



Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-food Systems

22-24 March 2022

Speakers' Profiles

Technical Session 1: Digital Technology for Agriculture

22 March 2022



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Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Day 1: 22 March (Tuesday)

Leaders' Roundtable: The Future of Food and Agriculture

2:05–3:05 p.m.



Qingfeng Zhang

Chief, Rural Development and Food Security (Agriculture) Thematic Group, concurrently OIC, Environment Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank



Roberta Casali

Vice-President (Finance and Risk Management), Asian Development Bank



Donal Brown

Associate Vice-President, Programme Management Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development



Shenggen Fan

Chair Professor, China Agricultural University



Yutaka Arai

Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan



Cao Đức Phát

Vice-Chair, Board of Trustees, International Rice Research Institute

Technical Session 1: Digital Technology for Agriculture

3:15–4:05 p.m.



Paul Teng Piang Siong

Managing Director and Dean, NIE International Pte Ltd, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore



Vladimir Stankovic

Program Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union



Elliott Grant

General Manager, X



Vikas Choudhary

Senior Economist, World Bank

Synthesis: Day 1 Activities and Sessions

5:05–5:15 p.m.



Shingo Kimura

Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank



Navin K. Twarakavi

Senior Digital Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank



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Thomas Panella

**Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division
– East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank**

As Director in East Asia, he is responsible for managing operations including strategy; project development, management, and programming; policy dialogue; and knowledge management.

As Chair of the Water Sector Committee, he provides oversight for the ADB-wide Water Sector Group for policy development, institutional engagement in water issues, and strategic direction of lending and non-lending water operations. He served as ADB's Chief of Water Sector Group from 2017-20, Afghanistan Country Director from 2014-17, and joined ADB in 2003. He led water operations in Central, South, and Southeast Asia including postings in Indonesia directing the water and climate change programs and in Uzbekistan as operations head.

He worked at World Bank from 2000 to 2002 as a Water Resources Management Specialist. He was the Southern California Regional Director for Tabors, Caramanis and Associates from 1989 to 1993 and served as the Convener of the California Urban Water Conservation Council in 1997 (now the California Water Efficiency Partnership).

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Paul Teng

Managing Director & Dean, NIE International Pte Ltd., Nanyang Technological University

Professor Teng is Adjunct Senior Fellow, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies, Nanyang Technological University Singapore and concurrently Managing Director, NIE International Pte. Ltd. He is also Senior Adviser (AgriFood) to A*STAR Singapore. Paul previously held leadership positions in the Worldfish Centre, the International Rice Research Institute, Monsanto Company and U.S. universities.

Professor Paul Teng is experienced in tropical agrifood systems and food security. He has researched and taught in North America, Africa and Asia, and has published eleven books and over 240 papers. Paul has been recognized for his work through the Eriksson Prize in Plant Pathology, election as Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences and by professional societies, and conferred an Honorary D.Sc. from Murdoch University, Australia.

Professor Teng is also adviser to several startups in the agritech space.

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Vladimir Stankovic

Program Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Vladimir Stankovic is an experienced international relations specialist with a demonstrated 15+ years history of working with the UN system for the governments and intergovernmental organizations in New York, Belgrade and Geneva. He has been coordinating the World Summit on the Information Society process as part of the Strategic Planning Division at the UN's Tech Agency.

International civil servant with Master of Law focused on ICT policy making, and BA in Mathematics and International Politics focused on conflict resolutions, multilateral relations within the UN system. Dedicated to promoting international sustainable cooperation, good use of technology, promoting UN values and ITU's objective to connect the world.

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Elliott Grant

General Manager, Google Mineral-X

Dr. Elliott Grant is a recognized business leader and innovator in food and agtech. He is the General Manager of Mineral at X, Alphabet's "Moonshot Factory."

Mineral is using machine learning (ML) and robotics to scale sustainable agriculture globally. He was the founder and CEO of HarvestMark, the world leader in fresh food traceability (acquired by Trimble); the CEO of ShopWell, a personalized nutrition company; and served as the Vice Chair of the Produce Marketing Association, a global industry organization, and chaired its Science & Technology Committee. Elliott was a consultant at McKinsey & Company.

He earned his PhD and MEng in Engineering from Cambridge University and is the author of covering topics ranging from cryptography and food traceability, to satellite image analysis and plant phenotyping. He lives in California with his wife and daughter.

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Vikas Choudhary

Senior Economist, World Bank

Vikas Choudhary is Senior Economist at the World Bank, based in Jakarta, and leading the agricultural work program in Indonesia and Timor Leste. Prior to this, he was based in Ethiopia and led the agriculture team working on Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea.

His interest areas are food systems approach, climate smart agriculture, value chains and agribusiness development, digital disruption in agriculture, resilience, and agriculture and rural development policy reforms. Prior to joining the Bank, he was Director, Global Economic Development at the Centre of High Impact Philanthropy at University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). He started his career with the Government of Rajasthan, India and subsequently worked with CARE-India; set up a USAID agribusiness project; and co-founded a felt export business.

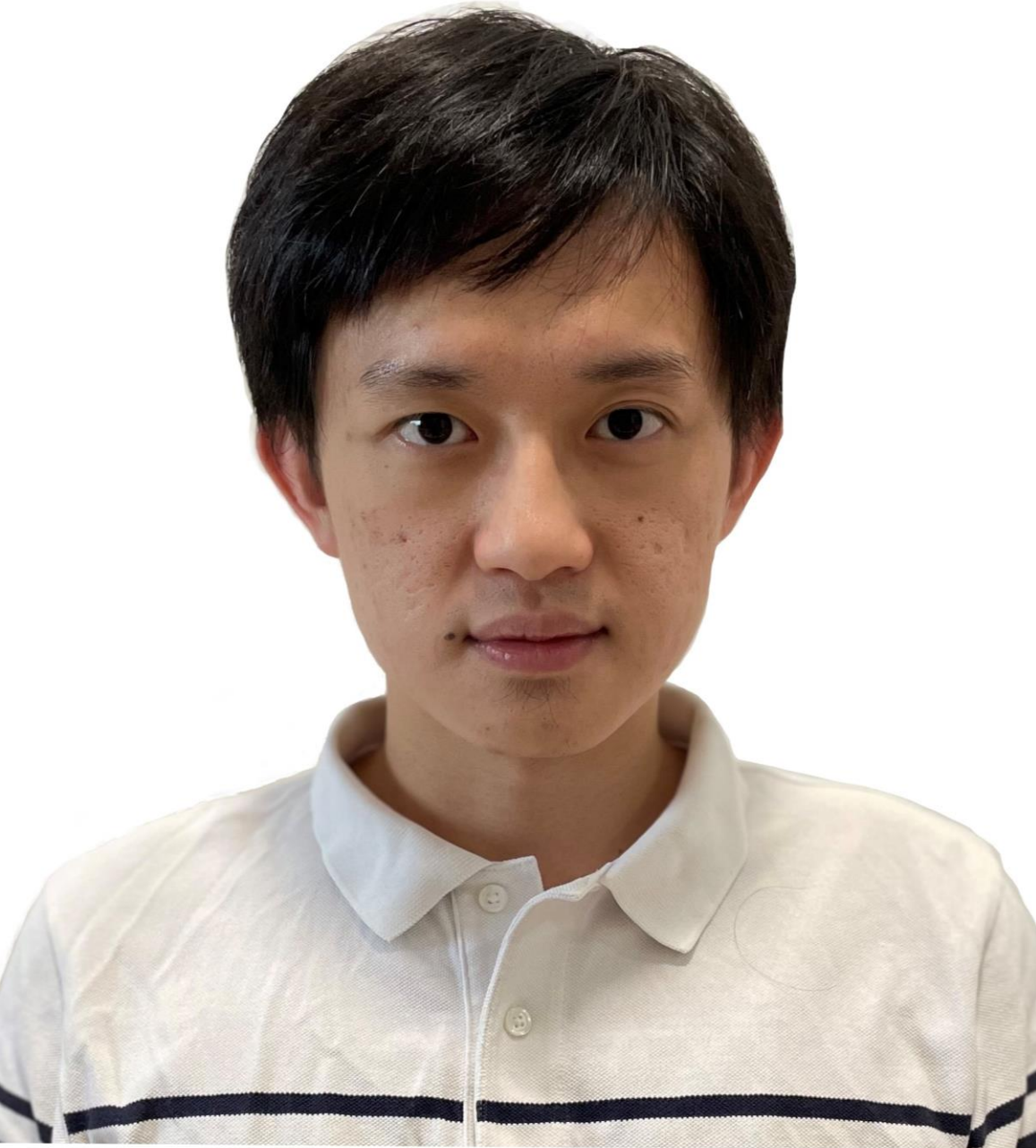
He holds a PhD in Development Anthropology and Master's in Public Administration from Syracuse University, USA and a Management degree from Indian Institute of Forestry Management, India.

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Don Tan

Director-Corporate Affairs, Pinduoduo Inc.

Don is Director of Corporate Affairs at Pinduoduo. He has prior experience in international affairs, and is a graduate of Sciences Po, HEC Paris, and the University of Oxford.

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Otini Mpinganjira

Programme Lead – Odisha, Precision Development (PxD)

Otini Mpinganjira is PxD's Programme Lead in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Otini holds a Master in Public Policy degree from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. Prior to joining PxD, he worked with One Acre Fund as its Malawi Systems Lead.

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Jawoo Koo

Senior Research Fellow, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Koo, Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute, / (Interim) Lead, CGIAR Research Initiative on “Harnessing digital technologies for timely decision-making across food, land, and water systems.”

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Takeshi Ueda

Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Asian Development Bank

Mr. Takeshi Ueda is a national of Japan. He obtained his Doctorate degree in Agricultural Economics from the Pennsylvania State University; Master's degree in Economics from the Michigan State University, the US, and Soka University, Japan.

Mr. Ueda has 20 years of professional experience. He joined ADB in 2008 as a Natural Resources Economist, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, East Asia Department, then progressed to Senior Natural Resources Economist, same division and has managed various projects of the agriculture and natural resources (ANR) sector for the People's Republic of China and Mongolia.

He was appointed as Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, Southeast Asia Department in May 2017 and has been handling the ANR sector projects with a particular focus on agriculture value chain development for Southeast Asian countries.

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Speakers' Profiles

Technical Session 2: Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Food System
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Day 2: 23 March (Wednesday)

Technical Session 2: Pathways to Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems

2:40–3:35 p.m.



Bruno Carrasco

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



Louis Verchot

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



Jean Balie

Director General and CGIAR Regional Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, International Rice Research Institute / CGIAR



Sudarshan Dutta

Lead Agronomist, Agoro Carbon Alliance (Yara)



Samantha Hung

Chief, Gender Equality Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank

Technical Session 3: Intersectoral Approach to Nutrition Security

4:40–5:30 p.m.



Mandana Arabi

Vice-President, Nutrition International



Ladda Mo-suwan

Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University



Britta Schumacher

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



Victor Ochieng Owino

Nutrition Specialist, Division of Human Health, International Atomic Energy Agency



Isaac Kofi Bimpong

Plant Breeder / Geneticist, Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications

Synthesis: Day 2 Activities and Sessions

6:30–6:40 p.m.



Narayan Iyer

Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist (Agribusiness), Asian Development Bank



Kazuko Ogasahara

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



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Jiangfeng Zhang

Director, 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.

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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.

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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.

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Jean Balié

Director General & CGIAR Regional Director – Southeast Asia & the Pacific, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) / CGIAR

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 as the Director General, 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; master's degrees from Montpellier SupAgro, École Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse (ENSAT) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

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Sudarshan Dutta

Lead Agronomist, Agoro Carbon Alliance (Yara)

Dr. Sudarshan Dutta has more than 15 years of working as an agriculture scientist in a smallholder farming system. Presently he 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 the planning and execution of carbon farming in India.

His 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

Dr. Dutta did his Postdoctoral Research in Watershed and Hydrochemistry at Department of Bioresource Engineering, University of Delaware; PhD in Soil Science from the Department of Soil Sciences at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, USA.

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Samantha Hung

Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank

Samantha Hung is the Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group 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 two decades of experience in gender equality at project, program and policy levels in the Asia Pacific.

Before joining ADB in 2009, she held various gender advisor roles, including 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.

Samantha is a dual Australian/UK citizen. She holds a Masters degree 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.

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Omer Zafar

Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank

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.

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.

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.

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.

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Romina Cavatassi

Lead Economist, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Romina Cavatassi is the lead natural resource economist in the Research and Impact Assessment Division of IFAD where she is in charge of leading the Impact Assessment and research agenda. In 2021 she has led the preparation of the Rural Development Report on Food System Transformation for Rural Prosperity. Prior to this role she was the lead technical Specialist for Environment and Climate in the Environment and Climate division of IFAD.

Prior to joining IFAD, Romina worked for FAO where she worked on agrobiodiversity and on Climate Smart Agriculture.

She holds a PhD in natural resources and development economics from Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands, an MSc in environmental assessment and evaluation from the London School of Economics in the UK and a master's-level degree in economics from the University of Bologna, Italy.

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Le Hoang Anh

Senior Official, Department of Science Technology and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

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 quality; Bioaerosol; Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs); and Climate change.

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