



## **SESSION 1:**

# **BOOSTING SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION**



**Dr. Yarzar Hein, Ph.D.**  
**Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics,**  
**Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar**

Dr. Yarzar Hein's research revolves around natural resource economics, and currently he is exploring the non-market valuation of natural resources. His studies have examined diverse environmental change topics such as climate vulnerability, adaptation, mitigation, and resilience in Myanmar's agricultural and food systems, and the Myanmar farming community's awareness and perception of climate change.

He completed his Ph.D. degree from Kasetsart University in the field of agricultural and resource economics, focusing on climate change and natural resources. He is now Associate Professor of Agricultural Economics at Yezin Agricultural University, Myanmar, and teaches undergraduate and graduate level classes on Natural Resource and Environmental Economics.



**Dr. Santi Sanglestsawai, Ph.D.**  
**Lecturer, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics,**  
**Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, Thailand**

Assistant Professor Santi Sanglestsawai, Ph.D., is a Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University.

His teaching includes courses related to econometrics, agricultural resource economics, and the valuation of natural resources. His recent research and publications have examined topics related to consumer preferences and the non-market valuation of natural resources and the environment. His studies have included an economic evaluation of drinking water dispensed from water vending machines, an assessment of the monetary value of environmental costs accrued from Thailand's egg industry, and an analysis of the potential social benefits of implementing a social security system for informal workers.



**Mr. Sim Sokcheng**  
**Director and a Research Fellow, Center for Policy Research in Agriculture and Rural Development of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)**

Mr. Sim Sokcheng has extensive experience in leading and managing research projects on agriculture, economic development, and program impact evaluation, focusing on smallholder farmers and rural communities.

He is currently the Director and a Research Fellow in the Center for Policy Research in Agriculture and Rural Development of the Cambodia Development Resource Institute.

Mr. Sokcheng holds a Master's degree in Economics, with a major in Development Economics, from Kobe University, Japan, and is a Ph.D.

Current research highlights include research on promoting sustainable and inclusive agricultural development through public-private partnerships (PPPs), Cambodian vegetable farmers use practices of pesticides, and the impacts of rice policy changes in Vietnam on Cambodia's rice policy and rice producers.



**Dr. Nithicha Thamthanakoon, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant to the Dean for Research and Social Development, Department of**  
**Agricultural and Resource Economics, Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University,**  
**Thailand**

Dr. Nithicha Thamthanakoon is Assistant to the Dean for Research and Social Development, and is a Lecturer in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Faculty of Economics, Kasetsart University, Thailand. She was a member of the team from KU who participated as a researcher under the Institutional Links project sponsored by the Newton Fund of the British Council and the Office of Higher Education Commission Thailand to undertake research that explored sustainable agribusiness model to reduce poverty in Thailand small-scale rubber farmers.

She received her B.Sc. and M.A. in Agribusiness from Kasetsart University, her M.Sc. in Marketing, from Hertfordshire University (UK), and her Ph.D. from Harper Adams University (UK).

Her most recent paper, entitled 'Factors driving Thailand rice farmer decision-making in the choice of marketing channels' was published in the *British Food Journal* (2022).



**Dr. Wallapak Polasub, Ph.D.**  
**Senior Research Associate, Institute for Sustainable Food Systems,**  
**Kwantlen Polytechnic University, British Columbia, Canada.**

Dr. Wallapak Polasub is Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems, Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Her research interests are on economics of local food systems, farm direct marketing, community food security and consumer behaviors.

As COVID-19 has highlighted the fragility of global food supply chains, Dr. Polasub is currently studying how consumers are adapting, what barriers to food access remain, which citizens are most acutely affected, and consumer attitudes towards building resilient place-based food systems.

Dr. Wallapak is also an aspiring knowledge broker. She hopes to bridge the gap between knowledge creators and knowledge users and build capacity through a variety of educational resources as well as peer to peer learning.