

# RESHAPING INSTRUCTION, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR HEIS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

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## Abstract

Achieving food security in SEA amid its growing populations is a continuing challenge, made even more elusive by the COVID-19 pandemic. To secure food and nutrition, agriculture needs to produce more with less—more in terms of yield, income and social inclusivity, and less in unnecessary inputs, energy consumption, and environmental impacts. To afford a holistic understanding of how food security goals could be better supported across the agricultural value chains, the Instruction, Research and Development (IR&D) programs must capture both demand and supply sides. For the demand side, the need of the general public must be clearly ascertained and ensured to become bases of what the IR&D in agriculture and allied fields will generate.

This talk will present micro-credentials as an alternative mode of delivery of learning and propose key priority areas for research to accelerate transformation of the agriculture sector and strengthen its contribution to food security and socio-economic development particularly toward long-term resilience against pandemics. Major priorities for the needed agricultural food system transformation are: (1) provide enabling environment for researchers to engage in mutual learning and co-learning through establishing multi- and interdisciplinary research laboratories, centers, and institutes; (2) incentivize scientific productivity that values accomplishments beyond publications; (3) retool researchers across the full spectrum of intellectual property rights, including technology transfer system, technology-based incubation, and entrepreneurship; (4) provide grants and awards that enable faculty and students to engage with industry, private companies, community beneficiaries, and other stakeholders across the supply chain; (5) rearticulate projects that started before the pandemic to consider COVID-19; and (6) craft creative proposals related to COVID-19.

HEIs are the key players in society's ability to achieve food and nutrition security, and economic development. We should aspire to contribute toward an economic development that is sustainable, inclusive, environment-friendly, and resilient to pandemics or other disruptions. We propose Academe-Industry-Government (AIG) interconnectivity models on Agricultural and allied fields for instruction and research collaboration and co-sharing of financial resources, to shorten the gap between research and knowledge utilization.

## Biography



**Assoc. Prof. Ts. Dr. Nur Azura Binti Adam** is the Deputy Director for Programs of SEARCA. She oversees the Center's programs on education, research, innovation, and publications, and facilitates partnerships for co-funding these programs. Prior to this, she was Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia.

**Dr. Maria Cristeta N. Cuaresma** is Senior Program Head at SEARCA where she manages the graduate scholarship and institutional development assistance program and oversees the conduct of trainings and other knowledge events. She also serves as Coordinator of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education in Agriculture and Natural Resources.

