Food Systems Insights

Where Is the Nutrition Opportunity? Rethinking Food Systems Investments

6 October 2026
3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m., Manila time (GMT+8)
Online via Zoom

Register via Zoom
Meeting ID: 929 8789 7100
Passcode: AFNR2026

Rationale

ADB has committed $40 billion for food systems transformation, with nutrition and healthy diets identified as a key pillar. ADB also aims for at least 25% of all agriculture, food, nature, and rural development sector (AFNR) operations to be nutrition-sensitive by 2030.

The recently published Guidance Note on Nutrition Integration for Food Systems Transformation provides practical framework for identifying these opportunities across AFNR operations.

Ahead of its official launch in October, this webinar will offer a first look at the opportunities for nutrition integration through an operational lens. Drawing on the experience of ADB leaders and project teams, the discussion will explore where nutrition can add value to AFNR investments, what this could mean for project design, and how the new Guidance Note can help teams translate these opportunities into action.

Objectives

This webinar aims to:

- Promote interest in how nutrition can add value to AFNR investments;
- identify practical entry points for nutrition integration through the experience of ADB operational leaders;
- introduce the Guidance Note as a practical resource for identifying and designing nutrition - sensitive investments; and
- build momentum toward the October launch and Investment Design Lab, where these approaches will be applied to real projects.

Participants

The webinar will bring together colleagues and partners working across agriculture, food systems, natural resources, nutrition, rural development, and related sector, research organizations, and civil society.

Moderators

- **Omer Zafar**, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2 (SD2-AFNR)
- **Tomoko Kato**, Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, SD2-AFNR

Speakers

- **Winfried Wicklein**, Director General, Sectors Department 2 (SD2), ADB
- **Takeshi Ueda**, Director, South Asia, and Agriculture Value Chain and Nutrition Team Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Cluster, Sectors Department 2, ADB
- **Au Shion Yee**, Director, Natural Capital and Climate, and East Asia Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Cluster, Sectors Department 2, ADB
- **Keiko Nowacka,** Director, Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB
- **Sofia Shakil**, Director, East, Central and West Asia, Human and Social Development Cluster, Sectors Department 3, ADB

Program

Moderators: ▪ **Omer Zafar,** Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2 (SD2-AFNR) ▪ **Tomoko Kato**, Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, SD2-AFNR	
3:03 p.m.– 3:07 p.m.	**Welcome Remarks** ▪ **Winfried Wicklein,** Director General, Sectors Department 2 *Why nutrition and healthy diets matter to ADB's broader food systems transformation agenda -why this is an opportunity for AFNR operations*
3:07 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.	**Leadership Conversation: Seeing the Nutrition Opportunity**

	▪ **Takeshi Ueda**, Director, South Asia, and Agriculture Value Chain and Nutrition Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Cluster, Sectors Department 2, ADB ▪ **Au Shion Yee**, Director, Natural Capital and Climate, and East Asia Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Cluster, Sectors Department 2, ADB ▪ **Keiko Nowacka,** Director, Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB ▪ **Sofia Shakil**, Director, East, Central and West Asia, Human and Social Development Cluster, Sectors Department 3, ADB Facilitated by **Omer Zafar,** Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, SD2-AFNR *A practical conversation drawing on operational experience:* • *Where can nutrition add value to investments we are already making?* • *Where are we potentially missing opportunities?* • *What would make nutrition integration practical for project teams?*
3:30 p.m.– 3:33 p.m.	**A First Look at What Is Coming** *A brief introduction to ADB's new Guidance Note on Nutrition Integration for Food Systems Transformation—and an invitation to discover the framework, tools, and practical applications at the internal October Launch and Investment Design Lab (open to ADB staff only).*
3:33 p.m.– 3:41 p.m.	**Voices from Operations and Closing** *Short perspectives from ADB operational colleagues:* *"Where do you see the biggest opportunity for nutrition to add value to your investments?"*
3:41 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.	**Closing Remarks** ▪ **Takeshi Ueda**, Director, South Asia, and Agriculture Value Chain and Nutrition Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Cluster, Sectors Department 2, ADB