

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

AGENDA

Day 1 | October 3, 2024

09:15 – 09:45 Registration

09:45 – 11:35 INAUGURAL SESSION

Chief Guest: H. E. Prof. (Dr.) Narumon Pinyosinwat
Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives,
Government of Thailand

09:45 – 09:55 **Welcome Remarks**

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

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

09:55 – 10:45 **Remarks by Special Guests**

Dr. P. K. Joshi
Former Director - South Asia, IFPRI and President, Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA - India)

Mr. Pranay Sinha
Lead-Global Growth & Opportunity Policy Advocacy, and South-South Cooperation, BMGF, India

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

Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna
Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), South and South-West Asia Office, India

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

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

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

10:45 – 11:15 **Remarks by Guests of Honor**

H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey
Secretary General, Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)

H.E. Mrs. Wijayanthi Edirisinghe

Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to UNESCAP

H. E. Mr. Faiyaz Murshid Kazi

Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Kingdom of Thailand

11:15 – 11:25

Remarks by Chief Guest

H. E. Prof. (Dr.) Narumon Pinyosinwat

Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Thailand

11:25 – 12:00

Group Photo and Break

12:00 – 13:30

SESSION I: Agri-Food Trade in Transition: Global Value Chains

Chair: Dr. P.K. Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, India

12:00 – 12:05

Introduction

Presentations

12:05 – 12:15

Transforming Agri-Food Trade: New Fundamentals for the Modern Times

Dr. Devesh Roy, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI

12:15 – 12:25

Global Value Chain: A New Paradigm of Agri-food Trade

Prof. C. Veeramani, Professor and Director, Centre for Development Studies (CDS), India

12:25 – 13:05

Panel Discussion

Panelists

- *Mr. Suphakit Chareonkul, Executive Director, International Institute for Trade and Development (IITD), Thailand (TBC)*
- *Prof. Jeevika Weerahewa, Senior Professor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka*
- *Dr. Ahmad Ahsan, Director, Policy Research Institute (PRI), Bangladesh*

13:05 – 13:20

Q and A

13:20 – 13:30

Remarks by the Chair

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

SESSION II: Evolving Dynamics of Agri-Food Trade: Policies, Investment, and Environmental Perspective

Chair: Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Thailand (TBC)

14:30 – 14:35

Introduction

Presentations

14:35 – 14:45

Foreign Direct Investment, Globalized Agri-food Value Chains and Transformation

Mr. Sunil Saroj, Senior Research Analyst, IFPRI

14:45 – 14:55

Exploring the Future Landscape of Agri-food Trade: Environmental Perspective

Prof. Aparna Sawhney, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India

14:55 – 15:35

Panel Discussion

Panelists

- *Mr. Kshitiz Dahal, Senior Research Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal*
- *Dr. Gaurav Arora, Faculty, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-Delhi), India and Chulalongkorn University, Thailand*

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- *Dr Mahfuz Kabir, Research Director, Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), Bangladesh*
 - *Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India*

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, Former Director – South Asia, IFPRI and 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

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

17:20 – 17:35 Q and A

17:35 – 17:45 Remarks by the Chair

End of Day 1

Day 2 | October 4, 2024

09:30 – 10:00 Registration

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

Chair: Prof. Jeevika Weerahewa, Senior Professor, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

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 **Panel Discussion**

Panelists

- *Dr. Biswash Gauchan, Executive Director, Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), Nepal*
- *Prof. Parthapratim Pal, Professor, Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Kolkata, India*
- *Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India*

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 – 12:45 **Panel Discussion**

Moderator: Dr. Shahidur Rashid, Director – South Asia, IFPRI

Panelists

- *Mr. Tun Lynn Aung, Director (Agriculture & Food Security Division), BIMSTEC*
- *Prof. Aparna Sawhney, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India*
- *Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Deputy Head and Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP, South and South-West Asia Office, India*
- *Dr. Prabir De, Professor, RIS, India*
- *Mr. Tenzin Lekphell, Former Secretary General, BIMSTEC*
- *Dr. P. K. Joshi, Former Director – South Asia, IFPRI and President, AERA-India*

12:45 – 13:00 Q and A

13:00 – 13:10 **Vote of Thanks**

Dr. Mamata Pradhan, Research Coordinator, IFPRI

13:10 – 14:30 Lunch

End of Day 2
