fully support its populace while championing their health and honoring environmental sustainability.

Maraming salamat po!

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