

Nutrition and Food Systems Transformation

Summary Report from the 2026 Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum

I. Executive Summary

The Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026, held on 16–19 March 2026 in Manila under the theme “*Feeding the Future, Sustaining the Planet*,” convened more than 800 leaders and stakeholders from government, development institutions, academia, civil society, youth groups, and the private sector to advance resilient, inclusive, and sustainable agri-food systems in Asia and the Pacific. Across the four-day forum, nutrition emerged as an important pillar of food systems transformation and a critical foundation for human capital development, economic resilience, climate resilience, and environmental sustainability.

The forum also marked an important milestone as the first development partners’ forum under ADB’s Food Systems Transformation initiative to include nutrition as one of the priority pillars of engagement and collaboration. The discussions provided an important platform for partners to identify key challenges, exchange operational experiences, and co-create solutions to strengthen nutrition-sensitive food systems across the region.

Building on ADB’s commitment to integrate nutrition outcomes into agriculture and natural capital operations, discussions reaffirmed nutrition as a cross-cutting development agenda linked to agriculture, climate, health, water, biodiversity, social protection, gender, education, and private sector development. The event further demonstrated ADB’s growing institutional shift toward embedding nutrition considerations within its \$40 billion Food Systems Transformation agenda and Country Partnership Strategies (CPSs).

To support this agenda, the AFNR-Nutrition team organized seven nutrition-focused sessions and contributed to two additional sessions, engaging 69 experts and practitioners from governments, multilateral development banks, development organizations, academia, youth networks, civil society, and the private sector. Reflecting a strong One ADB approach, the sessions engaged colleagues from AFNR, HSD, CCSD, PSOD, WUD, IED, ERDI, and regional departments including SERD, while strengthening collaboration with partners including GAIN, IFPRI, WFP, IFAD, the Rockefeller Foundation, Grow Asia, the World Bank, and other regional and global organizations.

Key themes emerging from the forum included the climate–nutrition–biodiversity nexus, regenerative and planet-friendly school meals, nutrition financing and healthier food markets, social and behavior change for healthier diets, youth leadership, blue economy approaches, and the role of data and evidence systems in supporting policy and investment decisions. Country experiences highlighted practical opportunities to integrate nutrition into agriculture, food systems, climate adaptation, and natural capital investments.

The forum also advanced the “Fair Nutrition” initiative through public engagement activities, side events, exhibitions, youth dialogues, and knowledge-sharing sessions that promoted healthy diets, sustainable sourcing, local food systems, and responsible food practices. Highlights included the “*Lasa ng Panahon*” Chef Showcase, local farmers’ market activities, and ASEAN youth engagement initiatives focused on sustainable food futures and blue economy collaboration.

Building on the momentum generated through the forum, the AFNR-Nutrition team will continue strengthening operational approaches for nutrition integration through the development of the AFNR Guidance Note for Nutrition Integration, continued cross-sector collaboration, and ongoing discussions with HSD and other sector teams on nutrition indicators and measurement frameworks. The team will also continue developing thematic blogs, communication materials, and knowledge products to capture operational lessons and emerging practices related to nutrition-sensitive food systems transformation.

The forum demonstrated growing regional momentum to position nutrition at the center of food systems transformation. Through stronger partnerships, operational innovation, and cross-sector collaboration, ADB and its partners are advancing a shared vision for healthier populations, resilient communities, sustainable food systems, and inclusive economic development across the region.

At a Glance:

- 800+ forum participants from across Asia and the Pacific
- 7 nutrition-focused sessions and 2 contributing sessions
- 69 speakers and experts from government, development organizations, academia, youth groups, and the private sector
- Participation from over 20 development and knowledge partners
- Strong One ADB collaboration across AFNR, HSD, WUD, PSOD, CCSD, SERD, and other departments
- Fair Nutrition public engagement activities, including Chef Showcase and farmers' market
- ASEAN youth engagement and youth pledge initiatives
- Emerging collaboration on sustainable school meals in the Pacific

This report summarizes key discussions, lessons, and emerging priorities from the nutrition-related sessions and activities organized during the Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026. It draws on session discussions, presentations, partner contributions, and public engagement activities conducted during the forum.

II. Introduction and Strategic Context

The Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026 positioned nutrition as a central pillar of food systems transformation across the region. Convened by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Forum brought together governments, development partners, private sector actors, researchers, youth leaders, and civil society organizations to advance integrated approaches linking food systems, climate resilience, biodiversity, and human development.

The Forum underscored the growing urgency of transforming food systems in Asia and the Pacific amid persistent food insecurity, rising obesity, micronutrient deficiencies, climate-related shocks, environmental degradation, and widening inequalities. Discussions emphasized the need to move beyond production-oriented approaches toward integrated systems capable of delivering healthier diets, resilient livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. Nutrition emerged as a strategic development priority throughout the Forum. Participants highlighted the region's triple burden of malnutrition—undernutrition, hidden hunger, and obesity—and emphasized that improving nutrition outcomes requires coordinated action across agriculture, education, health, social protection, climate, and finance sectors. Healthy diets were framed not only as a public health objective but also as a driver of productivity, resilience, and human capital development.

ADB reaffirmed its commitment to integrating nutrition into agrifood systems transformation through its Fair Nutrition initiative and broader Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development (AFNR) agenda. The Forum highlighted ADB's increasing focus on nutrition-sensitive investments, climate-resilient agriculture, biodiversity conservation, school meals, natural capital, and blended finance mechanisms that support equitable access to affordable and nutritious foods.

The Forum represented an important milestone in strengthening regional collaboration on nutrition and food systems transformation. It convened a broad coalition of multilateral institutions, bilateral partners, foundations, research institutions, civil society organizations, and private sector actors to align priorities, share evidence, and identify investment opportunities. The event demonstrated growing momentum for collective action and reinforced the importance of partnerships in scaling nutrition-sensitive food systems investments across Asia and the Pacific.

The long-term vision emerging from the Forum is one in which food systems across Asia and the Pacific deliver not only economic growth and food security, but also healthier diets, resilient ecosystems, inclusive livelihoods, and improved human well-being for future generations.

Investing in nutrition-sensitive food systems is also an investment in human capital, workforce productivity, resilience, and long-term economic development across Asia and the Pacific.

III. Advancing Nutrition at the Forum

Nutrition was prominently integrated throughout the Forum program through dedicated sessions, cross-sector dialogues, policy discussions, investment conversations, and public engagement activities. Sessions addressed themes including climate-food-nutrition linkages, youth leadership, school meals, nutrition financing, behavior change, biodiversity, data systems, and private sector engagement.

The Nutrition Track attracted strong participation from governments, development partners, academia, civil society organizations, youth groups, private sector representatives, and ADB operational teams. Forum participants engaged in nutrition-related discussions, reflecting increasing regional recognition of nutrition as a foundational component of sustainable food systems transformation.

The Forum also demonstrated a strong “One ADB” approach through collaboration across sector groups and departments, including AFNR, human and social development teams, private sector operations, climate specialists, water and urban development teams, and regional departments. Cross-sector engagement reinforced the understanding that nutrition outcomes depend on integrated interventions spanning agriculture, education, climate resilience, infrastructure, social protection, and finance.

Partner engagement was a defining feature of the Forum. Collaborating institutions included FAO, IFAD, GAIN, WFP, Rockefeller Foundation, CIAT, JICA, ASEAN Secretariat, SUN Movement, SPC, Grow Asia, and numerous government agencies and research organizations. These partnerships strengthened technical exchange, mobilized diverse expertise, and advanced opportunities for co-financing and operational collaboration.

IV. Emerging Themes and Priorities

A. Climate–Nutrition–Biodiversity Nexus

A central theme across the forum was the interconnected nature of climate change, biodiversity loss, and nutrition outcomes. Food systems in Asia and the Pacific face overlapping pressures across these areas, yet responses remain fragmented. The discussions reinforced the need for integrated, people-

centered approaches that deliver co-benefits across nutrition, climate resilience, and biodiversity. However, high perceived risks and limited local investment continue to constrain progress. Country experiences demonstrated efforts to align policies and integrate nutrition into climate strategies, while blended finance was highlighted as a key enabler. Strengthened cross-sector collaboration and innovation were identified as critical to advancing nexus-based solutions.

B. School Meals as Systems Transformation Platforms

Planet-friendly school meals emerged as a powerful entry point for food systems transformation. These programs can simultaneously improve child nutrition, support smallholder farmers, promote biodiversity, and reduce environmental impacts. Country examples from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Cambodia illustrated scalable models that link nutrition outcomes with sustainable procurement, regenerative agriculture, and climate resilience.

C. Nutrition Financing

With high malnutrition levels alongside dynamic markets, the region has strong potential to mobilize private investment for nutrition. Financing discussions highlighted the urgency of mobilizing greater investment for nutrition-sensitive food systems through initiatives such as the Nutrition Finance Facility (N3F) and the proposed Asia-Pacific Nutritious Food Financing Facility (APN3F). Blended finance, catalytic capital, and private sector engagement were identified as key approaches, with an emphasis on aligning commercial viability with nutrition impact. Addressing the financing gap for SMEs which are critical actors in food systems, requires de-risking mechanisms, tailored financial instruments, technical assistance, and stronger collaboration to overcome structural barriers.

SMEs remain critical actors in transforming food environments but require tailored financing mechanisms and technical assistance.

D. Accelerating Food Systems Transformation through Investments

A persistent gap remains between policy ambition and the development of bankable projects. The Agrifood Systems Accelerator was highlighted as a mechanism to bridge this divide by helping countries translate strategies into investable pipelines. Key challenges include fragmented efforts and weak links between evidence and financing. Experiences across countries showed how coordinated support can strengthen planning and integration, while reinforcing the need for alignment, inclusion, and partnership to accelerate transformation.

E. Youth Leadership in Food Systems Transformation

Youth-led initiatives showcased growing momentum among young leaders to shape more sustainable and equitable food systems. Young people are advancing innovation, community-based solutions, and the revitalization of indigenous knowledge. However, barriers such as limited access to land, finance, and decision-making persist. Institutional support, including ADB youth programs, is helping to embed youth in development processes, while recognition of youth-led initiatives highlighted their growing impact across the region.

F. Behavior Change and Healthy Diets

Improving diets requires more than awareness; it depends on supportive environments, policies, and collective action. Evidence from Lao PDR demonstrated how integrating nutrition into agriculture, alongside community engagement, can improve dietary diversity. Key barriers contribute to include the affordability and availability of unhealthy foods, limited access to nutritious options, and social

norms. Effective responses include fiscal measures, community-based and gender-sensitive approaches, and stronger multi-sector coordination, with a focus on long-term, context-specific behavior change.

G. Data, Evidence, and Decision-Making

The forum highlighted the importance of using data and evidence to guide investments and policy. While substantial evidence exists on diet quality and the cost of malnutrition, it is not consistently applied in practice. Tools such as WFP's ENHANCE and GAIN's Food Systems Dashboard, along with economic modelling and digital diet tools, demonstrate how data can inform affordability, environmental impact, and investment decisions. The sessions also pointed to the need for harmonized indicators, stronger analytical tools, and improved translation of evidence into action to help scale nutrition-sensitive investments.

H. Blue Economy and Coastal Food Systems

The role of the blue economy in food systems resilience was also emphasized, particularly for coastal and island contexts. Sustainable fisheries, marine ecosystems, and ocean-based livelihoods were highlighted as essential for improving nutrition and supporting economies in Pacific Island countries and coastal ASEAN states. Integrating these approaches is key to building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems.

V. Fair Nutrition Initiative

The Fair Nutrition initiative served as a unifying platform throughout the Forum, promoting equitable access to affordable, safe, and nutritious foods through multisectoral collaboration. The initiative framed nutrition as both a development objective and a systems transformation pathway linking agriculture, climate, biodiversity, education, and finance.

Public engagement activities helped translate technical discussions into accessible and culturally resonant experiences. The “*Lasa ng Panahon*” chef showcase emerged as one of the forum's most engaging activities, highlighting the connections between nutrition, local food systems, sustainable sourcing, and community-based enterprises. Featuring chefs and social entrepreneurs committed to locally sourced ingredients and good agricultural practices, the showcase demonstrated how healthier diets can simultaneously support biodiversity, local livelihoods, smallholder producers, and sustainable food cultures. The “*Lasa ng Panahon*” chef showcase celebrated Philippine biodiversity, indigenous ingredients, seasonal foods, and low-waste culinary practices while highlighting the links between gastronomy, nutrition, and sustainable food systems.

The farmers market strengthened visibility for local producers, indigenous crops, biodiversity-rich foods, and inclusive value chains. These activities demonstrated how food culture and consumer engagement can support dietary diversity and resilient local economies.

Youth engagement was further advanced through the ASEAN Youth Pledge, which articulated a collective regional commitment to food security, sustainability, healthy diets, and meaningful youth participation in policymaking and food systems governance.

The Forum also strengthened ASEAN engagement through collaboration with regional institutions, youth networks, and national governments, reinforcing regional cooperation on sustainable food systems and nutrition. Knowledge outreach activities, including presentations, dialogues and learning exchanges, expanded awareness of nutrition-sensitive food systems transformation across diverse stakeholder groups.

VI. Operational Lessons and Opportunities

Country examples presented during the Forum demonstrated diverse pathways for integrating nutrition into agriculture, education, climate, and rural development investments. Experiences from Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, Pacific Island countries, and other developing member countries highlighted the importance of context-specific approaches and strong government ownership.

The Forum reinforced the importance of integrating nutrition into agriculture operations through value chains, local procurement systems, climate-smart agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and food environment interventions. The discussions highlighted that nutrition-sensitive agriculture requires both production diversification and stronger connections between producers and consumers.

Natural capital and ecosystem services emerged as critical considerations for long-term food systems resilience. Discussions highlighted opportunities to align nutrition investments with biodiversity conservation, regenerative agriculture, watershed management, and ecosystem restoration initiatives.

Climate adaptation and nature-based solutions (NbS) were increasingly recognized as essential components of nutrition-sensitive food systems. Participants discussed climate-resilient crops, agroecological practices, sustainable fisheries, water resilience, and regenerative agriculture as pathways for improving both environmental and nutrition outcomes.

The Forum highlighted innovative financing mechanisms, including blended finance, trust funds, sovereign lending, private sector investment platforms, and catalytic financing approaches. These mechanisms are expected to play a key role in scaling nutrition-sensitive investments and mobilizing greater private capital.

Partnerships emerged as a critical enabler for scaling impact. Participants emphasized the importance of coordinated action among governments, development banks, UN agencies, private sector actors, research institutions, and civil society organizations to accelerate food systems transformation.

VII. Strengthening the Foundation for Nutrition Integration

ADB's operational agenda on nutrition integration continues to evolve through the development of practical guidance, operational tools, and cross-sector coordination mechanisms. The AFNR Guidance Note on nutrition-sensitive agriculture is expected to support project teams in integrating nutrition objectives and indicators into agriculture and rural development operations.

Capacity-building efforts, including project team leader (PTL) workshops and developing member country (DMC) consultations, are helping strengthen technical understanding of nutrition-sensitive food systems approaches and improve operational implementation across sectors.

ADB is also advancing collaboration with Human and Social Development (HSD) teams on nutrition indicator development and monitoring frameworks to strengthen accountability and evidence generation across operations.

Cross-sector coordination remains central to operationalizing nutrition integration. The Forum reinforced the need for stronger collaboration across agriculture, health, education, climate, water, and social protection sectors to deliver coherent and scalable interventions.

Knowledge generation and dissemination support institutional learning through blogs, operational case studies, technical notes, and regional learning exchanges. These efforts aim to build awareness and strengthen implementation capacity among operational teams and partners.

The emerging Pacific school meals initiative was identified as a promising regional platform for advancing nutrition-sensitive food systems while supporting climate resilience, local procurement, and child nutrition outcomes in Pacific Island countries.

Key Recommendations

- ☐ Strengthen integration of nutrition outcomes across agriculture, food systems, natural capital, and climate operations
- ☐ Expand cross-sector collaboration and operational coordination across ADB departments and partners
- ☐ Advance nutrition financing mechanisms and support healthier food markets and SMEs
- ☐ Strengthen nutrition indicators, data systems, and evidence-based decision-making
- ☐ Continue capacity building for PTLs, analysts, and DMC counterparts through workshops and technical guidance
- ☐ Expand youth engagement, school meals initiatives, and regional collaboration across ASEAN and the Pacific
- ☐ Promote knowledge-sharing through blogs, case studies, and operational learning platforms

VIII. Conclusion and Way Forward

The Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026 marked an important strategic milestone in advancing nutrition-sensitive food systems transformation across the region. The Forum demonstrated growing regional consensus that nutrition must be positioned at the center of climate, agriculture, biodiversity, and development agendas.

Participants reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration among governments, development partners, private sector actors, youth organizations, civil society, and research institutions to sustain momentum and translate dialogue into operational action.

Looking ahead, ADB and partners will continue scaling nutrition-sensitive investments through integrated food systems programming, innovative financing mechanisms, strengthened data systems, and multisector partnerships. Particular emphasis will be placed on climate resilience, biodiversity, school meals, youth engagement, and equitable access to healthy diets.

Investing in nutrition-sensitive food systems is also an investment in human capital, workforce productivity, resilience, and long-term economic development across Asia and the Pacific.

Annexes:

Annex 1: Concept Notes of Sessions Organized by AFNR-Nutrition Team

Annex 2: Concept Notes of Sessions that AFNR-Nutrition Team Participated In

Annex 3: Photos

ANNEX 1: CONCEPT NOTES OF SESSIONS ORGANIZED BY AFNR-NUTRITION TEAM

Session 2.2: ASEAN Youth Initiatives for Sustainable Food Systems: Advancing Healthy Diets and Climate Resilience

17 March 2026 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Audi 1

Rationale

The Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) faces interconnected challenges in food security, climate change, youth employment, and inclusive development. Agriculture and food systems remain central to economic stability and social well-being but are under pressure from climate risks, environmental degradation, aging farmer populations, and declining youth participation. The region's extensive coastal and marine resources further emphasize the need for integrated land–sea food systems and sustainable ocean-based livelihoods.

ASEAN's large and dynamic youth population is a key driver of food systems transformation. Youth leadership and innovation are essential for advancing climate-smart agriculture, agripreneurship, and the blue economy, while addressing youth unemployment and strengthening social inclusion. Meaningful youth engagement in sustainable food systems aligns closely with ADB's Strategy 2030 priorities and supports long-term gains in nutrition, livelihoods, and regional resilience.

The Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum, provides a platform for the ASEAN youth to present and be recognized for their initiatives in food systems transformation and nutrition. It also aims to show their commitment moving forward through the ASEAN Youth Pledge which will serve as a living framework to sustain youth engagement on sustainable food systems and healthy diets.

ASEAN policy frameworks increasingly recognize youth as key agents of change in advancing sustainable development, food security, and regional cooperation. Food security remains a strategic regional priority, particularly amid climate shocks, global supply disruptions, and grain shortages that expose systemic vulnerabilities. ASEAN continues to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, forestry, data systems, and smart technologies to build resilient and sustainable food systems.

Despite agriculture's central economic role—providing significant employment and contributing to GDP—youth participation in the sector is declining. Structural barriers such as limited access to land, finance, technology, and markets, alongside perceptions of low profitability and high climate risk, have contributed to an aging farming population. However, ASEAN youth represent a powerful opportunity for transformation. With their digital skills, entrepreneurial energy, and innovation capacity, young people can drive climate-smart agriculture, sustainable agribusiness, and inclusive food systems.

Regional youth platforms, university networks, and innovation initiatives demonstrate growing momentum to reposition agriculture as an attractive, future-oriented sector. Strengthening youth engagement—through access to resources, leadership roles, cross-border collaboration, and supportive ecosystems—is essential to harness ASEAN's demographic dividend and ensure long-term food security, nutrition, and economic resilience.

ASEAN Leaders have reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food (2023), while regional cooperation frameworks on agriculture and youth development emphasize the importance of resilient and inclusive food systems. This session builds on these commitments by positioning ASEAN youth as key drivers of sustainable food systems transformation.

Objectives and Target Audience

General Objective

To convene ASEAN youth leaders in a collaborative regional process that advances sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food systems delivering food security and healthy diets, while strengthening meaningful youth participation in ASEAN development.

Specific Objectives

1. To provide a safe, inclusive platform for ASEAN youth to share perspectives on agriculture, food systems, climate action, food environments, and healthy diets.
2. To co-create an ASEAN Youth Pledge articulating shared commitments and youth-led actions that promote food security, nutrition, sustainability, and affordability.
3. To recognize and elevate innovative youth-led initiatives in agriculture, nutrition, and food systems transformation, inspiring thought leadership and peer learning.
4. To strengthen cross-border youth networks that support sustained collaboration, advocacy, and action on sustainable food systems and healthy diets beyond the consultation.

Target Audience

ASEAN governments, civil society and youth organizations

Outputs and Outcomes

Key Outputs

- ☐ ASEAN Youth Pledge on sustainable food systems and healthy diets to highlight the youth's collective commitment to FST and nutrition
- ☐ Youth Competition on Food Systems Transformation and Nutrition to recognize outstanding youth initiatives and contributions
- ☐ Roundtable discussion among youth leaders on what inspired them to take action and their role in ensuring FST and nutrition in the ASEAN region

Expected Outcomes

- ☐ Enhanced youth engagement and leadership in FST and nutrition
- ☐ Stronger regional youth collaboration and cross-border networks
- ☐ Increased visibility of youth-led impact

Partners

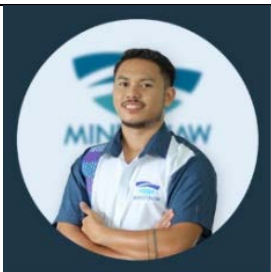
- ☐ ASEAN Secretariat
- ☐ SUN Youth Network
- ☐ Department of Agriculture (Philippines)

Agenda

17 March 2026 4:00 – 5:30	
Time	Activity
Moderators: Yating Ru, Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, ADB Cherrie Atilano, Chairperson, AGREFA Foundation	
4:00 – 4:05 PM	Welcome Remarks Winfried Wicklein, Director General, Sectors Department 2, ADB
4:05 – 4:15 PM	Youth pledge on sustainable and resilient food systems to be presented to ASEAN leaders
4:15 – 5:00PM	Inspirational Message to the Youth William Dar, Senior Adviser, ASEAN-BAC Philippines, Board Chair, ISAAA, Former Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines Panel discussion with youth representatives ☐ Shanerisse Tamondong, SUN Youth Network ☐ Leunell Chris Buela, University of the Philippines Los Banos ☐ Kinja Tauli, Partners for Indigenous Knowledge Philippines ☐ Jerrhad Hijara Nadonza, Mindanaw Seafood ☐ Just Dagu-Ob, Department of Agriculture - Philippines ☐ Mariano “Ameta” Dacosta Alves, Cafe Organiku Atsabe, Timor-Leste Q&A for Panel Speakers
5:00 – 5:10 PM	ADB Youth Pathways to Development Sector ☐ Tanya Huizer, ADB WUD ☐ Meredith Cua, ADB PSOD
5:10 – 5:30 PM	ADB Youth Awards: Shaping a Healthier Food Future in ASEAN Countries Awarding speech: Qingfeng Zhang, Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, ADB Awarding of youth winners from the individual, community and digital categories

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Winfried Wicklein Director General, Sectors Department 2, ADB As Director General of ADB's Sectors Department 2, Winfried Wicklein leads the Asian Development Bank's operations across three sector groups operating across Asia and the Pacific: Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development; Water and Urban Development; and Digital. The department's active portfolio encompasses about 280 projects worth US\$30 billion, managed by 300 staff. Over 26 years with ADB, Winfried has built experience across country strategies and programs, sector strategies, infrastructure finance, and private sector mobilization across Asia and the Pacific. Prior to this role, he served as Director General for Southeast Asia. Earlier positions include Deputy Director General for Southeast Asia, Country Director for Indonesia, and Country Director for Myanmar, with earlier postings in Thailand, Australia, and the Philippines. Before ADB, Winfried worked in corporate finance and investment banking advisory at PricewaterhouseCoopers, and earlier with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. An Austrian national, Winfried holds an MBA from the University of Münster, Germany.
	Qingfeng Zhang Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, ADB Mr. Qingfeng Zhang leads and oversees ADB's overall rural development, natural resources, food security, and agriculture operations. In his 20 years in ADB, he has worked on projects in sectors that include water resources management, green agricultural value chains, efficient use of natural resources, climate resilient agriculture, rural renewable biomass energy, healthy agriculture-ecosystems, food safety, and internet plus agriculture. He has authored numerous publications on these topics. Prior to joining ADB, he served as director at the State Environmental Protection Administration in Beijing; Senior Environment Specialist at the World Bank; and a Research Fellow at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.
	William Dar Senior Adviser, ASEAN-BAC Philippines, Board Chair, ISAAA, Former Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines Dr. William D. Dar is a distinguished Filipino agricultural leader and advocate for small farmers, fisherfolk, and agripreneurs, recognized for his servant leadership and commitment to food security and inclusive agricultural development. He served twice as Secretary of the Philippine Department of Agriculture and previously led the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics for 15 years, transforming it into one of the top-performing centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research while advancing the Inclusive Market-Oriented Development (IMOD) strategy to empower farmers. Dr. Dar has received numerous honors, including the MS Swaminathan Global Leadership Award for Sustainable Development and the The Outstanding Filipino Award. He continues to contribute to agricultural development as Senior Adviser to the Kapatid Angat Lahat Agri Program of Go Negosyo and the ASEAN Food Security Alliance, and as Chairman of the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, promoting

	sustainable agriculture, biotechnology adoption, and resilient food systems in the Philippines and globally.
	Shanerisse Tamondong Youth Leader for Nutrition, Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network Project Associate for Food Security and Nutrition, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction Shanerisse is a Filipino youth nutrition leader serving as Volunteer National Youth Coordinator for the Philippines under the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network and Interim Lead Convenor of the emerging SUN Youth Network Philippines. She works as a Project Associate for Food Security and Nutrition at the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, leading youth-focused advocacy and capacity-building initiatives. An alumna of the Ayala Young Leaders Congress and participant at the Nutrition for Growth Summit and a participant at the Nutrition for Growth Summit, she champions youth engagement in inclusive, nature-positive food systems and mobilizes young leaders to shape the Philippines' nutrition agenda.
	Kinja Tauli Partners for Indigenous Knowledge Philippines (PIKP) Kinja Tauli is an indigenous Ibaloy - Kankana-ey from Baguio City, Philippines. She studied BS Biology in UP Baguio and MS Forestry Major Forest Biological Science Minor in Soil Science in UP Los Banos. She is affiliated with Partners for Indigenous Knowledge Philippines (PIKP), and works toward deepening respect for indigenous peoples' rights and valuing indigenous values, knowledge and practices. Her work strives to involve the different sectors in the community for a more inclusive and collective effort to document, strengthen, transmit and promote indigenous knowledge.
	Leunell Chris Buella Assistant Professor, Land and Water Resources Engineering Division University of the Philippines Los Banos Leunell Chris Buella is an Assistant Professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, working at the intersection of water science, climate adaptation, and sustainable agri-food systems. His work focuses on groundwater and surface water modeling, flood and drought risk assessment, and climate-resilient irrigation and precision agriculture. He currently leads and contributes to multiple national and international projects on groundwater monitoring, contaminant transport, integrated water resources management, and AI-supported decision tools for agriculture, including the AQUASMART initiative. He is a member of the World Food Forum Young Scientists Group and actively engages in science-policy processes to advance climate-smart, people-centered water management.
	Jehrrad Hijara Nadonza Executive Director, MINDANAW® Seafood Social Engagement Head, Mapiya Mindanaw Jerrhad is born and raised in Davao de Oro province in southern Mindanao. He is a trained fisheries technologist with experience in aquaculture, seafood processing, and post-harvest value-chain creation. In 2022, he co-founded MINDANAW Seafood, a social enterprise aiming to benefit Filipino consumers, local fishers, and aqua-farmers. By linking seafood producing communities in Mindanao, Sulu Archipelago, and Palawan to major local markets, he aims at improving the quality of Philippine seafood that reaches the consumers table, while ensuring food safety, responsible sourcing, and fair trade.

	Just E. Daguo-ob Agriculturist II, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry Just is a registered agriculturist with over seven years of experience advancing rural development through organic farming, soil fertility management, and the conservation of plant genetic resources, bridging scientific research and field practice to build sustainable, biodiversity-friendly farming systems. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of BS Agriculture major in Organic Agriculture, she is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Soil Science. Recognized as a Finalist for the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines–Western Visayas in 2018, she actively engages in professional and civic organizations to promote agricultural innovation and community empowerment, championing science-driven, service-oriented approaches that support farmers, ecosystems, and future generations.
	Mariano "Ameta" Dacosta Alves Founder, Cafe Organiku Atsabe, Timor-Leste Ameta is a coffee entrepreneur from Atsabe in the Ermera region of Timor-Leste, a major coffee-growing area in the country. After overcoming significant hardship in his youth, he began his career as a barista at Café Letefoho before receiving professional coffee training in Bali and Japan and expanding his work into farming, processing, and entrepreneurship. He later founded Café Organiku Atsabe to improve coffee processing quality and create opportunities for local farmers. In 2018, he won first place at the Festival Kafe Timor for excellence in coffee processing. With more than 11 years of experience in the coffee sector, Ameta now operates a coffee shop and exports Timor-Leste coffee to markets including Australia, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Through his work, he collaborates with over 5,000 farming households across Ermera and Aileu while creating jobs for 40 to 150 young people. His goal is to strengthen Timor-Leste's coffee sector, particularly in production and quality, to help farmers secure sustainable prices while contributing to job creation and economic development.
	Tanya Huizer Senior Water Resilience Specialist, Water and Urban Development, ADB Ms. Tanya Huizer is a senior water resilience specialist at Asian Development Bank with experience in working on integrated coastal & river basin management, social inclusion, Nature-Based-Solutions and integrating water and urban developments for resilient cities. She worked for over 12 years at an engineering firm worldwide water consultant, project manager and Shelter program manager for the CSR partnership with UN-Habitat. She also held position at the Netherlands Embassy in Myanmar. In ADB, she coordinates the Water Resilience Trust Fund (WRTF) and works on partnerships, youth engagement, the laundry transformation, river basin twinning and water resilience in Asia and the Pacific. Tanya holds a B.Sc. in Environmental System Analysis and a M.Sc. in Environmental Sciences with a specialization in marine & coastal management at Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands.
	Meredith Cua Senior Investment Officer, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB Meredith Hazel Cua is a Senior Investment Officer in the Asian Development Bank's Agribusiness Investments Team, where she leverages over seven years of experience within the ADB ecosystem to drive sustainable private sector growth. A CFA Charterholder and Certified Public Accountant, she has delivered high-impact transactions across the ASEAN region. Meredith graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of the Philippines, Diliman, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Accountancy.

	Yating Ru Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development Sector Office, ADB Yating Ru is a Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist with the Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Her work focuses on interdisciplinary approaches that integrate geospatial big data, data science tools, and economic analysis to address development challenges related to poverty, food insecurity, environmental degradation, and climate change. Before joining ADB, Yating worked as a Research Analyst at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D.C. She holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree from Cornell University.
	Cherrie Atilano Chairperson, AGREA Foundation Ms. Cherrie Atilano is a multi-awarded Filipino social entrepreneur and the founding CEO of AGREA, a purpose-driven agri-business promoting sustainable agriculture, fair trade, and inclusive agri-based economies. She is a recognized voice for farmers and food systems transformation, with her work featured by the United Nations, World Economic Forum, and global media platforms. While active in international policy spaces, Ms. Atilano remains deeply rooted in the field—working directly with farming communities to drive impact on climate, gender equity, and rural development. She also sits on several Boards of organizations nationally and globally. She holds a degree in Agriculture from Visayas State University, and has completed executive education at Wageningen University, Stanford University, and Harvard Kennedy School.

Additional Links

Links to [Session Concept Note](#), [Run of Show](#), [Photos](#), [Presentations](#) and [Videos](#)

Reception Dinner and Chefs Showcase (*Lasa ng Panahon [Taste of the Season]*): Celebrating Local Flavors for Dietary Diversity and Resilience)

17 March 2026 ● Staff Hub ● 6:00 PM onwards

Rationale

The curated chef showcase will take place alongside the Reception Dinner of the Asia and the Pacific Food Systems Forum 2026, celebrating the richness, diversity, and resilience of Philippine food systems.

Titled “**Lasa ng Panahon**” (**Taste of the Season**), the showcase brings together four distinguished Filipino chefs and a pioneering mixologist to present elevated appetizers and crafted beverages using seasonal, locally sourced, and indigenous ingredients from across the Philippines.

Each chef will present curated appetizer selections that highlight seasonal and indigenous ingredients, responsible sourcing practices, and low-waste principles. The mixologist will complement the culinary offerings with signature beverages - both alcoholic and non-alcoholic – crafted from native fruits, herbs, and local spirits.

Interactive chef stations will invite guests to engage with ingredient storytelling ingredient cards recognizing farmer and Indigenous partners, observe live plating demonstrations, and experience how culinary creativity can translate biodiversity and traditional knowledge into modern, nutrition-conscious gastronomy.

Beyond culinary excellence, the event highlight how biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and responsible production practices directly contribute to dietary diversity, improved nutrition outcomes, and climate-resilient food systems. By connecting gastronomy with policy dialogue, the showcase demonstrates how sustainable food systems must ultimately deliver accessible, affordable, culturally appropriate, and healthy diets.

This showcase contributes to the Forum’s vision of advancing “Fair Nutrition” by celebrating biodiversity, supporting local producers, and promoting inclusive and sustainable food systems transformation.

Objectives and Target Audience

1. Showcase Philippine biodiversity and culinary heritage through modern interpretations that celebrate flavor, nutrition, and sustainability.
2. Elevate the visibility of indigenous and underutilized ingredients that contribute to micronutrient adequacy, dietary diversity, and resilient local food systems.
3. Promote sustainable sourcing and inclusive local value chains that support small producers and aligned with food systems transformation towards healthy diets.
4. Demonstrate the role of gastronomy in advancing nutrition-sensitive food systems. valuing whole foods, traditional knowledge, biodiversity, and low-waste practices .

Outputs and Expected Outcomes

- Increased visibility of indigenous, seasonal and nutrient-dense Philippines ingredients among regional policymakers, development partners, and private sector actors.
- Strengthen recognition of biodiversity as a foundation of dietary diversity, nutrition security, and climate resilience.
- Reinforced understanding that sustainable food systems must deliver healthy diets that are accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate, and environmentally sustainable.

Agenda

17 March 2026 6:00 PM onwards Moderator: Anna Oposa, Co-Founder, Save Philippine Seas	
Time	Activity
6:00 p.m. – 6:10 p.m.	Remarks
6:10 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Chefs Showcase • Introduction: Tomoko Kato, Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, ADB • Insights from the Chefs • Interactive tasting stations and ingredient storytelling recognizing farmer and Indigenous partners
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	ADB Chorale
7:30 p.m. - Onwards	Networking

Celebrity Chefs

Chefs	Profile
	Jayjay Sycip is a Filipino chef known for his refined yet deeply rooted approach to Philippine cuisine. With a strong focus on local sourcing and seasonal ingredients, he champions small producers and elevates indigenous flavors through contemporary techniques. His culinary philosophy centers on honoring Filipino food heritage while presenting it in ways that resonate with modern diners.
	Rhea Castro-Sycip is a Filipino chef whose work highlights the role of women in culinary leadership and food systems transformation. She champions farm-to-table principles, uplifts local farmers, and integrates indigenous ingredients into mindful, sustainable cuisine.
	Myke “Tatung” Sarthou is a celebrated Filipino chef, restaurateur, author, and food advocate. He is widely respected for championing Filipino comfort food and making heritage dishes accessible to contemporary audiences. Through his restaurants, cookbooks, and media presence, he promotes regional Philippine flavors and culinary education.

	Patrick Go is a Filipino chef recognized for his modern interpretation of Filipino and Asian flavors. Known for precision and creativity, he highlights local produce and seafood while incorporating contemporary culinary techniques. His style balances bold flavors with elegant presentation.
	Kalel Demetrio is a pioneering Filipino mixologist redefining Philippine craft cocktails through indigenous ingredients and cultural storytelling. As founder of Agimat Foraging Bar and Kitchen, he champions native botanicals, local spirits, and pre-colonial flavor traditions—bringing Filipino mixology to global recognition.

Additional Links

Links to [Concept Note](#) and [Photos](#)

Session 3.1.: Accelerating Agrifood Systems Transformation in Asia and the Pacific: From Policy to Investment Deep Dive

18 March 2026 | 8:30 – 9:50 AM | MFH 2

Overview

Food systems across Asia and the Pacific face a persistent gap between policy ambition and investment reality. While governments have articulated national food system, nutrition, and climate strategies, these priorities often struggle to translate into bankable projects capable of attracting development and private finance. At the same time, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) and Public Development Banks (PDBs) face limited pipelines aligned with food systems transformation objectives.

The Agrifood Systems Accelerator was established to address this gap by supporting governments to convert national priorities into investible actions, align DFIs and private investors, and mobilize finance for healthier, more sustainable diets. Anchored in government demand and powered by a multi-partner approach, the Accelerator combines diagnostic tools, policy coherence analysis, and tailored investment support to unlock capital at scale.

This session explores how the Accelerator can support Asia–Pacific countries in moving from policy to investment, showcasing country pathways, regional lessons, and opportunities for DFI and private-sector engagement over 2026–2027.

Objectives and Target Audience

Objectives

- ☐ Present the *Agrifood Systems Accelerator* and its operational model.
- ☐ Demonstrate how national agrifood system priorities can be translated into bankable actions.
- ☐ Showcase country examples and investment pathways.
- ☐ Highlight opportunities for DFI alignment and private sector engagement in Asia–Pacific.
- ☐ Identify the next steps for Accelerator engagement and pipeline development (2026–2027).

Target Audience

- ☐ Government officials leading agrifood systems, food security, nutrition, and climate agendas
- ☐ Development finance institutions and public development banks
- ☐ Multilateral and bilateral development partners
- ☐ Private investors and agri-food businesses
- ☐ Research institutions, civil society, and ADB staff

Outputs and Outcomes

- ☐ Improved regional understanding of the Agrifood Systems Accelerator and its tools.
- ☐ Identification of priority countries for early Accelerator engagement in Asia–Pacific.
- ☐ Stronger alignment between governments, DFIs, and private sector actors around shared investment pathways.
- ☐ Momentum toward co-developing investible food systems pipelines for 2026–2027.

Partners

- ☐ Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ☐ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- ☐ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UN-FAO)
- ☐ Government of Canada
- ☐ International Fund for Agricultural Development (UN-IFAD)
- ☐ Sustainable Pacific Communities (SPC)

18 March 2026 8:30 – 9:50 AM		
Time	Activity	Speaker/Moderator
	Introduction to Speakers	Tomoko Kato Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, ADB
8:30 – 8:35 AM	Opening Remarks Framing Asia and the Pacific's transformation opportunity and the investment gap	Shantanu Mitra Alternate Executive Director, ADB
8:35 – 8:45 AM	Presentation: What is the Agrifood Systems Transformation Accelerator?	Máximo Torero Cullen Chief Economist, FAO Lawrence Haddad Executive Director, GAIN
Moderator: Lawrence Haddad		
8:45 – 9:30 AM	Panel: From policy to investment – lessons from the region Country panel ☐ Cambodia ☐ Indonesia ☐ The Philippines ☐ Solomon Island Partner panel ☐ Pacific Community ☐ IFAD ☐ Government of Canada's Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Foods Office	H.E. Sok Silo, Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) Jarot Indarto, Director of Food and Agriculture, Bappenas Maria Julia Gubat, PhD Senior Science Researcher, DOST-FNRI Hon. Franklyn Derek Wasi Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Solomon Florence Rahiria Deputy Director, SPC Candra Samekto Country Director (IFAD) Martin Sullivan

		Trade Commissioner Government of Canada
9:30 – 9:40 AM	Interactive discussion: Audience input on opportunities and barriers	Moderator: Lawrence Haddad
9:40 – 9:50 AM	Closing reflections and next steps	Máximo Torero Cullen

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Shantanu Mitra Alternate Executive Director, Director's Advisor, ADB Board of Director for Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Türkiye and United Kingdom Shantanu Mitra is a seasoned development economist with extensive strategic leadership and management experience across international development and policy. His expertise spans economic policy, public finance, health economics, climate change, evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, and international aid policy. Over the course of his career, Mr. Mitra has advised governments, multilateral institutions, and development partners on designing and implementing policies that balance economic growth with social and environmental sustainability. He brings a strong background in programme management and people leadership, ensuring that complex initiatives deliver measurable impact.
	Candra Samekto IFAD Country Director and Representative for the Pacific Mr. Candra Samekto currently holds position as the IFAD Country Director and Representative for the Pacific Island Countries covering Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Prior to this position, Mr. Samekto was the Country Director for Afghanistan based in East Asia Sub-Regional Hub in Beijing, China. He started his career in IFAD as Environment and Climate Officer at Southeast Asia and the Pacific Sub-Regional Hub in Jakarta, Indonesia, when he was responsible for managing environment and climate projects portfolio in ASEAN countries. Prior to joining the United Nations in 2017, Mr. Samekto has extensive experiences working in public and private sector organizations for over 15 years. He previously also worked as a Senior Planner in the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) in Indonesia. He also did some consultancy works for International Water Centre (IWC), UNESCAP, OXFAM, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and Department of Environment and Resources Management of Queensland Government, mostly in Australia and Indonesia. Mr Samekto holds PhD degree in Natural Resources Management and Policy from the University of Queensland, Australia and Master of Science in Water Service Management from UNESCO-IHE Delft, the Netherlands. He has specialized knowledge in programme and portfolio management, natural resources management, public policy, as well as infrastructure development and financing. He also has strong technical background and experience in the design and implementation of investment programmes.

	Tomoko (Toko) Kato Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Toko has over a decade of experience mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and rural development investments across Asia and the Pacific. Her work focuses on integrating nutrition into policies, programs, and financing mechanisms so that food systems deliver not only higher productivity but also healthier diets, improved livelihoods, and greater resilience. Toko works closely with governments, development partners, and the private sector to advance nutrition-sensitive investments and food systems transformation across the region. She is particularly interested in linking agriculture, climate resilience, biodiversity, and human capital to improve food and nutrition security. A passionate advocate for social inclusion and education, Toko believes that community-driven development is essential for sustainable impact. She champions approaches that place women, youth, and Indigenous communities at the center of food systems transformation, empowering them as agents of change for healthier diets and resilient communities.
	Lawrence Haddad Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Dr Lawrence Haddad has been GAIN's Executive Director since 2016. In 2020 he was asked by the UN Deputy Secretary General to Chair Action Track 1 of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit: Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All. Lawrence is the co-founder of the Standing Together for Nutrition, a response to the COVID-19 crisis, and is one of the drivers behind the Initiative on Climate and Nutrition (ICAN) which was formally launched by the Egyptian Government at COP27. Prior to GAIN, Lawrence was lead author of the Global Nutrition Report, Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and Director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division at IFPRI. He was made a World Food Prize Laureate in 2018 and was awarded a CMG in the 2023 UK Honours List for his "services to international nutrition, food and agriculture".
	Máximo Torero Cullen Chief Economist, FAO Dr. Máximo Torero Cullen is the Chief Economist of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He joined the Organization in January 2019 as Assistant Director-General for the Economic and Social Development Department. Prior to joining FAO, he had been Executive Director at the World Bank Group since November 2016 and, before the Bank, Dr. Torero led the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). His major research work lies in analyzing poverty, inequality, importance of geography and assets (private or public) in explaining poverty, and in policies oriented towards poverty alleviation based on the role played by infrastructure, institutions, and on how technological breakthroughs (or discontinuities) can improve the welfare of households and small farmers. His experience encompasses Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia. Dr. Torero, a national of Peru, holds a Ph.D. and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of the Pacific, Lima, Peru. He is a professor on leave at the University of the Pacific (Peru) and an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at University of Bonn, Germany, and has also published in top journals (QJE, Econometric Theory, AER-Applied Microeconomics, RSTAT, Labor Economics and many other top journals). In 2000, Dr. Torero has received the Georg Foster Research Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, won the Award for Outstanding Research on

	Development given by The Global Development Network, twice, in 2000 and in 2002 and received the Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole in 2014.
	Jarot Indarto Director of Food and Agriculture at the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) Dr Jarot Indarto is currently Director, Directorate of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, Indonesia. He is also assigned as a National Convenor for Food Systems in Indonesia. His interests are Food and agricultural policy, environmental economics, water resources management, world development issues. He did his bachelor's degree at IPB University, Indonesia, majoring in soil sciences. He holds a Master of Technique (MT.) in Regional and Infrastructure Management from the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) Indonesia and a Master of Science (MSc.) in Environmental and Infrastructure Planning from the Faculty of Spatial Sciences at University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He holds a PhD in development science Hiroshima University, Japan.
	Maria Julia Gubat, PhD Senior Science Researcher, DOST-FNRI Dr. Maria Julia G. Gubat is a nutrition and food systems researcher at the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-FNRI), Philippines. She specializes in assessing and strengthening food systems to improve diets and nutrition, with a special focus on children, adolescents, and the wider population. Dr. Gubat has led national and sub-national initiatives on food environment mapping, food systems assessment, and indicator development to guide evidence-based governance and agrifood investment decisions. She is passionate about advancing a transformed Philippine food system, where the current generation lays the groundwork for youth to lead a more nutritious, equitable, and sustainable future.
	H.E. Dr. Sok Silo Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) of the Royal Government of Cambodia H.E. Dr. Sok Silo has served as Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) of the Royal Government of Cambodia since 2019. He is the country's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Government Focal Point (since 2014), National Food Systems Convener (since 2020), and Secretary of the Technical Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition (since 2013). Previously, Dr. Sok Silo was Deputy Secretary General of CARD for 12 years, Director of Administration for nearly a decade, and Private Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for five years. He has played a central role in shaping Cambodia's policies and strategies on agriculture, food systems, food security, and nutrition, leading national dialogues and consultations that produced the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, the Cambodia Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030, and the Country Operational Roadmap for the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting.

	Florence Rahiria Deputy Director, SPC Florence Rahiria joined LRD as Deputy Director, bringing over 14 years of experience in international development in the Pacific Region. Before joining LRD in May 2021, Flo worked in Papua New Guinea with AusAID/DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia) in several senior programme management roles. She also managed the Pacific regional programme for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research based in Fiji, and has experience in the banking and finance industry and in public service in PNG. Flo holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Economics from the University of Papua New Guinea, as well as a Master's Degree in International Development from York University in the United Kingdom
	Martin Sullivan Trade Commissioner, Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Foods Office, Government of Canada Martin Sullivan serves as Trade Commissioner at the Government of Canada's Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Foods Office, a specialized initiative designed to expand Canada's agricultural and agri-food presence in the Indo-Pacific region. Based in Manila, Philippines, he works to advance Canada's trade interests by supporting market access, promoting Canadian agri-food products, and fostering strategic partnerships with governments, industry, and regional organizations. Martin has built a strong career in international trade and policy. Prior to his current role, he served as Senior Market Development Officer at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and as Deputy Director for CanExport SMEs at Global Affairs Canada. He also worked as a Trade Commissioner with Global Affairs Canada, where he supported Canadian businesses in navigating international markets. His earlier professional experience includes roles in economic analysis and policy advisory, giving him a broad perspective on trade, development, and market systems. He holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from Carleton University, complementing his expertise in trade policy and international development. Through his leadership at the Indo-Pacific Agriculture and Agri-Foods Office, Martin plays a pivotal role in strengthening Canada's agri-food trade ties and advancing sustainable, inclusive growth in the region

Additional Links: Links to [Photos](#), [Recording](#) and [Presentation](#)

Session 3.2.: Planet-Friendly School Meals: A Science-to-Investment Platform for Healthy Diets and Climate Resilience

18 March 2026 | 11:20 – 12:40 PM | MFH 2

Rationale

Food systems across Asia and the Pacific are undergoing rapid transition—driven by climate change, biodiversity loss, changing diets, and rising pressures on public health systems. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires approaches that go beyond sectoral silos and isolated pilots.

Planet-friendly school meals offer a powerful, public demand instrument for food systems transformation.

By using schools as a stable demand anchor, governments can simultaneously:

- ☐ Improve diet quality, food security, and food literacy among children;
- ☐ Create predictable markets for farmers and local enterprises;
- ☐ Revitalize traditional and biodiverse and climate-resilient crops; and
- ☐ Reduce environmental footprints while strengthening resilience.

Rather than treating school meals as a standalone feeding intervention, this session positions them as a system-level investment mechanism linking regenerative agriculture, local procurement, rural finance, climate resilience, and human capital development.

Building on emerging experience in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines, and drawing on global science and scaling experience, the session moves from evidence to investment—exploring how regenerative school meals can be embedded within broader food systems transformation strategies across South and Southeast Asia and Pacific Island countries.

The focus is not on whether school meals matter, but on what structural, policy, and financing reforms are required to scale them effectively.

Objectives and Target Audience

Objectives

- ☐ Position planet-friendly school meals as a food systems transformation investment platform, rather than a standalone feeding program.
- ☐ Identify structural barriers to scaling and propose policy, market, and financing solutions.
- ☐ Demonstrate how regenerative agriculture and local procurement can deliver nutrition, climate, and biodiversity co-benefits.
- ☐ Clarify entry points for ADB policy dialogue, sovereign lending, trust funds, and blended finance.

Target Audience

- ☐ Government officials working across agriculture, nutrition, education, social protection, and climate
- ☐ Development partners and international organizations
- ☐ Development finance institutions and investors
- ☐ Researchers and civil society organizations
- ☐ ADB operational teams

Outputs and Outcomes

- ☐ Clear articulation of structural barriers to scaling planet-friendly school meals
- ☐ Identification of priority policy and financing levers
- ☐ Defined entry points for ADB operations and partnerships
- ☐ Momentum for follow-on initiatives under the Fair Nutrition pillar and regional food systems programming

Partners

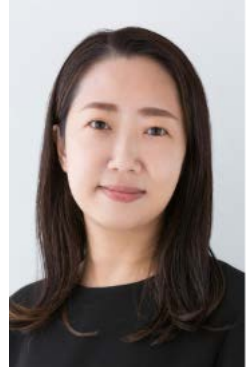
- ☐ Asian Development Bank
- ☐ Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- ☐ Rockefeller Foundation
- ☐ JICA
- ☐ International Fund for Agricultural Development
- ☐ World Food Programme (WFP)
- ☐ Grow Asia

18 March 2026 11:20 – 12:40 PM		
Time	Activity	Speaker/Moderator
Moderator: Purnima Menon Senior Director for Food and Nutrition Policy, IFPRI		
11:20 – 11:25	Opening Remarks Food system lens and Human Capital and Behavior Lens	Emmanuel Y. Jimenez Director General, Independent Evaluation Department - ADB
11:25 – 12:05	Anchor Talks – From Science to Delivery ☐ Talk 1: Science and Systems (7 mins) ☐ Talk 2: From Pilots to Scale (7 mins) ☐ Talk 3: Public Delivery at Scale (7 mins) ☐ Talk 4: Government Implementation (7 mins) ☐ Talk 5: Government Implementation (7 mins)	Danny Hunter Principal Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT Floor Overbeeke Director of Regenerative School Meals for Asia, Rockefeller Foundation Marika Nomura Senior Advisor on Nutrition, Human Development Department, JICA Roger Masapol Assistant Secretary, DepEd, Philippines H.E. Sok Silo, Secretary General Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD), Cambodia

		Jarot Indarto , Director of Food and Agriculture, Bappenas
12:10 – 12:35	Roundtable Dialogue – Making It Work in Practice (25 minutes) This dialogue explores how school meal programs can serve as a public demand instrument to transform food systems, linking children's nutrition, smallholder farmers, climate-resilient agriculture, and partnerships across the public and private sectors.	Candra Samekto Country Director (IFAD) Irish Baguilat Coordinator for the Women Farmers Agenda and Program Manager Asian Farmers' Association Elisabet Fadul Head of Programme, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), Philippines Country Office Frédérique Glazener Head of Programme, Grow Asia
12:35 – 12:37	Reflection from ADB	Tomoko Kato , Senior Nutrition Specialist ADB-AFNR
12:37 – 12:40	Closing reflections – What Changes After Today	Eisuke Tajima Director, ADB HSD

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Emmanuel Jimenez Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, Asian Development Bank Emmanuel Jimenez is Director General, Independent Evaluation Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Reporting to ADB's Board of Directors, his responsibilities include assessing ADB's development effectiveness, as well providing lessons to inform ADB operations. Prior to joining ADB, Mr. Jimenez worked as an Independent Consultant who provides advice, and conducts research and training on evaluation, economics, development management, education and social protection programs. Prior to this, he was the Executive Director and CEO of 3ie. In this role, he led and conducted impact evaluations and evidence reviews. He provided strategic direction to the organization as it championed the generation and use of evidence to guide decisions regarding policies and programs that improve lives in low and middle-income countries. Previously, Mr. Jimenez had worked for 30 years in the World Bank Group (WBG) and held several senior management roles across several departments such as the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), the South Asia, East Asia, and Pacific Groups, and the Policy Research Department. Mr. Jimenez was a faculty member of the Economics Department of Western University in London, Canada. Throughout his career, he has published extensively, including articles in peer-reviewed professional journals, books and reports on economic development and served as managing editor of several international development journals. Born in the Philippines, Mr. Jimenez is a national of Canada. He holds a Doctorate in Economics from Brown University in the United States, a Master's degree in Economics from University of Toronto in Canada, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from McGill University in Canada.

	Purnima Menon Senior Director, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Purnima leads research and policy engagement on nutrition programs in South Asia. She directs the POSHAN initiative in India and serves as Principal Investigator for large-scale evaluations of maternal and child nutrition interventions, including Alive & Thrive. With a PhD in International Nutrition from Cornell University, she has over two decades of experience in program evaluation, policy analysis, and capacity building. Her work focuses on reducing malnutrition through evidence-based strategies, strengthening implementation systems, and fostering partnerships across governments, donors, and civil society. She has authored numerous publications in leading journals, contributed to global nutrition dialogues, and received the Nevin Scrimshaw Mid-Career Award in Global Nutrition. Purnima is also a founding member of the Society for Implementation Science in Nutrition and continues to shape nutrition policy and practice in South Asia and globally.
	Danny Hunter Principal Scientist at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Danny has over 25 years of experience across 30 countries, including 12 years in Asia and the Pacific, leading multidisciplinary teams on environment, food, diets, and nutrition. He has directed global projects funded by the EU, ACIAR, AusAid, NZAID, and the Global Environment Facility, with a strong focus on improving local, nutritious foods in school meals and strengthening school food environments. His work emphasizes integrated school nutrition approaches, biodiversity-rich school gardens, and linking agroecological food production to school meals and education. Currently Principal Scientist at the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, Danny coordinated the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition project, recognized as one of CGIAR's top innovations of the past 50 years. He has authored major reports, including the WHO/CBD <i>Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health</i> and the 2023 white paper <i>School Meals and Food Systems</i>. With a PhD in Agriculture from the University of Sydney, Danny has published over 200 works and serves as Series Editor of the <i>Issues for Agricultural Biodiversity</i> book series
	Marika Nomura Senior Advisor on Nutrition and Human Development JICA, Japan Marika Nomura has supported technical cooperation projects in nutrition and health, focusing on project formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development. Her expertise lies in nutrition policy, school meal management, sustainable and healthy diets, and primary health care, drawing on Japan's long-standing experience in nutrition improvement. Prior to her role at JICA, Marika gained extensive international experience through academic and professional engagements. She worked at a medical college in Japan, contributed to a JICA technical cooperation project in Yemen, collaborated with the Harvard School of Public Health in the United States, and served at the National Institute of Public Health in Japan. Her research and practice emphasize the intersection of nutrition, public health, and international cooperation, with a strong commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and universal health coverage. Marika has authored and co-authored numerous publications on nutrition and public health, including studies on dietary intake and planetary health. She continues to play a key role in shaping JICA's global nutrition agenda and strengthening evidence-based approaches to improve health outcomes worldwide.

	Jarot Indarto Director of Food and Agriculture at the National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) Dr Jarot Indarto is currently Director, Directorate of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, Indonesia. He is also assigned as a National Convenor for Food Systems in Indonesia. His interests are Food and agricultural policy, environmental economics, water resources management, world development issues. He did his bachelor's degree at IPB University, Indonesia, majoring in soil sciences. He holds a Master of Technique (MT.) in Regional and Infrastructure Management from the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) Indonesia and a Master of Science (MSc.) in Environmental and Infrastructure Planning from the Faculty of Spatial Sciences at University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He holds a PhD in development science Hiroshima University, Japan.
	Roger B. Masapol Assistant Secretary – Governance Operation, Education Governance Department of Education, Republic of the Philippines Asec. Roger B. Masapol is a dedicated educator, Special Education advocate, and experienced policy analyst with over 20 years in policymaking at the Department of Education (DepEd). Throughout his career, he has held multiple roles, from classroom teacher to Director IV of the Planning Service, contributing significantly to education reform. In his tenure at DepEd, Asec. Masapol led initiatives that shaped educational policy, including establishing the policy development process, standardizing school forms, harmonizing enrollment policies, adopting a research agenda, creating the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) system, and formulating the Basic Education Development Plan (BEDP) 2030. Additionally, he chaired the Interagency Committee on Education Statistics (IACES) for five years, reinforcing his commitment to data-driven educational improvements. After retiring from DepEd in August 2023, Asec. Masapol joined UNICEF as an Education Specialist focused on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), where he led UNICEF's Mindanao Field Office education initiatives. His experience in BARMM expanded his perspective on education in diverse cultural settings. In 2024, he returned to DepEd, joining Secretary Sonny Angara's new Executive Committee as Assistant Secretary for Strategic Management, where he continues to champion strategic reforms. Asec. Masapol's academic credentials include a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Sydney and a Master's in Economics Education from the University of Asia and the Pacific. A graduate of Ateneo de Naga University, he is also a proud product of the public school system. His career reflects a steadfast commitment to advancing education policy and access in the Philippines.
	H.E. Dr. Sok Silo Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) of the Royal Government of Cambodia H.E. Dr. Sok Silo has served as Secretary General of the Council for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) of the Royal Government of Cambodia since 2019. He is the country's Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Government Focal Point (since 2014), National Food Systems Convener (since 2020), and Secretary of the Technical Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition (since 2013). Previously, Dr. Sok Silo was Deputy Secretary General of CARD for 12 years, Director of Administration for nearly a decade, and Private Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for five years.

	He has played a central role in shaping Cambodia's policies and strategies on agriculture, food systems, food security, and nutrition, leading national dialogues and consultations that produced the National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition, the Cambodia Roadmap for Food Systems for Sustainable Development 2030, and the Country Operational Roadmap for the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting.
	Candra Samekto IFAD Country Director and Representative for the Pacific Mr. Candra Samekto currently holds position as the IFAD Country Director and Representative for the Pacific Island Countries covering Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Prior to this position, Mr. Samekto was the Country Director for Afghanistan based in East Asia Sub-Regional Hub in Beijing, China. He started his career in IFAD as Environment and Climate Officer at Southeast Asia and the Pacific Sub-Regional Hub in Jakarta, Indonesia, when he was responsible for managing environment and climate projects portfolio in ASEAN countries. Prior to joining the United Nations in 2017, Mr. Samekto has extensive experiences working in public and private sector organizations for over 15 years. He previously also worked as a Senior Planner in the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) in Indonesia. He also did some consultancy works for International Water Centre (IWC), UNESCAP, OXFAM, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) and Department of Environment and Resources Management of Queensland Government, mostly in Australia and Indonesia. Mr Samekto holds PhD degree in Natural Resources Management and Policy from the University of Queensland, Australia and Master of Science in Water Service Management from UNESCO-IHE Delft, the Netherlands. He has specialized knowledge in programme and portfolio management, natural resources management, public policy, as well as infrastructure development and financing. He also has strong technical background and experience in the design and implementation of investment programmes.
	Floor Overbeeke Director of Regenerative Schools Meals, Rockefeller Foundation As Director of Regenerative Agriculture at The Rockefeller Foundation, Ms. Overbeeke leads in building programs that connect smallholder farmers to school meal markets – creating systems where children thrive and farmers prosper. She leads the regen component of Rockefeller Foundation's \$100 million school meals initiative, reaching 100 million children across 12+ countries. The model: source school meals from local farmers using regenerative practices. The result: better nutrition, farmer livelihoods, climate resilience, and rural jobs – all at once. Ms. Overbeeke was born in Benin, raised Burundi, and educated Netherlands. She worked in the development sector (Oxfam, TechnoServe) and in the private sector (as Senior Sustainability Director for Africa at The Coca-Cola Company) covering 60+ countries, 4 continents, and through 7 languages. She continues to be an advocate of promoting programs at scale and working on food systems transformation.
	Frédérique Glazener Regional Lead of Programs at Grow Asia Frédérique is works with partners across sectors to advance more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agricultural systems in Southeast Asia. She is a sustainability leader with deep experience in responsible food and agricultural supply chains. Prior to joining Grow Asia, Frederique worked at Albert Heijn, the largest food retailer in The Netherlands, where she led social and environmental risk management strategies across global value chains, including soy, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, and seafood. Her work focused on translating complex sustainability challenges into practical, scalable action in partnership with suppliers, NGOs, and industry initiatives. She also played a key role in Albert Heijn becoming the world's first major supermarket chain to achieve B Corp certification, helping embed social and environmental performance into the company's core business strategy.

	Frédérique holds a Masters degree in Business & Sustainability and is passionate about the future of food and agriculture. Curious by nature, she is especially motivated by working across cultures and sectors to build more inclusive and resilient food systems.
	Elisabet Fadul Head of Programmes at the World Food Programme (WFP) Philippines Country Office Elisabet Fadul leads collaboration with the Government and key partners to strengthen integrated food systems and social protection systems, with a strong focus on reaching last-mile communities. In this role, she guides programme and policy design, fosters strategic partnerships, and ensures evidence-based enhancements that advance food security and nutrition outcomes. Having joined WFP in 2005, she has accumulated 20 years of experience across programme, supply chain, research, and monitoring units in both humanitarian and development contexts, and took up her current post in the Philippines in 2025. Beyond WFP, she has worked with other UN organizations and contributed to global advocacy platforms, including the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Councils. A national of the Dominican Republic, Elisabet holds a Master's degree in business administration and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations.
	Irish Baguilat Program Manager, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA) Irish P. Baguilat is a development practitioner and Program Manager at the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), where she also serves as Coordinator for the Women Farmers Agenda. Based in the Philippines, she has dedicated her career to advancing food security, rural livelihoods, and gender empowerment across Asia and Africa. A licensed agriculturist, Irish brings technical expertise to farmer-led initiatives, ensuring that women's voices and priorities are integrated into agricultural policies and programs. Before joining AFA, she worked with the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), managing community-based learning programs and supporting project staff in Cavite. Her experience spans project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and capacity development, with a strong focus on inclusive and sustainable rural development.
	Tomoko (Toko) Kato Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Toko has over a decade of experience mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and rural development investments across Asia and the Pacific. Her work focuses on integrating nutrition into policies, programs, and financing mechanisms so that food systems deliver not only higher productivity but also healthier diets, improved livelihoods, and greater resilience. Toko works closely with governments, development partners, and the private sector to advance nutrition-sensitive investments and food systems transformation across the region. She is particularly interested in linking agriculture, climate resilience, biodiversity, and human capital to improve food and nutrition security. A passionate advocate for social inclusion and education, Toko believes that community-driven development is essential for sustainable impact. She champions approaches that place women, youth, and Indigenous communities at the center of food systems transformation, empowering them as agents of change for healthier diets and resilient communities.
	Eisuke Tajima Director, ADB HSD Eisuke has over 20 years of experience in reforms and transformation of secondary education, technical and vocational education and training and higher education in Asia. He led policy dialogue, ADB-financed education sector projects and technical assistance in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Mongolia, Nepal, and the People's Republic of China. Before joining ADB in 2008, he worked for UNESCO Hanoi Office in Viet Nam, and UNESCO Headquarters (Basic Education Department,

	Education Sector). He has publications from his work in ADB and UNESCO including “Technical and Vocational Education and Training Financing in the Peoples’ Republic of China” and “The Transition of Ethnic Minority Girls from Primary to Secondary Education” in Viet Nam.
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Additional Links: Links to [Presentation](#), [Photos](#), and [Recording](#)

Session 3.3.: Behavior Change and Healthy Diets: Linking Food Systems to Better Nutrition

18 March 2026 ● 2:00 – 3:30 PM ● Multifunction Hall 2 (MFH2)

Rationale

The session is a collaboration between ADB's regular Wellness Wednesday sessions and AFNR's Fair Nutrition initiative which both promote healthy diets through sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems. This session is designed to guide the audience through a *farm-to-fork food systems journey*, from how nutritious food is produced to how it is consumed in everyday life.

The session will begin by establishing a shared understanding of the critical role food systems play in supporting healthy diets by influencing the availability, quality, and accessibility of food for consumers. Building on this, the discussion will shift to the food environment, highlighting practical and actionable strategies that help individuals and communities adopt healthier eating behaviors. The session will showcase how healthy eating habits are shaped by both the food environment where people live and the choices they make within those environments. Overall, it aims to demonstrate how well-designed food systems, paired with small and realistic actions, can foster healthier diets and improved wellbeing.

Objectives and Target Audience

The session aims to:

1. Increase participants' understanding of how agriculture and food systems influence diet quality, health, and everyday food choices.
2. Demonstrate how behavior change for healthy diets can be enabled through food environments at community and household levels.
3. Equip participants with simple, practical strategies to incorporate healthier eating habits into their daily routines.
4. Encourage reflection on personal food choices and foster commitment to small, realistic nutrition-related behavior changes.

Target Audience

ADB Staff, Government, CSO and private sector representatives

Outputs and Outcomes

Key Outputs

- ☐ Practical examples and case studies illustrating behavior change for nutrition at community and individual levels.
- ☐ Actionable tips and demonstrations that participants can replicate at home or at work.

Expected Outcomes

- ☐ Participants gain greater confidence in making healthier food choices within their existing food environments.
- ☐ Enhanced appreciation among participants of how aligned actions across agriculture, food systems, and human development contribute to healthier diets and wellbeing.

Partners

- ☐ Nutrition International
- ☐ World Food Programme
- ☐ SNV

Agenda

18 March 2026 2:00 – 3:30 PM	
Time	Activity
Overall moderator: Nizelle Sy-Constiniano, Senior Board Assistant, ADB-BOD	
2:00 – 2:05 pm	Welcome Remarks Dr. Asadang Dusadi-Isariyavong, Principal Medical and Health Specialist, ADB - BPMSD
2:05 – 2:15 pm	Creating an enabling environment through social and policy change Manoj Kumar, Regional Director Asia, Nutrition International
2:15 – 2:25 pm	Promoting healthy eating habits of individuals/households Laura Itzkowitz, Senior Social Development Specialist (Nutrition), HSD
2:25 – 2:45 pm	Changing Food Habits at Community Level: A Case from Lao PDR Marika Guderian, Head of Programme, WFP Lao PDR Ekanath Khatiwada, Sector Lead, Agri-Food Systems and Energy, SNV
2:45 – 3:25 pm	Q&A/Panel Discussion Moderator: Omer Zafar ☐ Manoj Kumar, Nutrition International ☐ Marika Guderian, WFP Lao PDR ☐ Ekanath Khatiwada, SNV ☐ Laura Itzkowitz, ADB-HSD
3:25 – 3:30 pm	Closing Remarks Omer Zafar, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB-AFNR

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Asadang Dusadi-Isariyavong Principal Medical and Health Specialist, ADB Dr. Asadang Dusadi-isariyavong has been the Principal Medical and Health Specialist (for Staff Health) at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 2019. His role is crucial in promoting staff health and wellbeing, overseeing the ADB HQ Medical Center, and leading mental health and wellness initiatives. With a strong background in healthcare management, emergency medical services, quality management, and occupational health and safety, he has held various significant positions, including Deputy Director at a private hospital in Bangkok, Head of the Emergency Department at a large private hospital in Bangkok, Coordinating Doctor for International SOS, and Senior Specialist on Medical and Occupational Health at PTTEP. He has multiple publications on occupational health management, health risks assessment, ergonomic risks, and stress at work, and has presented at numerous international conferences. He holds a bachelor's degree in education from Thailand and a Doctor of Medicine from the Philippines, and is a trained occupational health physician and aviation medicine physician with special interests in health communication and health management policy in multinational organizations.

	Manoj Kumar Regional Director Asia, Nutrition International Manoj Kumar is the Asia Regional Director of Nutrition International. In his role, Manoj provides strategic leadership to the overall development and delivery of Nutrition International's programs in Asia as well as sustaining and forging partnerships with key allies who share a commitment to improving the nutrition status of people around the world. Manoj is an accomplished international development professional with 25 years of senior leadership experience in 15 countries across Africa and Asia. Manoj holds a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, USA.
	Laura Itzkowitz Senior Social Development Specialist (Nutrition), ADB Laura Itzkowitz recently joined ADB as a Senior Nutrition Specialist. She has over 18 years of experience working on nutrition and behavior change activities in more than 20 countries across four continents. Laura has designed and led multi-sectoral projects for USAID and international NGOs, with a consistent focus on nutrition, community health, social and behavior change (SBC), and cross-sectoral coordination. From 2017-2025 she was a Senior Nutrition Advisor at USAID in Washington, DC supporting nutrition programs across Asia as well as parts of Africa and the Middle East. Her prior experience includes working with Alive & Thrive in Southeast Asia, Australian Red Cross in the Pacific Islands, Humanity and Inclusion in Laos, and Nuru International in Kenya. Laura has a Master of Public Health Nutrition from Tufts University and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.
	Marika Guderian Head of Programme, WFP Lao PDR Marika Guderian is the Head of Programme at the World Food Programme (WFP) in Lao PDR. She provides strategic leadership across nutrition, food systems, social protection, and climate resilience, working closely with government counterparts and development partners to address food insecurity and malnutrition. Her work focuses on linking food systems transformation with behavior change, nutrition-sensitive agriculture, and community-based approaches that improve diets and resilience at scale. Ms. Guderian brings over 15 years in the sector across the globe with multi-sectoral programming and crossagency collaboration as her focus, positioning nutrition at the center of inclusive and sustainable development.
	Ekanath Khatiwada Sector Lead, Agri-Food Systems and Energy, SNV, Lao PDR Ekanath brings over 24 years of experience in international development across Africa and Asia, with a strong focus on sustainable and inclusive growth through the Market System Development approach in agri-food systems and the energy sector. His expertise spans policy advocacy for water-energy-food ecosystems, sustainable financing, and SME innovation. Ekanath has contributed to various development programs in South Sudan, Zambia, Uganda, the Philippines, Tanzania, Nepal and Myanmar, and has worked with leading development partners such as UNDP, WFP, ILO, WHH, Habitat for Humanity, and USAID-funded projects. Ekanath holds an MBA from TU, Nepal and an MSc in Strategic Planning from EBS/Heriot-Watt University, UK

	Ekanath currently works for the SNV Laos Country Office as a Sector Lead for Agri-food Systems and Energy. He primarily provides leadership roles for nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) projects in Lao PDR, jointly implemented by WFP and SNV, funded by ADB and GAFSP.
	Omer Zafar Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB Omer is a Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist at ADB. An economist, he holds a bachelor's degree from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree from the University of Cambridge. Before joining ADB, Omer worked with IFAD and UNOPS, managing agrifood sector portfolios in around 35 countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. His work focuses on regional and country-level policies, strategies, and investments in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, natural capital, and climate change.
	Nizelle Sy-Costiniano Senior Board Assistant, ADB Since 2021, Nizelle Sy-Costiniano has been working with the ADB Board of Directors as a Senior Board Assistant for the Consistency Office of Belgium, France, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. She has also been working with ADB's Health and Well-being team on projects such as the launch of the Employee Assistance Program and the Mental Health Training for Leaders. Prior to ADB, Nizelle was a Management Consultant for France and Sweden's trade and invest offices working on international business development in Asia, with a focus on health, infrastructure, retail and energy.

Additional Links

[Session Concept Note](#), [Run of Show](#), [Photos](#), [Presentations](#)

Session 3.4: Nature, Climate and Nutrition: Building Resilient Food Systems

18 March 2026 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | MFH 2

Rationale

Food systems in Asia and the Pacific sit at the intersection of climate change, biodiversity loss, and persistent malnutrition. At the same time, the region holds strong potential to advance nature-positive and climate-resilient food systems that improve diets, strengthen livelihoods, and restore ecosystems.

This session explores the *nature–climate–nutrition nexus*, highlighting how regenerative agriculture, sustainable fisheries, and biodiversity-based food systems can deliver healthier diets while building resilience. Drawing on country experiences and emerging initiatives, the discussion will examine how integrated approaches can translate policy ambitions into practical investments and programs.

Objectives and Target Audience

Objectives

- ☐ Showcase practical examples linking climate resilience, biodiversity, and nutrition outcomes
- ☐ Highlight systems approaches connecting food systems, natural capital, and climate action
- ☐ Identify investment opportunities for integrated food systems transformation
- ☐ Strengthen alignment with global climate–nutrition initiatives

Target Audience

- ☐ Government policy makers in agriculture, nutrition, climate, and environment
- ☐ Development partners and international organizations
- ☐ Development finance institutions and investors
- ☐ Civil society, NGOs, and research institutions
- ☐ ADB staff and project teams

Expected Outcomes

- ☐ Greater awareness of how nature-positive and climate-resilient food systems can improve nutrition outcomes.
- ☐ Shared lessons from country experiences and ADB-supported programs linking climate, biodiversity, and nutrition.
- ☐ Clear entry points for integrating nutrition considerations into climate and natural capital investments.
- ☐ Strengthened collaboration across food, climate, and nutrition communities.

Partners

- ☐ Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ☐ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- ☐ United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO)
- ☐ Welthungerhilfe
- ☐ SUN Movement
- ☐ International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
- ☐ I-CAN
- ☐ Clim-EAT
- ☐ World Bank Group

Agenda

18 March 2026 4:00 – 5:30 PM		
Time	Activity	Speaker/Moderator
Moderator: Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director, GAIN		
16:00-16:03	Welcome	Moderator
16:03 –16:07	Opening remarks	Yoko Watanabe Director, Environment, ADB
16:06 – 16:16	Keynote	Lynnette Neufeld Director, Nutrition, FAO
16:16 – 16:32	Thematic panel: Panelists will discuss how integrated approaches can strengthen resilience, support livelihoods, and improve nutrition outcomes.	Benjamin Davies , Regional Food System Transformation Advisor, Welthungerhilfe Leanne Zeppenfeldt , Collaboration and Learning Architect, Clim-Eat Emily Monville-Oro Country Director for Philippines, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR)
16:32 – 17:21	Implementation and finance panel: Applying systems approaches to link climate adaptation, resilience, nutrition, and food systems transformation.	Tomás Rosada , Practice Manager, World Bank Noorullah , Principal Investment Specialist, ADB-PSOD Omer Zafar ADB-AFNR Farrah Naz , Country Director, GAIN Pakistan Srikanth Eadara Asia Regional Representative, SUN Movement
17:21-17:26	Reflection from the session	Lawrence Haddad
17:26-17:30	Closing Remarks	Lance William Gore - OIC, SEA & Pacific, SD2-AFNR

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Yoko Watanabe Director, Environment, ADB Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department Yoko Watanabe heads ADB's environmental sustainability work, including biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, air quality, circular economy and waste management, and nature-based solutions and investments. She has over 25 years of professional experience working on biodiversity and natural resources management. Prior to joining ADB, she directed the GEF Small Grants Programme as its Global Manager at UNDP in New York. Before that she worked at the Global Environment Facility and held key positions for over a decade, including Regional Coordinator for the Asia Program, Coordinator on Gender and Social Inclusion, and Program Manager on Biodiversity. While at the World Bank, Yoko also served at the Rwanda Country Office and managed its environment portfolio. Yoko also worked at the World Wildlife Fund as its Conservation Director in Mongolia and later as a Senior Advisor on Multilateral Relations in Washington DC. She started her development career at JICA in Tokyo, and later at UNDP as Environment Program Officer at Nepal and Mongolia Offices. Yoko is a Japanese national and holds a master's degree in international development with a focus on environment management.
	Lynnette Neufeld Director of the Food and Nutrition Division (ESN), UN-FAO Lynnette M. Neufeld, PhD strives to accomplish a professional goal of mobilizing intellectual resources to improve the health and nutrition of populations, using strategic research to inform better program design and implementation. Before joining FAO in 2022, Dr. Neufeld was Director of Monitoring, Learning and Research at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and part of its Senior Management Team, guiding research, evaluation, and organizational strategy. She has long been active in the global nutrition community, serving on boards and advisory groups, and since 2010 has chaired the Steering Committee of the Micronutrient Forum. Prior to GAIN, she led strategic research at the Micronutrient Initiative. From 1998 to 2009, she directed Nutritional Epidemiology at Mexico's National Institute of Public Health, leading research on child health and nutrition, including evaluation of the Oportunidades program. She continues collaborations with Emory, Cornell, and INSP, and has nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications advancing nutrition and public health in Latin America.
	Lawrence Haddad Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Dr Lawrence Haddad has been GAIN's Executive Director since 2016. In 2020 he was asked by the UN Deputy Secretary General to Chair Action Track 1 of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit: Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All. Lawrence is the co-founder of the Standing Together for Nutrition, a response to the COVID-19 crisis, and is one of the drivers behind the Initiative on Climate and Nutrition (ICAN) which was formally launched by the Egyptian Government at COP27. Prior to GAIN, Lawrence was lead author of the Global Nutrition Report, Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and Director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division at IFPRI. He was made a World Food Prize Laureate in 2018 and was awarded a CMG in the 2023 UK Honours List for his "services to international nutrition, food and agriculture".

	Tomás Rosada Practice Manager for Agriculture and Food Global Practice, World Bank Group Tomás has more than 15 years of experience leading large-scale development investments and advising governments on policies that mobilize capital for agriculture and food systems. In his current role, he manages sovereign investment operations and analytical programs to strengthen agricultural productivity, climate resilience, and private-sector participation in food systems. His focus is on structuring programs that blend public finance, policy reform, and private capital to improve sector performance in emerging markets. Tomás has worked extensively across South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean, designing and supervising projects in agricultural finance, digital agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, agricultural innovation systems, and public expenditure efficiency. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, he worked at the International Fund for Agricultural Development as Regional Economist and Country Programme Manager, and at the Inter-American Development Bank as Alternate Executive Director representing Central America and Belize. Tomás holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of Guelph and an MA in Economics from ILADES–Georgetown University.
	Leanne Zeppenfeldt, Collaboration and Learning Architect, Clim-Eat Leanne Zeppenfeldt leads institutional knowledge development, manages strategic partnerships, and designs collaborative learning processes that connect science, policy, and practice. Her work emphasizes fostering sustainable, equitable, and resilient food systems by engaging diverse stakeholders and advancing innovative approaches to climate-smart agriculture. Leanne previously served as Knowledge & Partnerships Officer at Clim-Eat (2022–2023), where she coordinated projects on food systems innovation, intergenerational learning, and climate action in Kenya’s counties. She has authored and co-authored numerous articles and opinion pieces on food systems reform, UN climate processes, and disruptive innovations in agriculture, published across platforms such as Clim-Eat, Farming First, and Devex. Academically, Leanne holds an MSc in International Development from Wageningen University & Research and a BSc (Hons) in Governance, Economics, and Development from Leiden University College The Hague. Her professional and academic background reflects a strong commitment to advancing climate action through inclusive, evidence-based food systems transformation.
	Emily Monville-Oro, Country Director IIRR Emily leads multi-country initiatives advancing climate-resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and nature-positive development. With over 30 years of experience across Asia, she integrates food systems transformation, biodiversity conservation, economic empowerment, and resilient health systems into scalable, community-driven solutions. She also serves as Senior Regional Adviser for Asia to the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Network (SUN CSN), supporting civil society alliances in 15 countries to strengthen nutrition policy and accountability. A public health specialist, Emily champions

	community resilience as the foundation for sustainable, climate-smart, and nutrition-secure development.
	Benjamin Davies, PhD Agriculture, Food Security, and Livelihoods Specialist, Welthungerhilfe Benjamin Davies contributes to WHH's global mission of fighting hunger and poverty by supporting agricultural development, food security programming, and rural livelihoods. His expertise spans agronomy, soil science, and environmental sustainability, with a strong focus on policy analysis and community-based approaches. Benjamin holds a PhD in Land and Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Minnesota, an MSc in Soil Sciences from Texas A&M, and a BSc in International Agriculture and Rural Development from Cornell. He also completed a certificate in Non-Profit Management, bridging technical expertise with leadership. His professional background includes serving as a USAID Foreign Service Officer in Agricultural Development, working on food security and rural development across Sub-Saharan Africa. With extensive experience in program design, monitoring and evaluation, and policy engagement, Benjamin contributes significantly to international efforts on sustainable agriculture and resilience. Through his work at WHH, Benjamin continues to advance evidence-based solutions that empower smallholder farmers, strengthen food systems, and address the root causes of hunger worldwide.
	Farrah Naz Country Director, Pakistan Farrah joined GAIN Pakistan as Country Director in March 2020. She is trained in rural development and gender. She has worked extensively in the design and delivery of multisectoral humanitarian responses, food safety, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, girls education, disability inclusive development, community development and gender based violence projects in Pakistan, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Philippines and Guinea. She has around three decades of experience working in the development sector with national and international NGOs and UNDP; is well-versed in managing projects in a multi-sectoral environment, as well as leading international teams. Farrah joined GAIN from the Christoffel Blinden Mission Christian Blind Mission – CBM e.V. where she worked as Country Director on the disability inclusive development, violence against women and girls with disabilities, eye health system, and community based inclusive development.
	Srikanth Eadara Asia Regional Representative, SUN Movement Dr. Srikanth EADARA, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Secretariat Regional Representative- Asia. In this role, Srikanth works with the SUN Movement Secretariat and SUN networks in 11 countries in Asia- Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Vietnam. The key focus is to support the countries in planning and implementation of the multi-sectoral nutrition priorities through a strengthened multi-stakeholder platform. Srikanth is an international development professional with a career across Asia for more than a decade. During his career, he has managed and implemented large scale projects in the areas of Maternal and Child Health & Nutrition, Immunization, Reproductive Health, and Early Childhood Development.

	Omer Zafar Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB 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 work 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.
	Noorullah Principal Investment Specialist, ADB-PSOD Noorullah is a Principal Investment Specialist at ADB's private sector agribusiness team covering both debt and equity investments. Prior to joining ADB in 2019, Noor served as the Global Head for Agriculture at Acumen, responsible for investing in agribusinesses in Asia, Africa and Latin America. At Acumen, he designed and structured the Acumen Resilient Agriculture Fund (ARAF), one of Africa's first climate resilience focused agribusiness fund. He also co-authored Growing Prosperity, a report on lessons from agribusiness investing.
	Lance Gore Principal Water Resource Specialist, ADB-AFNR Lance Gore is a Principal Water Resources Specialist for the Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office of the Asian Development Bank. He helps to lead the bank's operational programs for river basin management and governance, IWRM, and irrigation modernization. Lance has 30 years of experience in New Zealand, United Kingdom, North Africa, and Asia. Lance has a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Additional Links

Links to [Presentation](#), [Photos](#), and [Recordings](#)

Session 7.2: Investing in the Private Sector for Nutrition - Nutrition Finance Facility

19 March 2026 | 11:00 – 12:30 PM | Audi 3

Rationale

Asia and the Pacific carry the world's largest burden of malnutrition while also hosting some of the most dynamic food, agribusiness, and financial markets. Private-sector investment—when well designed and properly de-risked—can play a critical role in expanding access to affordable, nutritious foods, strengthening value chains, and accelerating progress toward nutrition and development goals.

This session focuses on how private capital can be mobilized at scale to deliver nutrition outcomes alongside financial returns. Drawing on lessons from the Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F) in Sub-Saharan Africa, the session explores how blended finance, technical assistance, and impact measurement can unlock investment in nutrition-focused enterprises.

The discussion will also examine the specific constraints faced by investors and financial institutions in Asia-Pacific, and how new nutrition finance facilities and partnerships—led by ADB, GAIN, and partners—can help build investible pipelines and support nutrition-sensitive private-sector growth.

The session will also briefly reflect on how successful nutrition-focused SMEs can progress along different growth and scaling pathways over time, while maintaining a clear focus on SME-stage investment needs.

Objectives and Target Audience

Objectives

- ☐ Present the business case for investing in nutrition in Asia-Pacific food systems.
- ☐ Highlight where nutrition impacts and financial returns align with private investors.
- ☐ Share lessons from the Nutritious Foods Financing Facility (N3F) and their relevance for Asia-Pacific.
- ☐ Showcase financing instruments and de-risking mechanisms that support nutrition-focused enterprises.
- ☐ Highlight investment opportunities through nutrition-focused entrepreneurs and SMEs.

Target Audience

- ☐ Development finance institutions and public development banks
- ☐ Private investors and financial institutions
- ☐ Nutrition- and agri-food-focused entrepreneurs and SMEs
- ☐ Development partners and donors
- ☐ Government officials and ADB operational staff

Outputs and Outcomes

- ☐ Increased understanding of opportunities and constraints for private sector nutrition investment in Asia-Pacific.
- ☐ Greater awareness of blended finance and de-risking approaches for nutrition.
- ☐ Stronger alignment among IFIs, DFIs, and private investors around nutrition finance.
- ☐ Momentum toward the development of nutrition finance facilities and pipelines in the region.

Partners (if any)

- ☐ Asian Development Bank (AFNR, PSFI and PSOD)
- ☐ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- ☐ Incofin
- ☐ IFAD
- ☐ The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP)
- ☐ Askari Bank
- ☐ BMC
- ☐ Better Nutrition

Agenda

19 March 2026 11:00-12:30, Audi 4		
Time	Activity	Speaker/Moderator
Introduction: Tomoko Kato, Senior Nutrition Specialist, ADB-AFNR		
11:00 – 11:10 AM	Opening remarks	Winfried F. Wicklein Director General SD2, ADB
	Framing note: Asia and the Pacific's transformation opportunity and the investment gap for Nutrition	Lawrence Haddad, GAIN
11:10 – 11:30 AM	Presentations: Learnings from Nutrition Investing in Sub-Saharan Africa and Approach for the Asia Pacific region Presentation of the N3F Approach for Asia Pacific	Roberta Bove, GAIN Rahul Rai, Incofin Narayan Iyer ADB-AFNR Adnan Rafiq ADB – PSFI
11:30 – 12:25 PM	Panel Discussion (45 minutes) ☐ How SMEs <i>they work with</i> have scaled ☐ What does the current financing landscape look like for nutrition in Asia Pacific ☐ What constraints emerge beyond early-stage finance Stakeholder Perspectives on Nutrition Investing <i>Current mandate/strategy and positioning within the nutrition investing space in Asia-Pacific</i>	Moderator: Lawrence Haddad Panelists: Tushna Dora ADB-PSOD Abdelkarim Sma IFAD

	Exploring challenges to increase production and distribution of nutritious food <i>Challenges faced/observed within respective roles/perspectives currently preventing the scale up of the nutritious food system in Asia-Pacific</i> Introducing and identifying solutions for Asia Pacific Nutrition Financing <i>Reflections on how the APN3F, similar nutrition investing solutions /collaborations / partnerships could address the challenges faced within the nutrition investing space in Asia Pacific</i>	Uzair Naveed Rabbani Askari Bank Gabriel Ferrero World Bank Group Ghaleb Ahmed Al-Qazi BMC Group Prateek Rastogi Better Nutrition
12:25 – 12:30 PM	Closing Reflection	Martin Lemoine ADB-PSOD

Speakers

	Winfried F. Wicklein Director General, Sectors Department 2, Agriculture & Nature, Urban & Water, and Digital Sectors As Director General of ADB's Sectors Department 2, Winfried Wicklein leads the Asian Development Bank's operations across three sector groups operating across Asia and the Pacific: Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development; Water and Urban Development; and Digital. The department's active portfolio encompasses about 280 projects worth US\$30 billion, managed by 300 staff. Over 26 years with ADB, Winfried has built experience across country strategies and programs, sector strategies, infrastructure finance, and private sector mobilization across Asia and the Pacific. Prior to this role, he served as Director General for Southeast Asia. Earlier positions include Deputy Director General for Southeast Asia, Country Director for Indonesia, and Country Director for Myanmar, with earlier postings in Thailand, Australia, and the Philippines. An Austrian national, Winfried holds an MBA from the University of Münster, Germany.
	Prateek Rastogi, Founder & CEO, Better Nutrition Prateek Rastogi is the Founder & CEO of Better Nutrition, a mission-driven enterprise working to transform India's food system through biofortified nutrition. An MBA from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Prateek began his career in management consulting at Strategy& before moving into entrepreneurship to address one of the world's most pressing yet invisible challenges: hidden hunger. Through Better Nutrition, he has built a rural micro-entrepreneurship and agri-supply model that enables farmers to shift from high-yield to high-nutrition farming using biofortified seeds, and soil health analytics. Building on this farm-to-fork model, Better Nutrition is bringing biofortified staples such as wheat, rice, and millets into mainstream retail and quick commerce platforms, making naturally nutrient-dense food affordable and accessible to urban households.

	Prateek's work demonstrates how private-sector models can embed nutrition at the production stage while creating sustainable farmer livelihoods and scalable FMCG businesses. The enterprise has received national recognition, including support through Shark Tank India, and recognition by the Indian Agricultural Ministry.
	Lawrence Haddad Executive Director Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Lawrence Haddad has been GAIN's Executive Director since 2016. In 2020 he was asked by the UN Deputy Secretary General to Chair Action Track 1 of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit: Ensuring Access to Safe and Nutritious Food for All. Lawrence is the co-founder of the Standing Together for Nutrition, a response to the COVID-19 crisis, and is one of the drivers behind the Initiative on Climate and Nutrition (ICAN) which was formally launched by the Egyptian Government at COP27. Prior to GAIN, Lawrence was lead author of the Global Nutrition Report, Director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and Director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division at IFPRI. He was made a World Food Prize Laureate in 2018 and was awarded a CMG in the 2023 UK Honours List for his "services to international nutrition, food and agriculture".
	Narayan Iyer Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist (Agribusiness) in the Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 2, ADB Narayan brings extensive expertise in sustainable agribusiness development, natural capital protection, and green financing, with a career dedicated to advancing resilient and inclusive food systems across Asia and the Pacific. At ADB, Narayan leads several pioneering initiatives, including the establishment of a regional Natural Capital Lab to strengthen the valuation of nature, the design of a concessional and catalytic Natural Capital Fund, and the promotion of sustainable and inclusive bamboo value chains. He also supports projects that integrate sustainability into agri-food systems, ensuring that environmental stewardship and economic growth are mutually reinforcing. Narayan holds a Bachelor's degree in Technology (Mechanical Engineering) from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta. His work bridges technical innovation, financial structuring, and policy development, positioning him as a key leader in shaping strategies that link agribusiness growth with natural capital investment and climate resilience.
	Tushna Dora Senior Investment Specialist – Agribusiness Private Sector Operations Department Asian Development Bank Tushna Dora is a Senior Investment Specialist and South Asia Lead for Agribusiness Investments in ADB's Private Sector Operations. Tushna is responsible for origination, structuring and execution of debt financings and equity investments into private companies across the food and agribusiness value chain. Tushna also leads technical assistance projects which aim to further development impact to be delivered through the underlying financings to her clients. Prior to ADB, Tushna worked in Rabobank and other international banks, and covered commercial banking and trade products for food and agri corporates.



Adnan Rafiq

Senior Investment Specialist ADB-PSFI

Adnan Rafiq is a Senior Investment Specialist in the Private Sector Financial Institutions Division at the Asian Development Bank (ADB), where he has led numerous transactions across South Asia, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia. He played a pivotal role in deploying the We-Fi grant in Vietnam, enabling banks to expand lending to women, develop new products for women-led SMEs, train staff on gender-specific needs, and enhance systems to generate sex-disaggregated data. His work aligns closely with ADB's strategic priorities of reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, and addressing climate change. Before joining ADB, Adnan built extensive private sector experience with Credit Agricole's investment banking arm, focusing on equity markets and M&A transactions. He holds an MBA in Finance from LUMS and is a graduate of University College London.



Roberta Bove

Senior Lead Innovative Finance, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Roberta Bove is Senior Lead for Innovative Finance and Team Lead of the Nutritious Food Enterprise Unit at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). She leads the Nutritious Food Financing Facility (N3F), a blended finance partnership with Incofin Investment Management that supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) producing nutritious foods through a nutrition-focused debt fund and a technical assistance and impact measurement facility.

Previously, at the UN Foundation's Clean Cooking Alliance, Roberta managed a portfolio of clean energy enterprises across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, deploying grant funding, technical assistance, carbon credit development support, and financial advisory services to de-risk investments under the Spark+ Africa Fund.

Earlier, as Senior Investment Manager at Palladium, she co-developed the firm's impact investment strategy and structured debt and quasi-equity investments in off-grid solar and agribusinesses across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Roberta has over 17 years of experience supporting SMEs through impact investing, technical assistance, and development finance. She holds a Master's degree in Corporate Finance from Bocconi University.



Ghaleb Ahmed Al-Qazi

Head of MBI & Business Development, BMC Group

Ghaleb Ahmed looks after business development and branding at BMC Group as head of the department of MBI (Market & Business Intelligence). His unconventional thought process and acute attention to details are great assets in solving existing problems and detecting potential ones, which aids designing marketing strategies, production planning, sourcing schedules, etc.

He has worked in industries like agro, cosmeceuticals, advertising and IT where he developed business strategies, client retention and brand aesthetics. Among his significant achievements, he orchestrated launching a startup in Bangladesh where housewives could prepare and supply healthy food from the comfort of their homes.

Ghaleb earned BS in mechanical engineering and MBA in marketing. Outside his professional life, he engages in niche photography, scientific research and philosophical debates – which also strengthened his professional capacities. Observing his 18 years career, it's evident that his core strength lies in efficiency. The world has a lot to gain from him.

	Rahul Rai Managing Partner, Incofin India Rahul is the Managing Partner at Incofin India (www.incofin.com). Incofin is a leading global impact investment management firm with assets under management of >USD 1bn. The focus sectors for Incofin are financial inclusion, food-agri and drinking water. Incofin investment products include private equity, private debt and technical assistance. Rahul has over 18 years of private equity investing experience in growth stage food-agri companies in India. Prior to Incofin, Rahul was a Partner at Rabobank's private equity fund business focussed on agribusiness investments from 2008-2019. His notable investments include Sahyadri Farms, Qul Fruitwall, Prabhat Dairy, NCMSL, Cremica Foods, Naturell India, SuperZop, Akshamaala, Global Green etc. Rahul is an alumnus of the Harvard Business School, Boston and has also completed the Private Equity Program at the Indian School of Business. He is a member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and holds an undergraduate degree in economics with honours from Hindu College, Delhi University.
	Gabriel Ferrero de Loma Osorio Senior Strategy Advisor, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program Gabriel Ferrero is Senior Strategy Advisor to the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP). He previously served as Ambassador-at-Large for Global Food Security for the Government of Spain from 2021 to 2026 and chaired the United Nations Committee on World Food Security from 2021 to 2023. From 2018 to 2021, he was Director General for Sustainable Development Policies at Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. Earlier, he served in the Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General from 2011 to 2017, where he coordinated the UN Secretary-General's High Level Task Force on Global Food Security and advised on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In this role, he supported global negotiations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contributed to the development of Sustainable Development Goal 2 on Zero Hunger. Gabriel Ferrero holds a PhD from the Technological University of Valencia and has authored over 50 publications.
	Abdelkarim Sma Lead Regional Economist, APR at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Abdelkarim Sma is currently the Lead Regional Economist at the Asia and Pacific Division of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In this capacity, he provides strategic advice and analytical support to agricultural investments in over 20 countries in the region. Prior to his current assignment, he acted as IFAD country director and Lead Regional Economist in Near East and North Africa division. Sma joined IFAD after spending about seven years coordinating the international operations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in North Africa. Prior to that assignment, he spent 8 years in a major international consultancy where he held the position of head of agri-business department. Sma holds a master's degree in agricultural economics as well as an engineering degree in agricultural biotechnologies. He speaks Arabic, French and English.

	Uzair Naveed Rabbani Country Head Corporate Investment of Askari Bank, Pakistan Uzair Naveed Rabbani is a Business Finance and Law graduate with over 27 years of experience in corporate finance, business development, trade facilitation, and development finance. His expertise spans portfolio management, project finance for greenfield and brownfield projects, risk management, forecasting, financial inclusion, and sustainable finance. As Country Head of Corporate Banking, he manages a nationwide portfolio of more than 500 clients across manufacturing, services, and the public sector. Previously, he led Green Financing Solutions for corporate banking and oversaw governance and regulatory compliance for the corporate portfolio. He has also served as Senior Credit Officer and Chief Operating Officer of an agribusiness subsidiary, and launched operations for HBL's agriculture extension subsidiary. Earlier in his career, Uzair led sector research in infrastructure, cement, and telecom, structured Islamic finance solutions for public entities, and executed corporate finance transactions in capital and debt markets, while supporting sustainable agricultural finance models.
	Martin Lemoine Unit Head, ADB PSOD-Agribusiness Martin Lemoine is Unit Head for Agribusiness in the Private Sector Operations Department of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He has 25 years of professional experience, including two decades of impact-oriented investment in Asia. Over his career, he has led more than 50 equity and debt investments totaling about \$10 billion in agribusiness and infrastructure. Martin joined ADB in 2009 as an Investment Specialist and later became Principal Investment Specialist. In 2015, he led the creation of ADB's Agribusiness Investment Team, providing dedicated expertise for agribusiness investments across the region. As of 2026, he manages a team delivering investments in agribusiness companies, technical assistance for smallholder farmers, and policy dialogue across developing member countries. His team has mobilized over \$2 billion across 50 agribusiness transactions, benefiting more than 10 million smallholder farmers in 22 countries. Prior to ADB, Martin worked at Macquarie's infrastructure team in Singapore and as a consultant with McKinsey in Paris. He holds an MBA from the Wharton School (Palmer Scholar).

Additional Links: Links to [Presentation](#), [Photos](#), and [Recordings](#)

Session 5.4: Strengthening Food Systems Decision-Making: Understanding Data to Design Investments in Healthy Diets

19 March 2026 | 4:00 – 5:30 PM | Audi 1 | [Zoom Link](#)

Rationale

Effective food systems transformation and nutrition investment require better use of data, analytics, and decision-support tools. While substantial evidence exists on the drivers of poor diet quality and the cost of nutritious diets, these insights are not always systematically integrated into planning, project design, and investment decisions.

This session focuses on how indicators, analytical approaches, and digital dashboards can support more nutrition-sensitive decision-making by governments, development partners, and investors. By highlighting ways to measure the cost and affordability of diets, the cost of inaction, and the return on investment (ROI) of nutrition-sensitive interventions, the session demonstrates how data can strengthen design of agriculture and food systems projects to benefit nutrition.

The discussion is particularly relevant for ADB project teams and partners seeking practical ways to integrate nutrition considerations into project design, appraisal, and prioritization.

Objectives and Target Audience

Objectives

- ☐ Showcase practical indicators and dashboards that support nutrition-sensitive planning and investment.
- ☐ Highlight indicators related to food and diet costs, affordability, and returns on investment in nutrition.
- ☐ Demonstrate how data and analytics can inform project design and prioritization in agriculture and food systems.
- ☐ Support ADB teams and partners in making stronger economic cases for nutrition-sensitive investments.

Target Audience

- ☐ ADB project team leaders and operational staff
- ☐ Government planners and policy analysts
- ☐ Development partners and technical agencies
- ☐ Researchers and data specialists
- ☐ Donors and investors interested in nutrition-sensitive food systems

Outputs and Outcomes

- ☐ Improved awareness of available digital tools and diagnostics for nutrition investment decision-making.
- ☐ Greater capacity among ADB teams and partners to use diet affordability and ROI data in project design.
- ☐ Stronger integration of nutrition considerations into agriculture and food systems investments.
- ☐ Enhanced collaboration between data providers, technical agencies, and financiers.

Partners

- ☐ Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- ☐ Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ☐ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- ☐ World Food Programme (WFP)

- ☐ Nutrition International (NI)
- ☐ International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Agenda

Time	Activity	Speaker/Moderator
Overall Moderator: Omer Zafar, ADB-AFNR		
4:00 – 4:05 PM	Welcome remarks	Jiro Tominaga ADB
Part 1. Cost and affordability metrics and using them (~40 minutes)		Moderator 1: Saule Baurzhan, Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist ADB-AFNR
4:07-4:22 PM	Enabling healthy diets for all, including the role of affordability	Lynnette Neufeld FAO
4:24-4:34 PM	The Fill the Nutrient Gap Approach	Saskia de Pee WFP
4:36-4:45 PM	Visualizing and analyzing CoAHD within the food system context	Stella Nordhagen GAIN
Part 2. Inaction costs, ROI / cost effectiveness, and using them (~35 mnts)		Moderator 2: Dinesh Arora Principal Health Specialist, ADB - HSD
4:47-4:57 PM	The Cost of Inaction Approach	Dylan Walters Surabhi Mittal Nutrition International
4:59-5:09 PM	Return on investment (ROI) and Cost effectiveness of interventions	Purnima Menon IFPRI
5:11-5:21 PM	Translating data into economic arguments for nutrition investment	David Anthony Raitzer ADB-EBRD
5:21–5:29 PM	Q&A	Moderator: Omer Zafar, ADB
5:29–5:30 PM	Closing Remarks	Qingfeng Zhang ADB

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Jiro Tominaga Deputy Director General, Independent Evaluation Department Before taking his current role as Deputy Director General of the ADB's Independent Evaluation Department, Jiro served as the bank's Country Director for Indonesia (2021–2025), where he oversaw strategy and operations. He has nearly 30 years of international development experience spanning infrastructure, electronic government, and development evaluation. Before joining ADB, he held positions at the World Bank, Japan's Ministry of Finance, and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. He holds a master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics.
	Qingfeng Zhang Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office (SG-AFNR) Sectors Group (SG) Qingfeng Zhang processes and administers loan and technical assistance projects in green agricultural value chain, efficient use of natural resources (land, soil, water as well as agricultural wastes), climate resilient agriculture, rural renewable biomass energy, healthy agriculture-ecosystems, food safety, and internet plus agriculture. He published over dozens of knowledge products, Opeds and blogs on agriculture, natural resources and environment. Prior to joining ADB, he was a Director at the State Environmental Protection Administration in Beijing; a Senior Environment Specialist at the World Bank in Washington; and a Research Fellow at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Mr. Zhang is a Chinese national. He holds a doctoral degree in environmental engineering from the Tsinghua University; and a master's degree in water resources management, and a bachelor's degree in hydrology from the Sichuan University.
	Lynnette M. Neufeld Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO Dr Neufeld is Director of the Food and Nutrition Division at FAO, and past President of the International Union of Nutrition Scientists (IUNS). Her career has been committed to improving nutrition outcomes through the generation and utilization of evidence to enhance policy and programme design and delivery across multiple sectors. She began in an academic position at the National Institute of Public Health, Mexico, then led research and evaluation units in nutrition-focused NGOs before joining FAO in early 2022.
	Saskia de Pee Chief Analytics & Science for Food & Nutrition, WFP Dr. Saskia de Pee is Senior Nutrition Advisor at the Nutrition, School Meals and Social Protection Service at the Headquarters of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). She is also Adjunct Associate Professor at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy, Tufts University, Boston. She has worked in public health nutrition for more than 25 years. Her areas of expertise include cost and affordability of diets, food and nutrient security, diet & climate, micronutrients, fortification, nutrition sensitive social protection, and she leads the development of

	Enhance, a new open access diet analytics platform that she'll speak about today. She has co-authored more than 150 scientific publications and holds a PhD in Human Nutrition from Wageningen University, the Netherlands.
	Stella Nordhagen Research Lead, Food Environments & Supply Chains, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition Dr. Nordhagen is a Research Lead with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). At GAIN, she oversees research related to food systems in Africa and Asia. Her areas of research interest include market-based approaches to improving diets and nutrition, food environments, food choice, and linkages between nutrition and environmental sustainability. She has experience conducting research in over 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Stella holds an MPhil and PhD from the University of Cambridge.
	Saule Baurzhan Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist-AFNR, ADB "Dr. Baurzhan has experience in the financial and economic appraisal of investment projects across agriculture, energy, health, water, and transport sectors in Africa and Asia. Prior to joining the Asian Development Bank, she worked as a senior economist and financial analyst at Cambridge Resource International Inc., collaborating with organizations including the World Bank, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa. She has also contributed to ADB initiatives supporting water resilience and capacity building in public investment appraisal, including work with the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines."
	Dylan Walters Senior Global Portfolio Director, Health Economics and Nutrition Financing Dr. Dylan Walters is a health economist and Senior Global Portfolio Director of Health Economics and Nutrition Financing at Nutrition International. He leads a team advancing applied economic research and innovative modelling tools to guide policy and nutrition financing worldwide. Since 2018, he has spearheaded the creation of decision-support tools such as the Cost of Not Breastfeeding Tool, Cost of Inaction Tool, and MMS-Cost Benefit Tool. Previously, he worked with the World Bank on the Global Investment Framework for Nutrition and Afghanistan's Nutrition Investment Case, and at SickKids Centre for Global Child Health on pediatric nursing strategies in Ghana. He has also collaborated with the Copenhagen Consensus and other global health organizations. Dr. Walters holds a PhD in Health Economics from the University of Toronto, where he studied vitamin A fortification in Tanzania, and an MA in Critical Disability Studies from York University. He has authored over 35 publications on health and nutrition economics.
	Surabhi Mittal Deputy Director, Health Economics and Nutrition Financing and Economist, Asia, Nutrition International Dr. Surabhi Mittal is an agricultural economist with over 28 years of experience in management, policy-oriented research, and development across Asia and Africa. She leads analytical work on nutrition intervention design, advances innovative financing, and strengthens strategic partnerships. From March 2025 for one year, she was seconded to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as a Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist. In this role, she contributed to developing nutrition tagging systems, integrated nutrition-sensitive

	approach into projects, and co-led technical assistance (TA) processing for Bangladesh. Her diverse expertise includes food and nutrition security, benefit-cost analysis, climate-smart agriculture, gender mainstreaming, and digitalization. Having held positions at CGIAR-CIMMYT, Cornell University, ICRIER, and ICAR, she has a proven track record of managing international projects and collaborating with governments to translate economic evidence into actionable policy. She is an alumna of the 2011 International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP).
	Purnima Menon Senior Director for Food and Nutrition Policy & Acting Senior Director for Transformation Strategies, International Food Policy Research Institute and the CGIAR Dr. Menon is a Senior Director for Food and Nutrition Policy & Acting Senior Director for Transformation Strategies at the International Food Policy Research Institute and the CGIAR, overseeing the work of diverse teams of researchers at IFPRI and across the CGIAR. In Dr. Menon's own research, she has studied large-scale programs to improve nutrition across sectors, including health, agriculture, gender, social protection and community nutrition programs. She has research experience in India, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Haiti, Viet Nam, and Nepal, and invests deeply in research-to-policy translation, including through service on advisory groups. Dr. Menon has a PhD in International Nutrition from Cornell University and an MSc in Nutrition from the University of Delhi.
	David A. Raitzer Senior Economist, ADB Economic Analysis and Operational Support Division, Economic Research and Development Impact Department David A. Raitzer is a Senior Economist in the Economic Research and Development Impact Department of ADB, where he focusses on impact evaluation of development interventions and research on climate change and other environmental challenges. His over two decades of research experience at a range of international organizations have focused on evaluating the effects and benefits of policies and interventions, using a range of methods from randomized experiments to quasi-experimental approaches, bio-economic modeling, and economy-wide modeling.
	Omer Zafar Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB Omer is a Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist at ADB. An economist, he holds a bachelor's degree from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree from the University of Cambridge. Before joining ADB, Omer worked with IFAD and UNOPS, managing agrifood sector portfolios in around 35 countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. His work focuses on regional and country-level policies, strategies, and investments in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, natural capital, and climate change.
	Dinesh Arora Principal Health Specialist Human and Social Development Sector Office, Sectors Department 3 Dinesh Arora is a physician and public health expert with over 20 years of experience leading health system reforms across South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. With training in medicine, public health, and economics, he has designed evidence-based strategies to strengthen health systems at national and global levels.

	In India, he played a key role in transforming health services in Kerala, introducing hospital accreditation and establishing the Kerala Medical Service Corporation and Food Safety Commission. At NITI Aayog and as founding Deputy CEO of the National Health Authority, he helped launch Ayushman Bharat—the world's largest publicly funded health insurance program—and advanced India's digital health mission. At ADB, he leads work on human resources for health, pandemic preparedness, vaccine manufacturing, early childhood development, One Health, and climate-health initiatives. A Chevening scholar, he holds advanced degrees in economics and public health and is pursuing doctoral studies at Johns Hopkins University.
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Additional Links

Links to [Presentation](#), [Photos](#) and [Recordings](#)

ANNEX 2: CONCEPT NOTES OF SESSIONS THAT AFNR-NUTRITION TEAM PARTICIPATED IN

Session 5.1: AFNR-JMAFF JOINT SESSION: Towards Innovative Climate-Food-Nutrition Nexus

17 March 2026 | Auditorium Hall 4

Rationale

ADB and JMAFF signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in September 2022 and have since been collaborating to promote food systems transformation in Asia and the Pacific by leveraging Japan's advanced technologies in agriculture, food processing, nutrition science, and natural capital. At AFF2026, both parties will agree to and sign the extension of the MOC, marking a new, "Plus business" stage in their partnership.

ADB's operational efforts have contributed significantly to economic development across Asia and the Pacific. However, although the agriculture and food sector forms the foundation of food security in the region, it still lags behind other sectors in terms of economic prosperity. In addition, the sector faces growing challenges, including the need to adapt to climate change, declining and aging agricultural workforce, and the increasing demand for nutritious food. Achieving food systems transformation has therefore become an urgent priority.

Japan has experienced many of the challenges that DMCs are currently facing and has accumulated good practices and lessons learned. It is important to emphasize that Japan's private sector possesses innovative technologies, business processes, and social roles that can provide practical solutions to the challenges faced by the agricultural and food sector in DMCs. Under the MOC with ADB, JMAFF aims to pursue the delivery of scalable business solutions based on public-private collaboration under ADB's sovereign operations.

Objectives and Target Audience

This ADB–JMAFF Joint Session will focus on fair nutrition, an emerging cross-cutting area within AFNR's operations. While nutrition and agriculture are inherently interconnected, the importance of positioning nutrition within the agriculture and food sector has been increasingly recognized in recent years. Moreover, nutrition requires an inclusive, multisectoral approach; in this context, the agriculture and food sector must collectively function as a provider of nutrition, from production to processing and distribution—commercializing and industrializing agricultural production while ensuring environmental sustainability by introducing smart agricultural technologies.

This session will showcase how Japan's food-related companies and nutrition organizations have contributed to addressing key social roles in the agriculture sector—such as responding to climate change and ensuring food security—while promoting access to nutritious food. It will also explore how these private sectors can contribute to the development of the agriculture and food sector through public–private partnerships in DMCs, as well as to food systems transformation. To advance food and nutrition security in Asia and the Pacific, it is necessary to support startups' local solutions with regional networking, investment, and policy support, and to develop them into sustainable businesses. The session will also showcase "network x investment/policy" framework using specific examples of Japanese startups operating in Asia and visualize the potential for DMC capitalizing on their knowledge and investment opportunities.

Fair nutrition refers to ensuring equitable access to affordable, safe, and nutritious foods across countries and population groups, through multisectoral approaches.

Target audience: government officials of pipeline projects, researchers, private players offering innovative solutions

Outputs and Outcomes

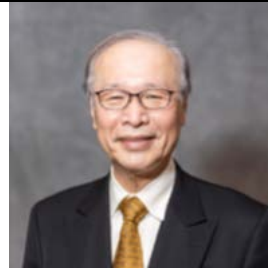
- Enhance understanding of how private sector businesses are realizing the climate–food–nutrition nexus within the agriculture and food sector.
- Emphasize the importance of public-private collaboration to strengthen food system resilience and increase investment potential in agriculture.
- Envision the potential for public–private partnerships (PPPs) in AFNR’s future pipeline.

AFNR-JMAFF JOINT SESSION: Towards Innovative Climate-Food-Nutrition Nexus 17 March 2026 14:00-15:30	
Time	Activity
14:00 – 14:05	Opening Remark: □ Yoichi Watanabe, Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan
14:05 – 14:10	Keynote Address: □ Jiangfeng Zhang, Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development, SD2, Asian Development Bank
14:10 – 15:05	Pitch Session: Operationalizing the Climate–Food–Nutrition Nexus (Moderator: Tomoko Kato , Senior Food Security and Nutrition Specialist, AFNR, ADB)
14:10 – 14:12	– Introduction: From fragmented challenges to an integrated value chain
14:12– 14:40	Segment 1: Climate–Food Nexus — Climate-Resilient and Profitable Production This session highlights practical innovations that strengthen climate resilience and sustainable food production. Speakers will present scalable solutions—from smart agriculture to sustainable supply chains—while identifying key production-side challenges within the climate–food–nutrition nexus. Pitcheajirs: □ Rachelle Marie Martin, Technical Project Coordinator, Philippines Business, Faeger Co., Ltd. □ Ryoya Tasai, Director of Overseas, Sakanotochu Co., Ltd. □ Shohei Takeuchi, General Manager, Strategy Execution Group Customized Feed Solution Dept., Ajinomoto Co., Inc. □ Kenichiro Toyofuku, Managing Officer, Biogas Operations, Suzuki Motor Corporation
14:40 – 14:42	– Transition: From sustainable production to nutrition outcomes
14:42 – 15:03	Segment 2: Food–Nutrition Nexus — Delivering Nutritional Value and Inclusive Markets Focusing on nutrition and equitable access, this session explores how food processing, dietary guidance, and inclusive business models improve nutritional outcomes. It clarifies the links—and gaps—between food production and healthy diets. Pitchers: □ Teiji Nakamura, President, The Japan Dietetic Association □ Kazuhiro Gono, Executive Officer in charge of Future Food, NISSIN FOODS HOLDINGS CO Inc.

15:03 – 15:05	– Synthesis: Integrating production, nutrition, and public partnership
15:05 – 15:25	Roundtable: Scaling the Climate–Food–Nutrition Nexus through Partnership Building on the two sessions, this roundtable will identify integrated solutions at the climate–food–nutrition nexus. The discussion will focus on scaling business models, strengthening public–private partnerships, and advancing future technical cooperation and investment opportunities. <i>Moderator Shingo Kimura, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, AFNR, ADB</i> Panelists: □ Satoshi Umino, Representative Director, Sustainable Food Asia □ Tetsuya Uetake, Director for International Affairs, JMAFF □ Omer Zafar, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, AFNR, ADB
15:25 – 15:30	Closing Remark: □ Tetsuya Uetake, Director for International Affairs, JMAFF

Speakers	Profile
	Yoichi Watanabe Vice-Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan Yoichi Watanabe joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in 1989. He has served as Agricultural Counselor at the Embassy of Japan in the USA, Director of the International Policy Division, and Director-General of the Export and International Affairs Bureau. Since 2024, he has been serving as Vice-Minister for International Affairs. He holds an M.Sc. in Foreign Service from the Graduate School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, USA and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Tokyo.
	Jiangfeng Zhang Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature and Rural Development, SD2, Asian Development Bank Jiangfeng Zhang is the Director of the Central and West Asia Team in the Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office at ADB. Since joining in 2002, he has led and supported agriculture, natural resources, and rural development operations across Central and West Asia, East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific. His work centers on advancing inclusive, climate- and disaster-resilient, and environmentally sustainable agriculture to strengthen agrifood systems, competitiveness, and food and nutrition security in the region. Jiangfeng has directed several of ADB's pioneering flagship programs, including the institution's first new-generation policy-based lending and first results-based lending operations in the sector, as well as ADB's first climate change policy-based loan and first low-carbon agriculture development program. He also leads major regional initiatives such as the Glaciers to Farms Program and nutrition-sensitive investments. He holds a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics and an MS in Statistics from the University of California, Berkeley.
	Moderator for Pitch Session Tomoko Kato

	Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, AFNR, ADB Tomoko (Toko) Kato is a Senior Food Security and Nutrition Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She has over a decade of experience mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and rural development investments across Asia and the Pacific. Her work focuses on integrating nutrition into policies, programs, and financing mechanisms so that food systems deliver not only higher productivity but also healthier diets, improved livelihoods, and greater resilience. Toko works closely with governments, development partners, and the private sector to advance nutrition-sensitive investments and food systems transformation across the region. She is particularly interested in linking agriculture, climate resilience, biodiversity, and human capital to improve food and nutrition security. A passionate advocate for social inclusion and education, Toko believes that community-driven development is essential for sustainable impact. She champions approaches that place women, youth, and Indigenous communities at the center of food systems transformation, empowering them as agents of change for healthier diets and resilient communities.
	Rachelle Marie Martin, Technical Project Coordinator, Philippines Business, Faeger Co., Ltd. Rachelle Marie Martin is the Technical Project Coordinator at Faeger Co. Ltd., where she leads the Faeger–Yanmar initiative under the Philippines–Japan Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). She specializes in scaling Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) technology across Luzon to reduce methane emissions and generate carbon credits for local farmers. With over 12 years of previous experience as a Science Research Specialist at PhilRice, Rachelle has a proven track record in integrated crop management, drone applications in agriculture, and stakeholder training. Her career is defined by a commitment to bridging the gap between climate-smart science and field-level adoption to improve farmer livelihoods.
	Kenichiro Toyofuku, Managing Officer, Biogas Operations, Suzuki Motor Corporation Kenichiro Toyofuku is a Managing Officer, Suzuki Motor Corporation, Director of Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), and Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). He has stationed in India for 20 years to serve for three organization, Embassy of Japan New Delhi, Government of India, and World Bank before joining Suzuki. In 20 years, he has designed the concept and implemented industry-driven regional development projects in India based on the 13 years' experience of projects development and industrial policy design in the Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry (METI), Japan.
	Ryoya Tasai, Director of Overseas, Sakanotochu Co., Ltd. After serving with international NGOs and the United Nations, I transitioned to my current role. I now lead a business that sources and sells coffee from over 30 countries worldwide. Concurrently, I collaborate with the UN and government agencies to implement numerous projects focused on poverty reduction and community development.

	Teiji Nakamura, President, The Japan Dietetic Association Teiji Nakamura graduated from the University of Tokushima School of Medicine in 1972. He worked as a clinical dietitian at Shinjuku Clinic and St. Marianna University School of Medicine Hospital. He was a research student at the Tokyo University School of Medicine since 1978 and received a PhD in 1985. From 2003, he became a professor at Kanagawa University of Human Services. After working as a chairman and dean, he had been the president from 2011 to March 2023. He was Chairman of the Organizing Committee in the 15th International Congress of Dietetics in 2008. And he was Chairman of the Organizing Committee in the 8th Asian Congress of Dietetics in 2022. He is President of The Asian Federation of Dietetic Associations (AFDA). He has been directly involved in the latter half of Japan's nearly 100-year history of nutrition policy. His efforts were highlighted in Prime Minister Kishida's speech at the start of The Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021.
	Shohei Takeuchi, General Manager, Strategy Execution Group Customized Feed Solution Dept., Ajinomoto Co., Inc. Shohei Takeuchi has extensive experience in technology development, strategic planning, and new business development in both domestic and international contexts. He joined Ajinomoto Co., Inc. in 2001 and currently serves as Head of Strategy for the Feed Division, leading strategic planning and new business development in Ajinomoto's animal nutrition business. He is responsible for the AjiPro® L project, which applies amino acid-based nutritional solutions to improve feed efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cattle, and enhance the economic performance of dairy and beef production. His work focuses on practical approaches that contribute to sustainable food systems by integrating nutrition, productivity, and climate outcomes.
	Kazuhiro Gono, Executive Officer in charge of Future Food, NISSIN FOODS HOLDINGS CO Inc. Kazuhiro Gono, Ph.D. has built a track record through the invention and commercialization of numerous new technologies in Olympus since 1992, including NBI, which is now widely adopted as a clinical endoscopy standard. And achievements in the medical device field were recognized with the Prime Minister's Award for Invention (2011), the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award (2016), and the Medal with Purple Ribbon (2017). Since April 2025, joined as an Executive Officer at Nissin Foods Holdings, leading Food Tech Innovation. Also holds positions as Visiting Professor at Chiba University and Specially Appointed Professor at Tohoku University.
	Shingo Kimura, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, AFNR, ADB Shingo is leading ADB's agriculture sector operation in Thailand, Pakistan and Bangladesh. He is a corporate focal of ADB's Sustainable Rice Program. He also led a preparation of ADB's Food Systems Transformation Ambition to invest \$40 billion up to 2030. Since December 2025, he is based in ADB's Thailand Resident Mission in Bangkok. Previously, he was in ADB's East Asia Department where he processed and administered ADB's loan and technical assistance projects on agriculture and rural development program in the People's Republic of China and Mongolia. Prior to joining ADB in 2019, he was an Economist and Agricultural Policy Analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. He also served at Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan in Tokyo, responsible for policy planning and implementation in the areas of rural development, farmland regulations and food safety. Shingo has a Ph.D. in Development Economics from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and a Master of Public Administration in International Development from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

	Satoshi Umino, Representative Director, Sustainable Food Asia Led internet media business development at ZIGExN Co., Ltd. from the startup phase through post-IPO, serving as a board director overseeing business operations and experiencing the IPO process. Engaged in M&A, PMI, and management of overseas subsidiaries. Founded IMA Inc. in 2020. In 2022, co-founded Sustainable Food Asia with Leave a Nest, focusing on investment and business development in Southeast Asian food tech startups, and assumed the role of Representative Director. Professor at the Faculty of Entrepreneurship, Musashino University.
	Omer Zafar, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, AFNR, ADB Omer is a Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist at ADB. An economist, he holds a bachelor's degree from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree from the University of Cambridge. Before joining ADB, Omer worked with IFAD and UNOPS, managing agrifood sector portfolios in around 35 countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Eastern Europe. His work focuses on regional and country-level policies, strategies, and investments in agriculture, food systems, nutrition, natural capital, and climate change.
	Tetsuya Uetake, Director for Multilateral Affairs, Export and International Bureau, MAFF Dr. Uetake has 23 years of professional experience in the agri-food sector, including work in developing countries such as India and Bhutan, as well as in international organizations including the OECD, FAO, and the EU. His expertise focuses on legal and economic policy analysis, stakeholder relationship management, trade and environmental negotiations, and public-private partnerships. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Hitotsubashi University and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.

Session 7.1: Investing in Tomorrow: Pitching the Next Big Ideas for the Food Systems Transformation in the Pacific

19 March 2026 | 09:00 – 10:30 | Audi 3

Rationale

Pacific small island developing countries (SIDS) face persistent structural challenges to food security and economic resilience. Small and dispersed geographics, narrow economic bases, and limited processing and storage capacity constraint domestic production and value addition. High exposure to climate change, elevated transport costs, weak infrastructure, and remoteness from major markets further restrict the development of sustainable agricultural value chains.

Yet the Pacific also offers distinctive strengths. The region's rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, and diverse food systems create strong potential for nature-based and climate-resilient agriculture. Many Pacific livelihood systems are inherently aligned with natural processes – supporting food and nutrition security while contributing ecosystem health and carbon uptake. Traditionally diversified cropping further provides natural buffers during disasters and a foundation for long-term adaptation.

Unlocking this potential requires more than just 'business as usual.' It demands bold, investment-ready ideas that help transform the food systems. To surface these breakthroughs, this session adopts an interactive, collaborative pitch-and-discussion format: we are inviting leaders from government, private sector, entrepreneurs, financiers, including FAO, and ADB to step onto the stage and pitch their innovative and transformative strategic ideas on food systems transformation in the Pacific. They must answer the ultimate question: if you were deciding today where to make the next big investment for the Pacific, why should your idea be the one?

Objectives, Session Format, and Target Audience

Objectives:

- ☐ Deliver a highly engaging and dynamic learning experience for participants and audience
- ☐ Showcase innovative ideas, initiatives, and investments that can accelerate food systems transformation
- ☐ Encourage cross-departmental collaboration across ADB departments, with FAO and other partners
- ☐ Identify high-impact, transformational investment opportunities and partnerships capable of catalyzing systemic changes in food systems

Session format: collaborative pitch-and-discussion

The session is co-organized by FAO and adopts an interactive style pitch format. Pitchers will have a 5-minute each to present a transformative project idea, followed by feedback, suggestions, or inquiries from panelists. The panel will act as strategic guides, encouraging the pitchers to further develop their ideas from an investment perspective. The discussion will highlight potential complementarities across the pitches and explore where coordinated investments could generate the greatest transformative impact for food systems in the Pacific.

Audience:

This session is open to all.

Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

- ☐ 6 high-quality project or initiative pitches, each articulating the problem, solution, investment need, and expected impacts.
- ☐ A summary note capturing key messages, pitching outcomes and opportunities

Outcomes:

- ☐ Increased alignment among ADB departments on Pacific food systems transformation
- ☐ Strengthened visibility of Pacific DMC needs, opportunities, and country-driven solutions
- ☐ Identification of partnership opportunities
- ☐ Catalyzed internal momentum to investment in food systems transformation

Partners

Facilitator/moderator

- ☐ Mr. Mohamed Manssouri, Assistant Director General and Director, FAO Investment Centre, FAO

Proposed pitchers (in an alphabetical order):

- ☐ Jozimo Santos Rocha, Service Chief (a.i.), Asia and The Pacific Service, FAO Investment Centre, FAO
- ☐ Michael Phillips, Director, FutureFish
- ☐ Nicholas Holmes, Taylor Pacific
- ☐ Nicolas Gouletquer, Executive Manager, Partnerships and Business Development, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)
- ☐ Sergie Bang, Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Livestock, PNG
- ☐ Tomoko Kato, Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, ADB

Proposed panelists:

- ☐ Hon. Minister Franklyn Wasi, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Solomon Islands
- ☐ Lisa Wright, Alternative Executive Director, ADB
- ☐ Neeta Pokhrel, Director, Water and Urban Development, ADB

Closing remarks

- ☐ Michael von During, Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network, IFAD
- ☐ Lance Gore, Director Office in Charge, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, ADB

Agenda

March 19, 2026 9:00-10:30 am	
Time	Activity
09:00 – 09:05	Moderator ☐ Mr. Mohamed Manssouri, Assistant Director General and Director, FAO Investment Centre, FAO
09:05 – 09:25	Pitchers: ☐ Jozimo Santos Rocha, Service Chief (a.i.), Asia and The Pacific Service, FAO Investment Centre, FAO ☐ Michael Phillips, Director, FutureFish

	☐ Nicholas Holmes, Taylor Pacific
09:25 – 09:45	Panel discussion
09:45 – 10:05	Pitchers: ☐ Nicolas Gouletquer, Executive Manager, Partnerships and Business Development, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) ☐ Sergie Bang, Secretary, Dept of Agriculture and Livestock, PNG ☐ Tomoko Kato, Senior Food and Nutrition Specialist, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, ADB
10:05 - 10:25	Panel discussion
10:20 - 10:30	Closing remarks: ☐ Michael von Doring, Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network, IFAD ☐ Lance Gore, Director, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Team, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development, Sectors Department 2, ADB

Speakers

Speakers	Profile
	Mohamed Manssouri FAO Investment Centre Mohamed Manssouri serves as Assistant Director-General and Director of the FAO Investment Centre. An agricultural economist with a BSc and an Engineer/MSc from AgroParisTech, France, he has extensive expertise in food and agriculture investment and finance, rural development, food security, and poverty reduction. Mr Manssouri leads the FAO Investment Centre, a global multidisciplinary team of more than 200 experts and 500 consultants operating in 120 countries, that provides investment and finance solutions to Member Countries, international and national financial institutions, and public and private investors. The Centre's work ranges from designing investment strategies and policies to supporting public and private agrifood investment programmes, while spearheading innovative finance mechanisms aimed at de-risking and leveraging private investment. The Centre also advances practical knowledge and innovation solutions to strengthen food security, climate resilience, financial inclusion, and the capacity of governments and institutions to make sound investment decisions. Previously, Mr Manssouri led the Centre's regional service for Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and Near East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. He also coordinated FAO's strategic "Commitment to a Hunger Free Horn of Africa," supporting countries in developing drought resilience strategies and investment plans. Before joining FAO, he served as Country Director at IFAD, managing investment strategies and portfolios in several countries in West and Central Africa, and

	played a key role in advancing IFAD's institutional reforms, including developing its first Knowledge Management Strategy. He also contributed to the UN High Level Task Force on Global Food Security in response to the 2008 food crisis. For several years, he lectured at Roma Tre University, Italy.
	Jozimo Santos Rocha Officer-in-Charge of Asia and the Pacific Service FAO Investment Centre Jozimo Santos Rocha serves as Service Chief for the Asia and the Pacific Service at the FAO Investment Centre, where he leads multidisciplinary teams delivering the Centre's full spectrum of investment support, from upstream analytics and sector diagnostics to investment design and implementation support across agrifood systems. With over 20 years of experience across Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, he has led or contributed to more than USD 1.5 billion in investment programmes in over 35 countries. An agricultural economist by training, he has built his leadership on strong technical foundations and long-standing partnerships with the World Bank, GAFSP, IFAD, EBRD, ADB, AfDB, MCC, and USAID. He brings deep expertise in agribusiness and agrifood value chains, sector strategy and policy formulation, economic analysis, and national agricultural investment frameworks. He is recognized for translating complex policy and financing challenges into bankable, scalable solutions while fostering collaboration among governments, IFIs, and private investors. He holds a PhD in Development Economics from Wageningen University and an MS in Agricultural Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.
	Michael Phillips FutureFish Michael Phillips is Co-Founder and CEO of FutureFish and a leading expert in sustainable food and aquaculture systems. He brings decades of experience advancing innovation, partnerships, and resilient agricultural transformation across Asia and the Pacific. His work focuses on inclusive, climate-smart solutions that strengthen food security, enhance livelihoods, and build nature-positive systems for small-scale aquaculture producers and value chain actors. At this Forum, Michael offers a strategic perspective on how integrated, data-driven approaches—spanning digital technologies, regenerative practices, and cross-sector collaboration—can accelerate regional food systems transformation. He brings extensive experience catalyzing partnerships among governments, investors, researchers, and enterprises to scale practical solutions that address climate risk, water stress, and biodiversity loss.

	Nicholas Holmes Taylor Pacific (Private sector), PNG Nicholas Holmes is a senior agribusiness and investment professional with extensive experience across food production, manufacturing, and retail supply chains in the Pacific. He is the co-owner of Taylor Pacific Limited, a vertically integrated Papua New Guinea-based group operating across agriculture, poultry production, food manufacturing, and supermarket retailing. Through subsidiaries spanning broad-acre farming, poultry, canned meat manufacturing, and the Stop & Shop supermarket network, Taylor Pacific plays a critical role in strengthening domestic food supply, import substitution, and urban food access in Papua New Guinea. Nicholas's earlier career includes senior roles in investment, corporate advisory, and asset management, with a focus on technology, infrastructure, and emerging markets. This combination of strategic capital experience and hands-on operational involvement positions him to contribute practical insights on food security, private sector delivery, and scalable local value chains across the Pacific region.
	Nicolas Gouletquer Executive Manager Partnering Initiatives-Government Partnerships and Business Development, CSIRO Nicolas Gouletquer works at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia's National Science Agency. He is currently Executive Manager for Partnering Initiatives and he also leads CSIRO Pacific Food Systems initiative, Pacific Agrifood Futures. Before joining CSIRO, Nicolas worked for the University of Melbourne and as a diplomat at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Australia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic. He holds a master's degree in International Relations and Political Science from Sciences Po and in Management from Harvard Business School.
	Secretary Dr. Sergie Bang Department of Agriculture and Livestock, PNG Dr. Sergie Bang is a distinguished public servant and academic leader, currently serving as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Livestock in Papua New Guinea. With a career spanning over three decades, Dr. Bang has played a pivotal role in shaping national policies on food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing Papua New Guinea's engagement with international partners, fostering collaboration to strengthen food systems and climate resilience. A respected scholar, Dr. Bang holds advanced qualifications in agricultural science and public administration and has contributed extensively to research and policy dialogue on agribusiness, food systems, and community livelihoods. His commitment to evidence-based policymaking and inclusive development has earned him recognition both nationally and internationally.

	Dr. Bang is passionate about empowering farmers, promoting innovation in agriculture, and ensuring that food systems are resilient, equitable, and sustainable. His vision continues to guide Papua New Guinea's efforts to align agricultural development with broader national goals of economic growth, health, and environmental stewardship. Dr. Bang has championed the government's push to move subsistence farmers into commercial entrepreneurship, positioning agriculture as a cornerstone of national development. He has spearheaded reforms to reduce import taxes on critical agricultural inputs, making farming more accessible and profitable for local producers. His leadership has also emphasized building stronger public-private partnerships, encouraging investment in commercial agriculture, and supporting industries such as oil palm, coffee, and livestock, etc. Dr. Bang's vision is to modernize Papua New Guinea's agriculture sector by fostering innovation, strengthening value chains, and ensuring farmers benefit from market opportunities. His work continues to inspire confidence across the sector, with a clear focus on turning agriculture into a commercially viable and globally competitive industry
	Tomoko Kato SD2-AFNR, ADB Tomoko (Toko) Kato is a Senior Food Security and Nutrition Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She has over a decade of experience mainstreaming nutrition into agriculture and rural development investments across Asia and the Pacific. Her work focuses on integrating nutrition into policies, programs, and financing mechanisms so that food systems deliver not only higher productivity but also healthier diets, improved livelihoods, and greater resilience. Toko works closely with governments, development partners, and the private sector to advance nutrition-sensitive investments and food systems transformation across the region. She is particularly interested in linking agriculture, climate resilience, biodiversity, and human capital to improve food and nutrition security. A passionate advocate for social inclusion and education, Toko believes that community-driven development is essential for sustainable impact. She champions approaches that place women, youth, and Indigenous communities at the center of food systems transformation, empowering them as agents of change for healthier diets and resilient communities.
	Franklyn Derek Wasi Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Franklyn Derek Wasi is the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of the Solomon Islands under the Government for National Unity and Transformation, elected in 2024 representing East Makira. He holds a Master of Agriculture in Food Security and Agricultural Development from Kyungpook National University (Republic of Korea) and a Bachelor of Agriculture from the University of the South Pacific. His professional background spans academia, government planning, and international development, including roles with Solomon Islands National University, FAO, UNDP, and national planning agencies. His work focuses on

	climate-resilient agriculture, land use planning, and strengthening agricultural policy and capacity in the Solomon Islands.
	Lisa Margaret Wright Board of Directors, ADB Effective 1 February 2024, Ms. Wright was appointed as Alternate Executive Director representing: Australia; Azerbaijan; Cambodia; Georgia; Hong Kong, China; Kiribati; Federated States of Micronesia; Nauru; Palau; Solomon Islands; and Tuvalu. She is a senior career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Assistant Secretary, Public Diplomacy Branch. She previously served as Assistant Secretary, Scholarships and Alumni Branch; Deputy Chief Innovation Officer; and Assistant Secretary, Southeast Asia Mainland Bilateral Branch. She served overseas as Deputy Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy in Seoul. Before joining DFAT, she was Assistant Director General, Communications, Ministerial and Transparency Branch at AusAID. She has worked in management and consulting roles in Australia and Asia with Ford Motor Company, Deloitte, the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, and Tsinghua University. Ms. Wright holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne.
	Neeta Pokhrel SD2-WUD ADB Neeta Pokhrel is currently the Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). She leads the Pacific and Southeast Asia regional team at the Water and Urban Development Sector Office of ADB. An engineer by training; water, sanitation, climate change, and environmental optimist, and a passionate development worker, she has over 29 years of professional experience working with various organizations including the ADB, Bovis Lend Lease Pty Ltd Australia, engineering consulting firms, water utilities, and international non-government organizations.
	Michael von During Technical Specialist for the Food Systems Integrated program (FSIP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Michael von During is the Technical Specialist for the Food Systems Integrated Program (FSIP) at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome, Italy. Prior to joining IFAD, Michael developed a career at the intersection of impact investing and agriculture. He began in the field of microfinance investment with Symbiotics, where he managed the portfolio for Central America. He then joined AlphaMundi to launch their operations in financing sustainable agriculture around the world. This was followed by a stint at Cargill to work on the design of credit assessment solutions for the company's global commodities trading operations, before returning to social investment to work on structuring blended finance solutions for Water.org and IFAD.

ANNEX 3: SELECTED PHOTOS FROM THE NUTRITION SESSIONS

Session 2.2: ASEAN Youth Initiatives for Sustainable Food Systems: Advancing Healthy Diets and Climate Resilience



Reception Dinner and Chefs Showcase (*Lasa ng Panahon [Taste of the Season]*): Celebrating Local Flavors for Dietary Diversity and Resilience)



Session 3.1.: Accelerating Agrifood Systems Transformation in Asia and the Pacific: From Policy to Investment Deep Dive



Session 3.2.: Planet-Friendly School Meals: A Science-to-Investment Platform for Healthy Diets and Climate Resilience



Session 3.3.: Behavior Change and Healthy Diets: Linking food systems to better nutrition



Session 3.4: Nature, Climate and Nutrition: Building Resilient Food Systems



Session 7.2: Investing in the Private Sector for Nutrition - Nutrition Finance Facility



Session 5.4: Strengthening Food Systems Decision-Making: Understanding Data to Design Investments in Healthy Diets



More photos could be viewed from this link: [Photos](#)