Conclusions and Questions from Day One of the ‘Rest of Asia’ Regional Meeting, 9\textsuperscript{th} September

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Conclusion 1: Local value chains are more resilient, less vulnerable to disturbance

- Value chains depending on internationally sourced feed (China) or markets (Mongolia) severely impacted by Covid 19, although (in case of Mongolia) the country is free of the disease.

- In case of India, movement of pastoralists was impeded, but otherwise they did better than others.

- In Laos, traditional systems were least impacted.
Conclusion 2: Governments differ in their responses...

- Sri Lanka: hardly any effect, due to collaboration between government and industry
- India: pastoralists and livestock keepers not included as beneficiaries in government support programmes for farmers
Coming back to Nitya’s initial description---

Given that....

the `Rest of Asia` has seen an explosion of livestock production in the last 2-3 decades, possible only through enormous feed imports.

Vietnamese feed and livestock rising: Vietnam is now a top importer of feed crops, Southeast Asia's leading meat producer and red meat eater.

From approximately 2.9 million tonnes in 2001, feed production totalled 8.9 million tonnes by 2011 and an Alltech survey estimated 19.6 million tonnes by 2018 before ASF took its toll.

AND, it has also been source of Avian Influenza, Swine Flu, ASF.....
Question: How do address the root causes of disease emergence?

- Is there an upper limit to the number of animals that can be raised safely?

- Is biosecurity (in the sense of sealed production units) the answer, or should we go for systems where animals are more spaced out and bred for genetic disease resistance, as in pastoralism?

- Are there trade-offs between efficiency and resilience?
“Resilient systems are typically characterized by the very features—diversity and redundancy, or slack—that efficiency seeks to destroy.”
Thank you