

## Session Notes

**Session:** Food Security & Nutrition (June 9, 2:00pm)

**Session Reporter:** Tran Thi Bao Tran

**Moderator:** Kalpana Beesabathuni, Global Lead, Sight & Life

**Speakers:**

- Deepak Paudel, Director, Save the Children (STC) Nepal
- Henri de Reboul, Executive Director, Phitrust Asia
- Robert Johnson, Director of Supply Chain, Clinton Giustra Enterprise Partnership
- Sally Uren, CEO, Forum for the Future

The goal of this session is to provide an overview of food nutrition and security in Asia and share successful strategies to tackle food security problems.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Research shows that investment in the food & nutrition field yields highest returns on investment.
- Collaboration and partnership are the key to create sustainable solutions to meet increased production needs and improve the world food supply chain.
- More efforts and investment should be put into making farming a more appealing job, and even career prospect for young agriculture entrepreneurs (*'agropreneur'*).
- Emphasised on the reality that agriculture is where large tech innovations are happening.
- Need to bring more value back to production, so people feel that they earn what they deserve with the cost of production.

**Kalpana Beesabathuni**

- Some stats: Asians occupy 60% of the world population and 30% of land. By 2030, Asian countries will make up 70% of the world population. Food quantity request has become more pressured in relation to this matter.
- 50% of women in Asia has some form of malnutrition. Poor food quality leads directly to bad nutrition.

**Deepak Paudel**

- The big picture: Among pregnant women and children poses the highest risk to disabilities. STC works around 3 pillars of children welfare: survival, rights protection & education. Food security is directly linked to these three pillars.
- Successful strategies: STC identifies problems in 3 main aspects: food availability, accessibility and utilisation. They customise their interventions to the social-cultural and political context of the problems. Understand that investment in children today is investment in the long-term future.
- Need to increase stakeholders' awareness in prioritising food security over commercial need.

**Sally Uren**

- The big picture: The current problem of our food system is the separation between nutrition

and production. Research showed that humans waste 50% of the food produced due to fragmentation in the food chain added with unhealthy consumption behaviours.

- Forum of the Future builds collaboration among different actors in the food system through food-related projects (Tea 2030, Global protein challenge) and scaling agricultural innovations through competitions and capacity building practices.
- Change the way the market works (e.g. a future-based contract with tea farmers, using a tea index that reduces market fluctuations and make sure farmers cover their cost of production)
- Risk-sharing mechanisms by engaging more collaborators in a project.
- Close looped production and consumption: recycle protein by-product (protein valorisation)
- One way to achieve food safety is to play a role is to push for more transparency among food suppliers, using the argument that building their brand around food safety has proved to be an effective strategic move.

### **Henri de Reboul**

- There are trends around the world, and in Asia especially, on unhealthy agricultural practices which prioritise commercial demands, and these are taking a heavy toll on environmental conditions (e.g. monocropping).
- The average age of farmers is getting older e.g. around 50 years old for Japan and China, as young people are less and less interested in farming work.
- The market growth and trend for healthy food is expanding fast, which started from developed countries such as the US and UK, before expanding to Asia's upper-middle class.
- Food-related initiatives are moving from targeting consumers to working directly with farmers, thus helping to increase farmers' bargaining power in the food supply chain.
- Successful strategies for Phitrust are to support practices which cover the whole food chain, starting from consumers to farmers. E.g. increasing farmers' productivity whilst also increasing the demand for better and responsible food.
- By putting farmers at the centre of Phitrust's solutions and closely working with them, Phitrust is able to understand and include their voices in creating an intervention.

### **Robert Johnson**

- The big picture: high-quality food still has not gone out to the poor and/or the rural population, whereas the food supply chain is still very disrupted. The most vulnerable group being left behind in the topical discussion on food security is local farmers.
- Clinton Giustra collaborates with other partners to support each other's' roles in building an ecosystem of support for farmers. They focus on market-based approaches in solving food nutrition issues rather than a government-driven policy-making angle as businesses are usually the faster way to push for change.
- Clinton Giustra also aims to create space in impact investing in order to provide capital to local people who have ideas for social change. Usually the one that holds the most potential for change are also the riskiest, which funds and investors might easily shy away from.