

FINAL REPORT

RETA 6376

“Promoting a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on New Strategies and Actions  
for Reducing Hunger and Poverty with a Focus on Agriculture and Rural  
Development in Asia”

Funded by  
The Asian Development Bank  
Manila, Philippines

International Food Policy Research Institute

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Number and Title	Executing Agency	Source of Financing
RETA 6376 “Promoting a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on New Strategies and Actions for Reducing Hunger and Poverty with a Focus on Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia”	The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)	Asian Development Bank and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
Total Budget: US\$625,000	Starting date	Planned Completion Date
ADB: \$500,000	January 2007	December 2008
IFPRI: \$125,000		

### 1. INTRODUCTION

1. This document is the Final Report for RETA 6376 on “Promoting a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on New Strategies and Actions for Reducing Hunger and Poverty with a Focus on Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia”. The project has a two-year duration from January 2007 to December 2008, is executed by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), externally funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (approved in January 2007), and the total project value is US\$625,000.
2. The counterpart implementing agency is the Chinese State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOPAD). The day-to-day technical and management arrangements are undertaken in collaboration with the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC).

### 2. KEY ACTIVITIES

3. Key activities in this multi-stakeholder dialogue project include:
  - Establishing a conference advisory committee;
  - Developing the program and identifying/inviting participants for the high-level policy forum on “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia” at ADB in Manila, Philippines (August 9-10, 2007);
  - Developing the program and identifying/ inviting participants for the global conference on “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People” in Beijing, China (October 17-19, 2007);
  - Commissioning background papers and policy briefs;
  - Preparing policy forum and global conference proceedings;
  - Organizing a follow-up workshop on “Renewed Policy Action for the Poorest and Hungry in South Asia” in New Delhi, India (December 2).

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

4. Five key accomplishments of the policy consultation and conference process are highlighted here:
  - New knowledge on the magnitude and nature of extreme poverty generated;
  - Increased attention to the social exclusion of minorities and other marginalized people, including the disabled;
  - New policy ideas and strategies for improving the welfare of the poorest and hungry people identified;
  - Prompt and effective communication ensured successful distribution of information to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public; and
  - Intensified exchange of experiences and lessons
5. The multi-stakeholder dialogue project has contributed to improved policymaker and public awareness of appropriate strategies and actions to reduce extreme rural poverty and hunger in Asia and thereby contribute to achieving the hunger and poverty Millennium Development Goal (MDG), which seeks to halve the proportion of poor and hungry people by 2015. Project beneficiaries include policymakers and decisionmakers in public sector, civil society, and private sector at national, regional, and global levels; development partners; and institutions for and with the poorest and hungry people.
6. The project generated four major outputs:
  - improved knowledge base on international experience with strategies and actions for reducing and ending hunger and poverty is improved;
  - a high-level policy forum on “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia” at the Asian Development Bank on August 9-10, 2007;
  - a global conference on “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People,” including an Asia Forum, in Beijing on October 17-19, 2007; and
  - A follow-up workshop on “Renewed Policy Action for the Poorest and Hungry in South Asia” in New Delhi, India on December 1-2, 2008.
7. The donor, executive agency, and counterpart agencies recognize the limitations to the project, particularly in terms of scope, timing, and findings. There is a general expectation that project outcomes will contribute to focusing attention and action on the poor and hungry people.

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## 1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

8. The project document is outlined in Annex 1.

### 1.1. Context of the Project

9. Hunger and poverty remain widespread in Asia. Despite recent progress, especially in the PRC, Asia continues to be home to two-thirds of the world's absolutely poor and food-insecure people. About 650 million people in Asia are absolutely poor, living on less than a dollar a day, down from 934 million in 1990. Around 520 million people lack sufficient access to food to lead healthy, productive lives, down from 570 million in 1990. There are also indications that the nature of hunger and poverty in Asia is changing. The hungry and poor that are "easy" to reach are benefiting from global efforts to reduce hunger and poverty. But the poorest of the poor are often much harder to reach because they may live in failing states or are caught in poverty traps. The power of economic growth for poverty alleviation and hunger reduction appears to have diminished in recent years. There are a growing number of countries that combine good economic growth with disappointing declines or even rises in poverty. It is increasingly evident that the policy mix for the reduction of poverty and hunger needs to change and policies for pro-poor growth need to be re-balanced with social protection policies if the poverty and hunger MDG is to be met. A 2004 review of the Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) noted an impressive record in reducing income poverty in the Asia-Pacific region, but also pointed out that the less progress has been made in the non-income dimensions of poverty, and that the region faces a number of challenges in attaining the MDGs.<sup>1</sup>

10. There is also a growing concern that even if the first MDG is achieved, it would only have halved the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and suffering from hunger. Projections suggest that worldwide an estimated 700 million people will remain extremely poor in 2015, and about 600 million will still go hungry. About half of the people projected to remain absolutely poor or food-insecure in 2015 will be living in Asia. The Millennium Project's report states that the goals are only a mid-station to ending absolute poverty by 2025, and that sustained aid is required for those who will still require support.

11. The International Food Policy Research Institute has been provided a grant of US\$500,000 by ADB under the 11<sup>th</sup> RETA for a two-year project entitled "Promoting a Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on New Strategies and Actions for Reducing Hunger and Poverty with a Focus on Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia" (RETA 6376).

### 1.2. Project Objective, Purpose, and Outputs

12. There is a compelling need to think ahead, and for policy and decision makers, development partners, civil society organizations and researchers to: (i) take stock of progress in achieving the poverty and poverty MDG and those who are left behind; (ii) assess why hunger and poverty persist in these groups; (iii) analyze cases where interventions, in particular in the agriculture and rural development sector, have or have not successfully reached the poorest of the poor and those most afflicted by hunger; (iv) assess the optimal mix of pro-poor growth and social protection policies at different stages of development; (v) intensify the exchange of lessons between the PRC and other countries that have been successfully reducing hunger and poverty

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<sup>1</sup> ADB. 2004. *Enhancing the Fight against Poverty in Asia and the Pacific: The Poverty Reduction Strategy of the Asian Development Bank*. Manila.

on the one hand and the rest of the countries on the other hand; and (vi) develop a consensus on strategies and actions to achieve food and nutrition security and reduce poverty and its consequences for these groups.

13. The project aims to contribute toward progress in achieving the poverty and hunger MDG and going beyond it to ultimately end poverty and hunger. The specific outcome will be improved policymaker and public awareness of appropriate strategies and actions to reduce and ultimately end hunger and poverty.
14. The Technical Assistance is expected to generate four major outputs:
  - improved knowledge base on international experience with strategies and actions for reducing and ending hunger and poverty is improved;
  - a high-level policy forum on “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia” to be held at the Asian Development Bank on August 9-10, 2007;
  - a global conference on “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People,” including an Asia Forum, is convened in Beijing on October 17-19, 2007; and
  - follow-up strategic briefings at ADB and key Asian institutions.

### **1.3. Expected Benefits**

15. Benefits are expected to include the following:
  - Improved knowledge on who the poor and hungry people are; key pathways and interventions for tackling poverty and hunger; optimal mix of policies and investments;
  - Broader consensus on the role of agriculture and rural development in achieving the poverty and hunger MDG and going beyond it to end poverty and hunger in Asia;
  - Greater exchange of experience between countries and stakeholders on which strategies and actions to implement, scale up and transform in order to reduce and end hunger and poverty;
  - Improved design and implementation of strategies and actions through shared knowledge and information; and
  - Better informed key national and regional policy dialogues and processes for alleviating poverty and hunger.

## **2. MATTERS/ISSUES ARISING**

### **2.1. Logframe Output 1: Knowledge base on international experience with strategies and actions improved**

- ***Resource Materials***

16. To address the objectives noted above – especially to take stock of those who are those left behind, assess why poverty and hunger persist, analyze interventions, and assess policy options and strategies to end hungry and poverty -- IFPRI commissioned and produced a comprehensive set of policy briefs and reports from leading experts around the world as well as prepared other resource materials.

17. The report on “The World’s Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger” [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020/dp/vp43.asp>] is the first report to comprehensively assess who and where the world’s poorest and hungry people are and how their welfare is changing over time. Researchers were able, for the first time, to disaggregate those living below the dollar-a-day poverty line.
18. About 40 policy briefs brought together work on special aspects of poverty and hunger [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfpubs.asp>]. Researchers, policymakers, and NGO leaders contributed to this series. Together, these briefs address who the poorest and hungry are, what the pathways out of extreme poverty and hunger are, and how to implement and scale up action for the poor and hungry.
19. More than 15 research papers specifically focused on China’s experiences with reducing poverty and hunger were prepared by Chinese experts [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfpubs.asp#chreports>].
20. Fifteen policy briefs focused on aspects related to “Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia: The Role of Agricultural and Rural Development” were compiled [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus15.asp>].
21. A statement on the way forward for taking action on the poor and hungry [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/wayforward.asp>], synthesizing IFPRI’s conclusions from the conference, was prepared by IFPRI to generate international debate.
22. A synopsis of the international consultation, “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People” by Joachim von Braun and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, was also prepared and can be accessed at <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/oc57.asp>. The synopsis summarizes the ongoing consultations with the intent to come closer to consensus for taking action.
23. A synopsis of the policy forum “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia: In Pursuit of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth” highlighted findings and recommendations for pro-poor policies and investments in Asia [<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/cp/ADBmanilasynopsis.asp>].
24. Preparations were undertaken for an academic book, for release in late 2009, tentatively titled “The Poorest and the Hungry: Assessments, Analyses, and Actions”.
  - **Policy Seminar Series**
25. A series of seven seminars and roundtable panels was held at IFPRI headquarters to get advice on key issues for action against poverty and hunger from leading experts in the field. The seminars addressed the following questions: Who are the poorest people—those who are so difficult to reach with current and past approaches? Why are their situations so dire? What actions are needed to achieve their sustained move out of poverty and hunger? How do we design and implement appropriate policies and strategies? A follow-up seminar to present the highlights of the policy consultation process and the international conference was held in Washington on November 19, 2007
  - April 11, 2007 - Policy Responses to the Spatial Concentration of the Poorest in Lagging Regions. Roundtable with Ravi Kanbur (Cornell University), Somik Lall

(World Bank), Xiaobo Zhang (IFPRI), Maximo Torero (IFPRI)  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070411\\_2020Series1.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070411_2020Series1.asp)

- April 25, 2007 - Why Don't "The Poor" Have A Louder Voice When They Are Many?.: Policy Seminar with Anirudh Krishna (Duke University)  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070425\\_2020Series2.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070425_2020Series2.asp)
- May 10, 2007 - Social Protection to Overcome Poverty Traps and Aid Traps. Policy Seminar with Michael Carter (University of Wisconsin)  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070510\\_2020Series3.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070510_2020Series3.asp)
- May 23, 2007 – Indigenous Peoples and Economic Opportunities in Latin America. Seminar with Emmanuel Skoufias (World Bank)  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070523\\_2020Series4.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070523_2020Series4.asp)
- June 26, 2007 – Action for the World's Most Vulnerable: Reaching the Poor During and After Conflict. Seminar with Marc Cohen (IFPRI), Bruce Cogill (UNICEF), and others  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070626\\_2020Series5.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070626_2020Series5.asp)
- July 11, 2007 – The Urbanization of Global Poverty: New Estimates. Seminar by Martin Ravallion (World Bank)  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070711\\_2020Series6.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20070711_2020Series6.asp)
- November 19, 2007 – Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People. Seminar with Akhter Ahmed (IFPRI), Johannes Linn (Brookings Institution), Peter McPherson (NASULGC), and Joachim von Braun (IFPRI)  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20071119\\_2020Series7.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/events/seminars/2007/20071119_2020Series7.asp).

- **Youth Writing Contest**

26. In conjunction with the conference, IFPRI organized a writing contest through which youth, young people between 14 and 18 years of age, could share their thoughts on ways of overcoming poverty and hunger. More than 600 young people from 39 countries submitted entries. The panel of judges selected Ashley Eberhart, age 16, of the USA as the winner, and Swarnava Majumdar of India as honorable mention. The winning essay and other outstanding entries were published in a booklet called *A Future with No One Living in Poverty and Hunger: Highlights from an International Youth Writing Contest* [\[http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/oc56.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/oc56.asp).

- **Doctoral Students Competition**

27. An international competition was held from June to September 2007 to identify and *invite leading doctoral students working on poverty and hunger to the conference. Ph.D. students working on issues related to poverty and hunger* were encouraged to submit an application outlining their research and the relevance of their work to the theme of the conference. Ten applicants were selected as IFPRI 2020 Vision Doctoral Students and invited to the conference [\[http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfdoctoral.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfdoctoral.asp).

28. During their stay in Beijing, the selected doctoral students attended a one-day workshop on October 16, 2007, on "Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People: Doctoral Students Workshop", co-organized with the Beijing Normal University, to present their doctoral research to other recipients and receive feedback from leading researchers in the field. They then attended the global conference on October 17–19, contributed to the conference follow-up by identifying research and action priorities that emerged from conference deliberation, and provided a written note sharing their perspectives.

- **Media Activities**

29. The following media briefings were held in conjunction with the international conference and related activities:

- August 9, 2007: Press briefing during the IFPRI-Asian Development Bank (ADB) Policy Forum, “**Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia: In Pursuit of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth**” in Manila, Philippines. At least 28 media pieces were recorded.<sup>2</sup>
- September 28, 2007: Press Briefing to announce the conference, “**Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People**” held in Beijing, China.
- October 17-19, 2007: Numerous media interviews were conducted during the conference on “**Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People**” held in Beijing, China. At least 39 media pieces were recorded.
- November 6, 2007: Two conference call media briefings were held with journalists from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the United States on the IFPRI Report “**The World's Most Deprived: Looking below the Dollar-a-Day Poverty Line**”. At least 35 media pieces were recorded.

30. IFPRI also arranged for eight journalists to attend the international conference in Beijing from the following media outlets: *Business Mirror* (Philippines); *Die Welt* (Germany); *East African*; *Hindu Business Line* (India); *Kyodo News* (Japan); *Le Soleil* (Senegal); *Mint* (India); *Zambia Daily Mail*.

- **Conference Website**

31. A conference website [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/index.htm>] was established to raise public awareness and share information related to the conference and its lead-in and follow-up activities. The website serves as a virtual proceedings of the international conference; it includes conference outputs and publications, which are available for download; speakers’ summary notes and PowerPoint presentations; videos of selected presentations; information on all conference-related activities; a PowerPoint presentation that offers highlights of the conference at a glance; and a conference blog that presents comments and feedback on the conference. It also includes comprehensive information and outputs from the related activities described above.

- **Other Communication Activities**

32. IFPRI pursued a range of other communication activities to make the messages of the conference more accessible to more people. During the conference, it operated a blog [<http://2020chinaconference.wordpress.com/>] on the conference website to allow participants to post comments on each day’s events. Immediately after the conference, IFPRI created a powerpoint presentation [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/ppt/beijingconfglanceppt.ppt>] giving highlights and conclusions from the conference in an easy-to-understand form. To spread the messages of the conference to a wide audience, IFPRI also created a special conference supplement for its newsletter, *IFPRI Forum* [<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/newsletters/IFPRIForum/200710/IF20beijingconf.asp>].

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<sup>2</sup> This number represents media coverage (TV, radio, print, internet). A single wire story is only counted once since IFPRI has no way to track all of its individual appearances.

33. IFPRI Annual Report 2007 focused on “Eliminating Hunger and Reducing Poverty”. The report essays [[http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/ar2006/ar2006\\_essay.asp](http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/books/ar2006/ar2006_essay.asp)] provide three perspectives on what needs to be done now to reduce hunger and poverty faster. The essays are: “Focus on the World's Poorest and Hungry People” by IFPRI Director General Joachim von Braun, “Spaces of the Poor” by NGO leader Amrita Patel, and “Changing Attitudes and Behaviors: The Role of Africa's Cultural Leaders” by Nobel Prize Laureate Wole Soyinka.
34. To expand the knowledge based on poverty and hunger, IFPRI invited researchers around the world to build a living resource guide on poverty and hunger. More than 150 resources have been added to this collaborative bibliography. For more information see <http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/references.asp>.

**2.2. Logframe Output 2: High-level policy forum on “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia” convened at ADB.**

35. Recognizing that today’s Asia faces new challenges and opportunities but that Asia’s poor remain predominantly rural, IFPRI and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a high-level policy forum on “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia: In Pursuit of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth” in Manila in August 2007. The forum brought together about 100 leaders and stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society from all over Asia and around the world to examine the role of agricultural and rural development in reducing poverty and hunger in today’s Asia. Participants examined the scale and nature of poverty and hunger in rural Asia and explored growth and structural changes in Asian agriculture and rural non-farm activities. Strategies for economy-wide and trade policies to encourage inclusive rural growth were discussed, and key emerging risks such as climate change and instruments for mitigating and managing risks were examined. About 20 papers and policy briefs were prepared and presented; 15 of these were subsequently selected for publication in the IFPRI 2020 Focus, “Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia: The Role of Agricultural and Rural Development,” edited by Nurul Islam [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020/focus/focus15.asp>].
36. A synopsis of the event was prepared shortly after the event [<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/cp/adbmanilasynopsis.asp>] and was widely distributed. The findings and recommendations for pro-poor policies and investments of the Manila policy forum contributed to a broader consensus on the role of agricultural and rural development in reaching and going beyond the poverty and hunger Millennium Development Goal and in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in Asia.

**2.3. Logframe Output 3: In cooperation with LGOPAD, global conference on “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People”, including an Asia Forum, convened in Beijing on October 17-19, 2007.**

37. The international conference on “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People” was co-organized with China’s State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOPAD) of China, and co-hosted with the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC) and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).
38. The conference sessions were designed to offer a wide-ranging assessment of poverty and hunger, as well as perspectives, strategies, and policies for many

regions and sectors. The program [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfprogram2.asp>] included both plenary and breakout parallel sessions, which allowed participants to exchange ideas, learn from each other's experiences, brainstorm on potential new strategies and partnerships, and articulate priority areas of action. Summaries of the breakout discussions were presented in the plenary in subsequent panel discussions.

39. The conference was opened by China's Vice-Premier of the State Council, Liangyu Hui and featured the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the vice-president of the Asian Development Bank. The message of the United Nations Secretary General was presented. The ADB delegation was led by Ursula Schäfer-Preuss, Vice President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development at ADB, who delivered a speech during the Opening Ceremony. Ms Schafer-Preuss also chaired the regional forum for Asia as well as delivered the results of the forum at the plenary session.
40. Each day featured its own set of plenary sessions and parallel breakout groups for livelier, in-depth discussions. The first part of the conference set the stage, with sessions on understanding poverty and its consequences, including new information on the poor people living below the US\$1-a-day poverty line. Parallel sessions were devoted to identifying what strategies and policies are required to enable people to move out of extreme poverty and hunger, with specific attention to fostering pro-poor growth, reducing vulnerability and enhancing social protection, targeting the poor, and creating and enhancing the assets of the rural poor. Several keynote speakers then discussed the challenges of and opportunities for poverty reduction.
41. The second day of the conference addressed policies and actions in countries and regions for ending extreme poverty and hunger. Country-specific cases were Brazil, the Philippines, Uganda, and Zambia. Regional sessions looked in depth at experiences in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and addressed specific actions needed to take action against extreme poverty and hunger. A panel on the roles of actors and institutions involved in poverty reduction included representatives of research and educational institutions, donor groups, and the private sector. Another panel shed light on the often neglected topic of action to meet the needs of minorities and marginalized people.
42. During the second day of the conference, a regional session focused on Asia was held. The program was as follows:

**Chair: Ursula Schäfer-Preuss**, Vice President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Rapporteur: Abdul Bayes**, Professor of Economics, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh

▪ **Release of Recessive Hunger**

**Speaker: Yunliu Fan**, Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, China

▪ **Addressing Undernourishment**

**Speaker: S. Mahendra Dev**, Director, CESS (Centre for Economic and Social Studies), India

▪ **Linking small farmers to high-value markets**

**Speaker: Ashok Gulati**, Director in Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), India

- **Generating Employment**

**Speaker: Tahlim Sudaryanto**, Director, Indonesian Center for Agro Socioeconomic Policies and Studies (ICASEPS), Indonesia

- **Tackling Inequality—Social Exclusion**

**Speaker: Qazi Ahmad**, Chairman, Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Bangladesh

- **Evolvement and Challenges for China to achieve the Millennium Development Goal**

**Speaker: Fuhe Liu**, Director, Department of Policy and Regulation, The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOPAD), China

- **Addressing Gender Inequality**

**Speaker: Amita Singh**, Chairperson, Center for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

43. Discussion during the Asia session concluded that there are currently two well-identified paths out of poverty in Asia: moving from subsistence to commercial farming and moving from informal nonfarm activities to more profitable activities. To encourage movement along the first path, increased access to land for smallholders through redistribution and the tenancy market is needed. To encourage movement along the second path, more effective rural development policy is needed to generate rural employment. Mainstreaming informal employment and promoting gender equality will need to include the following actions:

- promote opportunities for both the self-employed and informal wage workers by integrating microfinance service provision, skills training, improved technologies, and other business development services;
- secure rights for the self-employed, especially access to credit and other resources, and create equitable policies for formal and informal enterprises;
- protect informal workers by extending existing insurance schemes;
- raise the “voice” of informal workers by strengthening their organizations and representation in relevant policymaking institutions; and
- be sensitive to gender issues and consider women workers who tend to earn less, have weak social protection, and need more policy support.

44. The third day of the conference focused on action and implementation. Sessions addressed strategies and approaches for poverty and hunger reduction, including issues related to scaling up interventions, improving governance, reaching the poor during and after emergencies and crises, building social capital, and improving the measurement of extreme poverty and hunger. Three “social entrepreneurs” described how social entrepreneurship can be put to work for the poor. Speakers also considered how to develop, finance, and implement effective partnerships for action for the poor and hungry.

45. ADB played a key role in the conference and shared its expertise through thematic and regional sessions, in particular the Asia Forum where Vice President Ursula Schaefer-Preuss served as Chair. Other notable speakers invited to participate in the conference were Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman of the University Grant Commission, India; Fazle Abed, Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, Bangladesh; Kamal Hyat, Chief Executive of the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Pakistan

among others. The RETA supported the participation of leading policymakers and leaders of Asian DMCs in the conference.

46. Altogether more than 400 international and Chinese policymakers and thinkers attended, including a number of participants at the ministerial and vice ministerial levels [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/pdf/chconfpart.pdf>]. There were 267 participants from China and about 47 Asian participants from other DMC countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) at the conference who are leading researchers and practitioners from NGOs, international agencies, and the private sector. The conference was conducted in both English and Chinese, facilitating intensive exchange and learning of lessons.
47. The planning and program of the meeting were guided by a Conference Advisory Committee [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/chconfacmem.asp>] under the chairmanship of Fan Xiaojian, Director General, The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development, People's Republic of China; Joachim von Braun, Director General, International Food Policy Research Institute, USA; Sartaj Aziz, former Finance Minister and Foreign Minister, Pakistan; Harris Mule, former Permanent Secretary of Finance, Kenya; and Huqu Zhai, President, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, People's Republic of China. The committee met twice, in March 2007 and in October 2007, to review progress and provide guidance on conference plans and follow-up activities. ADB was represented at this committee first by Susanne Scheirling and then by Kunhamboo Kannan, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, ADB.

#### **2.4. Logframe Output 4: Follow-up strategic briefings at ADB and key Asian institutions held.**

48. The content of the conference and the communications strategy were designed to ensure that the conference not only reaches and informs the groups of actors, but also builds consensus and catalyzes action.
49. As part of the follow-up in Asia, IFPRI held a regional consultation on "Renewed Policy Action for the Poorest and Hungry in South Asia" on December 2, in New Delhi. This dialogue addressed two key issues: (i) securing inclusive income growth, and (ii) enhancing human capabilities of the poorest. These two issues had surfaced prominently during the Manila policy forum on "Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia" as well as the regional forum on Asia during the global conference on "Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People". Participants shared experiences and debated how to replicate and scale up successful experiments as well as how to move from research to action and from policy to implementation.  
[\[http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/20081202NewDelhi.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/20081202NewDelhi.asp).
50. About 30 participants from Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka participated in this regional dialogue. Participants from Pakistan and Nepal were not able to participate following the terrorist attacks in Mumbai from November 26-29, 2008. Participants were from the policymaking community, research and academia, and international and donor agencies.
51. ADB played a key role with Tun Lin, Economist from ADB Manila, chairing the Panel Discussion on "Income and Employment Policies for the Poor and Hungry: Lessons from Recent Country Experiences" and Pratima Dayal, Principal Economist from the

ADB Office in India, chairing the concluding Panel Discussion “From Words to Action: Strengthening Policy Implementation”.

52. A synopsis of the meeting has been prepared and is available at [\[http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/20081202NewDelhi.asp\]](http://www.ifpri.org/2020ChinaConference/20081202NewDelhi.asp).

### 3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

53. Five key accomplishments of the policy consultation and conference process are highlighted here:
54. *New knowledge on the magnitude and nature of extreme poverty.* The background report on “The World’s Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger” [<http://www.ifpri.org/2020/dp/vp43.asp>] is the first report to comprehensively assess who and where the world’s poorest and hungry people are and how their welfare is changing over time. Researchers were able, for the first time, to disaggregate those living below the dollar-a-day poverty line into three groups – (i) Subjacent poor: those living on more than US\$0.75 but less than US\$1 a day; (ii) Medial poor: those living on more than US\$0.50 but less than US\$0.75 a day; and (iii) Ultra poor: those living on less than US\$0.50 a day. This report shows that of the about 1 billion extremely poor people in the developing world who subsist on less than \$1 a day, half a billion live on less than 75 cents a day and 162 million live on less than 50 cents. Further, reductions in poverty have been slowest among those living in ultra poverty, who were found to be largely concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa, indicating that the poorest are being left behind.
55. *Increased attention to the social exclusion of minorities and other marginalized people, including the disabled.* A plenary session focused exclusively on marginalized people and about five policy briefs examined the links between social exclusion and poverty and reviewed experiences with and strategies for addressing social exclusion.
56. *New policy ideas and strategies for improving the welfare of the poorest and hungry people.* Five priority areas of action to accelerate reduction of extreme poverty and hunger were identified: (i) focusing on inclusive growth; (ii) improving access to assets and markets; (iii) phasing in social protection more quickly and comprehensively; (iv) accelerating investments in health and nutrition programs; and (v) including the excluded. Special emphasis was given on the balance between pro-poor growth and social protection. In the survey that followed the conference, almost 90% of respondents agreed that the event had “provided good ideas on how to implement strategies and actions on how to reduce poverty and hunger.”
57. *Prompt and effective communication* ensured successful distribution of information to policymakers, stakeholders, and the general public. A designated website provided access to policy briefs prior to the beginning of the conference, and speaker notes, presentations, and video recordings of sessions were also made speedily available. A PowerPoint summary of the international conference was sent to all participants and the public in general immediately after the conclusion of the conference. In the survey conducted following the conference, about 90 percent of the respondents agreed that “the documents provided during the conference were useful”.
58. *Intensified exchange of experiences and lessons.* The international conference drew about 400 participants from about 40 countries and a wide variety of stakeholder groups – policymakers, civil society, research, and so forth. It provided a setting for

constructive formal and informal discussions between key actors for action with the poor and hungry, a learning opportunity for doctoral students, and a platform for expressing the ideas of young people from around the world. In the survey conducted following the conference, about 95 percent of the respondents agreed that “the conference provided me with a good opportunity to learn from the experiences of others in how to successfully reduce hunger and poverty”.

#### 4. IMPACT

##### 4.1. International Conference in “Taking Action for the World’s Poor and Hungry People” on October 17-19, 2007 in Beijing, China.

59. Of the 400 participants who attended the international conference, 117 completed a questionnaire intended to assess their observations regarding the conference. The results are presented below. Of note are the following:

- Over 90 percent of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that the conference provided them ‘with a good opportunity to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce hunger and poverty’ (question 5).
- Over 90 percent of respondents were in agreement that ‘the documents provided during the conference were useful’ (question 9).
- Almost 90 percent of the respondents were in agreement that the Conference ‘took stock of those who are left behind from progress in reducing hunger and poverty’ (question 1); ‘assessed why poverty and hunger persist for these people’ (question 2); and ‘provided good ideas on how to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce poverty and hunger’ (question 4).

**Table 1: Summary of survey results<sup>3</sup>**

	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1	The conference took stock of those who are left behind from progress in reducing hunger and poverty	48%	40%	8%	3%
2	The conference assessed why poverty and hunger persist for these people	50%	39%	7%	3%
3	The conference made me aware of new findings and approaches to reach those left behind	42%	39%	14%	3%
4	The conference provided good ideas on how to implement strategies and actions to successfully reduce poverty and hunger	34%	45%	17%	3%
5	The conference provided me with a good opportunity to learn from the experiences of others in how to successfully reduce hunger and poverty	49%	43%	5%	2%
6	The conference added value to other initiatives and processes already ongoing to reduce hunger and poverty	39%	44%	13%	3%

<sup>3</sup> Row totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding off or no response.

7	The conference contributes to raising public awareness about the need for building effective partnerships and appropriate policy actions to reach the poor and hungry	44%	40%	13%	1%
8	The conference contributed to identifying areas of consensus on strategies and actions for reducing poverty and hunger	35%	50%	11%	3%
9	The documents provided during the conference are useful	55%	39%	2%	0%
10	The conference enabled me to broaden and deepen my networks and partnerships	39%	48%	6%	2%
11	The conference motivated and inspired me to take action to reach the poor and hungry	38%	46%	9%	3%
12	I now have a better understanding of				
a	who are the poorest and hungry	37%	46%	12%	3%
b	what can be done to improve their welfare	27%	50%	20%	3%
c	how to effectively take action to reach them	18%	44%	33%	2%

#### 4.2. IFPRI-ADB Policy Forum on “Agricultural and Rural Development for Reducing Poverty and Hunger in Asia: In Pursuit of Inclusive and Sustainable Growth” on August 9-10, 2007 in Manila, Philippines.

60. Of the estimated 100 international and local participants who attended the workshop, around 34 completed the questionnaire. The results are presented here. Of note are:

- About 94% of the participants strongly agreed or agreed that the workshop provided them ‘valuable input and results that I will share with my colleagues’ (question 12).
- All participants strongly agreed or agreed that the workshop ‘examined key emerging risks such as climate change and instruments for mitigating and managing risks’ (question 7).
- 85% of the participants strongly agreed or agreed that the workshop ‘contributed to broader consensus on the role of agriculture and rural development in reaching and going beyond the poverty and hunger Millennium Development Goals in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in Asia’ (question 10).

**Table 2: Summary of survey results<sup>4</sup>**

	Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
1	Examined the role agricultural and rural development plays for reducing poverty and hunger in Asia	59%	41%	0%	0%
2	Examined the scale and nature of poverty and hunger in rural Asia	44%	53%	3%	0%
3	Explored growth and structural changes in Asian agriculture	50%	41%	9%	0%
4	Explored growth and structural changes in Asian rural non-farm activities	21%	50%	26%	3%

<sup>4</sup> Row totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding off or no response.

5	Discussed strategies for economy-wide and trade policies to encourage inclusive rural growth	15%	47%	26%	12%
6	Assessed production technology and natural resource management interventions and initiatives	26%	41%	21%	12%
7	Examined key emerging risks such as climate change and instruments for mitigating and managing risks	47%	53%	0%	0%
8	Addressed how effective institutions can be developed to promote inclusive agricultural and rural growth	32%	50%	15%	3%
9	Focused on investment priorities and donor harmonization	29%	47%	15%	6%
10	Contributed to broader consensus on the role of agriculture and rural development in reaching and going beyond the poverty and hunger Millennium Development Goals in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in Asia	38%	47%	6%	9%
11	Facilitated greater exchange of insights and experiences on which strategies and actions to implement, scale up and transform in order to reduce and end hunger and poverty in Asia through discussions with various stakeholders	38%	50%	6%	6%
12	Provided me with valuable input and results that I will share with my colleagues	62%	32%	3%	3%
13	Contributed to raising public awareness about the need for building effective partnerships and appropriate policy actions to achieve Poverty and Hunger Reduction in Asia	32%	56%	12%	0%
14	Encouraged me to undertake follow-up activities within my own country/organization/network/environment	65%	29%	6%	0%

61. Even though it is too early to evaluate the policy impact of the project, it is fair to expect that the Manila policy forum and Beijing conference and related activities will have long-lasting impact. At no time before did the global community focus in so much detail on the poorest of the poor and those being left behind. The attention the policy forum and international conference received from the media and the public in general has been and continues to be enormous. The international conference coincided with the 17<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of China and received support from the Chinese government. The Chinese government recognized the importance of the conference, not only for China, but also its global relevance. A more detailed impact assessment is planned in 2008.

62. In Fall 2008, IFPRI commissioned an external assessment of the impact of its 2020 Conferences, which includes the global conference on "Taking Action for the World's Poor and Hungry People". The preliminary report is due in Spring 2009.

## 5. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

63. IFPRI, with headquarters in Washington, D.C. and offices in Beijing and New Delhi, is the executing agency of the project. IFPRI appointed a project team coordinator from within its staff. IFPRI organized the international conference in collaboration with LGOPAD. The host institutions were IFPRI, the International Poverty Reduction Center in China (IPRCC), and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS).
64. The Conference was supported by a management team comprised of Ms. Rajul Pandya-Lorch, Chief of Staff in the Director General's Office and Head of 2020 Vision Initiative, IFPRI; Dr. Shenggen Fan, Director of the Development Strategy and Governance Division, IFPRI; Dr. Zhang Lei, Managing Director of the International Poverty Reduction Center in China; and Dr. Wu Zhong, Director General of the International Cooperation & Social Mobilization Department of The Chinese State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development.
65. A Conference Advisory Committee was convened and co-chaired by:
- Xiaojian Fan, Minister, The State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development (LGOPAD), China;
  - Joachim von Braun, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute;
  - Huqu Zhai, President of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences;
  - Sartaj Aziz, former Finance Minister and Foreign Minister, Pakistan; and
  - Harris Mule, former Permanent Secretary of Finance, Kenya.
66. Members of this committee included leading policymakers and decision-makers from public sector, civil society, and private sector as well as representatives of major partner or co-sponsoring institutions. ADB was represented by Mr. Kunhambo Kannan, Director, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Division, East Asia Department. The Committee met on March 20, 2007 in Beijing, China and on October 16, 2007 in Beijing, China as well. In between these two meetings, the Committee consulted in a virtual mode.

### 5.1. Project Reporting

67. The project was implemented over a 24-month period, commencing in January 2007 and ending in December 2008. The reporting schedule is detailed below:

Report	Submission	Deadlines
Inception Report includes the detailed project work plan	Within 3 months from the start of the project	June 2007
Progress reports	Semi-annual	September 2007, March 2008, September 2008
Audited annual financial statements including the use of project funds	Annual	April 2008 and April 2009
Final completion report	Within 3 months of project closure	March 2009