



Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2019 – List of Resources

Session 1: Farming Crisis

The session describes the current challenges of farming and proposes transformative changes in policies and approaches to make farming profitable, highly productive, and attractive to youth in the region.

Title and Link	Overview
1. 10 reasons why farmers are in distress	The article lists 10 reasons that have contributed to farmers distress in India. Two successive years of drought (2014, 2015) have taken a toll on the farm sector. Prices have collapsed for farm commodities. Low international prices have meant exports have been hit while import have hurt prices at home.
2. A country of famished farmers	Cases of farmer's suicides have been documented in Bangladesh due to persistent losses in crops. Every year, Bangladesh's farmers incur huge losses with their products due to the lack of storage facilities and the government's failure to control the market.
3. Agrarian crisis one of the biggest challenges for new govt	The article gives a glimpse of the challenges and tasks ahead for the new government. More than the money, the long-term challenges need consensus to implement tough but necessary reforms to address the agricultural crisis in India. Sustainability, more than anything else is agriculture's biggest challenge.
4. Can agriculture be profitable and attractive?	The success story of Israel and Taiwan in increasing agricultural productivity gives lessons on what the Philippines can do better. The members of the Agri Viber group share their insights on what could work locally including how to engage the youth in farming and make it a profitable business for Filipinos.
5. Defend our rice farmers now	The Philippine Rice Research Institute Vice President argues that the 35-percent tariff under the rice ratification law will translate to 40 percent of Filipino farmers suffering. The Rice Enhancement Competitiveness Fund is helpful, but miniscule compared to what the farmers are losing. It is now up to the DA to find solutions to defend our rice farmers.
6. Farm economy in crisis (video)	The strain in today's farm economy is no accident; it's the result of policies designed to enrich corporations at the expense of farmers and ranchers. If the American family farmer is to survive, farm policy needs a massive shift in direction – one that

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	delivers fair prices to farmers that allow them to make a living.
7. Farm Life: Why Gitanjali Rajamani quit everything to go back to farming	Farmizen, a startup in Kerala, India that allows you to rent farmland outside the city to grow your food in a secure and organic manner. The COO shares her journey. They now have about 1500 subscribers and 24 farms across three cities with around 40 acres under cultivation.
8. Farming veteran warns China's pig crisis only getting worse	African swine fever is under-reported says FCStone's Suderman. It will spur a restructure of China's entire farm industry and trigger an escalation in meat prices globally. China's pork deficit may eclipse U.S. production, economist says.
9. India's farm crisis: decades old and with deep roots	Prof. Himanshu argues that the crisis in Indian agriculture today is not a new one; it goes back many years. Therefore, the problems of farmers cannot be addressed by the band-aids of higher minimum support prices and cash transfers. He presents an analysis of the causes and an outline of what needs to be done.
10. India's farming crisis is a crisis of the ecological commons	The agro-pastoral crisis has emerged as a significant issue for the 2019 national Lok Sabha elections in India. In the run-up to the elections, political parties have announced a number of measures aimed at farmers, including crop insurance, loan waivers and a minimum basic income. In this commentary, Harini Nagendra and Rucha Ghate make a case that the current agro-pastoral crisis is an ecological crisis; a crisis of the commons.
11. Indonesia facing agricultural labor crisis as younger generations shy away from farming	Since Indonesia is running out of young farmers, a number of relevant authorities discussed the younger generation's reluctance to work in the fields and how they hold the key to the country's food supply.
12. Indonesia's aging farmers	Fewer young people are looking to work the paddies, threatening Indonesia's dream of rice self-sufficiency.
13. Misunderstanding the rice crisis	If we misunderstand the rice crisis, we will come up with short-sighted solutions. There are two major areas of this misunderstanding: the extent of suffering of the rice farmers and the wrong identification of the main cause of our problem.
14. No way to stop it: millions of pigs culled across Asia as swine fever spreads	Experts say region is losing the battle to stop the biggest animal disease outbreak the planet has ever faced.
15. Report: Declining farm output creating new migration crisis in Bangladesh	Decreased yields from agriculture and fisheries sectors have contributed in creating a new migration crisis for Bangladesh's coastal cities, which face their own climate change challenges, according to a report

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	by the United States Government Accountability Office.
16. Southeast Asia in 2019: four issues to watch	With elections and governance challenges in many countries, the Chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) returning to Thailand while it organizes an election and plans a coronation, the region's trade architecture in flux, and the backdrop of growing U.S.-China strategic rivalry and trade friction, these are the key issues to watch in 2019.
17. Southeast Asia: Drought –2019-2020	The status of the ongoing drought, water shortage and saltwater intrusion on Southeast Asian countries are discussed in this article.
18. The Battle to Curb Swine Fever in Southeast Asia	The subregion has not been exempt from the Swine Fever epidemic, and worries have been rising. Some experts are thinking of shifting toward large-scale industrial pig farming is a potential solution.
19. The Farm Crisis of 2019: History Repeats with Ag Sector Debt	Farming, an essential industry segment, is a primary source of our food and related products. Many variables affect farming, including weather, general economic conditions and government intervention, just for starters. The last major farm crisis is now 40 years in the rear view, but today's farmers are experiencing a parallel phenomenon.
20. The Global Food Crisis is Here	While extreme weather poses a real threat to human societies, some of the most worrying aspects of climate change are much less obvious and almost even invisible. A 1,400-page report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) explores the impacts of climate breakdown on our food system.
21. The tragedy of the Filipino rice farmers	This article discusses the agricultural crisis in the Philippines, how the Rice tariffication would affect Filipino farmers, and what local governments, national agencies can do.
22. UN commits to help Pacific Island agriculture adapt and survive climate crisis	The UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) pledged to work hand in hand with the people of the Pacific to improve nutrition, and mitigate the worst effects of climate change, which pose an existential threat to many island nations across the region.
23. Underrated crisis in agriculture and fisheries	The author suggests strategic agriculture and fisheries reforms to increase agricultural productivity in the Philippines. Change would need shift in agriculture and fisheries policy and the environment for agribusiness.
24. Why is Asia so food insecure?	Only two countries from Asia Pacific—Singapore and Global Food Security Index measures how affordable, available, safe and up-to-standard food is

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	across 113 countries. How can the world's most populous region improve food security?
25. World Food crisis looms if carbon emissions go unchecked, UN says	The impacts of climate change on land will raise food prices and risk widespread food instability, says the IPCC's latest report. But there are solutions.

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23. Agriculture needs 1991-like reforms push	Agriculture and manufacturing sectors showed signs of slowing down in 2018 in India. Four steps — income support, Centre-State action, RBI moves and change in bank attitudes — can transform the sector.
24. Beyond MSPs & loan waivers, Modi govt must make agricultural market reforms its top priority	For the vast majority of Indian farmers, the declaration of Minimum Support Prices without procurement has no effect on prices.
25. DCs asked to ensure procurement of paddy directly from farmers	Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder today asked all deputy commissioners to ensure that paddy is procured directly from farmers to meet the target of rice procurement set by the government.
26. Farmers not doing well	Low paddy prices hit growers across Bangladesh; govt yet to find an immediate fix.
27. Farmers' Share of Food Spending Drops	For each dollar Americans spend on food, 14.6 cents go to farmers, according to the latest figures from USDA Economic Research Service. The report, using 2017 data, marks the sixth straight year farmers have earned a smaller share of domestic food spending.
28. Four reasons small farms are running out of water – and how we can fix it	Water scarcity is a top risk to global food production. In a new book chapter, we argue that this narrow focus on technologies fails to tackle the complex and unexpected dynamics causing water scarcity on small farms. So what are the real sources of water scarcity for smallholders?
29. Here's why we must decode a farmer's balance sheet and focus on innovations to improve his financial health	The high dependence of a farmer on debt along with low savings rate (driven by poor profitability) make the balance sheet fragile and, at times, unsustainable.
30. India can pay ₹500 to each citizen every month: Economist Guy Standing	In a conversation with Guy Standing, economist at the School Of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, he says that neither the Narendra Modi government nor Rahul Gandhi have gotten minimum income scheme right.
31. Indian Farming's Next Big Moment: Farming as a service	Given the importance of agriculture in India, both the government and private players are working to improve the efficiency and productivity of Indian agriculture and exploring how Farming as a Service (FaaS) solutions can play a role. FaaS seeks to provide affordable technology solutions for efficient farming.

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32. Low-emissions rice in Vietnam: Options, ambition, feasibility and investment	A large part of Viet Nam's mitigation plan involves agriculture, specifically in the rice sector. In this webinar, experts will present a comprehensive, comparative analysis of potentially viable low emissions development practices and supporting interventions in the rice supply chain.
33. Market Access and Trade Liberalisation in Fisheries	The main objective of this paper is to enable discussion and provide analysis on critical market access and trade liberalisation issues in fisheries, including recommendations on how fisheries might be taken into account in the current non-agricultural market access negotiations. The paper analyses the pros and cons of liberalising fish trade, and explores options for accelerated liberalisation of the fish sector.
34. Mechanization Growth and Declining Farm Size in South Asia: Exploring the Role of Biological Technologies in Nepal Terai	We test the hypotheses that high-yielding technologies, which potentially raise returns to more intensive farm power use, are important drivers of adoptions of agricultural mechanization among smallholders. We do so by using two-rounds of Agricultural Census data in Nepal, as well as Nepal Living Standard Survey (NLSS), and indicators of agroclimatic similarity with plant-breeding locations within Nepal.
35. NGOs and agriculture anchors	For the Filipino small farmers today, agriculture is not profitable. Other NGOs can focus on helping create and mobilize these anchors. It is the change necessary to make our agriculture profitable, sustainable and a key to the country's inclusive growth.

