



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

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20 July 2023

Administrations of ITU Member States
Regulators, ITU Sector Members
Academia in Asia and the Pacific
United Nations agencies in the Pacific
Digital agriculture solution providers

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the *Digital Agriculture Solutions Forum (DASF) for Asia and the Pacific 2023* that will be held in a hybrid mode from 27-28 September 2023 in Bangkok. The forum is organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Significant advances have occurred in the last three years propelled under the impetus of COVID-19 pandemic and the reinvigorated attention and interest in digitalization. Digital agriculture is also undergoing accelerated march towards digital economy, digital innovations within the agrifood systems and rural transformation necessitated by the urgent needs to achieve the Strategic Development Goals.

DASF 2023 has the thematic focus of ***“From solutions to ecosystem development: “Scaling up promising digital innovations and lowering barriers to deployment and to persistent digital divide”***. It offers a unique regional opportunity aimed at bringing together all the advances, experiences in digital agriculture, and help facilitate knowledge exchange among Member states, private actors, development partners, NGOs and other stakeholders. The event concept note is attached (Annex 1).

The Forum aims to facilitate knowledge sharing on innovative initiatives that significantly address digital divide, expanded availability, access and affordability of digital solutions. The Forum also promotes policy dialogue and facilitates sharing on initiatives, programs and partnerships to enable larger scale investments for accelerating digital agriculture transformation within and across countries. The two-day forum will feature keynote speakers and panelists amongst successful agritech startup founders, agribusiness and innovation leaders and champions, successful men and women young entrepreneurs leaders and champions, digital experts, influencers, enablers and supporting agents, and Government Senior Officials leading digital ecosystem development.

To register for this Forum, participants are requested to complete the registration online, which will be available at <http://itu.int/go/DASF-ASP-23> latest by **31 August 2023**. You can join the forum either in person or virtually. Additional information such as the information note for participants and recommended hotels will be available on the website above.

To encourage participation of [developing countries](#) and subject to availability of funds, one full, or two partial fellowships may be granted per eligible Member State of the Asia-Pacific region. Full fellowships will cover the cost of air ticket (one return economy class ticket by the most direct/economical route from the country of origin to the meeting venue), and appropriate daily subsistence allowance intended to cover accommodation, meals and incidental expenses. Member States shall cover the remainder of the cost of the participation. Preference will be given to candidates from least developed countries and small islands developing states, especially those making a presentation during the Forum. Member States are encouraged to select their candidates taking into consideration the inclusion of persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, bearing in mind gender balance. The duly validated fellowship request form and its annexes, if any, must be returned to the Fellowships Service by e-mail to fellowships@itu.int or by fax: + 41 22 730 57 78, by 15 August 2023. Registration prior to submitting the fellowship request is mandatory. The fellowship request form (Annex 2) duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations should be returned to fellowships@itu.int before **15 August 2023**.

Mr. Ashish Narayan (ashish.narayan@itu.int) from the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and is at your disposal, should you need any additional information.

I look forward to your active participation in this Forum.

Yours sincerely,



Atsuko Okuda
Regional Director