

Asia-Pacific Food Security and Rural Development Forum 2022

Technical Session 2: Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems

Southeast Asia Department
Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
Division

23 March 2022







I. Structural economic transformation

Country grouping	Agri. value added	Agri. employment
	as % of GDP	as % of total
		employment
	(2019)	(2019)
Low income	26%	60%
Lower middle income	15%	38%
Middle income	8%	29%
Upper middle income	6%	21%
High income	1%	3%



- In lower income countries, labor productivity in agriculture is low, farm incomes are low, onfarm investment is low, technological modernization is limited, and the sector is not competitive
- Policy, financing and incentives needed for industry and services growth



II. Business environment (doing business index)

Asian Development Bank country groupings				
Country Group	Definition	Avg. Score		
DMCs Group A	concessional	55.7		
DMCs Group B	OCR blend	58.8		
DMCs Group C	OCR only	74.6		
DMCs average		62.3		

Groups based on GNI/capita and credit-worthiness

World Bank country groupings			
Country Group	GNI/capita	Avg. Score	
Low income	<\$1,045	46.4	
Lower middle income	\$1,046 - \$4,095	58.1	
Upper middle income	\$4,096 - \$12,695	65.0	
High income	>\$12,696	78.3	



The business environment in developing countries is not conducive to private sector investment. This affects the efficiency and competitiveness of food systems – input supply, processing, packaging, marketing, distribution, food safety and so on.

Policy environment needed to create an enabling business environment for private sector investment to transform food systems.



III. Environmentally sustainable food systems

Current food systems characterized by wide-scale environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, unsustainable practices, and sharply increasing climate challenges



Policy options:

- Proper economic valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services
- *R&D* for climate-smart technologies and diversified farming systems
- Environmental regulations and environmental taxes
- Payments for environmental services (PES) such as eco-compensation
- Environmental markets (tradable permits for regulating environmental externalities)
- Traceability and eco-labelling

Thank you

