

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

08 August 2022 14:00-15:30

Opening Remarks for DG, EARD (5 minutes)

Dear ED Liu, Distinguished Guest and ADB Colleagues,

I would like to welcome all the speakers and participants to this first session of the webinar series that will share the PRC's experiences on Developing Productive, Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food Security. We would like to thank PRC Poverty Reduction and Regional Cooperation Fund for coorganizing this event. We also highly appreciate PRC Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs for supporting this event.

South-south knowledge sharing of PRC's development experience is one of EARD's and ADB's priorities to strengthen our partnership with the PRC and across the Asia Pacific Region. Events like these provide great opportunities to bring countries together around common development challenges to share lessons, expertise, capacities, and innovations to support their economic growth and social well being. I would like to thank ED Liu for his strong initiative to push this important agenda forward for ADB.

Agriculture plays a vital role to enhance food security in Asia, and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger by 2030. But agriculture in developing Asian countries is facing many challenges from changing consumers' demand and expectation, rural to urban migration, resource constraints and land use change, and a changing climate.

The PRC has made significant progress to achieve food security and promote sustainable agriculture and has increased agricultural production by more than 5 times in just three decades. This has helped lift more than 850 million of the rural population out of extreme poverty.

This webinar series is designed to support the cross-regional knowledge sharing between the PRC and other ADB members to enhance food security through productive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural development in the region. The first webinar today will focus on sharing the PRC's integrated approach to agricultural infrastructure development.

The PRC's success in agriculture productivity and reform is driven by strong investments in agriculture infrastructure together with bold institutional innovations linking small scale producers to markets. With increasing pressures on natural resources and environmental degradation, the PRC has successfully shifted its policy focus over the last decade from purely boosting food production to a more integrated and balanced approach to transform agriculture into more sustainable and climate resilient sector. Private sector investment in agriculture and food supply chains is increasingly playing an increasingly important role in the sustainable and resilient transformation of agriculture sector.

The PRC and ADB have been supporting a more integrated model of agricultural infrastructure investment projects that increase food security, boost agricultural productivity and improve sustainability and climate resilience with a strong focus on institutional strengthening and capacity building.

Countries in Asia and the Pacific face common challenges of achieving food security through developing more productive, sustainable and resilient agricultural approaches. Today's webinar provides an opportunity to learn lessons from the integrated approach to agriculture infrastructure investment in the PRC. Capturing and sharing this knowledge is extremely valuable – not only for ADB's developing member countries but also for global community. ADB will continue its efforts to share the development experience of the PRC with other member countries through various platforms such as RKSI, CAREC and GMS.

I am delighted to welcome our colleagues from government agencies, academia, civil society and the private sector along with our colleagues from other ADB regional departments to share experiences, discuss challenges and propose potential solutions for future investment strategies to achieve sustainable and resilient agriculture and food system across Asia and the Pacific.

Once again, a warm welcome to all of the speakers and participants for joining us today. A special thanks goes to the project team for organizing this webinar and creating the opportunity to bring us all together from across the globe. Thank you very much and please enjoy your productive discussion today.