



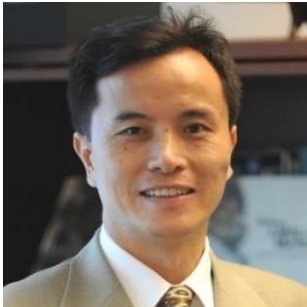
# #ADB Sustainable Food Webinar Series

Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group



**TITLE:** Responses to Food Insecurity in Sri Lanka  
**DATE:** 16 September 2022  
**TIME:** 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Manila time (GMT +8)  
**FOCAL:** Narayan Iyer  
Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist (Agribusiness), ADB  
**FORMAT:** Online

## Speaker's Profile






**Qingfeng Zhang, Chief, Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, concurrently, OIC, Chief Environment Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB**

Mr. Zhang is providing leadership to the formulation and implementation of the Bank's strategy and knowledge in agriculture, natural resources and food, oversees the operationalization of the Bank's vision on agriculture, natural resources and food in regional and country programs. Each year the Rural Development, Natural Resources and Food has \$3-4 billion investment across the Bank (investments, results-based lending and policy-based lending). There are about 135 staffs in this sector across the Bank.

During his last 16 years with the Bank, Mr. Zhang processes and administers loan and technical assistance projects in green agricultural value chain, efficient use of natural resources (land, soil, water as well as agricultural wastes), climate resilient agriculture, rural renewable biomass energy, healthy agriculture-ecosystems, food safety, and internet plus agriculture. He published over dozens of knowledge products, Opeds and blogs on agriculture, natural resources and environment. Prior to serving as this role, Mr. Zhang was the Director for Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture in East Asia Department in the Bank for which report to this Prior to joining ADB, he was a Senior Environment Specialist at the World Bank in Washington; a Director at the State Environmental Protection Administration in Beijing; and a Research Fellow at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.



Mr. Zhang is a Chinese national. He holds a doctoral degree in environmental engineering from the Tsinghua University; and a master's


	<p>degree in water resources management, and a bachelor's degree in hydrology from the Sichuan University. He was also trained at the Harvard Business School through its Executive Development Program.</p>
	<p><b>Bruno Carrasco, Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB</b></p> <p>Bruno Carrasco leads ADB-wide knowledge and innovation work in all thematic and sector operation areas, establishes sector and thematic policies and strategies, and ensures compliance with environment and social safeguards policies. He also oversees the administration of trust funds and global funding initiatives. He provides advice to Management on various ADB-wide strategic and policy matters, annual and medium-term work plans, and major operational matters.</p> <p>He has worked at ADB for more than 23 years and has served in countries across all of its regional departments. An expert in public sector management, and applied economic policy, he was most recently Chief of ADB's Governance Thematic Group, where he defined and sharpened ADB's work on domestic resource mobilization, infrastructure governance, state-owned enterprise reforms, and fiscal decentralization. He was appointed Director General concurrently Chief Compliance Officer on 22 February 2021. He has also worked at the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Development Program, and the European Central Bank.</p> <p>Mr. Carrasco, a national of Spain, holds a doctorate degree in economics from the University of Essex, a master's degree in economics from the University of British Columbia, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Montreal.</p>
	<p><b>Kenichi Yokoyama, Director General, SARD, Asian Development Bank</b></p> <p>Mr. Kenichi Yokoyama is the Director General of Asian Development Bank's (ADB) South Asia Department. He assumed office in May 2020.</p> <p>Mr. Yokoyama oversees the operations of seven sector divisions and six country offices in South Asia regions as well as regional cooperation initiatives. The six countries include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Mr. Yokoyama joined ADB in 1999 and has since occupied progressively responsible positions. Early in his ADB career, he was assigned to project operations in South Asia covering the water resources sector. Between 2012 and 2017, he served as Country Director for Nepal Resident Mission. In 2017, he was appointed as Country Director for India Resident Mission where he stayed until September 2020.</p> <p>Prior to joining ADB, he worked for the Government of Japan (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Embassy of Japan in Dhaka, Bangladesh) for 16 years.</p>

	<p>Mr. Yokoyama is a national of Japan. He holds a master's degree in Agriculture Economics from Stanford University, USA and obtained his undergraduate degree in Agriculture Engineering from Iwate University Japan.</p>
	<p><b>Susana Moreno, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Officer, World Food Programme</b></p> <p>Works as Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Officer in the Research, Analysis and Monitoring Unit of the World Food Programme Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. PhD in Nutritional Anthropology and expert in human ecology, nutrition and food security, she has more than 15 years of experience as researcher and international consultant in food security and nutrition, 11 years working with WFP. Dilated experience in nutrition and food security assessments in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Middle East in emergency and transition contexts including refugee operations, such as Cox's Bazar, Lebanon and South Sudan, among others.</p>
	<p><b>Cristina Coslet, Economist, Global Information and Early Warning System, FAO</b></p> <p>Works as an Economist at the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO since 2012. She is responsible for monitoring the food supply/demand and food security situation in Asia and the Pacific, covering a vast set of 27 countries stretching from Pakistan to Papua New Guinea. She regularly contributes to a variety of FAO's technical reports and publications and conducts country agricultural and market assessments.</p> <p>Previous work experiences include academic research at the Zuse Institute Berlin, an interdisciplinary research centre for applied mathematics and data-intensive high-performing computing, where she used advanced computational skills to solve complex economic problems.</p>
	<p><b>Carlos Estévez Reyes, Economist, Global Information and Early Warning System, FAO</b></p> <p>Works as an Economist at the Global Information and Early Warning System of FAO since 2018. He monitors food markets in West Africa, providing analysis that reflect the trends of food security at the national and subregional levels. He also participates in flagship publications such as the Global Report of Food Crisis and FAO/WFPs Hunger Hotspots Analysis.</p> <p>Prior to this role, for over 6 years Carlos worked as a development professional for the academia and public and private sectors, in social and economic programs and in direct contact with ethnic, rural and urban communities in Colombia.</p>

	<p><b>Vimlendra Sharan, FAO Representative for Sri Lanka and Maldives</b></p> <p>Vimlendra Sharan is FAO Country Representative for Sri Lanka and Maldives. Sharan brings with him nearly three decades of national and international government leadership experience focusing on rural development, agriculture and food security issues. As member of the Indian Administrative Service, he has worked with the Indian Government extensively in rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra and has also been actively involved in agriculture and food policy formulation working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in New Delhi. He comes to Colombo from his previous posting as Director of FAO North America Office before which he was Permanent Representative of India to the Rome based UN Agencies where he served as the Vice President of the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board, Chairman of the Evaluation Committee at International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and a member of the FAO Programme Committee and Council.</p> <p>Sharan holds a degree in Economics from St. Stephen's College in Delhi, India and a MBA in Public Policy from University of Birmingham, UK. He is married to Romonika D Sharan and has two children. Sharan is an avid golfer and a keen long distance runner.</p>
	<p><b>Abdurrahim Siddiqui, Representative and Country Director, WFP, Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>Abdur Rahim Siddiqui assumed duties as Representative and Country Director of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Sri Lanka in April 2021, overseeing the management of WFP's operations in the country. Mr. Siddiqui brings extensive knowledge from the fields of food and nutrition security with a strong background in emergency operations. Harnessing over 30 years' experience with WFP, he spearheads WFP Sri Lanka's activities outlined in its Country Strategic Plan, which has been developed to support the Government in improving food security, responding to emergencies, ending malnutrition, and building resilience of smallholder farmers against recurring climate related shocks.</p>
	<p><b>Sanath Ranawana, Principal Water Resources Specialist, SARD, Asian Development Bank</b></p> <p>Sanath Ranawana is Principal Water Resources Specialist with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has over 25 years of work experience with international development organizations (ADB, World Bank United Nations Environment Program) in agriculture, natural resources, environment, and rural development (ANRD) sectors. He currently handles ANRD sector operations in South Asia, including Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka. He holds Masters' degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA and the University of Texas at Austin, USA, and an undergraduate degree from the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.</p>



	<p><b>H.D. Sudarshana A. Jayasundara, Senior Social Development Officer (Gender), SARD, Asian Development Bank</b></p> <p>Sudarshana Anojan is the Senior Social Development and Gender Specialist in ADB's Sri Lanka Country Office. He carries over 15 years of experience in multi-sector project and program management. He co-leads the processing and administration of ADB's Emergency Assistance Project in Sri Lanka which is ADB's first social protection project in the country.</p>
	<p><b>Martin Lemoine, Unit Head, Agribusiness Investment Team, PSOD, Asian Development Bank</b></p> <p>Martin Lemoine is the Unit Head, Agribusiness at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Martin has 21 years of professional experience, including 16 years of impact-oriented investment in Asia. Martin has led more than 50 equity and debt investments of a total value of around \$10 billion in the agribusiness and infrastructure sectors.</p> <p>Martin joined ADB in 2009 as an Investment Specialist in the Private Sector Infrastructure Finance Division 1. Martin was promoted to Senior Investment Specialist in 2013 and Principal Investment Specialist in 2015. In the same year, Martin led the creation of the Agribusiness Investment Team to provide dedicated focus and expertise to agribusiness investing at ADB. As of 2022, Martin is leading a team of 15 bankers and analysts who deliver 5 to 8 loans and investments amounting to \$150 million to \$300 million every year. With his team, Martin has built an agribusiness portfolio of around \$650 million including companies involved in agricultural input distribution, greenhouse farming, livestock farming, food and beverage processing and distribution. These companies have positively impacted around 8 million smallholder farmers in 21 developing countries of Asia and the Pacific.</p> <p>Prior to joining ADB, Martin was an investment banker with Macquarie's infrastructure team in Singapore. Martin started his career as a McKinsey consultant in Paris. He holds an MBA from the Wharton School (Palmer Scholar), and master degrees from Essec and Sciences Po.</p>
	<p><b>Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator, UNCT, Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy is the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka and leads the UN Country Team of 22 Resident and Non-Resident UN Agencies. She is the representative of the UN Secretary-General in Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Ms. Singer-Hamdy has over three decades of experience with the UN, having worked across development and humanitarian contexts at various senior management and strategic leadership roles.</p> <p>Prior to Sri Lanka, she held several senior leadership positions in UNICEF across the world, including Associate Regional Director UNICEF Geneva and Country Representative for UNICEF in Syria, Nepal, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. She has also led humanitarian</p>

	<p>programmes in Burundi and Haiti and coordinated UNICEF cross border humanitarian operations to Afghanistan from Central Asia and Northern Iraq from Turkey. She also provided technical support to UNICEF humanitarian programmes in the North Caucasus, and the Balkans and Central Asia.</p> <p>A national of Egypt, Ms. Singer-Hamdy holds a Master's degree in Political Sociology and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the American University in Cairo, Egypt.</p>
	<p><b>Chen Chen, Country Director, SLRM, SARD, Asian Development Bank</b></p> <p>Mr. Chen is a national of PRC with over 18 years of professional experience in international development. He joined ADB in 2007 and worked in the organization's Pacific and South Asia departments, overseeing projects in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. Since 2017, he was the Senior Advisor to the Vice-President (Operations 1) and led quality management on strategies, business plans, projects, and technical assistance in 16 developing countries in Central and West Asia, as well as in South Asia. In 2020, Mr. Chen was appointed as Country Director for Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Mr. Chen holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in the United States; a master's degree from South China University of Technology; and a bachelor's degree from Tsinghua University in the People's Republic of China. He has authored sixteen publications on transport asset management, climate change, and public-private partnership, including three in peer-reviewed journals.</p>