



Community of Practice on Public Private Partnership

PPP COP

Session Topic



Driving Scalable Impact through Public-Private Synergy and Stewardship

Meet our Speaker !



Dr. Gururaj G. Kulkarni

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Former Director
Bio-Innovation Center and Global Head Stewardship,
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Join Us!



21 August 2025



04:00 PM - 05:00 PM
(Bangkok Time)



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PPP CoP 6th Session Summary

The 6th session of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Community of Practice (CoP) brought together an energetic mix of experts, practitioners, and curious participants from across the region to re-examine how public-private partnerships can transform agriculture and agrifood systems. The conversation was not just a formal exchange of presentations – it was a dynamic dialogue with probing questions, personal reflections, and even moments of humor that kept the audience engaged.

Setting the Stage: Trust, Co-Design, and Shared Goals

Darshika opened the session with a warm welcome and a quick recap of the previous discussion held on June 26. She reminded participants that the last session revolved around three central pillars: co-design and co-ownership of solutions, building trust through long-term commitments, and learning from practical models of collaboration. “Trust doesn’t come overnight,” she emphasized, citing Dr. Ravi’s earlier reminder that partnerships must have a long investment horizon to truly succeed.

With that, she handed the floor to Dr. Ravi Khetarpal, who framed the importance of this Community of Practice. “This is a very important Community of Practice, which we initiated a few months back,” he said, highlighting that the purpose of this space is not only to share knowledge but to build an ecosystem where public and private actors can co-create solutions. He smoothly transitioned to the keynote, introducing Dr. Gururaj and setting expectations that the session would focus on scalable, real-world impact.

Keynote Insights: Dr. Gururaj on Making PPPs Work

The keynote presentation was delivered by Dr. Gururaj, who set out to explore “Driving Scalable Impact through Public-Private Synergy.” He began by clarifying what PPP really means, moving away from a purely contractual understanding: “PPP is not just a contract—it is a shared journey of risk, responsibility, and reward.” He emphasized that successful PPPs require:

- **Clear alignment of goals** between public institutions and private players.
- **Well-defined governance structures** that allocate risks fairly.
- **Incentives for innovation**, including flexible IP models that encourage collaboration without stifling private investment.
- **Scalable models** that go beyond pilot projects and build systems-level change.

One of his key points centered on moving from one-off projects to systemic partnerships: “PPP is not just a contract—it is a shared journey of risk, responsibility, and reward.” This resonated with many in the audience.

He shared examples from India’s agri-innovation ecosystem where PPPs have worked – from contract farming models to private sector-led extension services – but also highlighted cases where initiatives stalled due to lack of trust, unclear policies, or funding gaps. “Building mutual trust is not optional, it is the foundation,” he said, reinforcing one of the themes from the previous CoP session.

Adding Another Layer: Dr. Murat's Perspective

Following the keynote, Dr. Murat brought in an international and scaling perspective. He stressed the importance of regional collaboration: “PPP is not just a country-level conversation. Regional value chains, shared research, and joint platforms can amplify the impact many times over.” He called for more open innovation platforms where stakeholders can share data, technologies, and lessons learned. His intervention created a bridge between Gururaj’s strategic points and the practical needs of regional collaboration.

The Chat Comes Alive: Praise, Skepticism, and Provocations

With the floor open, participants quickly turned the chat into a forum of reflection. Sharad Deshpande offered a candid reality check: “Excellent and informative presentation, Dr. Gururaj. But we have one Centre of Excellence under India–Israel PPP in Dharwad... It is totally abandoned and deserted. PPP is only a buzzword, not making much progress.” His remark sparked a lively exchange about why some PPPs fail and what accountability structures are needed.

Bijan Barua posed a series of sharp questions: “PPP synergy mostly refer in the research institution? What about scaling and market system development? Why mistrust between the organizations—where are the gaps?” Later he added, “Private sector or other development organizations are more interested for PP synergy but government shows less interest – why?”

Justin Ahmed from Beanstalk AgTech raised a question that brought the conversation closer to the heart of private sector participation: “From the perspective of an individual agricultural technology innovator, what would you say are the proof points that are most critical in garnering the trust necessary to establish public-private partnerships? How did you approach this challenge at String Bio?” His question, although typed in chat, felt like the voice of many innovators trying to break into public sector ecosystems.

Others, like Jewel Rana, saw PPPs as a game-changer waiting to happen: “PPP will be a game changer in the near future. But before that, solid policy guidance and business-friendly approaches will be the key... Beyond focusing only on production, there is a lot of sector urgently need private engagement like processing, post-harvest, cold chain, agripreneurship. Even employment generation in the agriculture sector is poor and not being potentialized appropriately. So, PPP is surely the future solution.”

Critical Reflections: Trust, Germplasm, and Pre-Competitive Research

The discussion also touched on structural barriers. One participant noted, “As long as the public sector in India feels germplasm is safe only in their hands and sees themselves as competitors with private sector because they are also releasing varieties, it is difficult to build that trust.” The suggestion? Launch more pre-competitive research projects, citing the MLNV disease resistance development project at CIMMYT Kenya as an excellent example of successful collaboration.

Manjunath TM added a pragmatic reminder that “PPP is a complex issue, especially when it comes to credit and profit sharing.” The chat window became a mini-roundtable of practitioners sharing ground realities.

Closing Energy: Optimism and a Call for Continued Dialogue

As the session drew to a close, the mood remained upbeat despite the hard questions. Participants expressed appreciation: “Thank you to the speaker, participants, and organizer,”

wrote Amit Malaker, while emphasizing the need for more private sector investment in post-harvest systems, especially cold chain infrastructure.

Dr. Ravi's closing remarks encouraged the group to take the conversation forward beyond the session, reminding everyone that this CoP is meant to spark ongoing collaboration, not just one-off dialogue.

The session ended with a wave of thank-yous in the chat, a clear sign that the audience felt heard and energized.

Takeaway

The 6th PPP CoP session was not just a knowledge-sharing event but a lively forum for debate, reflection, and vision-setting. It captured both the promise and the challenges of PPPs – the need for trust, clarity in roles, and a willingness from both public and private players to co-own outcomes. With participants openly sharing frustrations, hopes, and examples, the session succeeded in its goal: to keep PPPs alive as a transformative force rather than a passing buzzword.