



APRACA/Reg Policy Forum/2021

Bangkok, 02 February 2021

Dear All Development Partners,

Re: Invitation to join regional policy forum 'Development support to promote agribusiness clusters and credit enhancement instruments' to be held on 04 March 2021 (09.30 am till 12.00 noon, IST)

Warm greetings from APRACA Secretariat, Bangkok!

It is our sincerest pleasure to invite you to join the regional policy forum on '**Development support to promote agribusiness clusters and credit enhancement instruments**' to be held as Webinar on **04 March 2021** during **9.30 am till 12.00 noon** in conjunction with the 73rd Executive Committee and 22nd General Assembly meeting of the Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA) which is being hosted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Agriculture in the Asia-Pacific region has been changing rapidly in terms of both supply and demand dimensions due to adaptation of new production technologies, fast economic growth, structural transformation and growing urbanization. The growth and development of this sector are being plagued with many factors of which, non-accessibility to financial services and smallholding are considered to be the major factors. There are country-led efforts to realize inclusive agricultural transformation in the Asia-pacific region by adopting innovative models to the country context and the needs of smallholder farmers which includes 'farmers' collectives' to improve power of negotiation and use of financial instrument to enhance the access to credit by these group of farmers. The interplay between the issues therefore requires further analysis in order to provide a better understanding to policymakers on how they can design and implement policies and solutions that can holistically address the sustainable growth challenges.

There are 2 sub themes of the regional policy forum which are expected to cover the emerging challenges in the asia-Pacific Region. They are: (a) Small farmers' collectivization and its role in agricultural development and (b) Guarantee mechanism: A credit enhancement solution for farmers' collectives and other actors in the value chains. The objective of the regional policy forum is to encourage debates and discussions on how financial institutions can simultaneously enhance inclusive growth and use innovative financial instruments in Asia-Pacific region. The forum is expected to propose the framework that utilizes the farmers' collectives as an intermediary grass root organization to inculcate entrepreneurship among the farming community which will be well supported by leveraging financial instruments. We are inviting the leading thinkers and practitioners to share their experiences and we firmly believe that the knowledge exchange and partnerships among the stakeholders will significantly facilitate achieving sustainable development in the sector.

In this connection, we enclose herewith the *concept note, and draft programme* for your kind perusal. Please confirm your participation as speaker **on or before 16 February** to firm up the list of the speakers and smooth logistical arrangements.

We look forward to your positive response and to welcome you in Regional Policy Forum.

Kind regards,

(Prasun Kumar Das)
Secretary General