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INTER-REGIONAL DIGITAL AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS FORUM

Digital Solutions for Agrifood Transformation in Action:
An Inter-regional Forum for Dialogue, Exchange, and Partnership
Building on Digital Agriculture Innovations in Agrifood Systems



SEPTEMBER
3-5, 2025



THE ATHENEE HOTEL
BANGKOK, THAILAND



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INTER-REGIONAL DIGITAL AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS FORUM
3-5 SEPTEMBER 2025, BANGKOK THAILAND

Day 1 | 3 SEPTEMBER 2025

08:00 - 09:00 Registration

09:00 - 10:30 Opening Ceremony

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Plenary Session 1: Large-scale and Impactful digital initiatives in agrifood

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 **Thematic session 1:** *Innovation in climate-resilient food production and resource management*

Session 1.1:

Digital and AI innovations in weather forecasting and agrometeorology

Co-sponsored with Asian Development Bank

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Session 1.2:

Innovations in sustainable, climate-smart rice production systems

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Session 1.3:

Digital technologies and innovations in sustainable livestock management

Co-sponsored with Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:00 **Plenary Session 2:** Digitalization and AI Country Strategies: Emerging Challenges, Opportunities, and Priorities

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

15:00 - 15:45 Coffee Break, Networking, and Pitch Presentations

Pitch Session 1: *Short Presentations by Agritech Startups*
Theme 1: *Innovations in climate-resilient food production and resource management*



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15:45 - 17:15

Thematic Session 1 (cont.): *Innovation in climate-resilient food production and resource management*

Session 1.4: Digital innovations and technologies in water management, aquaculture and capture fisheries

Co-organized with Asian Development Bank

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Session 1.5: Digital Innovations for Sustainable Forestry Management

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)



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03 September: Sessions Outline

Opening Ceremony

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 3, 9:00 - 9:30

Welcome remarks

- **Alue Dohong**, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO RAP
- **Qingfeng Zhang**, Senior Director, Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Asian Development Bank
- **Abdelkarim Sma**, Lead Regional Economist, International Fund for Agriculture Development
- **Dr. Vinaroj Supsongasuk**, Director General of the Cooperative Auditing Department

Plenary session 1. Large scale and Impactful digital initiatives in agrifood

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 3, 9:30 - 10:30

Session Focus: This opening plenary session will showcase some of the most successful, and highly impactful digital initiatives applied to agrifood systems. The High-Level Panel from a cross section covering government, private sector, research centers, NGOS and youth champions will open the door for an exciting three-day forum filled with high impact innovations, robust policy dialogues and fruitful exchanges on the key advances, challenges, and drivers of success along the path of digitalization of agrifood selected from around the world

Moderator: **Robert Simpson**, Deputy Regional Representative, FAO RAP

Rapporteur: **Jimin Lim**

Panelists:

- **Anindya Banerjee**, Adviser, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India (*virtual*)
- **Ziad bin Abdullah Al-Zaidi**, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia
- **Yukti Sharma**, KUZA Biashara Limited
“Scaling digital ecosystems to empower rural youth and smallholders in Africa and Asia”



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THEME 1: Innovations in Climate-Resilient Food Production and Resource Management

Thematic Session 1.1: Digital and AI innovations in weather forecasting and agrometeorology

Co-sponsored with Asian Development Bank

Venue: Terrace A & B

September 3, 11:00 - 12:30

Session Focus: Digital innovations are transforming how weather forecasting and agrometeorology services are delivered up to the farm level. Digital solutions are increasing leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and big data analytics and cloud processing to improve farm weather services. This session will delve into successful applications, initiatives and digital tools to support farming. The session will cover successful applications, but also challenges, infrastructure requirements and farmers' digital literacy to enable more effective use for farmers.

Moderator: **Monica Petri**, Senior Natural Resources Specialist. Asian Development Bank, India.

Rapporteur: **Lim Yunseul**

Panelists:

- **Qingfeng Zhang**, Senior Director Agriculture, Food, Nature, and Rural Development Sector Office, Asian Development Bank
"Investing in Resilience: Weather Forecasting for Transformative Food Systems"
- **Tae Hyung Kim**, Chief, ICT and DRR Division, UNESCAP
"Digital solutions for climate risks and agrifood transformation"
- **Giulio Schinania**, Development Innovation Lab University of Chicago, USA
"USA-AIM for Scale and Global Partnership in Weather Forecast for Farmers"
- **Saysongkham Sayavong**, Head of Administration and Planning Division, Department of Agricultural Land Management, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Lao PDR
"Laos Climate Services for Agriculture, harmonizing interministerial investments to reach the last miles."
- **Ramakrishna Nemani**, Founder of Niruthi
"Levering deep tech for climate risk mitigation solutions"
- **Aditya Shah**, CropIn
"Innovations in climate-resilient food production and resource management by CropIn"



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Thematic Session 1.2: Digital tools in sustainable, climate-smart rice production systems

Venue: London I

September 3, 11:00 - 12:30

Session Focus: This session is dedicated to digital innovations applied to rice production systems with particular focus on advances in production practices related to water management, disease and pest controls, fertilizer and input use to improve productivity, and lower carbon-footprint and ensure more climate-smart rice production practices.

Moderator: **Sushil Kumar**, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

Rapporteur: **Dong Le**

Panelists:

- **My T. Nguyen**, Founder & Chairman of RYNAN Technologies Vietnam
"Internet of Things and mobile application for Real-Time Methane Emissions and Water (AWD) Monitoring in Rice Cultivation"
- **Bo Zhou**, Food and Agriculture Organization
"Applications of drone technology for rice production: Case of Sri Lanka"
- **Beau Damen**, Food and Agriculture Organization
"Remote sensing technology to monitor rice fields for methane and GHG emissions"
- **Ni Yuandong**, Sales Director of International Business, XAG
"Sustainable rice production using digital technologies (with reference to drone applications)"
- **Anton Urfels**, International Rice Research Institute
"Advances in precision agriculture for rice systems."
- **Takahiro Ishizaki**, CEO Faeger Co. Ltd. Philippines
"Satellite-based alternate wetting and drying advisories in Philippines."



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Thematic Session 1.3: Digital innovations for sustainable livestock management

*Co-sponsored with Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology,
Republic of Korea*

Venue: London III

September 3, 11:00 - 12:30

Session Focus: This session tackles equally the latest advances in digital tools in livestock production systems to address critical issues of efficiency, rising disease outbreaks, climate stressors etc. Digital solutions ranging from health-monitoring sensors, automated feeding systems and blockchain traceability will be presented and discussed in the context of the challenges and constraints limiting wider adoption of digital innovations by herders, pastoralist and livestock producers. The session includes a panel discussion on technological and institutional challenges to achieving interoperability among digital solutions.

Moderator: Kibae Kim, Professor, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology,
Republic of Korea

Rapporteur: Felix Teillard

Panelists:

- **Yuri Montanholi**, Livestock Production Specialist, FAO
"Overview of digital innovation and technologies for livestock in Asia-Pacific"
- **Sangyun Ji, Director**, Rural Development Administration, ROK
"Success and Lessons Learned from the Application of Digital Technologies in Livestock Production in the Republic of Korea"
- **Jae Gwan Kim**, Professor, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, ROK
"Seeing the Unseen: How AI and Spectroscopy Detect Spoilage in Meat"
- **Atovullozoda Rajabmurod**, Director of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine of TAAS, Tajikistan
"The Governmental Livestock Traceability System in Tajikistan"
- **Meenesh Shah**, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board, India
"Technologies and Digital Innovations for Smallholder Dairy Producers" (virtual)



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Plenary session 2. Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence country strategies: Emerging challenges, opportunities and country priorities

Venue: Crystal Hall B September 3, 13:30 - 15:00

Session Focus: Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are becoming increasingly accessible, and AI is becoming widely practiced across a range of applications. AI transformative impact on agrifood cut across multiple areas from precision farming and optimal resource use, supply chain optimization, disease detection, robotics and automation, food safety, climate resilience, and data-based decision making. Increased farming efficiency, reduced waste, and enhanced sustainability. Many countries are grappling with the disruptive impact of AI tools, software's and fast-paced non-regulated use of AI in many domains requiring strategic approaches to AI use, applications, regulations, and risk management. Many countries are recalibrating their digital strategies with AI specific strategies and are seeking support, knowledge sharing and exchange among multiple stakeholders. This session will provide a focused discussion on countries on-going AI strategy developments, expectations, requirements, concerns and need for technical and policy support and dialogues.

Moderator: **Aziz Elbehri**, Senior Economist, FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific

Rapporteur: **Jimin Lim**

Panelists:

- **Kanjana Kwanmuang**, Deputy Secretary-General of the Office of Agricultural Economics, Thailand
- **Rajeshwar Singh Janwar**, Director and Head of Division, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), Government of India
- **Jaehee Eom**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Republic of Korea
"Smart agriculture strategies and initiatives in the Republic of Korea"
- **Pramushka Hiruni**, Director Information and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Sri Lanka



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Pitch Session 1: *Short presentations by agritech startups* *Theme 1: Innovations in climate-resilient food production and resource management*

Venue: Crystal Hall A

September 3, 15:00 - 15:45

Session MC: Yuri Montanholi, FAO

Speakers:

- **Shah Mohammed Mushfiqur Rahman**, mPower

"Empowering farmers with data-driven livestock management tool (Khamarbandhu) and a micro-ERP mobile app for Livestock Service Providers (Shufokkho)."

- **Kaori Kawauchi**, NEC Corporation

"Enhancing Agricultural Resilience Through Long-Term Climate Insights and ROI-Driven Investment Decisions"

- **Kanamori Norihito**, JIRCAS

"ToroCam - A smartphone application for rapid collection of total length data required for fish stock assessment"

- **Prabir Mishra**, CEO and Founder, Singapore venture

"Building Deforestation-Free Supply Chains: TRST01's Digital Approach"

- **Borareaksme (Rick) Long**, Regional Manager, Asia, Green Carbon Inc.

"One stop shop carbon trading solution (Green Carbon)"

- **Sujit Hukkerikar**, CEO – ADIS Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

"Digital Innovations for Sustainable Livestock Management"



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Thematic Session 1.4: Digital innovations and technologies in water management, aquaculture and capture fisheries

Co-organized with *Asian Development Bank*

Venue: Terrace A & B **September 3, 15:45 - 17:15**

Session Focus: This session delves into aquaculture needs to continue innovate to improve sustainable fish production, manage species selection, diseases, wastage and environmental pollution. The session highlights some of the advances in digital innovations in aquaculture and capture fisheries with examples showcasing harnessing ICT, IoT, Cloud-edge computing, AI, machine learning. The session also tackles the required digital ecosystem needs from specialized training, technology testing, access to finance by small scale fishermen to promote broader adoption of digital innovations.

Moderators: **Vikas Goyal**, Water Resources Specialist, Asian Development Bank, India and **Rishi Sharma**, Senior Fisheries Officer, FAO Asia-Pacific

Rapporteur: **David Brown**

Panelists:

- **Vikas Rajoria**, Additional Project Director cum Administrator, Madhya Pradesh Water Resources Department
"Digitizing Madhya Pradesh Irrigation Efficiency, India."
- **Suchana Acharya**, Senior Divisional Engineer, the Director General at Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal
"Nepal Irrigation Infrastructure Monitoring System (NIIMS)"
- **Wim Bastiaanssen**, Hydrosat
"Revolutionizing Water and irrigation Management Through Satellite Data: Hydrostat's."
- **Matthew Walsh**, Fisheries Officer, FAO
"Developments in Artificial Intelligence for Adaptive Resource Management in Fisheries and Aquaculture."
- **Utari Octavianty**, Aruna co-founder
"Aruna startup: A success story from empowering fishing villages to globalizing supply chains."
- **Kaoru Hirabayashi**, Strout Inc. Japan
"AI improved trout management- the case of Strout Inc., Japan"
- **David Kroodsma**, Global Fishing Watch
"The use of satellite imagery in detecting effort and IUU fishing activities in the Asia Pacific" (virtual)



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Thematic Session 1.5: Digital Innovations for Sustainable Forestry Management

Venue: London I **September 3, 15:45 - 17:15**

Session focus: The session will focus on key challenges facing sustainable management of the forest sector including mitigating forest degradation, enhancing forest health and reducing risks it faces and sustainably managing agri-forest products. The session offers examples and initiatives showcasing digital innovations to address these challenges, improve sustainable management and build forest resiliency in the face of climate change and resource degradation. Several digital innovations are presented and seek to address the core underlying problem or challenge, describe the innovation and its impact and the enabling conditions for its success and the requirements for its scaling up.

Moderator: Sheila Wertz, Senior Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office Asia and Pacific

Rapporteur: Illias Animon

Panelists:

- **Julian Fox**, Forestry Officer, FAO
"Building an interoperable digital solution for tracking and reporting restoration of agrifood systems – FAO's Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)"
- **Spencer Morley**, CTO Farmforce
"Tree-to-Table Traceability: Digital Case-Management for Agroforestry Supply Chains"
- **Boonsuthee Jeravongpanich**, Director of Forest Economic Office of the Royal Forest Department.
"The e-Tree traceability platform for legal timber production and trade."
- **Elisee Tchana**, GIS and NFI analyst, FAO
"Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for transparent, inclusive and sustainable commodity supply chains – FAO's WHISP DPI."
- **Brett Shields**, AFFIRM CTA, FAO
"Digital innovations in fire mapping"



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Day 2 | 4 SEPTEMBER 2025

08:00 - 09:00 **Exhibition Tours and Networking**

09:00 - 10:30 **Plenary Session 3:** Breaking Down Digital Divide:
Models and Initiatives on Last Mile Digital Infrastructure

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 - 12:30 **Thematic Session 2:** *Digital Innovations in Agri-food Supply Chains and Food Environment*

Session 2.1: Digital innovations in food safety, standards, and traceability

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Session 2.2: Digital technologies and innovations in waste management, renewable energy and circular economy

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

12:30 - 13:30 **Lunch Break**

13:30 - 15:00 **Plenary Session 4:** Data as foundation of digital transformation: Data development, access, ownership, and governance

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

15:00 - 15:45 **Coffee Break, Networking, and Pitch Presentations**

Pitch Session 2: *Short Presentations by Agritech Startups*
Theme 2: Digital innovations in agri-food supply chains and food environment

15:45 - 17:15 **Thematic Session 3:** *Digital Innovations for Inclusive Rural Transformation*

Session 3.1: Innovations in digital rural extension, education and advisory services

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Session 3.2: Inclusive digital rural finance and fintech applications in farming and agribusiness

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

Session 3.3: Youth champions and agritech startup founders: Successful stories from youth

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)



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04 September: Sessions Outline

THEME 2: Digital innovations in agri-food supply chains and food environment

Plenary Session 3:

Breaking down digital divide: Models and initiatives on last mile digital infrastructure

Venue: Crystal Hall B **September 4, 9:00 - 10:30**

Session focus: The challenges to implement "last mile" solutions that deliver affordable internet connectivity to rural communities through examples. What are lessons learned from technological, regulatory, and investment strategies that contributed to closing the digital divide. Examples of successful last mile financial inclusion for rural communities in developing countries, including mobile banking, digital payment systems, and innovative financing models for SMEs.

Moderator: Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, Asia-Pacific, International Telecommunications Union

Rapporteur: Muelgeta Handino

Panelists:

- **Bui Hai Nam**, Deputy DG, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam
"Digital Transformation in Vietnam's Agriculture: Infrastructure Challenges and Last Mile Solutions"
- **Deng Fei**, Director Market and Informatization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, P.R. China
"China's training of farmers in information technologies and tools"
- **Steven Matainaho**, Permanent Secretary of the Department of ICT
"EU STREIT Project: A impactful story of digitalization in agriculture with joint UN support"
- **Preesan Rakwatin**, Executive Vice President, Digital Economy Promotion Agency
"Thailand experience in last mile digital infrastructure."
- **Ahmed Javed**, Senior Market Engagement Manager (Asia Pacific and North Africa), GSMA
"Scaling last mile financial services: Lessons from GSMA AgriTech implementations"



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Thematic Session 2.1: Digital innovations in food safety, standards and traceability

Venue: London I

September 4, 11:00 - 12:30

Session Focus: Digital traceability tools open the door for significant improvements in food safety, enhancing transparency and improving efficient transactions within the agrifood supply chains. This session focuses on successful examples of digital innovations in food safety along the supply chains including for exports and imports. The session also addresses key challenges facing accelerated adoption such as data security, technical issues, and skills to ensure data accurately.

Moderator: *He Jun, FAO*

Rapporteur: *Mulugeta Handino*

Panelists:

- **Gary Loh**, CEO and Founder, DiMuto Pte Ltd, Singapore
"Digitizing Trust: Enhancing Food Safety and Trade Confidence with Blockchain and AI Powered Traceability"
- **Fariel Salahuddin**, Founder & CEO @UpTrade
"Goats for Water: livestock traceability and value-chain digitization to serve women and rural communities in remote and underserved regions"
- **Manfred Borer**, Chief Executive Officer of Koltiva, Indonesia
"Agrifood and commodity supply chains traceability"
- **Hans Christian Fleischer**, Chief Commercial Officer, FarmForce
"FarmForce Origin: SaaS Solutions for digitizing food's first mile"



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Thematic Session 2.2: Urban agriculture, vertical/greenhouse and urban farming technologies

Venue: London III

September 4, 11:00 - 12:30

Session Focus: This session zeroes in on best examples of using digital technologies for urban farming, vertical farming, and controlled greenhouse farming in Asia. The use cases presented feature the integration of AI, IoT, and automation to optimize growing conditions, improve resource management, control waste and provide efficient food supply to consumers. Selected applications to include IoT and Sensors enabled AI-driven climate control, precise input delivery in crop growth, and blockchain technology for supply chain transparency.

Moderator: **Meeta Punjabi**, Senior Food Systems Officer, FAO

Rapporteur: **Kunal Tiwari**

Panelists:

- **Walaiphan Wattanabenjaphat**, BioMatLink Thailand
"Smart Circular Agriculture Ecosystem Powered by GNSS Mechanization and RE100 Biomass Energy"
- **Yanni Ching**, Co-founder/CCO Entomal Biotech, Malaysia
"A success story of agrifood waste management"
- **Gillian Santos**, CEO and Co-Founder of Anihan Technologies
"Hardware-enabled digital solutions to tackle food loss in the Philippines."
- **Arthur Winston Bitagcol**, Founder Food Access Philippines
"Solving urban food waste problem through community engagement and data science"



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THEME 3: Digital innovations for Inclusive rural transformation

Plenary Session 4:

Data as foundation of digital transformation: Data development, access, ownership, and governance

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 4, 13:30 - 15:00

Session Focus: Inclusive digitalization and breaking down digital divide and ensuring small scale farmers, small SMEs and rural communities, benefit from the digital transformation, is to invest in data, establish the proper protocols and models for data generation, harmonization, security protection and governance. The session addresses data availability, reliability and access requirements for impactful digital innovations, platforms and solutions to be effective tools benefiting farmers and enterprises and other users. Issues to address include:

- What are the key data-based obstacles to successful implementation of proven digital solution models
- What are examples of data development models, approaches and initiatives behind some high impact digital innovations in agriculture
- What are the key determinants of success to incentive innovation users and beneficiaries (i.e. farmers) to participate and contribute to data creating and data sharing, especially when digital ecosystems are developing
- What are proprietary and ownership issues about farm sourced data and what are some of the proven solutions and successful models.

Moderator **Salah Sukkarieh**, Professor of Robotics and Intelligent Systems, University of Sydney

Rapporteur: **Kundan Singh**

Panelists:

- **Ram Kiran Dhulipala**, Senior Scientist, CGIAR-ILRI
"Digital Innovations for scaling weather based agro-advisory services : Case study of AgDataHubs"
- **Matina Joshi Vaidya**, AITC Chief, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Nepal
"Data needs for developing digital farm advisory services in Nepal"
- **Dawit Phillipos**, Senior Director, Ethiopia Agricultural Transformation Institute
"Ethiopia's Agri Stack -- linking farmer profiles and other databases, allowing for more efficient transactions and access to credit."
- **Thompson Ogunsanmi**, CGIAR-IITA
"IITA-led AKILIMO solution, applications and scalability in Nigeria, Ghana and Tanzania" (virtual)



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Pitch Session 2: Short presentations by agritech startups
Theme 1: Digital innovations in agri-food supply chains and food environment

Venue: Crystal Hall A

September 4, 15:00 - 15:45

Session MC: **Yuri Montanholi**, FAO

Speakers:

- **Nabil Irfan**

"Digital Livestock Marketplace: Transforming Rural Economies Through Connected Trading in South Asia and Beyond"

- **Dami An**, Founder and CEO, Futuresense, LTD

"Building Trust from Farm to Export: Cambodia's Digital Leap in Food Safety and Traceability"

- **Mustapha Yousaf**, Dar-Es-Salaam Farms Ltd.

"Enhancing Precision Agriculture with Digital and AI-Driven Weather Forecasting using Metos Weather Stations"

- **Jin Jeong**, CEO, PinkPacker, CEO, PinkPacker

"An AI-powered Zero-Waste Meat Trading Marketplace for Non-Preferred Cuts, Featuring PinkTag, a Real-Time Meat Freshness Monitoring Service"

- **Minnie Wanjiku Wanyonyi**, Director of Customer Success, Farmbetter Ltd.

"Rewiring Rural Advisory Landscapes: Synergizing evaluations, platforms and Community-Led Engagement."



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Thematic Session 3.1: Innovations in digital education and advisory services

Venue: London I

September 4, 15:45 - 17:15

Session Focus: This session addresses the advances, challenges and potential for digital advisory services to transform agricultural advisory services and improve sustainable, profitable and resilient farming. Examples to focus on digital tools to transform extension services including leveraging the role of mobile apps, digital platforms to provide user-friendly interfaces, tailored content, and efficient information delivery to farmers. Digital also provides opportunities to enhance exchange of knowledge and co-creation of solutions amongst different key actors: lead women and men farmers, researchers and extension agents. The session will address key constraints such as enabling the last mile infrastructure, digital literacy, access, affordability, gender gaps, and financial barriers. By comparing examples of good practices, the session will provide insights on how best to overcome barriers to equitable access, gender inclusion, data security, and farmers capacity to harness new tools.

Moderator **Ram Kiran Dhulipala**, Senior Scientist, CGIAR-ILRI

Rapporteur: **Milo Bystricky**

Panelists:

- **Nidhi Bhasin**, CEO, Digital Green - India
"Farmer.Chat application: Improving the efficiency of Agricultural Extension with AI (with applications to Africa)" (virtual)
- **Kanamori Norihito**, Representative, Southeast Asia Liaison Office
"Innovations in digital extension services-Soil diagnosis using Deep Learning."
- **H S. Roopa**, Assistant Director-Research, Grameen Foundation India
"Rewiring Rural Advisory Landscapes: Synergizing Randomized Evaluations, Digital Platforms, and Community-Led Engagement for Systemic Transformation."
- **Ken Lohento**, Senior Digital Agriculture Officer, FAO Regional Office Africa
"Innovative Advisory and Profitable Market Services piloted in Rwanda and Malawi (FAO DVI project)."
- **Longbao WEI**, Zhejiang University, P.R. China
"Digital Village Initiative: Farm and rural advisory services through digital technology."



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Thematic Session 3.2: Inclusive digital rural finance and fintech applications in farming and agribusiness

Venue: London III

September 4, 15:45 - 17:15

Session Focus: This session explores the transformative role of digital finance and digital payment solutions, access, use and the enabling conditions for successful adoption by farmers and SMEs in agrifood. The link of digital payments to farmers access to credit, insurance and savings for farmers is critical for building resilience against climate change, market fluctuations. Through examples of successful initiatives, the session delves into enabling policies and conditions such as digital financial literacy, enabling infrastructure and policies supporting low-cost payment services and building trust among farmers and SMEs along the value chain in using digital financial services.

Moderator **Ashish Narayan**, International Telecommunications Union

Rapporteur: **Jos Hazenbosch**

Panelists:

- **Hafiz Abdur Rehman**, Chief Technical Advisor with the Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab, Pakistan
"Cash and e-voucher scheme pilot for farmers in Punjab, Pakistan"
- **Syed Tarique Alam**, CEO of Dvara E-Registry, India
"Doordrishti digital platform serving farmers organizations farming, markets and financial needs" (virtual)
- **Md Mahmudur Rahman**, Co-founder & CEO Wegro, Bangladesh.
"Aggregation P2P financing model for farmers" (virtual)
- **John Jack**, Deputy Chief, Department of Communication and Digital Transformation, Vanuatu
"Transforming commerce and payments in rural and remote communities- Smart Islands, Vanuatu" (virtual)



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Thematic Session 3.3: Youth Champions, Agritech startup founders and innovators: Youth voices and perspectives from the ground

Venue: Terrace A & B

September 4, 15:45 - 17:15

Session Focus: The session features presentations of young entrepreneurs, agritech founders and leaders who have benefited from digital ecosystem support systems such as agribusiness incubators, youth innovation challenges, and grants and funding sources. Told through the eyes of young entrepreneurs, the conditions for success in entrepreneurial development in agritech include required skill development and mentorship.

Moderator Mahina Bongso-Hussain, FAO

Rapporteur: Aziz Arya

Panelists:

- **Yanni Ching**, Co-founder/CCO Entomal Biotech, Malaysia
"A successful story of agrifood waste management"
- **Miller Alexander Rajendran**, CEO SenzAgro Solutions
"A case of startup that applies IoT in Agriculture"
- **Gillian Santos**, CEO and Co-Founder of Anihan Technologies
"Hardware-enabled digital solutions to tackle food loss in the Philippines"
- **Arthur Winston Bitagcol**, Founder, Food Rescue ASEAN, Philippines
"A personal journey towards an agritech company tackling urban food waste problems through community engagement and data science"
- **Esther Wanjiru Kimani**, CEO Farmer-Life-Line Technologies, Nairobi, Kenya



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3-5 SEPTEMBER 2025, BANGKOK THAILAND

Day 3 | 5 SEPTEMBER 2025

09:00 - 10:30

Plenary Session 5: Scaling Up Digital Innovations
Through Investments and Partnerships--
Examples of Impactful Initiatives

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Plenary Session 6: *Initiatives in Digital Public
Infrastructure, Interoperability, and Data Governance*

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

12:00 - 13:30

Lunch Break

13:30 - 15:00

Plenary Session 7 (Special Topic): *Role of Academia in
Powering Digital Innovations in Agrifood: Examples of
Impactful Initiatives and Successful Partnerships*

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)

15:00 - 15:30

Exhibition Tours and Networking

15:30 - 16:30

Closing Session

Rapporteur synthesis and closing remarks

[\[ZOOM LINK\]](#)



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INTER-REGIONAL DIGITAL AGRICULTURE SOLUTIONS FORUM
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05 September: Sessions Outline

THEME 4: *Partnerships and investments for scaling up digital solutions, innovations, and initiatives*

Plenary Session 5:

Scaling up digital innovations through investments and partnerships – examples of impactful initiatives

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 5, 9:00 - 10:30

Session Focus: Scaling up proven digital solutions and innovations requires developing business models, partnering with relevant actors, and adapting innovations to different contexts. Issues raised in the session include:

- What are some of the proven effective approaches to facilitate successful investment partnerships between governments, private actors, development partners and other relevant stakeholders
- How to lower investment costs and build capacity (for lead farmers, extension agents, other actors) for effective scaling up of digital innovations
- What are examples of best practices in adapting technology to context during scaling up phase
- How to ensure inclusive digitalization during expansion and scaling up phase?
- What are some successful models and approaches in providing access to funding and investment capital to agritech startups and scale up successful business models?

Moderator

Rapporteur: Kundan Singh

Panelists:

- **Jarot Indarto**, Director of Food and Agriculture, BAPPENA, Indonesia
"Partnership Initiatives in Indonesia's Food and Agriculture Sector Digital Public Infrastructure Development"
- **Teresita Di Marco**, Yield Lab Institute, Buenos Aires, Argentina
"Developing digital ecosystem and investing in high impact companies in the Latin American AgriFoodTech sector. (virtual)"
- **Suchada Hnoonpakdee**, Head of Product Development, RIFFAI
"Examples of AI-powered climate solutions and gender perspectives on AI platforms"
- **Monica Petri**, Senior Natural Resources and Agricultural Specialist, ADB.
"From Pilots to Scale: Partnerships Driving the Digital Transformation of Agriculture"
- **Sukati Mphumuzi**, FAOR Togo ad interim
"Digital agriculture investments need: Initiatives in Africa" (virtual)



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Plenary Session 6:

Initiatives in digital public infrastructure, interoperability and data governance

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 5, 11:00 - 12:30

Session Focus: The roundtable is to offer a space for dialogue between academic experts and share experiences of cross-sector collaborations from different countries highlighting successful examples of rural transformation fostered through digital advances. Selected examples are intended to showcase good practices and successful initiatives aimed at empowering rural populations to better harness digital tools and solutions. Specifically, the session aims to showcase practical examples of how academia, through cross-sector partnerships, contribute to bridging the digital divide and advancing inclusive rural transformation in agrifood systems. Second, to facilitate a dialogue among participants on strategies and good practices to strengthen digital education, foster innovation, and empower rural communities through improved access to digital tools and solutions. Examples to highlight successful approaches and practical experiences where academia has contributed to developing digital capacities and fostering innovation in rural agrifood systems.

Moderator **Abdelkarim Sma**, Lead Regional Economist, Asia and Pacific Division · IFAD

Rapporteur: **Milo Bystricky**

Panelists:

- **Rajeshwar Singh Janwar**, Director and Head of Division, Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), Government of India
- **Srinivasan, R.**, Professor and Chairperson – Center for Digital Public Goods, IIMB
“Learnings from India’s GovStack” (virtual)
- **Ivan Rossignol**, Senior Advisor on Digital Infrastructure, Multi-lateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), China –
“Perspectives on digital and connectivity infrastructure investment in developing countries.” (virtual)
- **Pramushka Hiruni**, Director (IT), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation, Sri Lanka
“Interoperability initiative to leverage inter-department government data to monitor agricultural practices, food production and consumption, and support policies.”
- **Norshahrul Nizam Bin Othman**, Assistant Chief Executive,
“Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry of Brunei Darussalam ASEAN Digital Government Interoperability framework” (virtual)



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Plenary Session 7:

Role of academia in powering digital innovations in agrifood:
Examples of impactful initiatives and successful partnerships

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 5, 13:30 - 15:00

Session Focus: The roundtable is to offer a space for dialogue between academic experts and share experiences of cross-sector collaborations from different countries highlighting successful examples of rural transformation fostered through digital advances. Selected examples are intended to showcase good practices and successful initiatives aimed at empowering rural populations to better harness digital tools and solutions. Specifically, the session aims to showcase practical examples of how academia, through cross-sector partnerships, contribute to bridging the digital divide and advancing inclusive rural transformation in agrifood systems. Second, to facilitate a dialogue among participants on strategies and good practices to strengthen digital education, foster innovation, and empower rural communities through improved access to digital tools and solutions. Examples to highlight successful approaches and practical experiences where academia has contributed to developing digital capacities and fostering innovation in rural agrifood systems.

Moderator Aziz Elbehri, FAO

Rapporteur: Aziz Arya

Panelists:

- **Lesly Goh**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign/SIGMA, Southeast Asia
Innovation Alliance for a Global Model of Agri-Food Systems
"Southeast Asia Innovation Alliance for a Global Model of Agri-Food Systems"
- **Salah Sukkarieh**, University of Sydney Australia
"Highlights from the work on Digital Farmhand and women farmers support farmers in the Mekong region."
- **Jae Gwan Kim**, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea
"Role of universities in research partnerships to develop and deploy digital technologies, student education, and resource sharing"
- **Zeyad Abdullah Alzeyadi**, Director General, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi Arabia
"Saudi Alliance for Agricultural Technologies."
- **Siva Kumar Balasundram**, Head and Professor, Department of Agriculture Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia
"ASEAN University Network Universities and government collaboration to enhance farmers' digital literacy and private sector engagement."



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Closing ceremony

Venue: Crystal Hall B

September 5, 15:30 - 16:30

Moderator **Aziz Elbehri**, FAO

- Rapporteur's synthesis, key messages, and learnings
- Key recommendations and follow up
- FAO Organizer Closing Speech



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Zoom links

LOCATION	ZOOM MEETING DETAILS	SESSIONS
Crystal Hall B	Webinar ID: 833 1777 1322 Passcode: 138518 https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83317771322?pwd=ISPzrEovxIj0rf9rJSk9zD4OVGuElk.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening ceremony• Plenary SessionS 1-7• Closing ceremony
Terrace A & B	Webinar ID: 841 1429 0787 Passcode: 897605 https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84114290787?pwd=fFbhP2T42CHbVKUMw7gGFyDJHhZQAn.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thematic Session 1.1• Thematic Session 1.4• Thematic Session 3.3
London I	Webinar ID: 854 5923 9982 Passcode: 824838 https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85459239982?pwd=35Mbm9LRc6z2VlqyC7ricOaFTzDWLD.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thematic Session 1.2• Thematic Session 1.5• Thematic Session 2.1• Thematic Sessions 3.1
London III	Webinar ID: 849 9810 1678 Passcode: 935284 https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84998101678?pwd=PBuZW9YG7U08nuGnZrdXLOyRfLPCBi.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thematic Session 1.3• Thematic Session 2.2• Thematic Session 3.2