Dear exhibitors, visitors and organizers,

Let me on behalf of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture welcome you to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Prodexpo International Exhibition.

The Russian agricultural industry, including the food manufacturing sector, has undergone a radical transformation over the recent years. In 2017 we saw that the food production had doubled in comparison to 2000. The doubling of production, development of livestock breeding and crop farming enabled the country to become self-sufficient in major product groups. As a result the Russian agriculture industry not only produces enough food for the domestic consumption but also increases its export. Russian agricultural products and foodstuffs are exported to 143 countries and are worthy of top rankings both in Russia and other countries.

Over 25 years, Prodexpo has become Russia's largest trade show which brings together well-known Russian and foreign food manufacturers. Every year it enhances the standing as its exhibitors demonstrate the best products, the latest achievements and technologies. Prodexpo's many associated events will determine key trends of the food market development.

I am positive that this show will be beneficial for all interested parties, and initiatives worked out at associated events will promote cooperation in the agriculture industry.

Let me wish the exhibitors, visitors and organizers interesting and fruitful work, stronger business relations, market expansion and prosperity!

Alexander Tkachev Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation