



# #ADB Sustainable Food Webinar Series

Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group



## Rikolto: Sustainable Production, Inclusive and Enabling Environments Towards Food System Transformation and Resilience

#ADB Sustainable Food

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### QINGFENG ZHANG

Chief, Rural Development and Food Security Thematic Group Secretariat (SDTC-AR)  
concurrently, OIC, Chief Environment Thematic Group Secretariat (SDTC-ENV) Sustainable  
Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

### OPENING REMARKS

Good evening, good afternoon or good morning to our distinguished speakers, colleagues, and guests, wherever you may be. It is my pleasure to welcome you all to another edition of the ADB Sustainable Food Webinar Series.

Farming is an integral part of Asia-Pacific economies, supporting 65% of all employment and 29% of the GDP. To support inclusive and resilient growth while securing the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers, we would need to enable farming systems that are viable in the long term.

Today, climate change has emerged as the primary disruptor of agricultural systems. In this backdrop, sustainable and resource-efficient agricultural practices help farmers adapt to change, reduce harmful GHG emissions and protect their livelihoods. Sustainable food production would not be effective enough without the development of sustainable food value chains that offer pathways out of poverty – such as local processing and energy-efficient logistics. Food waste reduction represents an important but often overlooked part of sustainable food systems.

Sustainable food systems are also at the heart of ADB's focus on green and inclusive recovery and aligned with its Strategy 2030. To take us further towards this vision, ADB is developing a three-pillared Innovative Natural Capital Financing Facility (INCF) – consisting of a Natural Capital Lab, Natural Capital Fund and a Marketplace Platform. The INCF would enable the development of sustainable agri-food value chains through the preparation and financing of green,

climate-friendly projects. Project preparation would also entail the design of eco-compensation schemes/ payment for ecosystem services mechanisms. INCCFF would also monitor policy and regulatory regimes pertaining to sustainability across countries and suggest improvements as appropriate through the NCL.

Typically, the development of sustainable agri-food value chains needs a high level of alignment among various players in the value chain including farmers, private sector, government, financial institutions, and civil society groups. I am very happy to see that our top experts from Rikolto here to present their experiences around sustainable rice production, coffee and cocoa value chains, agro-forestry and PES mechanism and food smart city approaches to reduce food waste.

Value chains such as rice, coffee and cocoa are critical for Asia given the large number of farmers that depend upon them for their livelihood but also for the impact that climate change has on them. I understand that Rikolto has substantial experience in working with diverse partners to strengthen these commodity sectors and to address the wider food system challenges of cities. Rikolto's focus on smallholder farmers, preservation of natural assets for long-term sustainable growth and innovative approaches to urban food security through urban farming, waste management and promotion of a circular economy are well aligned with ADB's approach. I believe we could find several areas of mutual interest and pathways to collaboration between the two institutions so as to maximize development impact in Asia-Pacific.

Thank you.