



# Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

## Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-food Systems

22-24 March 2022

# Speakers' Profiles

## Special Session: COVID-19 Impacts on Food System

### 24 March 2022



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# Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Day 3: 24 March (Thursday)

## Special Session: COVID-19 Impacts on Food Systems

11:35 a.m.–12:35 p.m.



### Aziz Elbehri

Senior Economist and Stream Leader, Agri-food, Rural Development and Socio-economic Policies, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



### Yasmin Siddiqi

Director, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank



### Jalil Pirzada

Director, Institute of the Economy, Analysis and Agriculture Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Tajikistan



### PK Joshi

Former Head, International Food Policy Research Institute

## Deep Dive 3: Alternative Proteins to Meet the Growing Demand

12:50-1:05 p.m.



### William Chen

Director, Food Science and Technology Programme, Nanyang Technological University



### Alan Shaw

Chief Executive Officer, Calysta Inc.



### Varun Deshpande

Managing Director, The Good Food Institute



### Neil Ian Lumanlan

Circular Bioeconomy Consultant



### Isabelle Decitre

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ID Capital



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# Sangjun Lee

**Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Asian Development Bank**

Sangjun helps leverage the Republic of Korea's agricultural and rural development experience in ADB projects. Prior to his current role, he has worked for the Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs for ten years.

He has a bachelor's degree from Seoul National University and a master's degree from the University of Birmingham.

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# Takashi Yamano

**Principal Economist, Economic Research and Regional Development, Asian Development Bank**

Takashi Yamano is a Principal Economist at Economic Research and Regional Development at ADB. His current responsibilities include managing and conducting impact evaluation studies, reviewing Economic Analysis of project proposals, and producing economic diagnostic studies.

Prior to joining ADB in 2017, he worked as Impact Assessment Specialist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in 2011-2017. He taught post-graduate courses at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo, Japan, in 2002-2011. He worked as a consultant at the World Bank in 2000-2002.

He obtained a joint Ph.D. in Economics and Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University in 2000.

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## **Aziz Elbehri**

**Senior Economist and Stream Leader, Agri-food, Rural Development and Socio-economic Policies, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

Aziz Elbehri is a senior economist at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) since 2008. Currently, he leads the socio-economic development and policy group at the FAO Asia-Pacific Regional office in Bangkok. Aziz specializes in climate and food systems interactions, agricultural policy and development, trade and markets, water policy, and digital agriculture.

Before FAO, Aziz was an agricultural economist specializing in trade policy and modeling at the USDA Economic Research Service from 1999 to 2008 before joining FAO.

Aziz has a Ph.D. from Purdue University, a master's degree from the University of Minnesota in agricultural economics and two master degrees in agronomy from the University of Minnesota and from the Institute Agronomique Hassan II, Morocco.

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# Yasmin Siddiqi

**Director, CWER, Asian Development Bank**

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.

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## Jalil Pirzada

**Director, Institute of the Economy, Analysis and Agriculture Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Tajikistan**

From 1986 to 2003 he worked at the Research Institute of Economics and Organization of Agricultural Production of the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences; 2003 to 2007 as the Dean of the Faculty of Economics of the Tajik Agrarian University; 2007 to 2011 as Director of the Research Institute of Economics and Organization of Agricultural Production of the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences. 2011 to 2014 as the head of the department of agriculture and land use of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan; November 2014 to January 2017 as the Head of the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan'

From January 2017 to the present, working as the Director of the Institute for System Analysis and Agricultural Development of the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is working on the problems of agrarian policy, improving the location of agricultural sectors of the Republic of Tajikistan and ensuring food security in the republic.

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## PK Joshi

**Former Head, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFRI)**

Dr. P K Joshi superannuated as the Director-South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington DC. After his superannuation, he is serving as the Policy Adviser to the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization, Harvest Plus of the CGIAR; Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research; and the BAIF Development Research Foundation. He is also officiating as Honorary Director of the Agro-economic Research Centre-Delhi. He has extensively worked towards transforming agriculture and market integration in India, and many south and southeast Asian countries.

Dr. Joshi has been receiving awards from different agricultural economic societies for his outstanding contribution in social science and agricultural economic research and management.

He has published more than ten books and several journal articles in national and international journals of repute. He also holds Chairmanship of the SAARC Agricultural Centre's governing board in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the UN-CAPSA governing board in Bogor, and other committee memberships.

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# Speakers' Profiles

**Deep Dive 3: Alternative Proteins to Meet the Growing Demand**  
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### Neil Ian Lumanlan

Circular Bioeconomy Consultant



### Isabelle Decitre

Founder and Chief Executive Officer,  
ID Capital



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## Kate Jarvis

**Consultant, PSOD-AIT, Asian Development Bank**

Kate is a food and agribusiness professional with 15 years' experience, and a passion for improving the sustainability of food production, distribution, and consumption.

Prior to joining ADB, Kate worked with a UK-based startup that is developing technology to produce an animal feed ingredient using minimal water. She has a deep understanding of global agricultural markets and agribusiness investment, thanks to roles in commodities trading at Louis Dreyfus Company and Fonterra, and agribusiness private equity at Proterra Investment Partners.

Kate has an MBA from University of Oxford, and has worked and studied in Australia, France, Singapore, Switzerland, and the UK.

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# William Chen

**Director, Food Science and Technology Programme, Nanyang Technological University Consultant, PSOD-AIT**

Prof. William Chen is the Michael Fam Endowed Professor and Director of Food Science and Technology Programme with Nanyang Technological University Singapore (NTU). He is also Director of Singapore Agri-food Innovation Lab (SAIL), and Co-Director of Singapore Future Ready Food Safety Hub (FRESH).

Prof. Chen's food tech innovations and his opinions on food security have been extensively covered by Singapore and international media. Prof. Chen is advisor/consultant to government agencies, international organizations, food industry, overseas universities on matters related to tech innovations and food security.

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# Isabelle Decitre

**Founder and CEO, ID Capital Pte Ltd.**

Isabelle is the Founder & CEO of ID Capital, a company incorporated in Singapore in 2012 and specialized in VC investments in agrifoodtech in Asia Pacific. In 2016, to accelerate the development of this nascent ecosystem, it launched the Future Food Asia Award, the 1st-of-its-kind regional start-up competition culminating in the annual Future Food Asia Conference.

In 2019 ID Capital was appointed as a co-investment partner in agrifoodtech start-ups by Singapore SEEDS Capital and is now further developing its venture capital investment activity.

In 2021 ID Capital opened a subsidiary in Shanghai to cover emerging opportunities in China. The longest running company covering the entire Asia-Pacific agrifoodtech sector, ID Capital is in a privileged position to anticipate long term trends deemed to share the future of our food system.

Isabelle holds an Engineering degree from Ecole Polytechnique (France) and a degree in Chinese Language and Civilization.

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# Varun Deshpande

**Managing Director, The Good Food Institute India**

Varun Deshpande is Managing Director at the Good Food Institute Asia, where he works with scientists, foundations, governments, and businesses to build the alternative protein sector across the continent.

He has been named a leading young voice for climate solutions by India Climate Collaborative, one of Asia's Most Influential Tastemakers by Tatler Asia, and one of India's 25 Most Influential Young Citizens by GQ.

Varun has spoken all over the world ranging from the Indian Institutes of Technology to Harvard University, and his writing has featured in media including The Hindu, FirstPost, and The Daily Guardian.

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# Neil Ian Lumanlan

## Circular Bioeconomy Consultant

Ian is a circular bio-economy consultant providing technology advisory services to insect farming startups in Asia, Australia & Africa, and regenerative agriculture projects in the US & Pacific islands. He served as a resource person & vice-secretary of the Asian Food & Feed Insects Association from 2018 to 2020 and enhanced the production & quality control systems of one of the largest vertical insect farm in Thailand.

Prior to this he was a university instructor of microbiology & environmental science, and an associate researcher on appropriate technologies for rural development where he designed biomass gasifier stoves & integrated food-water-energy systems. Ian is an advocate of healthy soils & healthy gut microbiome to prevent emerging diseases & to reverse global warming.

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