

● ONLINE WEBINAR



## Building Public-Private Partnerships to Boost Agricultural Trade in Bangladesh

PPP CoP

### Our Speakers!





**Dr. Rehana Kausar**

Senior Scientific Officer  
Aquaculture and Fisheries  
Program, Animal Sciences  
Institute, NARC, Pakistan  
Agricultural Research  
Council



**Dr. Ravi Khetarpal**

Executive Director  
Asia Pacific Association of  
Agricultural Research  
Institutions  
Thailand

 **24 March, 2025**  
 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM

**Join and Register Now!**

Contact Us: [h.sonom@apaari.org](mailto:h.sonom@apaari.org),  
[ravi.khetarpal@apaari.org](mailto:ravi.khetarpal@apaari.org)

[www.apaari.org](http://www.apaari.org)

### Proceedings of the Community of Practice (CoP) on Public-Private Partnership (PPP)

Date: 25 March 2024

Time: 3-4 pm BKK time

Platform: Zoom

Organized by: APAARI (Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions)

The session began with warm greetings from Ms. Homaira Sonom of APAARI, welcoming participants from across the Asia-Pacific region. She emphasized the continuity of previous dialogues and reaffirmed the group's aim: to translate discussions into actionable strategies for implementing PPPs in agricultural trade.

### Opening Remarks by Dr. Ravi Khetarpal

Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary of APAARI, inaugurated the session by reaffirming the Community of Practice (CoP) as a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange on PPPs. Highlighting recent collaborations with UNEP and CABI, he stressed the importance of reducing reliance on chemical pesticides through PPP frameworks.

**“We are looking to build a regional picture of PPP implementation across Asia and the Pacific,”** he stated, emphasizing the role of this CoP in drawing experiences from different countries.

### Keynote Presentation by Dr. Rehana Kausar: Implementation strategy of PPPs in Pakistan

Dr. Rehana Kausar, Senior Scientific Officer, Aquaculture & Fisheries Pro-gram, Animal Sciences Institute, NARC, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, delivered a comprehensive presentation titled ‘Public-Private Partnerships in Pakistan: Opportunities and Challenges’. She explained PPPs as strategic collaborations between government and private entities, designed to leverage mutual strengths. Using case studies, she illustrated the evolution of PPPs in Pakistan—from infrastructure projects like the Lahore-Islamabad Motorway to innovative agricultural projects like the Shrimp Farming Pilot in Muzaffargarh.

She candidly addressed systemic issues including policy inconsistency, currency fluctuation, and difficulties in convincing private players to share risks and profits. **“It’s always difficult to convince private partners,”** she remarked, **“as they often expect flexibility and complete facilitation from the government.”**

### Success Stories Highlighted

- Lahore–Islamabad Motorway: A game-changing infrastructure project.
- Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park: One of the largest solar initiatives in the region.
- Shrimp Farming in Muzaffargarh: From 100 acres in Phase I to 1,000 acres in Phase II.
- Tawakkal Hatchery: Supporting seed production for aquaculture.
- Agricultural innovations: Drip irrigation for sugarcane and maize, mustard with center pivot irrigation, and improved watercourse in Kasur.

### Presentation by Dr. Ravi Khetarpal: Needs for PPP strengthening in Asia & the Pacific

Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, Executive Secretary of APAARI, expanded on the critical need for enabling environments and systems-level interventions to operationalize Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in agriculture. His speech covered a wide landscape of Asia-Pacific efforts in PPPs, drawing on APAARI’s partnerships, projects, and regional collaboration mechanisms.

Dr. Ravi identified major systemic challenges: climate change, smallholder fragmentation, weak access to technologies, and lack of holistic value chain capacity

development. He stressed the importance of financial and informational flows across the value chain and asserted, 'How can we have an effective value chain without effective public-private partnerships?'

He described APAARI's four modes of engagement with the private sector:

1. Operational-level implementation in projects,
2. Strategic collaboration for long-term policy inputs,
3. Equal partnership models, and
4. The Community of Practice itself as a hub of shared knowledge.

Notably, Dr. Ravi discussed APAARI's involvement in several ongoing PPP-focused initiatives including:

- Seed sector collaboration with USDA and STDF (WTO),
- SPS compliance support in Lao PDR,
- Bio-pesticide harmonization across nine countries,
- Innovations in seed health lab accreditation, and
- Work on agroecology and market access dilemmas.

He highlighted Thailand's edible insect regulatory PPP framework as a forward-looking model of innovation, regulation, and market alignment. Dr. Ravi concluded with a compelling call for **'introspection, shared vision, and cross-sector commitment,'** especially to tackle bottlenecks in extension, innovation, and trade compliance.

### **Q&A and Participant Engagement**

Dr. KS Varaprasad, Adviser – Biosecurity and Bio-resources, APAARI, moderated the open discussion session, noting the regional relevance of Dr. Rehana's points. **"Partnerships—bilateral or multilateral—are key to unlocking innovation and investment in agriculture,"** he expressed.

Concerns were raised about replicating successful PPP models across sectors like seed production and biopesticides. Dr. Ravi highlighted that PPPs are indispensable for sustainable agri-value chains and agroecological markets. **"We need intervention at systems level to make PPPs truly effective,"** he said, calling for shared vision, trust building, and enabling environments.

Md. Ahsan Ullah raised an important point about including more seed production and export-oriented initiatives in PPP strategies. Dr. Rehana responded affirmatively, noting that PARC is collaborating with selected farmers for seed multiplication aimed at export. 'It takes time, but we are on it,' she reassured.

He also asked, 'Who should initiate a PPP – the public or private sector?' Dr. Rehana clarified that it can be both ways. She cited the example of PARC reaching out to private cold chain processors for fish, and vice versa, private farmers approaching PARC to partner on value-added ventures.

Wais Kabir, inquired about the success of Petco—a private entity within PARC used to commercialize research outputs. Dr. Rehana detailed how Petco bridges the public-private gap by distributing products like fish seed, wheat varieties, and ISO-certified honey. She stated, 'Petco is a success story, and provinces are now replicating this model.'

Dr. Naik asked about challenges in shrimp farming in comparison to India, including disease and seed purity. Dr. Rehana acknowledged the difficulties, especially with private sector expectations and government limitations: 'They expect everything from the government but hesitate to share their own profits or trade secrets.' However, she noted that after demonstrating sustainable outcomes, many private partners are now more willing to collaborate.

### Closing Remarks and Next Steps

The session concluded with Dr. Ravi expressing gratitude to all participants. He acknowledged Dr. Rehana's contribution, commending her for 'stealing the show' with rich insights. APAARI invited members to continue contributing to this evolving CoP, with upcoming sessions focusing on biopesticides and food waste management.

