SEAMEO-The University of Tsukuba Symposium IX

Theme: Resilience for Global Citizenship

Sub-Theme: Challenges in Education under COVID-19

"Reshaping Research and Development in Higher Education Institutions amidst the Pandemic"

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Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on Agriculture production in Southeast Asia

Disruptions in agriculture food systems create supply and demand shocks on economic performance and food security.

COVID-19 pandemic reduce production vol. by 3.11% or 17.03M tons due to decline in agricultural farm labor affecting 100.77M people.

COVID-19 cause 1.4% decline in GDP of the SEA, equivalent to 3.76B USD.

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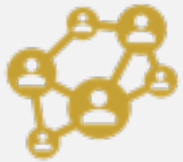
The pandemic has underscored the connections between supply chains and our consumption patterns, and the urgent **need to redefine agricultural systems as food systems**.

Also underscored the role of ***universities to produce graduates with a transformative mindset*** who are adept in understanding the growing complex social concerns and are able to effect positive change now and in the future.

Questions to the Universities in this time of COVID-19 pandemic

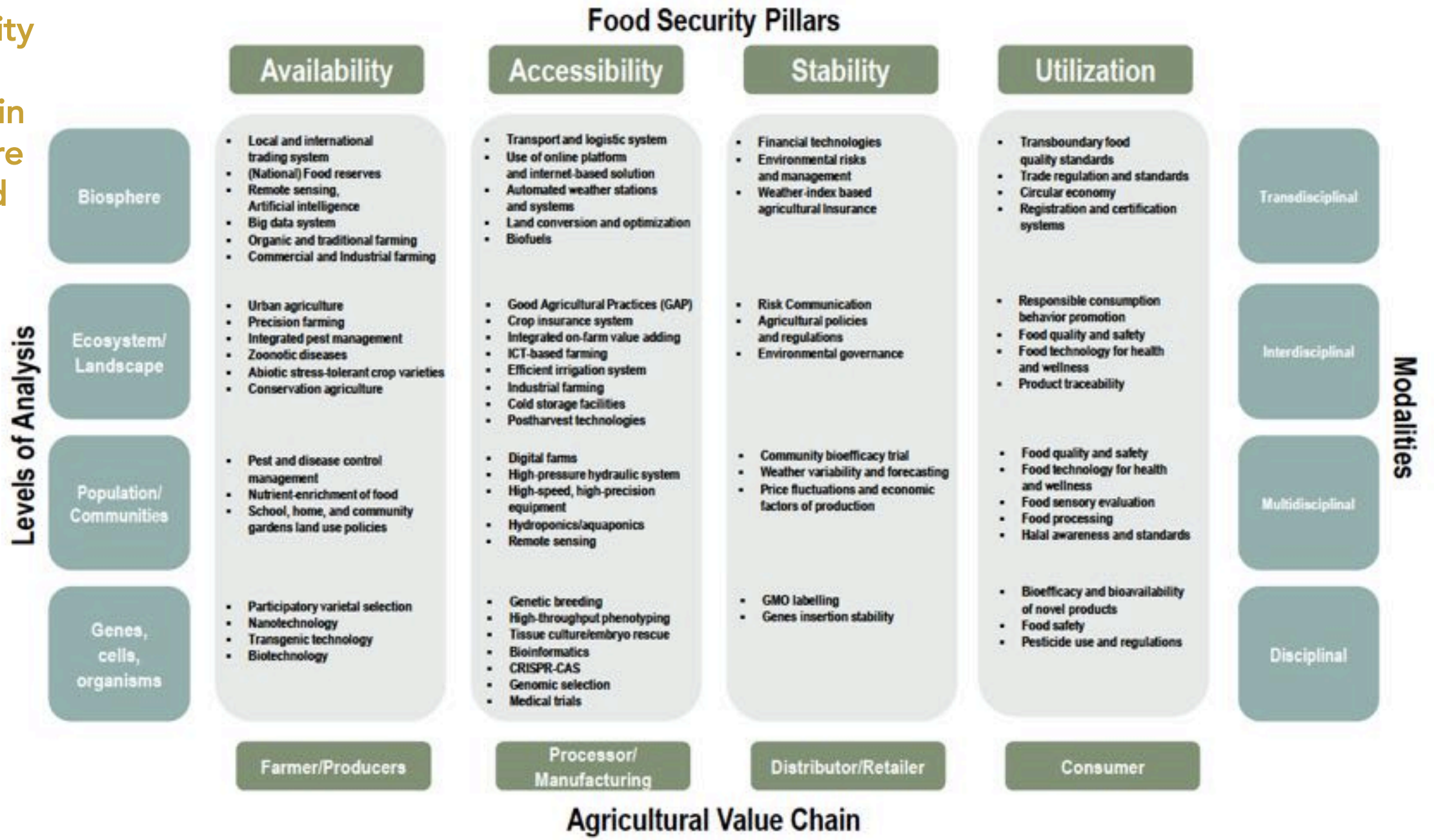
What are the major priority areas for research to accelerate transformation toward sustainable agricultural food systems?



How can the human capital, like their research and academic initiatives, be fully maximized to solve the societal concern in times of COVID-19?

As research funding will be limited, what innovative solutions needed to enhance capability in knowledge generation?

Proposed key priority areas for research in agriculture and allied fields



UNIVERSITIES

ENGINES OF SOCIAL INCLUSION –

BROUGHT INNOVATIVE WAYS OF BRINGING PEOPLE INTO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

KEY INSTITUTIONS FOR MEETING THE SDGS –

GLOBAL CHALLENGES THAT FACE HUMANITY AND THE PLANET

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY HAS IMPACT ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT BRIDGES SOCIAL AND CULTURAL INTERACTION BETWEEN ITSELF AND THE COMMUNITY

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Role of Universities

Addressing disparities between the wealthiest and the poorest and the balance between the planet and mankind

Ensure SDGs are included in local agendas, proposing changes to education, research and engaging with local and global communities on sustainable development

Lead the way in developing a sustainable and responsible pathway to address the current challenges in the ARD landscape

Educate the current generation with the necessary knowledge, skills, attitudes, competencies, and partnerships to help produce new SDG leaders

Pursue public goods through alignment of its interests with those of society

Conduct transversal reviews and refinements of curricula to ensure the mainstreaming of SDG issues across curricula

Role of Universities

Widen and extend access to and successful participation in higher education by serving the needs of an increasingly diverse student interests

Must put in place resilient education systems that can provide students with access to continuous learning opportunities throughout unpredictable and disorganized periods of disasters and recovery

Capitalizing on Research for Development and Innovations Potential of Universities

<u>The need to support local capacity toward being self-sufficient through well-planned local food production systems.</u>

Basic research and Policy support are needed towards:

- Development of new and relevant crop varieties and livestock breeds
- Seed and livestock production and distribution of technologies
- Agricultural systems technologies
- Post-harvest management
- Farm produce transport and logistics systems
- Facilities supporting food quality, nutrition, and safety maintenance
- Diversified farming

Capitalizing on Research for Development and Innovations Potential of Universities

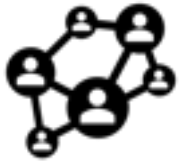
Support more studies and activities related to improving design of financial technologies for farmers, and encouraging wider participation in these financial systems like loans and credit systems and agricultural insurance facilities, among others.

Encourage more programs and budget allocation, as well as private initiatives related to agriculture, such as farm- based small-and-medium enterprises.

Massive promotion of sustainable and responsible consumption pattern that provides strong signals for agricultural products that support and observe cleaner production, environmental conservation, and social inclusion.

Capitalizing on Research for Development and Innovations Potential of Universities

The growing interest in agriculture needs to be sustained with more targeted capacity building activities of relevant government agencies and groups to specifically promote and generate more agri-entrepreneurs



More studies to ensure the balance between trade priorities and food security goals particularly under the tenets of ASEAN Economic Cooperation.
Effective coordination mechanisms among countries to reduce trade and food insecurities both at the national and regional levels

SEARCA established UC in 1989

Southeast Asian University Consortium
for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources

To pursue agricultural human resource development in Southeast Asia by linking top agricultural universities in the region to facilitate free exchange of information, facilities, and expertise