



**Joint Declaration
For
Achieving better lives of one million
small scale farmers
Through SHEP Approach**

TICAD VII SHEP Approach Side Event

Yokohama, JAPAN

29th August 2019

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■ **Introduction**

- 1) **We**, representatives of Government, development partners, private companies and relevant organizations having met at Side Event of TICAD VII on SHEP approach on August 29th 2019, **recognize** that agriculture remains as key industry enhancing employment and income of venerable population in Africa. We noted that each Government has prioritized promoting sustainable agriculture. However, we also **noted with concern** that some 500 million African small-scale farmers remain vulnerable, likely to fall into absolute poverty in the face of diverse risks. In order to contribute to poverty reduction in the context of a rising wave of market economy even in rural area in Africa, we **recognize** the importance of our engagement enhancing small-scale farmers' ability to adapt to social and economic changes.

- 2) **We recall** a set of goals of SDGs and Malabo declaration aiming to move out small-scale farmers from poverty in a sustainable and autonomous manner under the philosophy of "leaving no one behind". With a view to achieving the goals, **we emphasize** the significance of actions based on appropriate agricultural extension methods, in order for farmers to realize their livelihood improvement on their own.

- 3) **We recognize** that it is essential to promote farmers mindset from "Grow and Sell" to "Grow to sell" through introducing SHEP as an agricultural extension method which enhances farmers willingness to do farming as business and encourage them to change their farming style toward market-oriented agriculture.

■ **Background and Progress**

- 4) SHEP Approach originally emerged through technical cooperation project between Kenya and Japan in 2006. With a vision of bringing out farmers' initiative at the maximum, we have paid utmost attention to respect four steps: 1. Share goal and successful vision with farmers, 2. Raising farmers' awareness of market opportunities through farmer-initiated market survey, 3. Farmers make decisions and crop calendars., 4. Farmers acquire skills for improving their farming. This method has made a significant impact to the empowerment of small-scale farmers, including women as main contributors, and the

increase in their agricultural income.

We recall our previous commitment made at TICAD V in 2013, which promote farmers mindset to do “farming as a business” in 10 countries through capacity building of 1000 technical officers and 50,000 small-scale farmers with SHEP approach.

We strongly noted that these goals were achieved three years after TICAD5, moreover significant results have been generated. As of this moment, 9,800 officers and 110,000 farmers were trained in 24 African countries. **We applaud** the unflagging enthusiasm of each African Government that brought favorable outcomes beyond the goals. Furthermore, it worth mentioning that SHEP approach is now starting to spread beyond Africa. Some countries in Asia and Latin America have started to introduce SHEP Approach into their agricultural extension system.

- 5) **We recognize** that the increase of farmers’ income in each country has generated positive impacts such as improvement of school enrollment rate of children, diversification of food and improvement of housing. Within farming couples, both husband and wife are now responsible for managing household finance that only men have played until now. In other case, promoting women's involvement in business and successful experiences empowered them, and further brought the change of men's gender awareness. Through materializing “farming as a business”, agriculture became an attractive industry for the youth in rural area, and led to create employment indirectly.

We recognize that public extension officers, establishing a trusting relationship with farmers through their actions leading to the farmers’ success, have transformed their attitude of working on extension activities in a proactive way. **We further recognize** that farmers who have acquired skills to improve agricultural productivity and ability to respond to market needs are also active in reinvesting in agriculture, such as purchasing agricultural equipment and inputs such as fertilizers and seeds. They are becoming new customers for private companies. Thus, SHEP approach has been confirmed to be an effective method that brings various impacts from an economic and social point of view, and in the end that leads to human security.

- 6) **We recognize** that further improvement and enhancement of public extension services is essential for delivering agricultural services, including SHEP approach, to much more farmers. On the other hand, **we are convinced** that a stronger collaboration with all

relevant stakeholders will bring further development of agriculture and happier lives for farmers. Inclusive public-private partnership among governments, development partners, private companies and relevant organizations has already begun toward effective technical support to farmers using SHEP Approach.

■ Declaration

- 7) **We**, representatives of Government, development partners, private companies and relevant organizations, **affirm** our resolve towards ensuring, through introducing and making effective use of SHEP, that at least one million of small scales farmers will achieve better lives by 2030.

- 8) **We commit** to respect the autonomy of small-scale farmers and make an effort to support them to do farming as a business by making use of SHEP so that they become the core farmers who take an initiative for market-oriented agriculture in their community and make the rural economy more activated toward achieving the goal 2 of the SDGs.

- 9) **We promote** knowledge sharing and joint actions among us on the support to small-scale farmers.

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