

Shaping a Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Food System in the BIMSTEC Region

3-4 October 2024 | 10 AM (UTC+7)
Gallery 1 & 2, Pullman Bangkok Hotel G, Thailand

DRAFT AGENDA

Day 1

09:30 – 10:00 Registration and Tea/Coffee

10:00 – 11:30 INAUGURAL SESSION

10:00 – 10:10 **Welcome Remarks**

Dr. Shahidur Rashid
Director, South Asia Region, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

Mr. Robert Simpson
Special Advisor to the ADG/RR, Regional Office of the Asia-Pacific, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

10:10 – 11:10 **Remarks by Special Guests**

Mr. Alkesh Wadhvani
Director, Poverty Alleviation, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), India

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna
Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office, India

Mr. Anouj Mehta
Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Thailand Resident Mission, Southeast Asia Department

Mr. Michael Ronning
Mission Director, USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia, Thailand

Shri CSR Ram
Joint Secretary (BIMSTEC and SAARC), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI)

Dr. Mohammad Emdad Ullah Mian
Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Bangladesh

Dr. P.K. Anand
Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India

Dr. Anup Wadhawan
Former Commerce Secretary, Government of India and Senior Fellow, Ashoka University, India

11:10 – 11:20 **Remarks by Guest of Honor**

H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey
Secretary General, BIMSTEC Secretariat, Bangladesh

11:20 – 11:30	<p>Remarks by Chief Guest</p> <p>H. E. Prof. (Dr.) Narumon Pinyosinwat <i>Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand</i></p>
11:30 – 12:00	Group Photo and Break
12:00 – 13:30	<p>SESSION I: Agri-Food Trade in Transition: Global Value Chains</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office, India</p>
12:00 – 12:05	Introduction
	Presentations
12:05 – 12:15	<p>Transforming Agri-Food Trade: New Fundamentals for the Modern Times <i>Dr. Devesh Roy, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI</i></p>
12:15 – 12:25	<p>Global Value Chain: A New Paradigm of Agri-food Trade <i>Prof. C. Veeramani, Professor and Director, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), India</i></p>
12:25 – 13:05	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Ahmad Ahsan, Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI), Bangladesh</i> • <i>Prof. Jeevika Weerahewa, Senior Professor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka</i> • <i>Thailand (tbd)</i>
13:05 – 13:20	Q and A
13:20 – 13:30	Remarks by the Chair
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	<p>Session II: Evolving Dynamics of Agri-Food Trade: Policies, Investment, and Environmental Perspective</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Thailand</p>
14:30 – 14:35	Introduction
	Presentations
14:35 – 14:45	<p>Agriculture Trade and Investment in the BIMSTEC Region <i>Prof. S K Mohanty, Professor, RIS, India</i></p>
14:45 – 14:55	<p>Exploring the Future Landscape of Agri-food Trade: Environmental Perspective <i>Prof. Aparna Sawhney, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India</i></p>
14:55 – 15:35	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh</i> • <i>Mr. Kshitiz Dahal, Senior Research Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal</i> • <i>Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India</i> • <i>Dr. Gaurav Arora, Faculty, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-Delhi), India and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand</i>
15:35 – 15:50	Q and A

15:50 – 16:00 Remarks by the Chair

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:45 SESSION III – Insights into Informal Cross-Border Trade in Agri-food Commodities

Chair: Dr. P. K. Joshi, President, Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA - India)

16:15 – 16:20 **Introduction**

Presentations

16:20 – 16:30 Understanding Informal Trade Alongside Formal Trade: Case Studies from India-Bangladesh

Dr. Nisha Taneja, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), India

16:30 – 16:40 Tale of Two Borders: Informal Agri-food Trade along the Bangladesh-India and India-Nepal Border

Dr. Mamata Pradhan, Research Coordinator, IFPRI

16:40 – 17:20 **Panel Discussion**

Panelists

- *Dr. Nisit Panthamit, Associate Professor, Chiang Mai University, Thailand*
- *Dr. Mohammad Nahid Sattar, Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Bangladesh*
- *Mr. Bipul Chattopadhyay, Executive Director, Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) International, India and Head, CUTS Centre for International Trade, Economics & Environment (CUTS-CITEE)*
- *Ms. Dikshya Singh, Program Coordinator, SAWTEE, Nepal*

17:20 – 17:35 Q and A

17:35 – 17:45 Remarks by the Chair

End of Day 1

Day 2

09:30 – 10:00 Registration and Tea/Coffee

10:00 – 11:30 Session IV: Transforming Trade Insights: Cutting-Edge Innovations in Trade Data

Chair: Thailand (tbd)

10:00 – 10:05 **Introduction**

Presentations

10:05 – 10:15 Navigating the Nexus: Understanding Domestic Agricultural Policies and its Impact on International Trade

Dr. Ahmad Ahsan, Director, PRI, Bangladesh

10:15 – 10:25 Effect of Road Network Expansion on Market Access and Agri-Food Trade in Bangladesh and India and BIMSTEC Agriculture Trade Monitor Plus Dashboard (BATM+)

Dr. Devesh Roy, Senior Research Fellow and Mr. Sunil Saroj, Senior Research Analyst, IFPRI

10:25 – 11:05	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India</i> • <i>Prof. Parthapratim Pal, Professor, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Kolkata, India</i> • <i>Dr. Biswash Gauchan, Executive Director, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal</i>
11:05 – 11:20	Q and A
11:20 – 11:30	Remarks by the Chair
11:30 – 11:45	Break

11:45 – 13:10 **SESSION V – Way Forward**

11:45 – 12:40	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director – South Asia, IFPRI</p> <p><u>Panelists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. P.K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, India</i> • <i>Mr. Tun Lynn Aung, Director (Agriculture Division), BIMSTEC Secretariat</i> • <i>Dr. P. K. Joshi, President, AERA, India</i> • <i>Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office, India</i> • <i>Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Former Secretary General, BIMSTEC</i> • <i>Mr. Anouj Mehta, Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Thailand Resident Mission, Southeast Asia Department</i> • <i>Thailand Ministry or Thailand International Cooperation Agency</i> • <i>Ms. Sabnam Shivakoti, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Nepal</i>
13:00 – 13:10	Q and A
13:10 – 13:15	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p><i>Dr. Mamata Pradhan, Research Coordinator, IFPRI</i></p>
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch

End of Day 2
