

# Financing Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Asia and the Pacific

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**9th ASIAN REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

Irrigation & Drainage

**75th IEC MEETING**

1 - 7 Sept 2024 | ICC Sydney



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**CONFERENCE  
AND EXHIBITION**

2 - 4 September 2024 | ICC Sydney

# Introduction

## Key Challenges

- Weak logistics and storage, fragile and vulnerable food chains
- More frequent extreme weather events due to climate change increase vulnerability
- Large undernourished population
- Largest consumer of the world's freshwater resources (over 70%)
- Contribute to 29% of GHG emissions, including 44% of methane
- Financing gap: \$140 billion annually



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# Comprehensive Food System Approach

- **Ending Hunger and Malnutrition**
  - Promoting sustainable farming practices
  - Reducing food loss and waste
  - Improving purchase power to make healthy diets affordable
- **Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability**
  - Mitigation: conservation agriculture, agroforest, IPM, organic farming
  - Natural capital: managing water resources efficiently, reducing chemicals, preserving soil health, maintaining ecosystem services
- **Integrated Rural Development**
  - Combining food systems with investments in rural education, healthcare, infrastructure, and environmental conservation



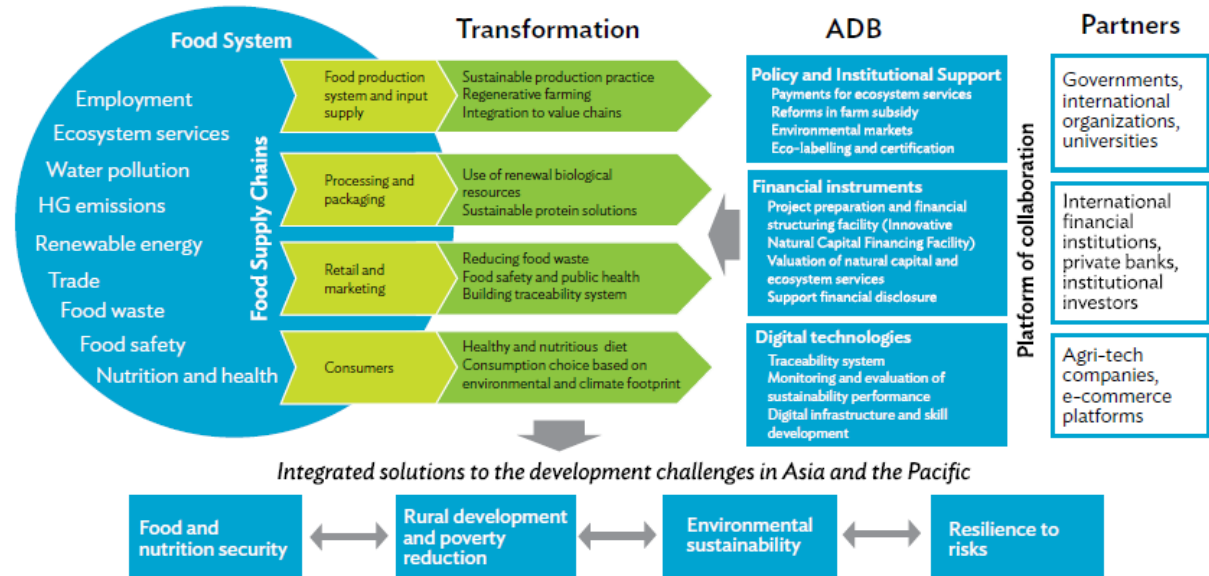
# Closing Financing Gap for Food System Transformation

- **Reorient Public Finance and Policy Institutions**
  - Reallocating public funds towards sustainability-focused initiatives
  - Providing incentives: environmental regulations, taxes, markets (PES), natural capital valuation, traceability and ecolabeling
- **Scale up Private Investment**
  - Transitional finance needed to address the gap between initial investment and financial returns
  - Blended financing, with public funds to take on higher risks
- **Leverage Innovations in Digital Technologies**
  - Digital transformation to create new business and financial models
  - Addressing challenges such as digital divide, privacy, cybersecurity



# ADB's Engagement with Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems

Figure 2: Concept of ADB's Engagement with Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems



GHG = greenhouse gas

Source: Asian Development Bank.



# Conclusion

- Transforming food systems in Asia and the Pacific is essential for achieving sustainable development
- Transformation requires integrated solutions, significant public and private financing, and wide use of digital technologies
- Be inclusive to ensure the benefits reach all
- Empower local communities and integrate local knowledges into broader strategies
- ADB ready to support building sustainable and resilient food systems in the region.

