

Sharing Knowledge for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food Security : *Experiences from Central and West Asia Region*

Yasmin Siddiqi

Director

**Environment, Agriculture and Natural
Resources Division**

**Central and West Asia Department
Asian Development Bank**



Understanding Knowledge Challenges: *Finding Common Themes*

1. Access to information and technology

- Lack of sector data for policy impact evaluation, decision-making, and timely support
- Slow or limited progress on digitization – impediments, lack of inclusion and implications
- Inadequate systems and network infrastructure for data sharing across agencies and with stakeholders

2. Capacity and institutions

- Small-scale farmers, limited access to credit, land security and other inputs for productive agriculture
- Women farmers less likely to be included
- Climate resilient agriculture – requires institutional cohesion and capacity building

3. Enabling Environment

- Policy and regulation to be oriented towards productive and sustainable agriculture
- Inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks to ensure domestic food safety and harmonization with international standards
- Weak and insufficient regulations to enhance transparency and fair competition to encourage private sector participation

Knowledge Support for Pakistan: *Opening-up Multiple Fronts*

Ongoing TAs:

- TA 6663-PAK: Strengthening Food Security Post-COVID-19 and Locust Attacks
- TA 9838-PAK: Enhancing Technology-Based Agriculture and Marketing in Rural Punjab
- TA 9866-PAK: Preparing the Punjab Agriculture Markets Development Project

Main areas of support:

- Enhancing governments' capacities to collect and monitor digitalized sector data
- Timely data sharing in digitalized system among federal and provincial governments
- Designing new data monitoring system for the MNFSR's national food security information
- Strengthening knowledge and skills on timely data analysis for policy and decision makers
- Pilot demonstration of advance farm mechanization methods for various agro-ecosystems through private service providers and assess impacts
- Preparing agriculture mechanization standards, regulation and testing centers for quality agriculture machinery quality

Joining Hands Across the Region: CAREC's Collective Ideas and Actions

- Regional TA: Strengthening International Food Safety Standards in Agricultural Value Chains in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Member Countries
- 11 CAREC member countries (CMCs) of varying levels of development in food safety management and regulations
- Achievements:
 - Prioritizing DMCs and their needs and was relevant for knowledge sharing
 - 1,000 food safety professionals trained
 - Delivered significant knowledge in food safety management (national and international standard harmonization)
- Lessons learned:
 - TA support to focus on a smaller number of CMCs with commonly identified binding constraints
 - CAREC Institute should act as the knowledge disseminator and includes dissemination of food safety management knowledge
 - CMC governments to train food safety related in standards and best practices

