

Colombo Statement on Food Security



We, the Heads of State or Government, participating in the Fifteenth SAARC Summit held in Colombo on 23 August 2008, affirm our resolve to ensure region-wide food security and make South Asia, once again, the granary of the world.

In view of the emerging global situation of reduced food availability and worldwide rise in food prices, we direct that an Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Agriculture Ministers of the SAARC Member States be convened in New Delhi, India in November 2008, to evolve and implement a people-centred short to medium term regional strategy and collaborative projects that would, among others, lead to:

- Increase in food production;
- Investment in agriculture and agro-based industries;

- Agriculture research and prevention of soil health degradation;
- Development and sharing of agricultural technologies;
- Sharing of best practices in procurement and distribution; and
- Management of the climatic and disease-related risks in agriculture.

We direct that the SAARC Food Bank be urgently operationalised. We also emphasize early drawing up of the SAARC Agriculture Perspective 2020.

We further direct that SAARC region should forge greater cooperation with the international community to ensure food availability and nutrition security in South Asia.

