



Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Battling Climate Change and Transforming Agri-food Systems

22-24 March 2022

Speakers' Profiles

Deep Dive 1: The Role of Education in Reducing Rural-Urban Divide

23 March 2022



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Asia-Pacific Rural Development and Food Security Forum 2022

Day 2: 23 March (Wednesday)

Deep Dive 1: The Role of Education in Reducing Rural-Urban Divide

11:40–12:55 a.m.



Qingfeng Zhang

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



Scott Rozelle

Helen F. Farnsworth Senior Fellow and Codirector of the Rural Education Action Program



Clarissa Delgado

Chief Executive Officer, Teach for Philippines



Md. Saidur Rahman

Professor and Former Head Department of Agricultural Economics, Bangladesh Agricultural University



Meekyung Shin

Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank

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

1:10–1:25 p.m.



William Dar

Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines



Sairam Reddy Palicherla

Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, UrbanKisaan Farms Pvt Ltd.



Gloria Kraus

Chief Executive Officer, Hollbium



Maria Tran

Senior Project Officer (Urban Development), Asian Development Bank



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Brajesh Panth

Chief, Education Thematic Group, Asian Development Bank

Brajesh Panth is the Chief of Education Sector Group at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He provides technical leadership to the education sector group (EdSG) in ADB, leads the preparation of the EdSG work plan, and facilitates collaboration across sector and thematic groups in ADB and with external partners.

He has over 25 years of progressive experience as project team leader, head of project administration unit, lead education specialist, and chief of EdSG, in the education sector including sector assessment, project processing, implementation, evaluation, and policy dialogue, covering all levels—primary, secondary, technical, and vocational education and training (TVET), and higher education. Besides coordinating and contributing to several publications, Mr. Panth has made several presentations in different fora and contributed to policy analysis, policy dialogue, and analytical work pertaining to different aspects of education reform.

He holds masters and doctorate degrees in education administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University, USA.

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Scott Rozelle

Helen F. Farnsworth Senior Fellow and the co-director of the Rural Education Action Program, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University

Scott Rozelle is professor and senior fellow in the Freeman Spogli Institute of International Studies in Stanford University. He co-directs the Stanford Center on China's Economy and Institutions. His work focuses mostly on many aspects of rural China's economy. He has received many awards from China's government and is an adjunct professor and 10 different Chinese universities.

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Clarissa Delgado

Co-Founder & CEO, Teach for The Philippines

Selected out of over 21,000 applications from 191 countries, Clarissa is a member of the inaugural 2018 class of Obama Foundation Fellows. Clarissa is also a 2019 recipient of the national The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service Award (TOWNS) and the Ten Outstanding Young Men and Women Award (TOYM) presented by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, as well as the regional Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leaders Award both in 2016 and the Global Mover Award from Rappler, the organization of Nobel Laureate Maria Ressa.

In 2017, she successfully defended her Master's thesis at the Ateneo de Manila University. Entitled, " A Historical Analysis of the Philippine Public Education System (1901 - 2017) and an Investigation of External Investments in Access and Quality " Clarissa wrote the first successfully proposed and defended Historical Analysis in the Ateneo de Manila's Graduate School of Education; she graduated in May 2018.

Clarissa holds a B.A. in History and Art History from the College of William and Mary and an M.A. in Education, majoring in Educational Administration from Ateneo de Manila University.

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Md. Saidur Rahman

Professor of Agricultural Economics & Current Director, Institute of Agriculture and Development Studies, Bangladesh Agricultural University

Professor Mohammad Saidur Rahman holds PhD in Agricultural Economics from the Bangladesh Agricultural University in collaboration with IRRI, Philippines and Purdue University, USA. He completed MSc on Development and Resource Economics from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

His professional interest is irrigation management, climate change and food security. He published 73 journal articles and proceedings including referred journals like Food Policy. He was Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Bangladesh Agricultural University. He is the Vice President of Bangladesh Economic Association's executive committee.

He is also working as the Focal Point of BAU to coordinate the ADB proposed project on Strengthening Agricultural Tertiary Education. He is the Bangladesh host country PI of the FSIL funded project, Enhancing Food and Chicken Value Chains of Bangladesh.

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Meekyung Shin

Education Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Meekyung Shin is Education Specialist at Education Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank. She is specialized in the innovation and internationalization of higher education.

Before she joined ADB, she worked for higher education divisions in Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea as director or deputy director, including university students affairs, employment and startup support, graduate program (including law and medicine), university scholarship and loan.

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

1:10–1:25 p.m.



William Dar

Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Philippines



Sairam Reddy Palicherla

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Gloria Kraus

Chief Executive Officer, Hollbium



Maria Tran

Senior Project Officer (Urban Development), Asian Development Bank



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William Dar

Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Dr. William D. Dar is a champion of the poor especially the small farmers, fisherfolks and agripreneurs. His servant leadership, guided by solid and enunciated principles of food security.

Dr. Dar's expertise in government service started when he became the founding Director of the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR) in 1987 to 1994. Afterward, he served different offices from 1994 to 1998, and was later appointed as Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in 1998-1999 and made Philippine agriculture achieve a remarkable 9.6% growth.

Dr. Dar reprised his role as Agriculture Secretary in 2019, with the vision of a food-secure and resilient Philippines. He is pushing for the transformation of Philippine agriculture thru the OneDA Reform Agenda.

He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education from the Mountain State Agricultural College (MSAC), now BSU, in 1973; Master of Science in Agronomy from MSAC in 1976, and Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) in 1980.

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Gerald Glenn Panganiban

**National Program Director, National Urban Agriculture Program,
Department of Agriculture, Philippines**

Licensed agriculturist and agribusiness man with extensive career experience in the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, rich academic experience in collaborative public management and governance, sustainability thinker and multiplier

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Sairam Reddy Palicherla

Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, UrbanKisaan Farms Pvt Ltd.

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

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

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

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Maria Tran

**Senior Project Officer (Urban Development), Pacific Department,
Asian Development Bank**

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

Maria will share her experience in combining urban agriculture with water and sanitation solutions for the climate resilient and nutrition- smart recovery of Nauru.

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