The Livestock sector in Asia: Cause for Concern?
Welcome to Asia a Crowded Continent
Asia: A crowded continent

The human population is approximately 60% of the entire globe. The livestock population is also significant and has been changing very rapidly over the past thirty years or so.
Rapid Change in Livestock systems

- There has been a rapid transition to industrial systems to meet the regional demand for livestock produce
- Between 1985 and 2013 the poultry population rose from 3.5 to 12.4 billion
- In China alone, animal feed imports have increased 49 times, in the last 30 years to feed these industrial units
- Today, Vietnam is the largest feed importer in the world
Increased consumption of livestock products

Meat consumption in South Asia, South East Asia and East Asia combined increased from 36 to over 125 million tons and milk consumption from 60 to almost 220 million tons in the last 30 years.

While a lot of the meat produced in several countries is for local consumption, there is regional trade as well and some countries even import meat, milk, eggs and feed from outside Asia to meet the growing demand.
This has resulted in

Small holder livestock farmers being squeezed out especially in some countries
Growing emissions and environmental changes because of the the pollution of land, soil and water
Poor health and welfare standards, increased used of antimicrobials, poor animal welfare and emerging zoonotic diseases
Asia has been the hotspot of epidemics and pandemics

- Avian flu 2003-
- Swine flu 2007-
- COVID 19 2020
- ASF is the other epidemic which although not zoonotic has had a huge impact on pig rearing in the continent in the last three years
Our discussion

• What has the impact of the pandemic been on Food and nutrition security, on livestock health and animal welfare, on livelihoods and economic growth, on climate change and resource use
• How has the pandemic affected different types of livestock farmers and livestock systems. Capital intensive, labour intensive, those that make extensive use of land such as pastoralists
• How have different agencies responded: Governments, The private sector, International groups, NGOs, Civil Society, Research Institutes
Action for the future

- Can we make Asia's livestock systems more sustainable, more resilient
- What are the Actions/Measures to be undertaken for building forward
- What are the Knowledge gaps
- What is the role of sustainable livestock to prevent a future pandemic
Expected Outputs

- A better understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the Livestock sector in Asia.
- A better understanding of what the next steps/actions should be.
- A discussion on how we can prevent future pandemics.
Thank you