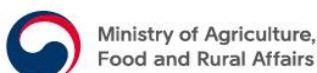


Harnessing Digital Technologies and Experiences to Accelerate Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific

ADB-IFAD Joint Symposium in collaboration with MAFRA

Mayfield Hotel, Seoul
23-24 November 2022

SUMMARY REPORT





ADB-IFAD Joint Symposium in collaboration with MAFRA has concluded its work successfully this time in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



The Joint Symposium was held under the theme of “Harnessing Digital Technologies and Experiences to Accelerate Agricultural and Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific”.



Over the past two decades, mobile and smartphone penetration rate and mobile coverage in rural Asia have increased steadily. As a result, farmers and agribusinesses are increasingly able to use digital technologies to address the challenges that they face, including limited access to markets.



Digital innovations are already contributing to solving several challenges facing agriculture and rural economy. The future potential for such technologies to promote sustainable economic growth in agriculture has also been noted by numerous development agencies and researchers.



Asian Development Bank has been working with MAFRA in selected Asian countries to help them to overcome the constraints to agricultural value chains development, identify the main investment areas, and formulate country-specific recommendations for agricultural and rural development based on the experiences of the Republic of Korea. Likewise, IFAD has been working under the aegis of MAFRA as part of the SEEDS project to jumpstart digital agriculture in developing Asian countries such as Philippines, Cambodia, and Viet Nam.



Against this backdrop, the proposed symposium is organized to share the findings and recommendations to promote agricultural and rural development through the application of digital solution, improving value chain, and applying the lessons learnt from Korean experiences.



The symposium set up the goals as below:

- Showcase Korean leadership in the domain of ICT4D and innovation that can benefit smallholder producers
- Driving conversation towards the importance of investing in digital agriculture and its important role in building resilience and building back better
- Harnessing the best practice from successful digital agriculture implementations in Asian countries (and the regions) and replicating in vulnerable countries in the region
- Facilitate the sharing of lessons learned from projects across the Asia-Pacific regional but also between regions
- Catalyse potential partnerships and investments for increased impact

Under the goals, the format included plenary discussions, interactive panels and thematic networking session.

Opening Ceremony



The first day of the symposium started with Joint Opening Ceremony moderated by Ms Hanisha Jagtiani, ICT4D Specialist in Asia and Pacific Region, IFAD.



The following representatives of MAFRA, IFAD, and ADB, hosting and collaborating organizations addressed the participants with short welcoming speeches respectively.

Kim Choul, Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) Republic of Korea



Ronald Hartman, Director of Global Engagement, Partnership and Resource Mobilization Division, IFAD

Mio Oka, Director of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agricultural Division, South Asia Regional Department, ADB

Session 1. Panel Discussion

Leveraging Korean Experiences for Agriculture and Rural Development in Indonesia, Pakistan, and Philippines



The panel discussion moderated by Mr. Abdul Basher, Senior Agriculture and Natural Resources Specialist, ADB was held with a speaker and panelists such as below:

*Speaker

Dr. Jang Heo, Research Director Emeritus, Center for International Agricultural Partnership(CIAP), Korea Rural Economic Institute(KREI)



*Panelist

Dr. Eriyatno, MSAE President
Director, Center of System, Indonesia

Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Associate Professor, Institute of Business Management Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan



Mr. Yolando C. Arban, Acting Country Programme Officer and Special Adviser, Philippines Country Office, IFAD

Mr. Glenne N. Baticados, Program Head, Emerging Innovation for Growth Department(EIGD), Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture(SEARCHA), Philippines





ADB organized the session with the topic of Horticulture Value Chains Development in Indonesia, Pakistan and Philippines.

Ms. Minjeong Jang, Policy officer, MAFRA Republic of Korea moderated the session and speakers were as below:



Dr. Eriyatno, MSAE President Director, Center of System, Indonesia presented on Horticulture Value Chains Development in Indonesia.



Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Associate Professor, Institute of Business Management Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan presented on Horticulture Value Chains Development in Pakistan.



Mr. Glenn N. Baticados, Program Head, Emerging Innovation for Growth Department (EIGD), Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), Philippines presented on Horticulture Value Chains Development in Philippines.

Following the presentations, open discussion and Q&A were proceeded.

The session was closed with the proposal for next step by Md Abul Basher, Senior Agriculture and Natural Resources Specialist, ADB.



About 40 persons domestically and internationally were joined in the session and have actively participated in the discussion.

Participants and Participating Organizations

No.	Organizations	Invitee and Participants
1	MAFRA	10
2	GGGI	3
3	IRRI	1
4	FAO Korean Associate	1
5	IFAD organizing Committee	7
6	IFAD speakers	13
7	Speakers from Partner Organizations	18
8	ADB delegation	8
9	ADB developing member country participants	9
10	Audience Participants (in person) registered through google form	28
11	Student Supporters (in person)	20
	Total	118

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Backwall

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Lead Regional Economist Asia, and the Pacific Division

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Banner for ADB session

ADB-IFAD Joint Symposium in collaboration with MAFRA

ADB Session 2. Horticulture Value Chains Development
in Indonesia, Pakistan and Philippines

Podium for ADB session

- We operate a hybrid forum smoothly with online and offline participation through an aggressive pre-preparation process (at least twice zoom rehearsals for virtual speakers) to prevent the spread of Covid19 and help the participants from more countries to engage.
- In cooperation with MAFRA, participants in the Global ODA forum and domestic agricultural-related organizations were encouraged to actively participate so that the discussion dealing with international topics would be in line with Korean government and agricultural-related organizations
- By recruiting supporters for college students in Korean universities, it contributes to expanding the scale of participation and increasing the interest of young people in agriculture.
- Sufficient consultation on the overall progress is needed through prior discussions between the host organization and the agency. In particular, there was a difference in experience between the host agency and the agency in relation to the hybrid progress, but there was not enough time to fully discuss and understand the difference. Of course, the system team had a lot of experience, so it accepted the needs of the host organization, but preparation time is needed for more stable operation.
- The contract arrived after the event began, and the advance payment did not arrive even after the event. As a result, all schedules according to the contract were changed, in addition the clear guidelines were not delivered to the agency in a timely manner, causing confusion. It is necessary to establish and proceed with a schedule that also considers the internal payment process and period.

