



Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

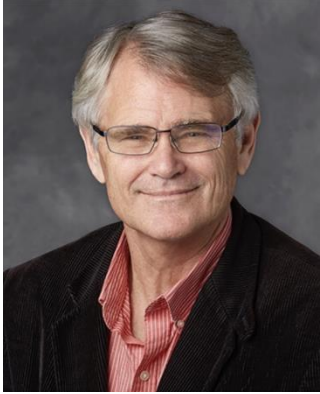
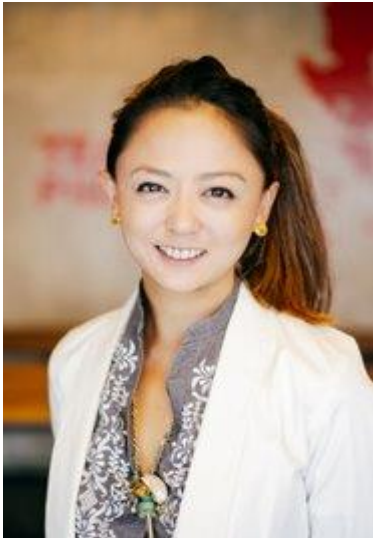

22–24 March (Virtual)

Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-Food Systems



SPEAKERS' PROFILE Day 2: 23 March 2022

Speaker	Profile
Recap: Day 1 Activities and Sessions	
	<p>Md Abul Basher, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank</p>
Deep Dive 1: The Role of Education in Reducing Rural-Urban Divide	
	<p>Moderator: Brajesh Panth, Chief, Education Sector, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Brajesh Panth is the Chief of Education Sector Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He provides technical leadership to the education sector group (EdSG) in ADB, leads the preparation of the EdSG work plan, and facilitates collaboration across sector and thematic groups in ADB and with external partners. He has over 25 years of progressive experience as project team leader, head of project administration unit, lead education specialist, and chief of EdSG, in the education sector including sector assessment, project processing, implementation, evaluation, and policy dialogue, covering all levels—primary, secondary, technical, and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education. Besides coordinating and contributing to several publications, Mr. Panth has made several presentations in different fora and contributed to policy analysis, policy dialogue, and analytical work pertaining to different aspects of education reform. He holds masters and doctorate degrees in education</p>

	<p>administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University, USA.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p>Scott Rozelle, Helen F. Farnsworth Senior Fellow and the co-director of the Rural Education Action Program, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University</p> <p>Scott Rozelle is professor and senior fellow in the Freeman Spogli Institute of International Studies in Stanford University. He co-directs the Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions. His work focuses mostly on many aspects of rural China's economy. He has received many awards from China's government and is an adjunct professor and 10 different Chinese universities.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Panelists</p> <p>Clarissa Delgado, Co-Founder & CEO, Teach for Philippines</p> <p>Selected out of over 21,000 applications from 191 countries, Clarissa is a member of the inaugural 2018 class of Obama Foundation Fellows. Clarissa is also a 2019 recipient of the national The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service Award (TOWNS) and the Ten Outstanding Young Men and Women Award (TOYM) presented by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, as well as the regional Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leaders Award both in 2016 and the Global Mover Award from Rappler, the organization of Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa. In 2017, she successfully defended her Master's thesis at the Ateneo de Manila University. Entitled, " A Historical Analysis of the Philippine Public Education System (1901 - 2017) and an Investigation of External Investments in Access and Quality " Clarissa wrote the first successfully proposed and defended Historical Analysis in the Ateneo de Manila's Graduate School of Education; she graduated in May 2018.</p> <p>Clarissa holds a B.A. in History and Art History from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. in Education, majoring in Educational Administration from Ateneo de Manila University.</p>
	<p>Md. Saidur Rahman, Professor & Former Head Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Bangladesh Agricultural University.</p> <p>Professor Mohammad Saidur Rahman holds PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Bangladesh Agricultural University in collaboration with IRRI, Philippines and Purdue University, USA. He completed MSc on Development and Resource Economics from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. His professional interest is irrigation management, climate change and food security. He published 73 journal articles and proceedings including referred journals like Food Policy. He was Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Bangladesh Agricultural University. He is the Vice President of Bangladesh Economic Association's executive committee. He is</p>

also International Secretary of the Bangladesh Agricultural Economists' Association. Currently, he is Director, Institute of Agribusiness and Development Studies at the Bangladesh Agricultural University. He is also working as the Focal Point of BAU to coordinate the ADB proposed project on Strengthening Agricultural Tertiary Education. He is the Bangladesh host country PI of the FSIL funded project, Enhancing Food and Chicken Value Chains of Bangladesh.



Meekyung Shin, Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Meekyung Shin is Education Specialist at Education Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank. She is specialized in the innovation and internationalization of higher education. Before she joined ADB, she worked for higher education divisions in Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea as director or deputy director, including university students affairs, employment and startup support, graduate program (including law and medicine), university scholarship and loan.

Deep Dive 2: Urban/Controlled Environment Farming—New Window for Fresh and Nutritious Food



Moderator: Michiko Katagami, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB

Keynote Address

William Dar, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines

Dr. William D. Dar is a champion of the poor especially the small farmers, fisherfolks and agripreneurs. His servant leadership, guided by solid and enunciated principles of food security, has bestowed laurels such as the “Lifetime Achievers Award” during the Asia Leaders Award 2020, “Lifetime Contributor Award” by the Asia CEO Awards, and “Presidential Award” accorded by the University of the Philippines Los Baños Alumni Association.

Earlier in 1988, he was recognized as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines. In 2016, Dr. Dar received “The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award” in cognizance of his servant-leadership, which was instrumental in transforming the



International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) from a struggling institute to one of the top performing centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). In his 15 years of outstanding achievements as Director General of ICRISAT, he championed and institutionalized an overarching strategy called Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD), to which the farmers became active participants for their own welfare. At present, he is advocating the same strategy in pursuit of inclusive agribusiness in the Philippines.

Prior to his international stint, he was a distinctive Professor 6 at Benguet State University (BSU) and became Vice President for Ramped in 1985-1987. Dr. Dar's expertise in government service started when he became the founding Director of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) in 1987-1994. Afterwards, he served as Executive Director of the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) in 1994-1998, and later appointed as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) under President Joseph Estrada Administration in 1998-1999. During his term as DA Secretary, the Philippine agriculture achieved a remarkable 9.6% growth, which has never been achieved until today.

In 2014, he founded the InangLupa Movement Inc. that advocates and calls action for agricultural modernization and rural industrialization anchored on inclusiveness, science-based, resilient, and market-oriented development.

Dr. Dar reprised his role as Agriculture Secretary in 2019, this time under the President Rodrigo Duterte Administration, with the vision of a food-secure and resilient Philippines with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk. He is pushing for the transformation of Philippine agriculture thru the OneDA Reform Agenda with four major pillars: consolidation, modernization, industrialization, and professionalization.

Secretary William Dar's formidable accomplishments is a result of his high standard for academic excellence. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education from the Mountain State Agricultural College (MSAC), now BSU, in 1973; Master of Science in Agronomy from MSAC in 1976, and Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) in 1980. Cognizant of his leadership and laurels, he was awarded ten (10) doctorate degrees honoris causa by various higher educational institutions in the country.

Behind the success of Dr. Dar, are his wife Beatriz Meria Dar and four children – May, William Jr (+), Celeste and Christine, who served as his inspiration.

Panelists



Sairam Reddy Palicherla, Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer in UrbanKisaan Farms, India

Dr. Sairam is a passionate researcher and entrepreneur, aimed towards developing environmentally safe and sustainable agricultural technologies.

He obtained his PhD in Plant Biotechnology. He did his Post-Doctoral research in IISc, Bangalore as a National Fellow of Biotechnology and in University of Delaware, USA as a NIH Fellow. He also did various courses from NALSAR, Indian School of Business, Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore, Stanford, MITx and Harvard Universities.

Currently he is leading the R&D of his own start-up 'UrbanKisaan', a vertical farming pioneer in India. UrbanKisaan is listed in the top 5 most influential projects in India for the year 2020 by PMI. UrbanKisaan was also awarded "Start-up of the Year 2021" by Economic Times, "Company of the Year 2021" by The Inner Review and, "Global Sustainability Award" and "Innovative Social Enterprise of the Year 2021" by TiE Sustainability Summit 2021. UrbanKisaan received investments from the leading investors like Y-Combinator, USA and BASF, Germany.



Gloria Kraus, Chief Executive Officer, Hollbium

Gloria is a German Sustainability Scientist who moved to Sweden in 2020. In 2021 she was recognized as Sweden's Top Leader in Impact and Sustainability under 35 by Nova111. She has worked as a banker, as a trainee in the European Commission and coordinated international EU-research projects; on topics such as European fisheries, digitization for sustainability in producing companies and bioeconomy for strengthening regional value chains. Gloria is passionate about solving problems with practical solutions and bringing ideas from the lab to market readiness. Gloria is currently CEO and Founder in two Swedish startups.



Maria Tran, Senior Project Officer (Urban Development), Asian Development Bank

Maria is an engineer with over ten years' experience working with regional, rural, and vulnerable communities to access critical services such as water and sanitation. Her recent work in Nauru working in the water, sanitation, and solid waste management sectors particularly highlights the unique way in which these services can impact nutrition, agriculture, and climate-resilience. Maria will share her experience in combining urban agriculture with water and sanitation solutions for the climate resilient and nutrition- smart recovery of Nauru.

Technical Session 2: Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems



Moderator: Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Jiangfeng Zhang is the Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department, concurrently Co-Chair, Environment Thematic Group, of Asian Development Bank (ADB). Since 2002 to date, he has been leading and supporting the development, design, and implementation of agriculture, natural resources, and rural development sector projects covering countries in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Central and West Asia. His current focus is on policy, institutional, financing, and technological supports to inclusive, climate resilient, and environmentally sustainable agriculture and rural development for enhanced agriculture competitiveness and food security in Southeast Asia countries. He holds a Doctorate in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a Master's degree in Statistics from the University of California, Berkeley, USA.



Opening Remarks

Bruno Carrasco, Director General, concurrently Chief Compliance Officer, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank

Bruno Carrasco leads ADB-wide knowledge, innovation, policies and strategies in all thematic and sector operation areas and ensures compliance with environment and social safeguards policies. He oversees the administration of trust funds and global funding initiatives and provides advice to Management on strategic and policy matters, work plans, and major operational matters. He joined ADB 23 years ago and has served in countries across all its regional departments. He holds a doctorate degree in economics from the University of Essex.



Keynote Address

Louis Verchot, Principal Scientist and Leader of the Land Restoration Group, International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Dr. Louis Verchot is a Principal Scientist and Lead of the Land Restoration Group at the Alliance Bioversity – CIAT, based in Colombia. He has been working throughout the tropics on forestry and agriculture issues with a climate change focus for the past 35 years. His work in Asia focuses on deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, land-use change, peatland degradation, and REDD+, among others.

He has worked with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 2003, and recently was a lead author on the Special Report on Climate Change and Land. He is currently developing a new CGIAR initiative on low-emissions, climate resilient food systems development.

Panelists



Jean Balié, Director General, International Rice Research Institute

Jean Balié has over two decades of experience in leadership and expertise developing policies for agriculture, food, and rural development.

Dr. Balié is currently the Director General of the International Rice Research Institute, and the Regional Director for South East Asia and the Pacific of the CGIAR. As Director General of IRRI, he sets the global strategic direction of the institute and manages its affairs in accordance with the policies and decisions of the IRRI Board of Trustees.

He joined IRRI in 2018 as Head of the Agri-Food Policy Platform and, before becoming Director General, served as Research Director - External Engagement and Deputy Director General for Research. Prior to IRRI, Dr. Balié worked as a Policy Officer, Senior Economist, and Program Manager at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He earned his PhD in agricultural economics at the University of Göttingen in Germany, and has master's degrees from Montpellier SupAgro, École Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse (ENSAT) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).





Sudarshan Dutta, Lead Agronomist, Agoro Carbon Alliance (Yara)


Dr. Sudarshan Dutta has more than 15 years of working as agriculture scientist in smallholder farming system.



Presently Dr. Dutta is working as Lead Agronomist (India) at Agoro Carbon Alliance, a Norway based Carbon Farming organization. Dr. Dutta promotes sustainable management practices in Indian farming systems and provides leadership in planning and execution of carbon farming in India.

Before joining Agoro Carbon Alliance, Dr. Dutta worked as Program Manager and Scientist at African Plant Nutrition Institute (APNI), Morocco, and worked extensively with smallholder farming in North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa other part since May 2019. His present responsibility includes development of research and scientific evidence to define best nutrient management practices and building capacity thorough education, and student advising. He is the Program Coordinator of the Soil Health Livestock System (SHLS) program of the institute. He is also the adjunct faculty at School of Agriculture, Fertilizers & Environmental Sciences, University Mohammed VI - Polytechnic, Morocco, one of the best universities of Africa having significant number of international students.

Before joining APNI, Dr. Dutta has worked as Deputy Director at the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), and was

	<p>responsible for research and extension activities of the institute in Eastern India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.</p> <p>Dr. Dutta did his Postdoctoral Research in Watershed and Hydrochemistry at Department of Bioresource Engineering, University of Delaware.</p> <p>Dr. Dutta received his PhD in Soil Science from the Department of Soil Sciences at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, USA. He received several awards and published more than 100 peer reviewed scientific articles in international high impact journals, science-based magazine articles, popular articles, and policy briefs</p>
	<p>Samantha Hung, Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Samantha Hung is the Chief of Gender at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) where she provides leadership for advancing gender equality across all aspects of ADB operations and knowledge work. Samantha has over 20 years of experience in gender equality at project, program and policy levels in the Asia Pacific. Before ADB, she held various gender advisor and specialist roles for the New Zealand Agency for International Development, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNICEF, Australian Government Office on the Status of Women and UK Institute of Development Studies attached to the University of Sussex.</p> <p>Samantha is also a seasoned provider of management support, including for an ADB Vice President and the Director General of Budget and Human Resources, and was previously the Deputy Representative of ADB's European Representative Office. She started her international development career as a Australian-funded volunteer in Vietnam.</p> <p>Samantha is a dual Australian/UK citizen. She holds a Masters in International Development from RMIT University in Melbourne, Honors Law and Commerce degrees from the University of Melbourne, and a post-graduate qualification in Human Resources Management from CIPD, UK.</p>
	<p>Revisit and Reflect for Revision: Sharing of Experiences, Voices from Development Practitioners, Farmers, Youth, and Women</p> <p>Omer A. Zafar, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Omer serves as a Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist of the Asian Development Bank, covering Southeast Asia. He is currently based at the ADB resident mission in Lao PDR.</p>

	<p>Before joining ADB, he worked for IFAD and UNOPS, where he covered about 35 countries of Southeast Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and the Caribbean. Most recently, Omer served as IFAD Country Director for Bangladesh and the Maldives.</p> <p>Omer's worked has focused on global, regional, and country-level policy and strategy related to agriculture, food systems, natural capital and climate change, and leading large and complex investment portfolios in these sectors.</p> <p>Omer is an economist with a bachelor's degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the University of Cambridge.</p>
	<p>Romina Cavatassi, Lead Economist, International Fund for Agricultural Development</p> <p>Romina Cavatassi is in charge leading a number of Impact Assessments (IA) and in setting up a systematic approach for sound IA. This involves defining the theory of change and related indicators, developing the tools for data collection, leading the training and the data collection as well as data analysis and dissemination of results. She is also collaborating in mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>Prior to joining IFAD, Cavatassi worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations where she focused on development and natural resource economics. Over the last few years she worked on Climate Smart Agriculture and earlier on agrobiodiversity.</p> <p>She holds a PhD in Natural Resource and Development Economics from Wageningen University and Research Centre, an MSc in Environmental Assessment and Evaluation from the London School of Economics and a Masters level degree in Economics from the University of Bologna.</p>
	<p>Le Hoang Anh, Senior Official, Department of Science Technology and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</p> <p>Dr. Hoang Anh Le earned his master degree in VNU University of Science (Hanoi, Vietnam) in 2002 and another one in Asian Institute of Technology (AIT, Bangkok, Thailand) in 2007 on Environmental Engineering Management. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in Environmental System Engineering from the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST, Seoul, Korea) in 2012. Recently, he is working as a lecturer, also holding the head position of Department of Environmental Management at Faculty of Environmental Sciences, VNU University of Science which is the largest member of Vietnam National University (VNU) in Hanoi. His research interests include: Atmospheric pollution; Air quality monitoring and modeling; Emission inventory; Indoor air</p>

	<p>quality; Bioaerosol; Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs); and Climate change.</p>
<p>Technical Session 3: Intersectoral Approach to Nutrition Security</p>	
	<p>Moderator: Yasmin Siddiqi, Director, Central and Weast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi is a chartered civil engineer (UK) and has a post graduate degree in irrigation engineering (UK). She has over 25 years of experience in natural resources management, including integrated water resources management, irrigation, knowledge solutions and leading teams at Asian Development Bank (ADB). She is currently the operational director for agriculture and natural resources in the Central and West Asia Department of ADB.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote Address</p> <p>Mandana Arabi, Vice President, Nutrition International</p> <p>As Vice-President, Global Technical Services and Chief Technical Advisor at Nutrition International, Mandana oversees the technical quality of Nutrition International’s programming in 10 countries and leads a team of experts to address the most challenging gaps in evidence and practice in order to improve nutrition, especially for vulnerable populations and those most in need, including adolescents’ girls, women, and young children.</p> <p>Mandana is a trained doctor with a PhD in Nutrition Sciences from Cornell University and has more than 15 years of experience in public health nutrition, designing, implementing, and evaluating nutrition interventions in countries with a high burden of malnutrition. She has also served as a nutrition advisor for UNICEF, Founding Executive Director of the Nutrition Institute at the New York Academy of Sciences, and technical advisor for nutrition to the Ministry of Health in Iran. As a global health and nutrition expert, she led several collaborative research projects, technical advisory groups, consultations, and publication series involving WHO, UNICEF and teams of academic authors. She has been a co-author on various global guidance documents.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Panelists</p> <p>Ladda Mo-suwan, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University</p> <p>Education and training: MD (Mahidol University), MSc (Human Nutrition, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine), Dip. Thai Board of Pediatrics and Pediatric Nutrition (FRCPed T), and Fellow of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (FIUNS).</p> <p>Position: Professor of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University, Thailand. The chairman of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) on “Control of Overweight and Obesity”</p>



for the 2nd National Health Assembly (NHA) 2009 and “School Catering System Management” for the 6th NHA 2013, and TWG on construction of the 2021 growth references for Thai children and adolescents, a member of the TWG on revision of Thai DRIs 2020, and a member of the Working Group to establish Guidelines to regulate the Marketing of Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children, for the Nutrition Bureau, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health Research: childhood obesity, early life nutrition, National Health Examination Survey.



Britta Schumacher, Senior Nutritionist, Regional Bureau for Asia-Pacific (Bangkok), World Food Programme

Ms. Britta Schumacher is the UN World Food Program’s Senior Regional Nutrition Advisor for Asia & Pacific.

She has over 20 years of work experience in evidence-based policy and programming for nutrition & food security, covering development and humanitarian contexts in Asia, East and West Africa, and global. Nutrition integration across sectors has become a central part in her work with WFP over the past decade. Britta has additional expertise in results-based management, monitoring & evaluation. She has previously worked with GIZ, civil society and academia in community nutrition, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health. **Victor Ochieng Owino**, Nutrition Specialist, Division of Human Health, International Atomic Energy Agency

Dr. Victor Owino is a Nutrition Specialist in the International Atomic Energy Agency’s, Nutritional and Health-Related Environmental Studies Section. His work focuses on supporting the Member States to apply stable isotope techniques to design and evaluate nutrition interventions that target all forms of malnutrition. Current thematic areas include understanding protein quality and the interaction between adverse environmental exposures, nutrient metabolism, and nutritional and health outcomes. Dr. Owino has previously led work at Valid Nutrition on the development and testing of the efficacy of novel ready-to-use foods for the management of acute malnutrition. Until 2015 Dr. Owino led the Department of Human Nutrition at the Technical University of Kenya. Dr. Owino has over 30 publications in food and nutrition in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Owino is a proud alumnus of the University of Nairobi (BSc), University of Ghent (MSc), University College London (PhD), and most recently York St John’s University (MBA-Leadership and Management).



Victor Ochieng Owino, Nutrition Specialist, Division of Human Health, International Atomic Energy Agency

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Revisit and Reflect for Revision: Sharing of Experiences, Voices from Development Practitioners, Consumers, and Women

Kaz Maruyama, President & Representative Director, DSM Japan

Dr. Kaz Maruyama is President and Representative Director of DSM Japan K.K., Japanese arm of Royal DSM, a global purpose-led science-based company in Health, Nutrition and Bioscience. He is overseeing DSM's all business operations in Japan as well as making efforts in advocacy on Food Systems Transformation, Nutrition Improvement and ESG management. Kaz played a pivotal role at Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021, including as a panelist at the Plenary Session "Resilience" representing the private sector.

Kaz started his career with Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation in 1993 as R&D and business development in specialty chemicals. In 2006, Kaz joined Dow Corning Corporation where he held senior global commercial positions such as Global Industry Director for electronics material business. Since 2015, Kaz worked with OMRON Corporation as GM Business Development, having led Agri-tech Projects based in China.

Kaz holds BS and MS in Macromolecular Science from Osaka University. He also holds MBA and MS Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he was a Leaders for Global Operations fellow. Kaz also holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science from Mie University.



Jody Harris, Lead Expert, World Vegetable Center

Jody Harris is an applied researcher with a particular interest in policy and social interventions for healthy diets and nutrition. She conducts qualitative and quantitative research into power in societies, including work on equity and marginalization; power in politics, including political science work on policy processes; and power in food systems, including their drivers and actors. Jody is currently a senior researcher at the World Vegetable Center, bringing a food systems and policy focus to work on healthy diets, and undertaking research to further understand the role of vegetables in complex food and social systems.



Ahmed Umair, Chief Executive Officer, Vital Agri Nutrients Ltd, Pakistan

Umair is the CEO of Vital Agri Nutrients (VAN) which manufactures agri inputs and Vital Green pvt ltd (VG) which is an agri services company.

VAN is a leading producer of Value-added fertilizers / Slow-release fertilizers, Micronutrients, Soil amendments, Bio Fertilizers in Pakistan.

VG has pioneered the concept of Company operated branded outlets which serve more than 12,000 farmers across Pakistan. At these outlets farmers are provided with access to agri inputs, access to market, access to finance and advisory. Currently, he is working on value chain development of several major crops, extension services, bringing efficiency to agri input channels, farm management services, financial inclusion and developing digital platform to make agriculture productive and sustainable.

Umair has done bachelors in Chemical engineering and a second bachelors in political science and economics. He also done MBA from Lahore university of management science (LUMS).

He is also currently engaged with UNDP as Senior Specialist in the MAGP (Merged areas governance project). In the past, he has worked with ADB on the Punjab agri markets development project and with IFC on CPSD, Agro processing deep dive. He has also advised Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab on agriculture policy, drafting of agriculture related regulations and institutional development.

Synthesis: Day 2 Activities and Sessions



Narayan Iyer, Senior Natl Resources and Agri Specialist (Agribusiness), Asian Development Bank

Narayan is an agribusiness specialist with SDCC. His areas of interest include development of sustainable agribusinesses, protection and growth of natural capital, green financing – farm level to corporates, food security, ag-tech and private sector- led development. Narayan has worked across a spectrum of areas in wholesale banking and financial services with a strong domain focus in Agribusiness. His skillsets include client management, debt investment, equity research, strategy, credit risk evaluation and mentoring start-ups.

He holds a Bachelors in Technology from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and an MBA from Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta



Kazuko Ogasahara, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist (Health and Nutrition), Asian Development Bank

Kazuko joined ADB as nutrition specialist. Before taking this position, she worked for Japanese food manufacturer, Ajinomoto, and has a wide range of experience from R&D to scientific communication in nutrition field. She has Ph.D in chemistry from Osaka University, Japan.