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Mr. Md. Rubaiyath Sarwar, Managing Director Innovision Consulting Private Limited and Chairperson VCB-N

Md. Rubaiyath Sarwar is a specialist in design, management and evaluation of market driven solutions to poverty challenges. His works builds on the premise that the multidimensional challenges of poverty can be tackled more sustainably through collaborative and mutually reinforcing commercial and social benefits among the private sector, NGOs and the government agencies. He is the co-founder and Managing Director of Innovision Consulting, an international consultancy with its bases in Dhaka, Bangladesh and London, United Kingdom. Over the last 16 years, Rubaiyath has worked for major DFID, USAID, SDC, EU, GIZ, IFAD projects in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen on solving growth, employment, and inclusiveness challenges in agriculture, health, industries, finance, water, sanitation, hygiene and

nutrition sectors.

Rubaiyath is serving as the Chairman of the Value Chain Capacity Building Network (VCB-N) for The Asia and the Pacific Region. VCB-N is founded with grant from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to build a regional resource pool of experts for value chains and market systems development projects. Rubaiyath founded Desperately Seeking Development Expert (DSDE) which is the largest platform of development professionals in Bangladesh. With over 13,000 members, DSDE plays an influential role in ideation, research, placement, discussion, dialogue and advocacy on development agenda in Bangladesh. Rubaiyath also founded D2, a data analytics company for development research and Baggitude, an online retail channel for trendy bags that are primarily made of sustainable materials. Rubaiyath is completed his BBA and MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. Rubaiyath is an Acumen fellow from Bangladesh.



Ms. Marie-Aude Even, Senior Regional Technical Specialist, Agronomy, IFAD, Asia Pacific

Marie-Aude Even works for the International Fund for Agricultural Development as a senior regional technical specialist for Agronomy, covering Asia Pacific. She is based in New Delhi. She is an agronomist specialized in agro-economy and international agricultural development and policy. Prior joining IFAD, she managed projects and initiatives on agricultural development for FAO and the French cooperation in various countries. She also worked as a policy analyst for FAO, preparing outlook report and strategy on gender in agriculture in Africa and for the Center for studies and foresight of the French Ministry of Agriculture on international food security issues.

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Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V., Director of the Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy, India

Dr. Rasheed Sulaiman V. is Director of the Centre for Research on Innovation and Science Policy (www.crispindia.org) in India (since 2006). He leads AESA He leads the AESA (Agricultural Extension in South Asia) Network (www.aesanetwork.org) and is a member of the Board of the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

Previously he worked as a Senior Scientist at the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). He has expertise in agricultural extension systems and policy and has worked on applications of agricultural innovation systems. His research also covers the role of the private sector in extension, developing new approaches to reaching rural women and evaluation of ICTs in agriculture. Dr.

Sulaiman holds a Ph.D. in Agricultural Extension from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi .



Mr. Augustus Shemphang Suting, General Manager, Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA), OSD SCSTE and BRDC

Mr. Augustus Shemphang Suting works for the Meghalaya Basin Management Agency (MBMA) which is the Implementing Agency for the IFAD Funded Project “ Megha Lamp – Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Markets Project “ as the General Manager looking after the Inclusive Supply Chain and Enterprise Development Component of the Project. He is based in Shillong, Meghalaya. A mechanical engineer by profession is being deputed by Government of Meghalaya for this Project. In addition to this Project he is also holding the post of Officer on Special Duty (OSD) looking after two government agency namely the State Council of Science Technology and Environment (SCSTE) which deals with Popularisation of Science and Technology in the State and the Bio Resource Development Centre (BRDC) which looks after bio conservation efforts in the state and also assist the Meghalaya State Rural Livelihood Society (

MSRLS) for linking the SHGs product to the market. Prior to this assignment he had worked as a Project Manager, Manager Technical Services and Project Director of the erstwhile Meghalaya Rural Development Society (MRDS) which was an IFAD assisted Livelihood Improvement Project for the

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Himalayas (MLIPH). Prior to joining the government services he had also worked in the North Eastern Hills University (NEHU) as Senior Technical Assistant and in the Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) as Project Manager looking after the Meghalaya Bamboo Chips Factory.



Mr. Phouththasinh Phimmachanh, Manager of CLICK KM4Dev and the Secretariat of Lao Farmer Network

Mr. Phouththasinh Phimmachanh is the manager of CLICK KM4Dev and manages the Secretariat of Lao Farmer Network since beginning of the network in 2014 and Manager of CLICK KM4Dev, a social enterprise on knowledge management for development since 2013. Phouththasinh worked with Helvatas on knowledge management for an agriculture extension project 2005-2012. He holds a bachelor of agriculture and a master in development studies. Since the COVID19 pandemic, Phouththasinh has been gathering impact of the virus and needs from small holder farmers relevant actors in values chains in responding to the impact. Thus he would like to share the information and encouraging relevant stakeholders in help the farmers in responding to the crisis in short, medium and longer term.



Mr. STUART MORRIS, Director, East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer

STUART studied horticulture in Merrist Wood College and earned an MSc in International Development from the Royal Agricultural University in the UK. Having worked in agricultural development for more than 20 years Stuart has solid knowledge and expertise in project management, strategy development, and technical expertise in developing inclusive, market driven agricultural value chains. Stuart has worked with East-West Seed for 8 years; starting in Myanmar where he established the company’s pre-commercial knowledge transfer activities. Since 2016 Stuart has served as the Director of East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer since 2016. Based in Chiang Mai, Thailand he supports precompetitive knowledge transfer in Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Philippines, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda and Bangladesh.

East-West Seed (EWS) has 35 years of experience in market-oriented plant breeding for vegetable seeds in the tropical lowlands. Working in emerging economies, EWS has a unique focus on smallholder farmers, who are the main clients of the company. The company has played an important role in catalysing the development of vibrant vegetable sectors through the

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introduction of improved varieties better adapted to local markets and agronomic conditions. The privately owned company produces a wide portfolio of hybrid and open pollinated seeds. With lead positions in Asia and rapid expansion in Africa and Latin America, East-West Seed is now the 10th largest vegetable seed company in the world. Recognizing that farmers need access to quality seeds and knowledge on how to grow crops, EWS has supported intensive farmer training programs since 2000 - as an essential core to its business model. The company’s sustainable solution to market development has been recognized through the Access to Seed Index. In addition, Simon Groot, the founder of the company, was awarded the 2019 World Food Prize. This recognized his transformative role which empowered millions of smallholder farmers to earn greater incomes through enhanced vegetable production; benefitting hundreds of millions of consumers with greater access to nutritious vegetables for healthier diets. To ensure that the company’s pre-commercial activities are most effectively geared towards benefiting smallholder farmers the company created a non-profit foundation (‘East-West Seed Knowledge Transfer’) dedicated to improving on-farm skills and innovation.



Mr. Carl Larsen, Executive Secretary of GFRAS

Carl Larsen is the Executive Secretary of GFRAS he has 30 years’ experience in the field of international development. Carl has been working with different trades of agriculture innovation systems from research over education to extension. As a project manager and consultant he has extensive field experience from Africa and Asia with several long-term postings and numerous short-term assignments. Carl has been working for FAO, World Bank, EU, USAID, CGIAR and Danida. He holds a PhD and an MSC in tropical animal husbandry from Copenhagen University as well as an MPA from Copenhagen Business School.

VCBN- WEBINAR 3: “The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on agricultural value chains - What we can do to mitigate the impact! – *The impact on service delivery to different actors along the value chain*”



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