

**Pakistan Chili Contract Farming Project Promotion &
Inaugural Conference of Pakistan-China Condiment Industry Alliance
(18 June 2021)**

Honourable Minister Syed Fakhar Imam Sahib

Honourable Chairman CPEC Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa

Excellency Ambassador Nong Rong

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon from Beijing

I am very happy to share my views at this important forum. I am grateful to China Economic Net and China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) to organize this event in partnership with Sichuan Litong Food Group.

I would also like to thank China Economic Net and CMEC for promoting China-Pakistan cooperation in the important field of agriculture. I recall the launching of China-Pakistan Agricultural and Industrial Cooperation information platform in January this year.

Pakistan-China have very special ties. Our friendly and close relationship has developed into an All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership over the last 70 years. This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic ties. This event is dedicated to our 7 decades journey of friendship.

In recent years, our two countries have focused on developing close economic and commercial ties. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor has a manifestation of this new vision. Under CPEC Phase-II among other areas agriculture has emerged as a priority sector especially after the formation of the Special Working Group on Agriculture last year during President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi's solidarity visit to China.

A plan of action with over 20 projects is being implemented to modernize the agriculture sector in Pakistan. It includes development of new seeds to increase the crop yield, upgrading of irrigation system, promotion of agro-based industry for value addition and setting cold chain network.

Both China and Pakistan have strong agriculture base with many complementarities. Our cooperation in agriculture sector would help our two countries in ensuring food security, improving livelihood of the farmers and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of the country. This particular event focusing on chili farming in Pakistan would complement our efforts in this regard.

I had the opportunity to meet with the President of Sichuan Litong Food Group in my recent visit to Qingdao. They briefed me about their pilot project in Pakistan which was progressing very well. Based on its success, the company intends to extend the planting of a bigger land area in the coming season. The Embassy has already approached the General Administration of Customs of China for their facilitation to promote pepper trade between Pakistan and China.

I thank the leadership of Litong Company for initiating this cooperation in a new emerging area of trade between our two countries and assure them of our full support. I once again thank the organizers for hosting this event and convey my sincere wishes for its success.

Thanks you

Long live Pakistan-China friendship