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Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security Unit
Sustainable Development & Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank
Food Security Forum 2016

Session 3: Sustainable Food Entitlement

A. Modality of the session

Each session will be chaired and moderated by a designated chair. There will be one 15 minute key note presentation on the main theme of the session, outlining the issues, concerns and questions to stimulate further discussions. Following this presentation, each panelist will make an initial statement of 3 minutes on the selected areas related to the main theme of the session. This will be followed by discussions among the participants organized into a number of groups (10 minutes). Please note that **there will be no scope to make any (power point) presentation by panelists**. Each group will provide their written comments and questions to the moderator. The moderator will invite panelists to reflect on these questions. There will be an open discussion (20 minutes) where the participants can raise further questions, make comments and share experiences before the moderator concludes the session with a brief summary of the discussion.

B. Brief Description of the session

Key issues: *Price and supply stability with growing alternative use of food, digital shopping outlet, tariff and non-tariff barriers to agricultural trade, alternative use of agricultural products; impacts on food security, public procurement and inventory management of food, and social safety net programs.*

Entitlement to food, the amount and combination of food one can buy using his/her resources depend on one's own production; food acquired through the exchange of resources; and food received through transfer. Even with adequate endowment, food security can be at risk due to failures in production,, exchange and transfer. The market efficiency is an important determinant of entitlement through exchange. New markets are emerging in response to the increased demand for high value and processed food. Supermarkets are an example. With this new retail end of supply chain, how will the price and availability of food be affected? Session 3 will deliberate how to improve the efficiency of procurement practices and logistics of supermarkets and how to avoid supermarket's monopolistic relation with consumers and monopsony relation with producers.

Another emerging platform is the online shopping outlet. So far, this platform has mostly been used to bridge communication between consumers and sellers (intermediaries). This Session will shed light on how to develop an end-to-end solution with the farmers having the freedom of choice to sell produce and buy inputs, and being able to make informed decisions despite low literacy levels, lack of access to information and communication technology (ICT) and weak ICT infrastructure in most of the Asia Pacific countries.

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Entitlement through trade is affected by the high level of protection on agriculture products imposed by developed countries. Not only are there high tariffs- four times higher than industrial tariffs - but there are also non-tariff barriers. In periods of severe food crisis, many countries impose bans on food exports.

Furthermore, at the height of the food crisis in 2007-08, major developed economies deprived the international market of essential food by diverting a considerable portion of their products for biofuels.. By 2020, the European Union aims to meet 10 percent of its energy needs from renewables, mostly biofuels. This will divert land away from food crops. The most important question is, in this emerging situation, do we need a global consensus on these issues to keep the international market stable for food? Is a regional buffer stock the answer to the emerging crisis? In this case how can we promote an effective regional buffer stock?

When production and exchanges in markets fail to ensure entitlement to food, governments need to provide food to economically challenged households. This requires the procurement of food, preserving it safely, and distributing it among the truly deserving households through proper targeting during difficult days. It means governments-require-financing, infrastructure, technology and policy development. The main question in this regard is how can these requirements be mobilized and used effectively? What do the experiences so far tell us in this regard? This important issue will be discussed in this session.

C. Key note speaker and other panelist speakers of the session

Keynote speakers: **Mr. Vinod Thomas**, ADB

Panelists

Gerd Fleischer, Head of Section, Agricultural Innovation and Sustainability Standards, GIZ
(New initiative: One World- No Hunger)

Siemon Hollema, Program Department, WFP, *(Social safety net programs: evolving models in managing food security)*

Jared Greenvile, Senior Agricultural Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *(International trade of food)*

Subhasish Panda, Joint Secretary (Storage & Admin), Government of India *(public procurement, storage and inventory management of food)*

Mark Bell, Professor, University of California-Davis *(use of ICT in agriculture; production and marketing)*

Director, ADB (TBD)