



Grow Asia Forum 2020

# Call for Partnerships



Grow**Asia**

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# Executive Summary

The Grow Asia Forum brings together senior leaders and decision-makers from ASEAN governments, the global and regional private sector, civil society organizations, farmer groups and other key stakeholders to share ideas, establish new partnerships and explore scalable, sustainable and inclusive solutions to agricultural development.

The 2020 Grow Asia Forum brought together 197 leaders. Though usually run as an in-person event on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum on Asia Summit, this year's iteration was run online due to the disruptions around the COVID-19 pandemic.

The high-level event had the overarching theme of 'Call for Partnerships', and had three key segments. First, participants heard Grow Asia's presentation on our [2019 - 2020 Report on Progress](#), including results and innovations across the Grow Asia network. Second, they participated in practical discussions in one of four breakout sessions:

1. Coordinating a Regional Response to COVID-19
2. Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Food Systems in Southeast Asia
3. State of the Smallholder AgriTech Sector 2020
4. Opportunities for Collaboration with the Grow Asia Network.

Concluding the event was a series of "Calls to Partnership" – presentations highlighting programs, platforms and interventions that need the involvement of more partners to achieve impact at scale.

This summary provides an overview of the key insights, partnership opportunities and action points raised during the Grow Asia Forum.

## Grow Asia Forum 2020 in numbers



**197**  
attendees



**48%**  
were women



**21**  
speakers and moderators



**38%**  
were women



**10**  
countries represented

# Main Session

## Welcome Address

The forum began with **Sumeth Pinyosnit**, Chief Executive Officer, Charoen Pokphand Produce, and Co-Chair of the Grow Asia Business Council, emphasizing the importance of supporting smallholder farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He encouraged all participants to exchange ideas, share experiences and explore partnerships to increase the resilience of Southeast Asia's food system.

## Grow Asia's Report on Progress (2019 – 2020)

**Grahame Dixie**, Executive Director, Grow Asia, opened the Forum by highlighting the centrality of multi-stakeholder action to increase the resilience of agri-food systems, referencing in particular the impact of COVID-19 and the weaknesses it has revealed in the current ASEAN food system. Grahame urged Grow Asia's partners to continue to respond quickly, and collectively, to effectively support Southeast Asia's food system and the growers that lie at its center.

Grahame then highlighted some of the key milestones achieved by the Grow Asia network over the last year. At the Country Partnerships level,

Grow Asia's six national platforms now convene over **520 partners** across the public, private and civil society sectors, involving them in **46 Working Groups, 34 Value-Chain Projects** and **16 Sectoral Initiatives**: reaching close to **1.8 million smallholder farmers** in Southeast Asia.

Touching on some of the achievements of the network at the regional level, Grahame highlighted Grow Asia's: [digital program](#), which is positively transforming the relationship between agribusinesses and smallholders; rapid response to the emergence of the fall armyworm in Southeast Asia and facilitating the development of the [ASEAN Action Plan on Fall Armyworm Control](#); role in supporting the crafting, adoption and operationalization of the [ASEAN Guidelines for Promoting Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture, and Forestry](#), and; accreditation as an Entity Associated with ASEAN, making Grow Asia the first World Economic Forum-initiated platform to achieve this status.



Grahame thanked Grow Asia's partners for their continued support and commitment to promoting a more inclusive and sustainable agriculture sector, the World Economic Forum and ASEAN Secretariat for their essential guidance, and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) – as Grow Asia's primary donor – for their financial and strategic support. Grahame also expressed his gratitude to Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) and the World Bank for their ongoing support.



“

We have created platforms at the national and regional level you can build on and influence to create a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient food system in Southeast Asia. ”

**Grahame Dixie**  
Executive Director,  
Grow Asia

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## Impact

**Country Partnerships:**

**6**

**Partner Organizations:**

**520+**

**Smallholder farmers reached:**

**1,788,952**

**Working Groups:**

**46**

**Value Chain Projects:**

**34**

**Sectoral Initiatives:**

**16**

# Interactive Breakout Sessions

Grow Asia facilitated four interactive breakout sessions to discuss key challenges and opportunities in the agriculture sector and shape Grow Asia's response to them moving forward.

1. Coordinating a Regional Response to COVID-19
2. Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Food Systems in Southeast Asia
3. State of the Smallholder AgriTech Sector 2020
4. Opportunities for Collaboration with the Grow Asia Network

## 1. Coordinating a Regional Response to COVID-19

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has disrupted lives and livelihoods worldwide. Beyond a public health crisis, the pandemic will impact global food security both directly (food supply and demand) and indirectly (decreasing purchasing power and barriers on food distribution) – both of which will disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable.

Following the ASEAN Regional Food Systems Roundtable on COVID-19 in

May – initiated by Grow Asia, the World Economic Forum and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – Grow Asia has convened representatives from the public, private, and producer sectors to map out a sequenced and practical response to COVID-19 through four regional Specialist Working Groups. These Working Groups are: Logistics, Mobile Money, Digital Marketing, and Digital Enablement.

During this session, the moderators of each Working Group (WG) presented their strategic action plan and outlined opportunities for collaboration.



## Logistics Working Group

There is a need to improve vehicle utilization to strengthen linkages between producers, consumers, community markets and village markets. This WG will focus on: benchmarking the state of rural logistics in the different ASEAN member states; advocating for policies that support green lanes and reduce the virus' exposure to agri-food supply chain workers, and; developing a challenge fund to incentivize the development of digital solutions for first-mile rural connectivity.



“

Our focus is improving rural logistics in the ASEAN region through technologies or best practices that enhance vehicle utilization, support food preservation and reduce food wastage. Our goal is to identify solutions that are convenient for farmers and consumers alike. ”

**Tim Foote**

Owner & Lead Consultant,  
SUSYMBIO

## Mobile Money Working Group

Financing support has always been crucial for farmers, but this has been exacerbated by the pandemic as the resulting disruptions have made repaying loans and refinancing farmers' operations even more difficult. Digital solutions which support access to finance and credit have multiple actual and potential benefits for the rural economy. Two key areas of focus for the Mobile Money WG are (1) to support standardization of elements like QR codes, which would improve the operation and effectiveness of mobile money solutions, and (2) to distil and communicate the benefits of mobile money solutions to the region's policymakers to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment for such services.



“

Multi-stakeholder platforms with digital, financial literacy and integrated entrepreneurship programs are the foundation for mobile money. Our actions for our near-term, medium- and long-term plans will concentrate on increasing: Access – focusing on women empowerment and youth, Use – digital services and products, and Quality – reliable, simple, affordable and trustworthy financial services. ”

**Michael Hamp**

Lead Regional Technical  
Specialist Rural Finance,  
Markets and Enterprises in APAC,  
IFAD



## Digital Marketing Working Group

The COVID-19 crisis has provided a tremendous boost to digital marketing platforms. However, there are numerous constraints inhibiting the widespread adoption of these solutions, such as the quality of rural logistics and mobile wallets and the lack of experience around what does or does not work. This WG is identifying ways to capitalize on and increase the efficiency of these platforms.



“

During COVID-19, a lot of digital marketing platforms came up. However, these platforms did not cater to low-income communities. The challenge now is how to connect them so low-income communities can utilize the power, amortization, and efficiency of digital marketing platforms. ”

**Anton Simon Palo**  
General Manager,  
Foodlink Advocacy  
Cooperative (FAC)

## Digital Enablement Working Group

Collaboration between the public and private sector is key to ensuring the right policies are made to help farmers succeed. The fourth WG is looking at the broader digital enabling environment, exploring the potential of tools that underpin the modernization of Southeast Asia's food system, such as an effective farmer registry and funding an extensive rural Wi-Fi infrastructure.



“

There is very little sharing of information in the smallholder industry. We see that as an impediment to growth because it is expensive to collect this data, which is often outdated and inaccurate. In reality, many different actors in the agriculture sector want, and would benefit, from very similar datasets – and when they have access to high-quality data of this kind, smallholder farmers would benefit from it too.”

### Paul Voutier

Founder,  
Ambit Robotics,  
Director of Knowledge & Innovation,  
Grow Asia

## Next Steps:

Each group will prepare an action plan, laying out the roles and responsibilities of the public, private and development sectors to meet their goals. The development of these plans will be supported by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Lawyer Organization. All four groups will present their findings at an ASEAN supported virtual meeting slated for the end of September and will implement the actions outlined over the next six months.

For further details, ideas or opportunities please contact the individual WG moderators.

## Logistics

### Tim Foote

Owner & Lead Consultant,  
SUSYMBIO  
E: [timothyfoote7@gmail.com](mailto:timothyfoote7@gmail.com)

## Mobile Money

### Michael Hamp

Lead Regional Technical  
Specialist Rural Finance,  
Markets and Enterprises in APAC,  
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## Digital Marketing

### Anton Simon Palo

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## Digital Enablement

### Paul Voutier

Founder,  
Ambit Robotics,  
Director of Knowledge & Innovation,  
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## 2. Mainstreaming Gender in Agriculture and Food Systems in Southeast Asia

There is significant opportunity to drive economic growth in rural economies through women's increased participation along agriculture value chains. However, it is important to note that while women's entry into the labor market contributes significantly to productivity gains, the outcomes of economic growth will not necessarily lead to changes in gender equity. The critical step to increasing women's empowerment is their understanding and agency over the structural (political, economic, social) power dynamics that marginalize them.

Shifting power dynamics requires a multi-sectoral approach and engagement with national policymakers. Since its inception in 2015, Grow Asia has focused on improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmer households. As Grow Asia moves into our sixth year, along with deepening partnerships with key partners in the region, we designed and launched a draft gender mainstreaming strategy to facilitate women's empowerment along agricultural value chains in Southeast Asia using our multi-stakeholder model.

In this session, Grow Asia presented the draft Grow Asia 2020-2022 Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and shared "stories from the field" from our partners. The feedback received will inform

Grow Asia's gender mainstreaming efforts.

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### Session Highlights:

- Female farmers receive only 5% of all agriculture extension services and only 15% of the world's agriculture extension agents are women. This is a major gap to be addressed. Women's empowerment should form a key part of the urgent response to COVID-19.
- When thinking about women's empowerment, it is important to consider both men and women farmers in the community. Men can be great agents for change and empowerment for women by changing women's roles from being household-centric to community-centric.
- There is a need for sharing of resources and best practices around how to measure and monitor the impact of interventions focused on women's empowerment in agriculture value chains in Southeast Asia.



“

We employ 40-45-year-old women from rural areas with no income, no job and no education. So, by integrating them into KFP's value chain, they improve their living conditions: new income and new skills. Women farmers are now happy that they can harvest and sell mangoes to our factory. ”

**Mao Sothea**

Sales and Marketing Executive,  
Kirirrom Food Production  
(Cambodia)



“

Sometimes when we organize classes or trainings mostly men show up, but then they do not share what they learn – for example, when you spray, you need to wear a special uniform – to women. As a result, the women who did not have a chance to go to these classes, do not know and then spray with no uniform – which is dangerous. ”

**Thị Ánh Hồng Nguyễn**

General Manager,  
Vice Chairwoman,  
Vietnam Tea Association,  
(Viet Nam)





“

With our employees we are very understanding of personal issues (like healthcare and childcare) and we allow the hiring of relatives. We treat them like family, they stay and they grow.”

**Norberto Chingcuango**  
VP Corporate Planning,  
Feedmix Specialist Inc. II  
(Philippines)

By the end of the session, participants gained:

1. An understanding about gender-related resources and opportunities that the Grow Asia network offers to our partners.
2. Insights on gender mainstreaming actions partners take in different stages of the value chain.
3. Ideas about what Grow Asia's partners can gain from our efforts in gender mainstreaming, and how they can participate and contribute their own knowledge, expertise, and resources.

### Next Steps:

Grow Asia will review proposed ideas from participants; conduct a gender mainstreaming needs assessment of our partners; define gender-related KPIs to measure the impact of the Country Partnership programs on women, and; support the integration of gender into companies' due diligence so women consult with other women. Grow Asia will also explore ways to facilitate sharing of best practices, tools and resources, and engage with partners to improve the livelihoods of smallholder women along agri value chain projects.

We invite Grow Asia partners who are interested or currently working on women's economic empowerment and/or gender mainstreaming to engage directly with us in our upcoming activities. For more information and collaboration opportunities, visit us [online](#) or reach out to [erin@growasia.org](mailto:erin@growasia.org).





“

Our evaluation and planning resource, [Benchmarks for Transformational Partnerships and Women's Economic Empowerment \(WEE\) in Agricultural Value Chains \(AVCs\)](#) is designed to provide SMEs with a scorecard to evaluate their value chain impact on Women's Economic Empowerment. ”

**Marie Lisa M. Dacanay**  
PhD, President,  
Institute for Social  
Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA)



“

We encourage women and housewives to get involved in the value chain, and we are sure that we can contribute to women's empowerment by engaging them in our activities in sustainable agriculture (since 85% of our stakeholders are women). ”

**Su Su Win**  
Director,  
Sasa International Co., Ltd.  
(Myanmar)



### 3. State of the Smallholder AgriTech Sector 2020

Digital technologies are set to positively transform the highly fragmented landscape of smallholder farming in ASEAN. Tools for finance, logistics, and learning have the potential to improve farmers' prosperity while bringing greater efficiency to value chains by significantly lowering transaction costs. At present, however, only about 2.5% of farmers in ASEAN are active users of these technologies.

Grow Asia's Digital Program brings together business leaders, development actors, policymakers and AgriTech startups to:

1. Improve the performance of existing solution providers.
2. Motivate corporate leaders to adopt solutions in their business (by educating, inspiring and connecting them).
3. Generate more financial investments into solutions.
4. Increase the number of solutions by encouraging more entrepreneurs to build agritech startups.

Unsurprisingly, there has been a growing interest amongst investors in technologies that impact smallholder farmers as investors become more aware of the role smallholders play in ensuring food security. In this session, we presented

an overview of the smallholder agritech investment landscape in Southeast Asia to highlight the opportunity for innovators to develop tools with investors and agribusinesses that help farmers access inputs, finance, and markets.

---

#### Session Highlights:

John Friedman, Director at AgFunder – a leading AgriFoodTech Venture Capital Platform with significant investments in ASEAN – presented key findings from their recent [ASEAN 2020 AgriFoodTech Investment](#) report:

- In 2019, USD 423 million was invested into the sector, which is a 41% deal growth year on year.
- Agrifood Tech startups in the region are still in the relatively early stage, as 63 out of 99 investments are in the Seed Stage.
- Impact investing is no longer considered “charity” as 50% of investors plan to increase their allocation to Food & Ag, according to the [GIIN 2019 report](#).
- It is just the beginning for ASEAN AgriFood Tech – we anticipate more investments in startups serving the smallholder sector in the next few years, as investor awareness on food security increases.

John was joined by two AgriTech startups, HARA and DeHaat, who shared reflections on their respective experiences.

### The shift towards the smallholder farmer

Agri-tech startups developing smallholder-oriented solutions are still seen by investors as high-risk compared to those developing consumer-oriented ones – though this is slowly changing. However, investors such as AgFunder have been developing ways to influence investors' perception of risk by adjusting the way investment products are structured.



“

Within the venture capital construct of smallholder agritech, I believe there needs to be a balance between expected equity returns given the incremental profit margin attainable, and perhaps more loan-type products which offer attractive yields yet still benefit the smallholder through financial inclusion. While traditional metrics such as user traction and accounting rate of return may be top of mind for now, over time I'm sure we will be better able to attribute the value-added 'impact' when considering investments in this space. ”

**John Friedman**  
Director, Asia,  
Agfunder

When asked by the moderator of the session (Adam Lyle, Executive Chairman of Padang & Co – an Open Innovation company) what startups can do to make investors more comfortable in investing in them, Larissa Sidarto, COO of HARA (an organization that provides blockchain-based data exchange in the food and agriculture sectors) and Shashank Kumar, Founder and CEO of DeHaat (an Indian agri-tech company with a farmer-to-market platform serving close to 300,000 farmers), echoed the centrality of having a clear value proposition for your solution and an appropriate business model.



“

Farmers are willing to pay for our services once they see the value of our ecosystem. As we continued to show these farmers are good customers, we started to attract more players in the ecosystem – different banks, insurance companies, and even local retailers, creating a closed-loop environment that strengthens the business model over time. ”

**Larissa Sidarto**  
Chief Operating Officer,  
HARA



“

Whichever model you are working with, whether that is full-stack, or fintech, or just input or output – I think the value proposition has to be very clear to the smallholder. Because if that is established, everything else becomes slightly easier.”

**Shashank Kumar**  
Founder and CEO,  
DeHaat

While the growing interest amongst investors in financing technologies that impact smallholders highlights an opportunity for the [startups](#) in Grow Asia’s network, most of the current investments are still in very early stages.

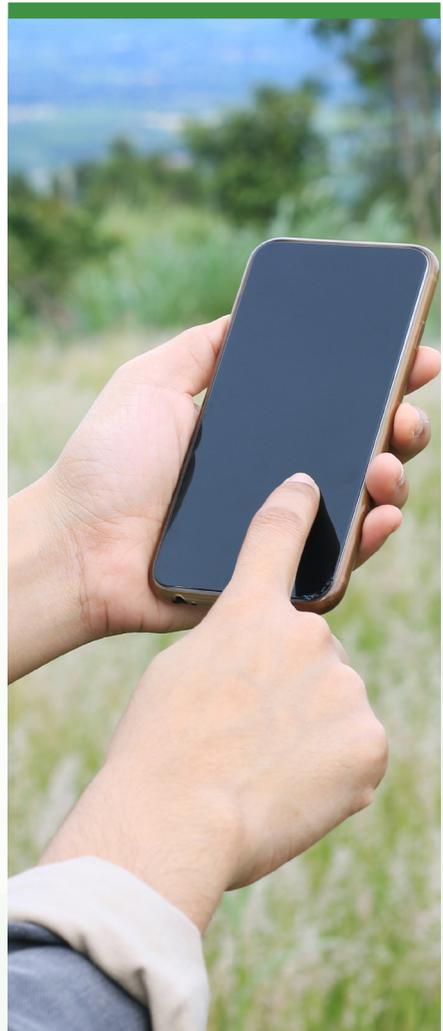
Startups need to continue to focus on developing clear value propositions and on building a sound business model around their idea to help reduce the perceived risk amongst investors.

Ecosystem builders like Grow Asia and Padang & Co are needed to continue to propel the industry and help to move investments to more mature stages to help startups reach scale.

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### Next Steps:

Grow Asia invites practitioners to continue engaging with Grow Asia’s Digital Program and our various learning and networking opportunities. To learn more, visit [www.growasia.org/digital](http://www.growasia.org/digital) or email [digital@growasia.org](mailto:digital@growasia.org).



## 4. Opportunities for Collaboration with the Grow Asia Network

Grow Asia's goals of improving smallholder productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability entails a multi-level approach to partnerships: at the field level, at the national level, and at the regional level. Given the breadth of Grow Asia's activities, partners may not be fully aware of the extent of our network's reach, and the myriad of opportunities available. As such, this session was designed for partners who have recently joined the network, or those who would appreciate a broader view of Grow Asia's programs, to gain a more holistic view of Grow Asia's work.

Participants learned about the Grow Asia network, how we facilitate connections between our partners, and how we engage them in our regional and in-country activities.



### Session Highlights:

#### Our Country Partnerships:

Grow Asia has evolved through the years, reflecting the changing needs of our partners and trends in sustainability and development issues. Historically, Grow Asia, our [Country Partnerships](#) and their Working Groups, started with a focus on building value chains and market-driven projects that benefit smallholder livelihoods. We still do, with 36 value-chain projects across our 46 working groups in the region. But more recently, partners have begun collaborating beyond projects: on policy approaches and addressing sectoral issues or bottlenecks.

On average, the most mature value chain projects in the network reach 20,000 to 30,000 farmers. However, when you can provide inputs to national roadmaps, the potential for impact at scale is even greater. We have seen incredible results around this work, such as our partners' projects on: seeds in [Myanmar](#); vocational training in [Indonesia](#); national Good Agricultural Practices and sustainability curriculums in [Viet Nam](#), and; land access issues in [Papua New Guinea](#). Equally impressive were our industry-specific coordination mechanisms such as the [Cambodia](#) Pepper and Spice Federation in Cambodia; and the Philippine Coffee Council in the [Philippines](#).

## Our Regional Programs:

The dialogue is moving beyond food security to food systems – the interlinkages between food production, climate change, livelihoods, health and nutrition. The Regional Programs led out of Singapore leverage the wider network, lessons and cross-cutting themes of the region: be it new technologies that have applications for smallholder agriculture through our [Digital Program](#); growing interest in responsible investing and sustainable finance through our [Responsible Agricultural Investing](#); or ensuring that the exciting growth opportunities of the region translate to equitable gains for men and women through [Gender Mainstreaming](#). The Grow Asia network has a unique role coordinating efforts across the region, ensuring a holistic systems approach where government or donor programs are complementary and reinforcing.



“

We have to take a more comprehensive approach towards food systems transformation: connecting the supply and demand, multi-sector linkages, improving sustainability at the farmer-level and also on the consumer side to ensure the production, delivery and use of healthy food that ultimately provides economic, social and nutritional benefits to all consumers while minimizing the environmental footprint. ”

**Tuyen Huynh**  
The Alliance of Bioversity  
International and CIAT - Asia Hub



“

We hope to connect with partners through Grow Asia's network who would be interested in similar global commodities supply chains. ”

**Sanjiv Louis**  
Southeast Asia Investment Director,  
SAIL Ventures

## Next Steps:

Participants are invited to visit the individual country websites and get in touch with Grow Asia's in-country teams for more in-depth discussions around priority commodities or cross-cutting issues. For more information and collaboration opportunities please email [reginald@growasia.org](mailto:reginald@growasia.org) or [pranav@growasia.org](mailto:pranav@growasia.org).

# Call to Partnerships

Three of Grow Asia's partners were given the opportunity to make a "Call to Partnerships" highlighting a specific program, intervention or platform that requires multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve positive impact at scale.

A copy of the slides presented can be found [here](#).

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## GrowHer: Empowering Women Agripreneurs



**Elizabeth Hernandez**  
Head of Government Affairs  
& Sustainability, APAC,  
Corteva Agriscience

Women farmers in Southeast Asia have less access to land ownership and titles, as well as financial credit and services. They also face a lack of education especially regarding agricultural extension services and production methods. This initiative supports women farmers and agripreneurs (who are essential to connecting and supporting farmers to reach new markets and improve livelihoods).

Elizabeth Hernandez shared opportunities for Grow Asia partners to engage with GrowHer, a newly

launched community-based microsite that aims to inspire, inform, and connect women agripreneurs, farmers and change-makers across Southeast Asia (and beyond). The site features stories of successful women, resources, and tools to boost business and agricultural knowledge, and promote virtual and in-person learning opportunities. The project is currently led by a Steering Committee composed of Corteva Agriscience, AGREA (a social enterprise in the Philippines), WOMAG (Women in Agribusiness in Asia) and Grow Asia. The GrowHer project seeks additional partners to support the project by: sponsoring in-person events, co-hosting training and learning opportunities, contributing resources and stories of women agripreneurs to the site, and joining the Steering Committee.

Any interested parties may contact the Steering Committee at [growhernetwork@gmail.com](mailto:growhernetwork@gmail.com) for an initial discussion on how to get involved.

## Financing Deforestation-free Agri-commodity Production



### Johnny Brom

Chief Investment Officer,  
SAIL Ventures

&Green invites civil society partners to complement efforts around protecting and restoring tropical forests.

Johnny Brom shared opportunities for Grow Asia partners to engage with the &Green Fund, which aims to show that financing inclusive, sustainable, and deforestation-free commodity production can be commercially viable and replicable. The Fund's landscape approach uses Environmental and Social targets to measure suitability for their loans. With average investment sizes of USD 5-30 million, long-tenors, and the ability to be subordinate to commercial investors, &Green is an attractive proposition. So far, the Fund has invested in two projects in Indonesia, including a broad stakeholder base of agribusinesses, financial institutions, NGOs and multilateral partners. With a goal of impacting 500,000 households, preserving, and restoring 5 million hectares of natural tropical forest, the Fund is seeking to build a robust portfolio of potential projects in Southeast Asia.

Companies directly or indirectly involved in commodity production or investors interested in participating in the Fund may contact Johnny Brom at [brom@sailventures.com](mailto:brom@sailventures.com) or Sanjiv Louis (based in Singapore) at [louis@sailventures.com](mailto:louis@sailventures.com).

## Approaches to Smallholder Farmers Profit Guarantee



### Pote Jarupanich

Vice President, International Fertilizer Purchasing & Grain Trading,  
Charoen Pokphand Produce

Khun Pote affirmed CP Produce's principle that smallholders are its life partners, and that the company can only be successful if smallholders themselves are successful. Against the current backdrop of COVID-19 and climate change, CP Produce is pledging to guarantee farmer's profits for 2020 through an integrated B2C model. The end-to-end service model will encompass climate-smart crop suitability analyses, irrigation systems, soil health management, digital platforms for farm management, and demand-led market linkages. Technical experts, upstream and downstream value chain actors, infrastructure and support services, and agri-tech providers are invited to join. Beyond the private sector, the public sector is also called upon to facilitate issuance of essential permits or special incentive schemes.

For more details, ideas or proposed collaborations on this program, please write to Pote Jarupanich at [pote@cppcrop.com](mailto:pote@cppcrop.com).

# Reflections

Reflecting on Grow Asia's achievements over the years, speakers underlined Grow Asia's strength in supporting high-level, regional coordination and securing senior-level commitments from both the public and private sectors.

Speakers also noted that Grow Asia's work around digital, gender mainstreaming, promoting responsible investments in agriculture and facilitating regional responses to pests and diseases like the fall armyworm, will not only benefit farmers but also the agri-food sector as a whole.



“

The common thread to all of Grow Asia's work is collaboration. We know that one organization alone cannot transform agriculture. We all need to work together across the food value chain and stakeholders. Public private partnerships, holistic solutions, innovative market mechanisms are all needed to address the problem at scale. ”

**Jens Hartmann**

Head of Commercial Operations,  
Asia-Pacific, Bayer Crop Science,  
Co-Chair of Grow Asia Business Council



“

There's never been a more important time for effective multi-stakeholder partnerships to identify real tangible and practical actions to improve farmers' livelihoods, than now and after the pandemic. ”

**Fiona Lynn**

Director,  
Agricultural Productivity and Food Security,  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
(DFAT)



“

Since 2015, we have worked with Grow Asia on numerous activities including cooperation with ASEAN and partners to improve the quality and quantity of agri products, implementation of the ASEAN guidelines to promote responsible agricultural Investment as well as action plans to tackle the FAW infestation. ”

**Pham Quang Minh**

Assistant Director,  
Sectoral Development Directorate  
and Head of Food, Agriculture and  
Forestry Division,  
ASEAN Secretariat



“

What Grow Asia is doing is creating an ecosystem where everyone who is a part of the network can tap on other members and partners – to provide sharing of learning experience which is beneficial for us. ”

**Ruel Amparo**  
CEO & Founder,  
Cropital



“

For us it is about enabling systems change on one hand and reaching a critical mass of millions to effectively create that change. This requires nimbleness to deliver impact on the ground, and we see Grow Asia playing a very strong role in this both now and going forward. ”

**Sean de Cleene**  
Member of Executive Committee,  
Head of Food System Initiative,  
World Economic Forum



“

The pandemic has amplified the work you do – strengthening the participation of producers, organizations and family farmers in the value chain to build resiliency and capacity so we can rebuild and bounce back swiftly from crisis and disasters. ”

**Marlene Ramirez**  
Secretary-General,  
Asian Partnership for the Development  
of Human Resources in Rural Asia  
(AsiaDHRRA)

# Resources

[Grow Asia 2020 Report on Progress](#)

**Country Partnership brochures:**

[Cambodia](#)

[Indonesia](#)

[Myanmar](#)

[Papua New Guinea](#)

[Philippines](#)

[Viet Nam](#)

**Other reports:**

[ASEAN Action Plan on Fall Armyworm Control](#)

[Smallholder AgriTech Business Models: High-potential models emerging in Southeast Asia](#)

[Driving AgriTech Adoption: Insights from Southeast Asia's Farmers](#)

[The ASEAN Guidelines and Action Plan on Responsible Investment in Food, Agriculture and Forestry Workshop on Operationalizing the Action Plan](#)

**Case studies:**

[Public-Private Partnership Structure in Viet Nam's Coffee Sector](#)

[Rubber in Indonesia](#)

[Making Vegetable Markets Work \(MVMW\)](#)

[Sustainable Cocoa Production Program \(SCPP\)](#)



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