



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

17-21 October 2022

FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION FORUM

Harnessing science, technology
and innovation for transforming
our agrifood systems

©FAO/Adriana Brunetti

SIDE EVENT

11:00 - 12:45 | VIRTUAL

18
October
2022

Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific: Country experiences in agrifood digital transformation

Description of the event:

Digital agriculture is rapidly spearing and widely embraced in much of Asia and the Pacific, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of FAO's "1000 Digital Village Initiative" (DVI), FAO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific launched a regional initiative centered to support inclusive digitalization of agrifood and rural transformation. Under DVI, FAO facilitates knowledge sharing on digital innovations and best practices through a DVI Platform and support digital village ecosystem assessment up to DVI investment planning following a country-led, people-centered and inclusive technology support. This side event present FAO DVI experience in Asia through 4 country experiences including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. Panelists from Governments, academia and development partners will share their insights into digitalization advances in Asia.

REGISTER

Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific: Country experiences in agrifood digital transformation

Side event organized by

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Background and rationale

Agriculture is becoming digital, and Asia is at the forefront of this revolution, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. FAO initiated the "1000 Digital Village Initiative" (DVI) to support inclusive agrifood and rural transformation digitalization. Under DVI, FAO has adopted a holistic approach grounded on local ownership, bottom-up, and user-centered digital village development support. Under DVI, FAO facilitates knowledge sharing of digital agriculture advances and best practices through a regional DVI Platform. Countries have embraced digital innovations as a core driver of rural revitalization. FAO has provided methodological tools to help assess the rural digital landscape and the enabling conditions for accelerated inclusive, affordable and sustainable adoption of digital innovations. FAO's digital village ecosystem assessment approach is applied in over ten countries in Asia, supporting digital agricultural and rural initiatives. This side event presents digital advances in four Asian countries and highlights the contributions of FAO DVI at the assessment and pilot development stages. Representatives from Government, research, and academia from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam are invited to share their countries' experiences. Panelists from FAO and development partners will also present their perspectives and regional knowledge to the dialogue.

AGENDA

11:00 – 11:20

Opening remarks

Introduction to Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific

Jongjin Kim, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Opening remarks on FAO Science and Innovation Forum and the lead role of digitalization in innovations within agrifood system

Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist, FAO

11:20 – 12:20

Digital Village Initiative in Asia: Country digitalization advances and lessons learned from DVI in select countries of Asia

Moderator: Aziz Elbehri, Senior Economist, FAO RAP

11:20 – 11:30

Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific: An introduction

Aziz Elbehri, FAO RAP

11:30 – 11:40

Strategies and last mile infrastructure requirements for e-extension and marketing platforms in Sri Lankan agriculture

Hiran Peiris, Director (Information & Communication), Department of Agriculture, Sri Lanka

Digital village readiness assessments for rural digitalization in 10 districts of Sri Lanka

Radheeka Jirasinha, Sri Lanka Evaluation Association

11:40 – 11:50

Village digitalization strategy in West Java Province

HE Mochamad Rodwan Kamil, Governor of West Java Province, Indonesia

Digital Landscape and ecosystem Assessments in West Java villages

Yani Nurhadryani, IPB University Bogor Indonesia

11:50 – 11:55

Q&A

11:55 – 12:05

Thailand's Digital Economy Promotion Agency: promoting smart farming and agribusiness innovations

Preesan Rakwatin, Executive Vice President, Digital Economy Promotion Agency

DV village development- from piloting innovations to business models - 10 village case assessments

Witsanu Attavanich, Kasetsart University, Thailand

Digital Village Initiative in Asia and the Pacific: Country experiences in agrifood digital transformation

Organized by
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

12:05 -12:15

The central role of digitalization in Viet Nam rural transformation strategy

Tran Cong Thang, Director General, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD)

Developing digital village (commune) models: lessons from three communes DV ecosystem assessments in Viet Nam

Nguyen Anh Phong, AgroInfo, Viet Nam

12:15 - 12:20

Q&A

12:20 – 12:40

Promoting digital innovations and scaling up successful breakthroughs: examples from Asia**Moderator: Dejan Jakovljevic, Director Digitalization and Informatics Division, FAO**

Successful approaches for effective business and governance models for scaling up digital innovations

Panos Loukos, GSMA

Scaling up investments in digital technology and requirements for multi-stakeholder coordination: Lessons from ADB experiences

Navin Twarakavi, Asian Development Bank**Q&A**

12:40 – 12:45

Closing remarks for the DVI side event**Aziz Elbehri, Senior Economist, FAO RAP**