



Speech at the
International Rabbit
Conference in Tropical
Climate and the 4th
Asian Rabbit
Production
Conference

By Mr. *Yanxu Gao*

President of the Asian Rabbit
Production Association

Dear Distinguished Minister YB Dato'
Salahuddin Ayub, Dear Distinguished
President Aisyaturiddha Abdullah,
dear guests, all participants, ladies
and gentlemen,

It's my great honor to be here to
attend the international conference
on rabbit production in tropical
climate and the 4th Asian rabbit
production conference. As president
of Asian Rabbit production
Association, I'd like to express
my warmly welcome and great thanks
to you all participants.

Looking back over the past decade, shocked by the global economic crisis in year 2008, most country's economy still faces recession, many industries have retained stagnant, but rabbit industry has achieved impressive results.

In 2007, global slaughtered rabbit and year-end stock reached 972 million and 310 million heads respectively. The slaughtered rabbit number was 1.22 times that of 2008, with an average annual growth rate of 2.27%.

In 2017, the global rabbit meat output reached 1.4824 million tons, the average annual growth rate reached 3.28%. These achievements are the result of the joint efforts of the global rabbit industry players.

In the development of rabbit industry on all continents, the Asia is leading area, in 2017 the Asian slaughtered rabbit number and end-year storage volume accounted for 72.59 percent and 85.16 percent of the world, respectively, the average annual growth rate in the last decade is 3.59 percent and 1.53 percent.

Asian rabbit meat output reached 108.83 million tons, accounting for 73.41% of the world, with an average annual growth rate of 4.78%. These achievements are also the pride of the rabbit industry practitioners in the Asian area and the world.

Today we are gathered here to discuss the development of rabbit industry in Asia and the global tropical climates, to sum up experiences and look to the future, which is of great significance for further promoting the development of the rabbit industry.

Taken together, the future development of the global rabbit industry requires special attention to the following issues:

First, the disease prevention and control of small-scale rabbit farms.

For small-scale rabbit farms, due to the low degree of standardization of rabbit breeding, including multi and heterogenous feed resources, many local low-quality breeding rabbit varieties, diversified rabbit house building.

This causes breeding environment control is very difficult, and scientific disease prevention and control cannot be implemented, so rabbit disease occurs from time to time, finally rabbit breeding is inefficient. This is also a common problem in rabbit farming in most developing countries.

Second, the technological innovation and AI of large-scale rabbit farm.

The technology is the most fundamental factor of an industry, rabbit industry is no exception.

Large-scale rabbit farms or rabbit industry chain enterprises are the backbone of technological innovation and R&D, including rabbit breeding, feed nutrition formula, environmental control and other technologies, especially in the context of labour cost increase, the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) gradually become a focus of many large-scale enterprises in rabbit industry.

Third, from the perspective of rabbit industrial chain, in many countries rabbit product processing has become a constraint to industrial development.

Because of the short period of rabbit breeding, it is easy to supply enough slaughtered rabbits, but processing and marketing face challenges, it has become a bottleneck restricting the development of rabbit industry.

Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the relevant work in processing, marketing and branding etc.

Fourth, in the long run, environmental protection and sustainable development have gradually become an important goal for the development of the animal husbandry industry.

Compared with other livestock and poultry species, the environmental pollution of rabbits is relatively small, but from the point of view of environmental protection, special attention is still needed.

In China and many other countries farmers have explored the "rabbit breeding + fruit/vegetable model" and other circular development model, worthy of learning.

Fifth, in terms of the future of the rabbit industry in Asia and the world, countries need to strengthen international cooperation.

Each country need bases on their comparative advantages to expand the cooperation with others, which can achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

Rabbit farming in Europe has advanced technology, especially high-quality breeding varieties; in Asian countries, normally, their farm scales are small, in order to adapt to big market, they have explored different farming models and developed relevant technologies; in Africa and the Americas, there are relatively few rabbit breeding, but they have relatively cheap labor and abundant land and forage resources; however, the United States and Canada are taking another unique path of pet rabbit development.

In all, no matter how different the characteristics of the rabbit industry in each country, it is certain that they need cooperate in different way, including technology, investment and trade in products.

There has been a tradition of cooperation among Asian countries, and between European and Asian countries, wish our future cooperation closer.

The Asian Rabbit Production Association also hopes to continue to contribute to the development of regional and global rabbit industry!

Finally wish our
conference
successful, wish
all of you have
good life in
Malaysia!

Thanks for your
attention!

