

RESOURCE PERSONS



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, SriLanka 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. Maja Rüegg is co-head of the working area Sustainable and Inclusive Economies at Helvetas

Maja Rüegg is co-head of the working area Sustainable and Inclusive Economies at Helvetas. She provides thematic support on market systems development for projects working on agricultural value chains and labour markets, including private sector and financial sector development aspects. Her advisory expertise also covers monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Previous to her current position, Maja worked in rural development projects in Tanzania and Madagascar. She has also done research in Kyrgyzstan and Bolivia on topics related to rural economy. She holds a MSc in Development Studies (LSE) and an MA in International Relations (University of Geneva) and has worked in development cooperation since 2008.

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Ms. Esther Wintraecken, Country Manager Fresh Studio

Esther Wintraecken is the Myanmar country manager of Fresh Studio. Founded in Vietnam in 2006, Fresh Studio is the premier consultancy in the development and marketing of high value agriculture products in Southeast Asia. Esther has led Fresh Studio's expansion in Myanmar for the past 4 years. She diversified the portfolio into assignments touching all steps of the value chain in the horticulture, livestock and aquaculture sector. Furthermore, she set up the agro-business advocacy group of Eurocham in Myanmar together with De Heus and chaired this position for 2 years.



Mr. Shahid Tarer is the CEO of Galaxy Rice Mill (pvt) Ltd.

Shahid Tarer is the CEO of Galaxy Rice Mill (pvt) Ltd. Galaxy rice is located in Northern Punjab, the heart of the Basmati growing region. It has been exporting Basmati rice mainly to Europe for the last 18 years. Its customers are millers who pack own brands as well supplying to large retailers. Galaxy Rice works very closely with local farmers. It is also in a water productivity program with Helvetas and Westmill foods UK to grow Sustainable rice with SRP standards. Shahid Tarer is also a director in Punjab Industrial Estates Development Company, which is a Government company that builds industrial estates. He is also in the Prime Minister's steering committee for improving rice productivity, as well as a founding member and the convener of the Pakistan Basmati Heritage foundation.



Dr Shatadru Chattopadhyay, Managing Director of Solidaridad Asia

Dr Shatadru Chattopadhyay is a doctorate in International Economics with specialisation in the tea industry. He has been working in the field of sustainable supply chain management, sustainable landscapes and corporate responsibility for the last 2 decades. Shatadru has founded or co-founded seven international and country-specific sustainability standards in agro-commodities and industrial minerals. He is the founding Managing Director of Solidaridad Asia and currently supervises 440 sustainability experts operating from 37 offices in 9 countries across Asia.

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Mr. Nicolas Syed, IFAD Programme Officer Sub-regional Hub for South-East Asia and the Pacific

Nicolas Syed is a development and humanitarian professional currently working as the Programme Officer in IFAD’s Sub-regional Hub for South-East Asia and the Pacific, where he covers projects in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Prior to moving to the sub-regional office in Jakarta, Nicolas worked as the Country Programme Officer in Bangladesh and as the project manager for the Support to Farmers’ Organisations in Africa Programme.



Mr. Melchior Lengsfeld, Executive Director Helvetas

Mr. Melchior Lengsfeld (lic. phil., MAS ETH Development and Cooperation) chairs the management board of Helvetas since 2005. Earlier, he has worked in different functions in India, Mozambique and Mali on a broad array of topics. Melchior has been a driving force in the merger between Helvetas and Intercooperation in 2011, an initiator for the launch of Helvetas Germany GmbH as well as founder and chair of Helvetas USA. Melchior is member of the board of Alliance Sud as well as member and incoming Chair of the Executive Board of Alliance2015. Convinced that sustainability starts with ourselves, he has been a long-standing member of the Board and Vice-President of the Max Havelaar Foundation Switzerland, and served until 2018 on the Board of Fairtrade International.
