TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE VALUE CHAINS

In Collaboration with

SELCO FOUNDATION

Thematic Arena 3, TA3-190, Opportunity District, Expo City, Dubai

10 DECEMBER, 2023 | 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Background & Rationale	With rising global temperatures, the threat of droughts, heat stress and uncertain rainfalls, small and marginal farmers around the world are feeling the impacts of climate change. Their ability to adapt to climate risks- ensuring productivity and income from livelihoods while preserving health and wellbeing- is dependent on building more resilient practices and systems. In the absence of this, the 1.4 billion poor people across the world could be pushed further down into climate change-accelerated poverty.
	Specifically in the context of smallholder agriculture, access to reliable energy and sustainable infrastructure is critical at different stages along the value chain- from inputs to production, post harvest management and value addition. Currently, smallholder farmers are dependent on manual labour for on-farm activities that are drudgery prone and often undertaken by women, while post-harvest processing and cooling facilities are largely centralized- far away from the farmgate requiring small and marginal farmers to travel long distances to store or process their produce. As a consequence, they are dependent on aggregators to purchase their produce from the farmgate resulting in a loss of bargaining power.
	Ensuring better soil health and water management, improving cropping practices and efficiency of production, avoiding food spoilage and creating opportunities for value capture at the farm-level through primary and secondary processing are critical to improving farmer incomes and resilience, alongside food security.
	On-farm and Post harvest management infrastructure need to be considered in terms of the safety nets they create for small and marginal farmers. Decentralized solar-powered solutions create an opportunity to address the challenges, reducing drudgery, promoting more climate-friendly on-farm practices and reducing spoilage while supporting farmers in getting more value and higher returns for their produce. These solutions not only build climate resilience but also avoid curb emissions from food wastage and avoid future emissions that would otherwise have occurred from mechanization.

Session Objectives	– Showcase opportunities and innovations where decentralized solar energy solutions and resilient agro-ecosystems are addressing the challenges and transforming agriculture for small and marginal farmers
	– Discuss actionable ways to unlock barriers for scaling these solutions and to develop a conducive ecosystem for their adoption and dissemination across ISA countries - including access to finance, technology innovation, linkages for inputs-market, capacity building and so on.
	– Explore how ISA countries can share learnings on program designs for innovation, replication and institutionalization to accelerate the efforts towards transforming agri value chains.

Agenda

10:35 - 10:45 AM	**Context Setting** **Joshua Wycliffe,** COO, ISA representative** **Shahaab Javeri,** SELCO Foundation
10:45 - 11:35 AM	**Panel discussion** **Moderator** ▪ **Surabhi Rajagopal,** SELCO Foundation **Panellists** ▪ **Manoj Kumar,** Founder- Social Alpha and Board member- SustainPlus Energy Foundation (Agritech + Investments + Approaches for Scale) ▪ **Federico Remonda,** Energy for Food Advisory, World Food Programme (Energy and Agriculture in Humanitarian contexts) ▪ Representative from Global Alliance for the Future of Food* (Local NGOs on agro ecology) ▪ Representative Fellow from African Food Fellowships* (Agro ecology perspective) ▪ SNV - Agriculture and Sustainable energy in Ethiopia (Vandana Thottoli) (Philanthropic capital for Climate and Agriculture)*
11.35 - 11.45 AM	**Special representative comments** Government of Bhutan, Ministry representative** Government of Seychelles, Ministry representative**
11:45 - 12:00 PM	**Q&A:** Audience interaction on Country Priorities, Program design approaches and scalable solutions/ models

*To be confirmed by SF
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