

Financing Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific

Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group **Sustainable Food Webinar Series**

16 March 2021

07:00 – 09:00 pm (Manila)

[Zoom Meeting](#)

(Register in advance for this meeting. Password: SDTCAR21)

Background

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic increased the food and nutrition security risk. COVID-19 pandemic increased food insecurity risks and deteriorated nutritional status of vulnerable populations due to rising unemployment, restrictions on people's movement, interruptions in food production and processing, and disruptions to supply chains and increasing international commodity price. According to World Food Program, the number of people in Asia and the Pacific region who are facing acute food insecurity will nearly double to 265 million by the end of 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic provided an opportunity to learn more about the vulnerabilities of food supply chains. The pandemic revealed system-wide risks in food supply chains such as the supply risk associated with logistical and trade disruptions as well as the public health risks associated with food supply chains. Zoonotic have represented 75% of all the emerging infectious disease during the past decade. There is a clear need across the region to shift a focus on singular food production and intensification to one that integrates additional aspects of value chain development, sustainable natural resource management, nutrient rich diets, and public health, and enhances resilience and mitigates climate change. The post-pandemic recovery phase is an opportunity to build resilient food supply chains.

Food is a common thread linking development challenges, given the interconnected economic, social, and environmental dimension of food systems. Beyond its direct linkage with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on achieving zero hunger, food is linking all 17 SDGs. A food system approach takes into interrelationship among its subsystems (e.g., farming, waste management, input supply, food safety and others) and interacts with other key systems (such as energy, trade, and health). A food system approach can provide integrated solutions that consider the interrelationships among its subsystems and balance trade-offs and maximize synergies. Building sustainable and resilient food systems would address major development challenges in the region and provide an opportunity for ADB to achieve its seven operational priorities of the Strategy 2030.

Closing the finance gap is a major challenge in transforming food systems to sustainable and resilient. The transformation to sustainable and resilient food systems requires an effective mobilization of available public and private finance under intense pressure to implement emergency fiscal responses to address the immediate public health risk and mitigate the wider economic impact of the crisis. Accelerating the food system transformation would require scaling up public and private investment in sustainable and resilient food systems. This webinar kicks off the discussion on how sustainable and resilient food system can contribute the major development challenges in the region and on how to close large financing gap for food system transformation in the region.

Sustainable Food Webinar Series

The **Sustainable Food Webinar Series** aims to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and experiences of different experts, organizations, and development practitioners to discuss how to mobilize agricultural finance, promote digital agriculture, and integrate smallholders in the food system approach.

Participants will be primarily ADB staff, but operations departments can invite DMC counterparts and other partners that can gain insights relevant to project pipeline development. The webinars will be held once every two months.

Program

Chair: Qingfeng Zhang, Chief, Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB	
07:00 – 07:10 pm	Welcome Remarks Bambang Susantono, Vice-President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, ADB
07:10 – 07:20 pm	Keynote speech Alvaro Lario, Associate Vice President, Financial Operations Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
07:20 – 07:50 pm	Panelists Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist and Director General of Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, ADB Dina Umali-Deininger, Agriculture Practice Manager, East Asia and the Pacific, World Bank Lee Ann Jackson, Head of Division, Agro-food Trade and Markets, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
07:50 – 08:00 pm	Q&A
08:00 – 08:10 pm	Moderator: Shingo Kimura, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, East Asia Department, ADB Lead Speaker Kevin Chen, Qushi Chair Professor and International Dean, China Academy for Rural Development, Zhejiang University and Senior Research Fellow and Head of East and Central Asia Office, IFPRI
08:10 – 08:40 pm	Panelists Shenggen Fan, Chair Professor, China Agricultural University Martin Lemoine, Unit Head, Agribusiness, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB Jessica Fanzo, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics at the Johns Hopkins University
08:40 – 08:50 pm	Q&A
08:50 – 09:00 pm	Closing Remarks Suzanne Gaboury, Director General, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB

Webinar #1: Financing Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

The first webinar of the series aims to (i) launch dialogues on how to scale up financing for sustainable and resilient food systems among key stakeholders; (ii) discuss the role of Multilateral Development Banks.

Key Outputs

The discussions will be distilled and summarized to inform the design of the Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2021. The webinar series will also yield online articles to be posted in [ADB Blogs](#) and [Development Asia](#) as intermediary outputs.