



## #ADBSustainableFood Webinar Series

Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group



### JOINT WEBINAR

Asian Development Bank

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

## Webinar on Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic for Food Security in Asia and the Pacific

**26 August 2021, 13:30 – 15:15 Manila time (GMT+8)**

Register in advance via [Zoom](#)

### Background

While many countries continue to intervene in agro-food markets with various agricultural policies, the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the fragility of food systems in Asia and the Pacific. International food prices have been rising since May 2020, recording the twelfth consecutive monthly rise to their highest value since September 2011, bringing the Index only 7.6 percent below its peak value in February 2011. From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic many governments moved swiftly to keep agricultural supply chains functioning, including by designating agriculture and food as an essential sector. While OECD countries were generally successful in maintaining the overall functioning of food supply chains, food insecurity risk increased in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs). The latest estimates show that the prevalence of undernourishment in Asia increased from 7.9% to 9.0% between 2019 and 2020. In addition to increasing food prices and insufficient food consumption, data suggest that 42% of the population in the region cannot afford a healthy diet.

On the back of existing support policies, the pandemic highlighted the “triple challenge” faced by food systems in terms of providing sufficient and nutritious food to a growing global population, ensuring livelihoods for those engaged in the food chain, and reducing the environmental footprint and GHG emissions of food systems. In Asia-Pacific, these translate into public health concerns, high environmental pressures and GHG emissions, persistent malnutrition, and growing inequality of access to food. For example, the prevalence of overweight and obesity in both adults and school-age children is rising more rapidly in Asia and the Pacific than in any other region. There is a clear need across the region to shift from a focus mainly on food production and intensification to one that integrates additional aspects of sustainable natural resource management, nutritious and healthy diets, and public health, and enhances resilience and mitigates climate change.

ADB will soon release a special report on *Financing Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific* to lay out the agenda to scale up financing for a sustainable and resilient transformation of food systems in the region. ADB is also preparing a *policy brief* assessing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food systems and summarizing the lessons learned for food systems in the region. In June 2021, the OECD published its global report on *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2021: Addressing the Challenges Facing Food Systems*, which identified nearly 800 policy responses introduced in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 54 developed countries and emerging economies, and assessed whether agricultural policies are serving the wider needs of food systems.

## Objectives

This webinar discusses the challenges and desirable policy responses to ensure food security in Asia and the Pacific through food systems transformation. It aims to support knowledge exchange between the two organizations, policy makers, key experts and wider stakeholders across the region. The discussion is expected to clarify the major regional policy agenda to be discussed in two major international events in this area: the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit<sup>1</sup> and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021<sup>2</sup>.

## Participants

The webinar welcomes representatives from the following organizations engaged in agriculture, natural resources, and rural development:

- government and intergovernmental organizations
- multilateral and bilateral development institutions
- private firms engaged in the agriculture and food business
- research and development institutions, think tanks, and centers of excellence
- NGOs, civil society, and advocacy organizations other individuals and organizations interested and/or engaged in agriculture and natural resources

## Speakers

- Bruno Carrasco, Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
- Marion Jansen, Director for Trade and Agriculture, OECD
- Rodolfo Vicerra, Under Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture, Philippines
- Jessica Fanzo, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics, Johns Hopkins University
- Jibrán Punthakey, Agricultural Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- Qingfeng Zhang, Chief, Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, concurrently, OIC, Chief Environment Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
- Masao Matsumoto, Deputy Assistant Minister, Export and International Affairs Bureau and Deputy Director General, Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan
- Fermin Adriano, Special Adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines
- Kieran Macdonell, Australia's representative to the OECD on Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australia
- Choi-Ish Lkhasuren, Director General, Department of Food Industry Policy Coordination and Implementation, Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia
- Kevin Chen, Qushi Chair Professor and International Dean, China Academy for Rural Development, Zhejiang University; Senior Research Fellow and Head of East and Central Asia Office, IFPRI
- Xiaohong Yang, Chief Thematic Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
- Martin von Lampe, Head of Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Agriculture and Resource Policies Division, OECD

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nutritionforgrowth.org/events/>

## Program

<b>Moderator</b> Qingfeng Zhang, Chief, Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, concurrently, OIC, Chief Environment Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank	
13:30 – 13:45	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruno Carrasco, Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, SDCC, Asian Development Bank</li> <li>Marion Jansen, OECD Director for Trade and Agriculture</li> <li>Rodolfo Vicerra, Under Secretary for Policy and Planning, Department of Agriculture, the Philippines</li> </ul>
13:45 – 14:00	<b>Presentation 1: Lessons learned from policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific</b> Jessica Fanzo, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Global Food Policy and Ethics, Johns Hopkins University
14:00 – 14:15	<b>Presentation 2: Findings from OECD’s Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation 2021 – Addressing the challenges facing food systems</b> Jibrán Punthakey, Agricultural Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
14:15 – 14:45	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masao Matsumoto, Deputy Assistant Minister, Export and International Affairs Bureau and Deputy Director General, Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Japan</li> <li>Fermin Adriano, Special Adviser to the Secretary of Agriculture, the Philippines</li> <li>Kieran Macdonell, Australia’s representative to the OECD on Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Australia</li> <li>Choi-Ish Lkhasuren, Director General, Department of Food Industry Policy Coordination and Implementation, Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry, Mongolia</li> <li>Kevin Chen, Qushi Chair Professor and International Dean, China Academy for Rural Development, Zhejiang University; Senior Research Fellow and Head of East and Central Asia Office, IFPRI</li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:05	<b>Open Discussion</b>
15:05 – 15:15	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Xiaohong Yang, Chief Thematic Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB</li> <li>Martin von Lampe, Head of Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Agriculture and Resource Policies Division, OECD</li> </ul>

## About the Series

The Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department implements its [#ADBSustainableFood Webinar Series](#) with relevant ADB Sector and Thematic Groups, ADB Operations, and external partners to offer a platform to discuss, share knowledge and experiences, and find out solutions and best practices that can help developing member countries build sustainable and resilient food systems and enable them to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and future disruptions.