

**Government of Pakistan
Ministry of National Food Security & Research**

**Statement by the Honorable minister Rana Tanveer Hussain, Minister of
National Food Security & Research on the eve of world olive day**

*Excellency Luis Planas , the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries Spain, The
Executive Director Mr. Jimmy lillo, Dignitaries, Distinguished Ladies and
Gentlemen*

For centuries, Olive and its oil has been symbolizing the guiding light, its branches are extended as gesture of peace. Its importance cannot be over emphasized by the fact that all the three major religions have placed not only in their sacred scriptures but also made the olive their culture and part of tradition. World olive day is commemoration of that spirit enshrined in the olive values of peace, tranquility and harmony amongst mankind. It also highlights the cultural, environmental and economic importance of olive trees.

The cultivation of olive on commercial scale signifies the importance of this sacred tree on cultural, environmental and economic terms. This initiative is only for farm diversification but also for the social and economic upheaval. It symbolizes peaceful coexistence amongst the human being.

The Government of Pakistan is committed to promote and establish olive value chain in the country. Pakistan has been bestowed upon with the blessings of billions of wild olive assets across its geography, moreover, 4 million hectares of the land is suitable for the olive cultivation across Pakistan. Under the flagship National olive program, for the last one and half decade, more than 7 million olive trees have been cultivated across the country, moreover, oil extraction units and processing machinery have been provided in public and private domain to develop olive value chain in order to uplift the rural communities economically

in Pakistan, reducing the import bill for edible oils and most important to disseminate the olive message of peace, prosperity, Patience and perseverance.

Being the harbinger of peace and harmony in the region particularly and in the world, Pakistan desires that this symbol of peace and harmony may embolden and its positive economic impacts may be engraved with prosperity, poverty alleviation and harmony in the mankind of present and future.

In the end, I am really thankful to Honorable Luis *Planas*, Worthy minister for Agriculture Spain and all other dignitaries for this wonderful interaction.