



Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group

Looming food insecurity concerns in Asia and the Pacific: What should we expect?

ADB

16 November 2021, 16:00 – 17:30 Manila time (GMT+8)

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The pandemic has reversed economic growth globally as countries respond to this tragic health crisis. At the same time, the risk of food insecurity is rising. ADB estimates that the economic fall-out pushed 75 million to 80 million more people in developing Asia into extreme poverty. The UN Agencies estimate undernourished population in Asia increased from 361.3 million to 418.0 million between 2019 and 2020, increasing the prevalence of undernourishment from 7.9% to 9.0%.

International food prices, according to the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI), have recorded its highest value since July 2011. On a year-on-year basis, FFPI was up 31.3% in October. The concern on domestic food price is rising. On 1 November 2021, Ministry of Commerce in the People's Republic of China (PRC) issued a notice to encourage stockpile daily necessities in consideration of high food price during this winter. Countries need to make urgent responses to manage growing food insecurity risks, while preparing a medium-long term strategy to build resilient food systems to diverse risk including climate, health, and nutrition.

This webinar aims to share the current food security situation and discuss potential responses by the countries, facilitated by leading experts and practitioners in this area.

Moderator 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	
16:00-16:05	Welcome Remarks Bruno Carrasco, Director General, Sustainable Development & Climate Change Department, ADB
16:05 – 16:25	Keynote Presentation: Emerging challenges to ensure global food security and regional agenda in Asia and the Pacific Shenggen Fan, Chair Professor and Dean of Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy, China Agricultural University
16:25 – 17:00	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tim Benton, Research Director – Emerging Risks and Director – Environment and Society Programme, Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House• Anthea Webb, Deputy Regional Director, WFP Asia & the Pacific
17:00 – 17:25	Open Discussion
17:25 – 17:30	Closing Remarks