High growth across Asia and the Pacific over the past few decades has helped communities cope with shocks such as the COVID-19 crisis. The challenge for the region’s policy makers in the COVID-19-recovery phase is to manage downside risks and safeguard hard-won reductions in poverty that were compromised during the outbreak. Moving forward, new ways to advance prosperity may need to be found, particularly in rural areas where opportunity gaps remain wide.

While each country’s context both pre-and post-COVID-19 will determine the nature of the optimal response, more general approaches could include removing structural obstacles to inclusive rural development and enabling greater sustainable growth. For example, although agriculture fared well during the emergency, food system strategies that draw on local comparative advantage, sectoral interdependencies, and livelihood diversification could enhance the wellbeing of rural households.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum to discuss some lessons learned and insights gained from some studies undertaken during the COVID-19 response and examine strategic opportunities that may assist policymakers and economic development practitioners in Asia and the Pacific in incentivizing rural economic transformation. In this conference, a number of researchers will present studies from developing economies in Asia that address questions such as:

(i). Productivity impacts of COVID-19  
(ii). What are the drivers of rural-urban migration and its impact?  
(iii). What is the impact of the rural livelihood program on poverty and inequality?  
(iv). How do tourism and ICT enhance the well-being of rural families?  
(v). Income inequality and its measurement  
(vi). Narrowing urban-rural income gap  
(vii). How to empower rural women?  
(viii). Household consumption, incomes, and farming systems  
(ix). Issues around ensuring a universal basic income  
(x). Policy options for green economic transformation in the post-COVID-19 world

The work presented will be peer-reviewed and developed for publication in a Special Issue of Economic Analysis and Policy journal.
# Conference on

**Rural Economic Transformation: Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Prosperity in Post-COVID-19 Asia**

[Virtual conference; JST time zone, local time in Tokyo]

## Day 1: November 17, 2021

### 9:00-9:10  Introduction/Technical Guidance/Photo Session

Dr. Dil Rahut, Sr Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan

### 9:10-9:20  Opening Remarks

Prof. Tetsushi Sonobe, Dean and CEO, ADBI, Japan

Chair  
Dr. Mio Oka, Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, South Asia Department, ADB

### 9:20-10:10  Keynote Speech: Poverty Alleviation as a Global Public Good: The Case for Basic Income

**John Charles Quiggin**

- **9:20-9:50**  Presenter: Prof. John Charles Quiggin, Professor at the University of Queensland
- **9:50-10:00**  Discussant: Prof. Edward Barbier, University Distinguished Professor, Colorado State University
- **10:00-10:10**  Q&A

### 10:00-10:10  Q&A

### 10:10-10:50  Disparities in economic achievement across the rural-urban divide in Pakistan: Implications for development planning for a purposeful realignment

**Nauman Ejaz and Thilak Mallawaarachchi**

- **10:10-10:30**  Presenter: Dr. Nauman Ejaz, Professor, International Islamic University
- **10:30-10:40**  Discussant: Prof. Eric (Yu) Sheng, Professor, School of Advanced Agricultural Sciences  
  Deputy Director, China Center for Agricultural Policy, Peking University.
- **10:40-10:50**  Q&A

### 10:50-11:00  Break

### 11:00-11:40  Market Linking of Marginalized Farmers through ICT Applications, Collectivization and Protected Farming

**Niladri Sekhar Bagchi, Pulak Mishra and Bhagirath Behera**

- **11:00-11:20**  Presenter: Niladri Sekhar Bagchi, PhD Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
- **11:20-11:30**  Discussant: Ms. Xuan Le Phuong Dang, PhD Candidate, QUT Business School, Queensland University of Technology
- **11:30-11:40**  Q&A

### 11:40-12:20  Effects of Nonfarm Employment on Consumption Diversification in Rural China

**Wanglin Ma, Puneet Vatsa, Hongyun Zheng, Dil Rahut**

- **11:40-12:00**  Presenter: Prof. Wanglin Ma, Associate Professor, Lincoln University
- **12:00-12:10**  Discussant: Dr. Panharoth Chhay, Research Associate, ADBI
- **12:10-12:20**  Q&A

### 12:20-13:00  The effect of emigration and remittances on labour supply of the left-behind: Evidence from Nepal

**Hari Sharma**

- **12:20-12:40**  Presenter: Dr. Hari Sharma, Research and Data Analyst, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) of New Zealand
- **12:40-12:50**  Discussant: Dr. Phal Chea, Research Fellow, Cambodian Development Resource Institute
- **12:50-13:00**  Q&A
## Conference on

**Rural Economic Transformation: Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Prosperity in Post-COVID-19 Asia**

[Virtual conference; JST time zone, local time in Tokyo]

### Day 2: November 18, 2021

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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:10</td>
<td>Introduction/Technical Guidance/Photo Session</td>
<td>Prof. Thilak Mallawaarachchi, Honorary Professor, University of Queensland, Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Dr. Michiko Katagami, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 9:10-10:00 | Keynote Speech: The policy challenges of green rural transformation for Asia-Pacific emerging and developing economies in a post-COVID world | Edward Barbier  
9:10-9:40  Presenter: Prof. Edward B. Barbier, University Distinguished Professor, Senior Scholar, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University  
9:40-9:50  Discussant: Prof. John Charles Quiggin, Professor at the University of Queensland  
9:50-10:00 Q&A                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:00-10:40 | Impact of Rural Livelihood Program on Vulnerability to Poverty: Empirical Evidence from a Tribal Region of Eastern India | Sunil Khosla, Pradyot Ranjan Jena, Dil Rahut  
10:00-10:20 Presenter: Dr. Pradyot Ranjan Jena, Associate Professor, School of Management, National Institute of Technology Karnataka  
10:20-10:30 Discussant: Ms. Poongothai Venuganan, Senior Economist, Central Bank of Sri Lanka  
10:30-10:40 Q&A                                                                                                                                                      |
| 10:40-10:50 | Break                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
10:50-11:10 Presenters: Prof. Eric (Yu) Sheng, Professor, School of Advanced Agricultural Sciences  
Deputy Director, China Center for Agricultural Policy, Peking University.  
11:00-11:10 Discussant: Prof. Pulak Mishra, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur  
11:10-11:30 Q&A                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11:30-12:10 | Narrowing urban-rural income gap in China: The role of Targeted Poverty Alleviation program       | Jianjun Tang, Jiaowei Gong, Wanglin Ma, Dil Rahut  
11:30-11:50 Presenter: Mr. Jiaowei Gong, Postgraduate at the School of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Renmin University of China.  
11:50-12:00 Discussant: Dr. Jia Li, Lecturer, Business School of Nanjing Univeristy of Information Science and Technology  
12:00-12:10 Q&A                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12:10-12:50 | Development of Capitals and Capabilities of Smallholder Farmers for Promoting Inclusive Intensification in Agriculture: Experiences from Northern West Bengal, India | Pulak Mishra, Bhagirath Behera, Niladri Sekhar Bagchi, Bidur Paria, V. Ratna Reddy, Chiranjeevi Talapragada, Subrata Majumdar  
12:10-12:30 Presenter: Prof. Pulak Mishra, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur  
12:30-12:40 Discussant: Ms. Thilani Kaushalya, Senior Research Professional, Centre for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka  
12:40-12:50 Q&A                                                                                                                                                      |
## Conference on

**Rural Economic Transformation: Pathways to Inclusive and Sustainable Prosperity in Post-COVID-19 Asia**

[Virtual conference; JST time zone, local time in Tokyo]

**Day 3: November 19, 2021**

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<td>Introduction/Technical Guidance/Photo Session</td>
<td>Dr. Dil Rahut, Senior Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:10-13:20</td>
<td>Keynote Speech</td>
<td>Prof. Clevo Wilson, Professor, Queensland University of Technology</td>
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<td>Chair</td>
<td>Ms. Stefania Dina, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Southeast Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:20-14:00</td>
<td>Calories Consumption Efficiency and Import Dependency: Evidence from Sri Lanka</td>
<td>Asanka Wijesinghe and Thilani Kaushalya</td>
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<td>13:40-13:50</td>
<td>Discussant: Dr. Hari Sharma, Research and Data Analyst, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)</td>
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<td>13:50-14:00</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>14:00-14:40</td>
<td>A global assessment of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ecotourism</td>
<td>Sukhmani Toor, Komal Juneja, Sukanya Das, Badri Narayan and Rajat Panwar</td>
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<td>14:00-14:20</td>
<td>Presenter: Dr. Badri Narayan, Senior Economist, University of Washington Seattle</td>
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<td>14:20-14:30</td>
<td>Discussant: Prof. Bhagirath Behera, Professor, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur</td>
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<td>14:30-14:40</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>14:40-14:50</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>14:50-15:30</td>
<td>Social network, social trust and informal loans: Evidence from rural Vietnam</td>
<td>Xuan Le Phuong Dang, Viet-Ngu (Vincent) Hoang, Hong Son Nghiem, Clevo Wilson</td>
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<td>14:50-15:10</td>
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<td>Discussant: Mr. Niladri Sekhar Bagchi, PhD Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur</td>
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<td>15:20-15:30</td>
<td>Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>15:30-16:10</td>
<td>Assessment of Inequalities in Income and Asset Distribution of Sri Lanka: A Spatial Mapping Approach for Districtwise Analysis</td>
<td>Chandranath Amarasekara, Poongothai Venuganan and Lasantha Wijerathna</td>
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<td>15:50-16:00</td>
<td>Discussant: Dr. Runsinarith Phim, Research Director, NUM Research Center, National University of Management</td>
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<td>16:00-16:10</td>
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<td>16:10-16:30</td>
<td>Presenter: Dr. Trung Thanh Nguyen, Associate Professor, Leibniz University Hannover (LUH)</td>
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<td>16:30-16:40</td>
<td>Discussant: Mr. Gokul Prasad Paudel, PhD Student, Leibniz University Hannover</td>
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| 17:00-17:40  | **The Impact of Agricultural Extension Type and Form on Technical Efficiency under Transition: An Empirical Assessment of Wheat Production in Uzbekistan**  
Mukhayyo Djuraeva, Ihtiyor Bobojonov, Lena Kuhn, and Thomas Glaubena  
Presenter: Dr. Ihtiyor Bobojonov, Research Associate bei Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO)  
Discussant: Dr. Pradyot Ranjan Jena, Associate Professor, School of Management, National Institute of Technology Karnataka  
Q&A                                                     |
| 17:40-18:20  | **How cooperatives can empower women in agricultural developing countries**  
Juana Aznar-Marquez, Carmen Camacho, and Chrysovalantis Vasilakis  
Presenter: Dr. Carmen Camacho, Senior Researcher, Paris School of Economics and French National Research Center  
Discussant: Prof. Wanglin Ma, Associate Professor, Lincoln University  
Q&A                                                     |
| 18:20-18:30  | **Concluding Remarks**  
Dr. Peter Morgan, Vice-Chair Research, ADBI |

The Impact of Agricultural Extension Type and Form on Technical Efficiency under Transition: An Empirical Assessment of Wheat Production in Uzbekistan

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How cooperatives can empower women in agricultural developing countries

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Concluding Remarks

Dr. Peter Morgan, Vice-Chair Research, ADBI