

PRC Fund Knowledge Sharing Webinar Series
Developing Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food Security: the
PRC's experience

Webinar #1: Integrated approach to agriculture infrastructure investment

8 August 2022 2pm Manila Time

Opening Remarks by ED Liu

Thank you, Yolanda.

Dear DG Teresa, DG Bruno,

Distinguished guests,

Dear friends and colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my great pleasure to attend today's event, the first edition of the Knowledge Sharing webinar series focusing on PRC's experience in Developing Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food Security, co-organized by the PRC Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund (PRC Fund) and ADB's East Asia Department (EARD). As the Executive Director of PRC in ADB, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you, and my sincere appreciation to EARD, SDCC and FECC of PRC MARA (Foreign Economic Cooperation Center of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China) for your strong support.

Agriculture provides food and clothing, the essential supplies for human survival. Thus, agriculture and food security are the cornerstone to the stability of societies, vital welfare of the people, and sustained global economic growth. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with extreme natural disasters and geopolitical conflicts, DMCs are facing reversal of development progress and food security crisis and serious challenges. The analysis by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) shows that the number of people suffering from food shortage and insecurity continues to grow in the world, and the number of people facing acute food insecurity grew at an

alarming rate in 2021. The World Food Program also warned of the possible worst food security crisis since World War II. Facing those challenges, further solidarity and cooperation in agriculture among developing countries is imperative than ever.

The PRC Government attaches great importance to agricultural and rural development, and always takes food security as a top priority. China successfully feeds more than 1.4 billion people, an achievement in its own right a significant contribution to global food security. China has formulated and implemented a series of agricultural and rural development policies, and emphasized application of advanced science and technology in agriculture. China has made enormous investment in holistic agricultural infrastructure systems, covering hardware such as rural roads, energy supply, irrigation, promotion of agricultural technology, agricultural product warehousing and logistic systems, and software such as education and training. As a result, China has achieved sustained and rapid progress in agricultural and rural development, with steady growth in grain production and rural income. At the end of 2020, China has eliminated absolute poverty completely. In 2021, China's grain output reached a record of 680 million tons. Nonetheless, China is still faced with many challenges in agricultural and rural development, such as climate change, and resource and environmental constraints. The Chinese government has set ambitious development goals, including Healthy China 2030, rural revitalization, ecological progress, common prosperity, etc., and has committed to reaching emission peak by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2060.

China is a beneficiary of international development cooperation. The above mentioned China's achievement in agriculture is attributable to ADB's support, including 21 project loans for agricultural development with a total financing of \$2.7 billion, and knowledge sharing of internationally advanced technology and experience. China is also an important contributor, advocator and supporter of international development cooperation, especially South-South cooperation. Even during the difficult times in the early days of PRC, China had actively supported other DMCs in poverty reduction and development, and made unremitting efforts for global agricultural development and food security. China has always highly valued the South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region through the platform of ADB, including exchanging and mutual learning of development experiences.

In 2005, the Government of China established the PRC Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund in ADB, to better support South-South cooperation and help other DMCs in

poverty reduction and economic and social development, with a total contribution of \$90.0 million. PRC Fund is the first trust fund established by PRC in a multilateral development agency. During the past decades, China has worked with ADB to support 133 projects with a total of \$74.19 million in the form of TA grants. About 10% of total fund portfolio is in support of agriculture and rural development, and the priority is given to Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) and Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) subregional programs. Today's webinar is one of the knowledge-sharing activities supported by the PRC Fund. We believe this event can provide good opportunity to introduce PRC's development experience and provide references to other DMCs of ADB.

We call on ADB to prioritize agricultural, rural development and food security when implementing Strategy 2030, through increased support for agricultural development and food security in DMCs, and enhanced South-South cooperation. ADB should live up to its ambition of building a knowledge bank by providing more and better knowledge solutions for DMCs. We hope PRC Fund will continue to play an important role as convening platform and bridge, combining financial support and knowledge sharing, enhancing exchange of good practices and replicable models, and strengthening innovation, so as to promote common prosperity and shared development in DMCs. We also have strong hope that EARD, as a window for the cooperation between PRC and ADB, will continue to give full play to its strength, and do more in promoting knowledge cooperation between PRC and ADB.

Many thanks again to EARD, SDCC and MARA of PRC for your support! I wish this webinar a great success and more similar events to come.

Thank you and good day to everyone.