



## #ADBSustainableFood Webinar Series



# Fighting for Food Security: Lessons from Cross-Country Approaches

## #ADB Rural Development & Food Security

**Talking Points of ED Liu**  
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1. The 2022 China and Global Food Policy Report, with the theme of “Optimizing Agricultural Support Policies to Promote the Transformation of Agri-food Systems,” is very timely. While PRC has, so far, met its considerable challenges of feeding its large population, increase in per capita income and change in dietary preferences, are creating gaps. To meet these gaps, the focus of food security needs to shift from staple grains to a diverse basket of food products.
2. PRC faces 4 key food security challenges.  
First, limited availability of arable land and inadequate capacity of seed industry to innovate. With one-fifth of the world’s population but only 9% of arable land, there is growing dependence on imports for key commodities such as soybean. Farm productivity needs to improve and seed technology is viewed as a key enabler.  
Second, significant carbon footprint is a huge challenge with increasing grain and livestock production. While PRC has reduced support for chemical fertilizers since 2015, its 2060 goal of carbon neutrality requires a higher focus on transformation of agri-food systems.  
Third, constraints in domestic agricultural support policies. At present, policies lack adequate focus on nutrition, health, natural resources and

the environment. Thus, it is difficult to meet the national objectives of green, healthy, nutritious and high-quality development.

And fourth, increased risks of shocks like pandemics, wars, etc. to agriculture, in addition to traditional risks of weather and markets.

3. To address these issues, PRC needs to transform its agriculture through holistic and multisector approaches. In the short term, transfer payment policies and food subsidy vouchers can enable a wider adoption of healthier diets. In the long term, green and low carbon technologies in agriculture should be encouraged through appropriate policies. Focus on slow and controlled-release fertilizers, deep fertilization machinery and organic-inorganic compound fertilizers, along with cutting edge technologies in ~~genetics and carbon sequestration~~ should be increased. The report highlights this and analyzes the impact of PRC's agricultural support policies on its food security and nutrition, environment, sustainability of its resources and international trade. The report also suggests revisiting the target of agricultural support policies to promote healthier and more balanced diets, and support a green, low carbon, sustainable development. I sincerely hope that the report catalyzes the transformation of PRC's agri-food systems into green, nutritious, low carbon and resilient ones to ensure food security in the PRC but also in the rest of the world.
4. In line with this strategic direction, PRC Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund has supported the knowledge and support technical assistance (TA) for Green and Resilient Rural Recovery through Agri-Food System Transformation in the Asia and Pacific Region. This TA will a) assess the impact of shocks on regional food security and nutrition b) identify and develop innovative nature-based solutions to transform agri-

food systems c) test and demonstrate climate smart agriculture interventions d) Introduce approaches to develop sustainable and inclusive agribusiness value chains

5. The knowledge developed through this TA would inform project design in DMCs across Asia and the Pacific and promote South-South learning. Comprehensive assessments carried out by the TA would enable DMCs to formulate evidence-based responses on investments, policy and technology.