

TEEBAgriFood Country Implementation Project: Business Engagement

The Economy of Ecosystem and Biodiversity
Promoting a sustainable agriculture and food sector



Thailand
Online roundtable report
25 November 2021

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Introduction

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) initiative brings together scientists, economists, policymakers, business leaders and farmers organizations to undertake and apply assessments of agricultural systems.

The initiative highlights the need for organizations in the food system to better understand their impacts and dependencies on natural, social and human capitals, and provides them guidance to apply it in their decisions in ways that deliver benefits across the system.

In the context of the TEEBAgriFood Country Implementation Project generously supported by the European Union, the Capitals Coalition works with businesses as part of this project led by United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), with the overall goal of building resilience, mainstreaming best practice, protecting biodiversity and contributing to a more sustainable agriculture and food sector.

The roundtable sessions in Thailand held on 25th November 2021 to:

- Share progress of the Operational Guidelines for business with the stakeholders of the agriculture and food sector
- Receive feedback from those stakeholders on the Guidelines
- Inspire business for action
- Discuss potential improvement
- Open appetite for learning opportunities and the training sessions

The online event took place over 3 hours. 83 people registered and a total of 40 people from different stakeholder groups attended the event.

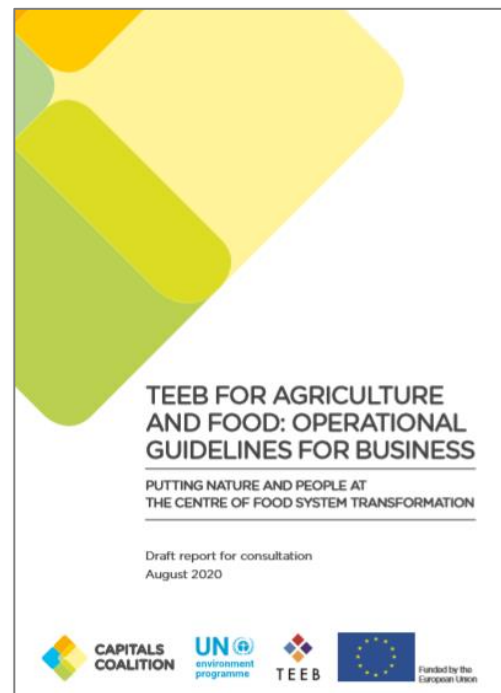
The roundtable was hosted by Capitals Coalition in partnership with UNEP TEEB and get support from multi-stakeholders institutions as UNDP Thailand and Sustainable Rice Platform.

More information about the project is available at:

<https://capitalscoalition.org/project/teebagrifood-for-business/>

This report captures the main discussions of the roundtable, providing insight into the panel discussions and a synopsis of the feedback provided through the discussions in the breakout rooms.

We would like to thank UNEP TEEB, partners, the panellists, facilitators and participants for supporting this roundtable.



Roundtable agenda

14:00-14:20	Welcome & Introductions from Capitals Coalition and UNEP TEEB
14:20-15:00	Panel discussion: The importance of food system transformation through business action in Thailand with Q&A
15:00-15:15	Introduction to the TEEBAgriFood Guidelines for Business
15:15-15:35	Presentation of the Frame & Scope stages
15:35-16:05	Breakout room discussion
16:05-16:15	Plenary feedback
16:15-16:35	Presentation of the Measure & Value and Apply stages
16:35-17:10	Breakout room discussion
17:10-17:20	Plenary feedback
17:20-17:30	Way forward and closing

Summary panel discussion

'The importance of the food system transformation through business action in Thailand'

The panel discussion aimed to set the scene with regards to the importance of food system transformation from different stakeholder perspectives, specifically in Thailand. Following an introduction from the moderator, the panellists were asked the following questions:

- ❖ What does an ideal food system look like, and what are the needs to reach it in Thailand?
- ❖ From the UN food system summit, what will be the national pathways for food system transformation? *Question to policy-maker.*
- ❖ How has the Sustainable Rice Platform supported sustainability of rice cultivation in Thailand combing people, planet, and partnerships? *Question to Sustainable Rice Platform.*
- ❖ How to overcome the barriers for SME & start-up to start a sustainable business? *Question to Small and Medium Enterprise representative.*

Moderator: Tarinee Suravoranon, Project Manager – Business and Human Rights, **UNDP Thailand**



"We all depend on a well-organized food system; the food system supports all livelihoods. Today, we need to analyze the challenges that currently threaten Thailand to manage them better. In the meantime, we have to actively promote food systems or best practices that show clear positive impacts."

Vanida Khumnirdpetch, Director, Bureau of Foreign Agricultural Affairs and national focal point of the UN Food System, **Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives**



“In September 2021, the UN Food system summit happened, and as a country, we established dialogue to create a national pathway towards sustainable and equitable food systems. Indeed, we talk here about food security and food safety, but we also need a holistic view on cross-cutting issues, so we include the environmental and social dimensions to achieve better food systems. Thailand produces a lot of food, and we are a leader in agriculture. We know there are threads and, we, policy-makers, are concerned about having healthy ecosystems. In our national pathway, we

identify five priorities to implement the SDG for 2030:

- *Access to nutritious food in quantity and quality that ensures food security for the population.*
- *Promote healthy diets that are also friendly for the environment.*
- *Protect biodiversity and promote sustainable use of natural resources. This includes avoiding Green House Gas emission, contamination and food lost.*
- *Promote equality and inclusion, including, good jobs.*
- *Be resilient to disasters and crises, as for example, covid 19.*

Harsh Vivek, Board Member at the **Sustainable Rice Platform**. Program Leader for South Asia Food and Agribusiness at **International Finance Corporation**



“An ideal agri-food system would have to integrate the private sector and all stakeholders strongly. It should be:

1: Economically viable and provide remuneration for all actors of the value chain: small producers, processors, traders, etc. If it’s not, the food system can’t exist.

2: Environmentally sustainable from production to disposal. Agriculture has a huge footprint. We have to promote ways to reduce it, which include water

consideration and carbon emission.

3: Be socially inclusive; food should be affordable to all.

4: Safe. Food production and consumption is not only about quantity but also about quality and safety to avoid health issues.

6: Scientific and with data-driven decisions from policy-makers to business. Currently, decisions are not necessarily based on accurate information.

6: Technological, so that we can be productive, competitive, and sustainable.

It’s why it’s paramount to have a value-chain approach that includes the four capitals: natural, human, social and produced one.”

Moh Suthasiny Sudpraser, Co-CEO of **Happy Grocers**, a Thai sustainable start-up



"I work directly with farmers and from a start-up viewpoint, I want to highlight a few points to achieve the regeneration we desire for food systems:

- *As an enterprise, we need to create a business model that is inclusive for farmers and small producers.*
- *We need to support the transition to organic farming in the long run by building capacity.*
- *It's essential to improve producers' access to finance, credits and investment, so they can have better technology and overcome many challenges.*
- *The production and consumption should be more aligned in terms of quantity and type of food to have an efficient market so both producers and consumers can be happy.*
- *Traceability should be improved; so consumers can have more transparent information about the environmental and health impacts linked to the product they buy.*
- *It's important to scale up sustainable models. This is possible only bringing together the stakeholders, from producers to business and consumers and policy-makers that create rules and regulations."*

Roundtable discussions in breakout rooms

Roundtable discussions were organised to actively ask for consultation from the participants about the TEEBAgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business. After the presentation of the first two Stages of the Guidelines for Business, participants were allocated into breakout rooms to discuss questions related to each Stage. After the presentation of the last two Stages, participants were allocated into a second breakout room. Afterwards, each facilitator brought the key message of the group to plenary. In addition, a follow up consultation form was sent out to participants to provide further detail on some questions, if interested. We received one additional response from this written consultation. Below an overview is provided of the main feedback points of the groups, as well as the additional questions posed in the consultation.

Which **risks and opportunities** are the main drivers for food businesses in Thailand?

Risks

- **Operational:** unstable energy supply security, low technology uptake, use of pesticides, food loss (it can also be seen as an opportunity), waste and increased use of packaging, climate change that impact on crop productions due to droughts and floods for instance, lack of proper irrigation systems in rural areas (only Bangkok's area has good water management).

- **Reputational and marketing:** Deforestation in the supply chain can affect business reputation and use of antibiotics in meat production as consumers are more and more concerned about animal treatments.
- **Societal:** insufficient knowledge and skills levels in rural areas. Risks of inequalities.
- **Financial:** lack and need for specialized financial services for the very specific agri-food sector, difficulties to access credit for many smallholder farmers.
- **Legal and regulatory:** lack of access to land for women, difficulties of integration of specific minorities groups, lack of incentives, need to monitor risks of child labor and gender inequities in the value-chain.

Opportunities

- **Operational:** usage of grass to prevent topsoil erosion, production of clean energy, businesses can act as “food rescue” to avoid waste of some food product, increase circular economy, improve technology, logistics and digital transition for all.
- **Reputational & marketing:** Thailand can be seen as a bio-economy hub around natural resource management. As a lot of our food production is exported, companies could apply for international standards and certification to access better markets, such as about animal welfare. Small farmers that sequester carbon could apply for carbon credits. The Thai food sector could better support endangered animals conservation, upscale the uptake of assessments on Green House Gas emissions, and support the rising consumer demand for more healthy diets.
- **Societal:** more and more institutions are well organized in Thailand, having more (online) training on sustainable practices to increase knowledge and worker’s capacity. There are huge opportunities in enhancing rural communities’ quality of life – specifically, those who work with food and raw materials production, better manage migrant labor and improve trust with stakeholders.
- **Legal & regulation:** Opportunity to collaborate with the public sector and change policies to improve food waste management. The EU Green Deal might also influence Thai companies and some legal requirements. In 2021, the Securities and Exchange Commission required to have one report that combines disclosure information statements with an annual report with specific “Business Development for Sustainability”.
- **Financing:** more and more investors are becoming aware of the role of the environment for the economy. Another opportunity is to develop more trust with financial institutions to reduce risks.

Are any material impact drivers or dependencies missing from the materiality matrix?

In general the list provided is good.

Impact drivers suggested to elaborate on or include:

- Migrant labor and its specificities
- Waste management and waste prevention
- Impact on worker’s knowledge
- Provide more examples of impact drivers for produced capitals

Dependencies suggested to elaborate on or include:

- Access to education
- Workforce availability and underlying conditions to access it

DEPENDENCIES										VALUE CHAIN	IMPACT DRIVERS																																					
NATURAL				HUMAN			SOCIAL		PR.		NATURAL				HUMAN				SOCIAL																													
Water availability	Water quality	Energy	Regulation of physical environment	Regulation of biological environment	Regulation of waste and emissions	Skills and Knowledge	Experience	Workforce availability	Health of workers	Social networks and cooperation	Property rights	Social acceptance and trust	Law and order	Accessibility to infrastructure and technology		Water use	Terrestrial ecosystem use	GHG emissions	Pesticide and herbicide use	Fertilizer use	Soil use	Solid waste	Livestock conditions	Nutritional content of food	Use of harmful substances for consumers	Food safety practices	Employee health and safety conditions	Salaries and benefits	Workers living conditions	Labour rights	Gender rights	Worker's representation	Food security	Food loss or waste	Integration of workforce into communities	Benefit sharing with indigenous communities												
M	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	M	M	H	INPUT MATERIALS	H	H	H	M	M	M	M	M	H	L	H	M	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	M	M	H											
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H	H	H	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	L	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	M	H			
H	H	H	M	M	H	H	M	M	H	M	L	M	H	H	MANUFACTURING & PROCESSING	H	L	H	L	L	L	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	M	M	H	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	L	M	L
M	M	H	L	L	H	M	M	M	H	M	L	L	H	H	DISTRIBUTION & RETAIL	M	M	H	N	N	N	H	M	N	N	N	N	N	N	H	H	H	M	H	M	H	H	H	M	H	H	M	H	H	M	N	N	N
L	L	H	N	L	H	L	N	N	N	M	N	H	M	L	CONSUMPTION	L	L	M	N	N	N	H	M	H	H	H	H	H	N	N	N	N	L	L	L	L	H	H	L	H	H	L	N	N	N	N	N	

H HIGH MATERIALITY
 M MEDIUM MATERIALITY
 L LOW MATERIALITY
 N NOT MATERIAL

Is looking at impacts and dependencies as pathways a helpful way of looking at issues in your organisation?

This question was discussed in the break out rooms. Below a synopsis is provided of the key outcomes of the discussions:

- Yes, the participants think it is a helpful way to look at pathways. For example, food waste can be measured in step 5 (kg per type of item), and we can measure the change in capitals if the food is rescued. It generates a positive value for food security and people who benefit from this food that would have been lost. Another example can be plastic usage; if plastic use is reduced, we can value that it also reduces cost for business. If plastic disposal was burned, plastic reduction also lowered health issues related to degradation of air quality and gas emissions.
- Indeed, there is a need to define pathways better and keep in mind that reality is much more complex.

- Written feedback: "Ability of impacts and dependencies to promote business circularity as well as circular economy. Additionally, its ability to encourage green jobs and people's well-being in the context of ESG (environment, social and governance)."

What **challenges and opportunities** could arise in expanding the use of the capital approach in decision making?

This question was discussed in break out rooms. Below a synopsis is provided of the key outcomes of the discussions within:

Challenges:

A current challenge for the food industry is to ensure food security and at the same time promote sustainable production.

We can see that there is potential limitation to the approach due to the analytical skills and expertise needed, mainly for monetary approaches.

Opportunities:

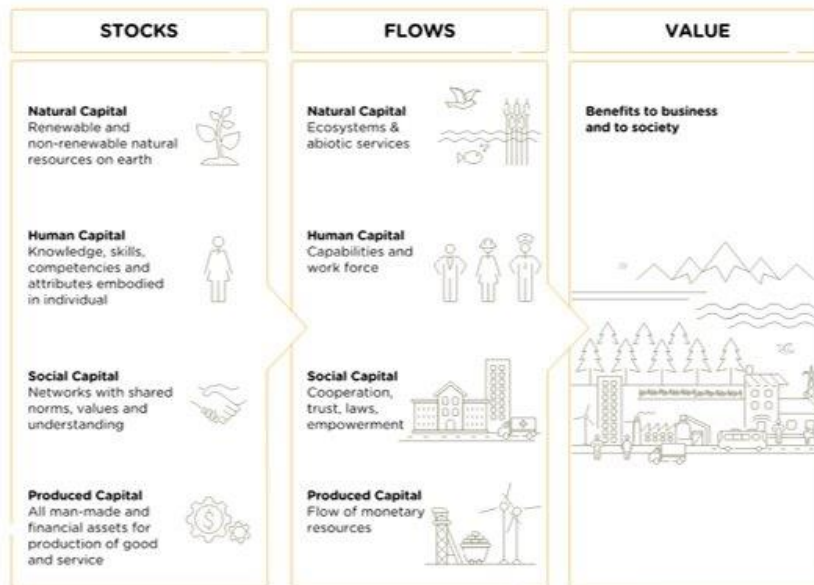
Some companies are already measuring or valuing some elements of their business but in Thailand, the sector is still far away from a general adoption. There are opportunities to raise awareness and increase knowledge on those topics. However, there is a need to take this approach into serious consideration to gain scale.

Indeed, the private sector can use a voluntarily basis, but policy intervention would be required for effective implementation and to gain scale.

Another opportunity mentioned was to use the approach to build resilience related to climate change and implement climate smart agriculture.

Additional questions asked in the written consultation

Does the representation of **capitals stock, flows and value** **make** sense to you?



Written feedback: *"It makes sense; especially if it is embedded within the principles of circularity (circular economy)."*

Do you have any experience with valuation (tools databases, case studies etc.)?

Written feedback: *"Sustainable Consumption & Production-Hotspots Analysis Tool (SCP-HAT)"*

Next steps

In Thailand, six online training sessions will take place to guide business representatives through the four stages of the TEEBAgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business. These trainings aim to help businesses make an informed decision based on integrated capitals assessment for a selected case.

The training sessions will run from March-August 2022. After the training sessions the case studies will be collected to show the business case and increase the uptake of other businesses.

List of participants

Name	Stakeholder group	Organization
Tatirose Vijitpan	Research and Academia	UNEP IEMP
Harsh Vivek	Business	IFC and SRP
Rebeca Leonard	Other	UNEP WCMC
ENGLISH Azhan Hasan (Azhan Hasan)	Policy	Qatar Rail/Ministry of Environment & Climate Change
Syed Hussain	Other	UN
Tarinee (Tarinee Suravoranon)	Other	UNDP
Jakrapun Suksawat	Research and Academia	Khon Kaen University
Assistant-Jakrapun Suksawat (Krityanee Kittiphathanit)	Research and Academia	Khon Kaen University
Moh Suthasiny Happy Grocers (Moh Suthasiny)	Business	Happy Grocers
English - Tomas Declercq (UNEP) (Tomas Declercq)	Policy	UN
english -Stephane Passeri (Stephane Passeri)	Business	FAO
FY (F On)	Policy	/
UNRCO-Marisa Panyachiva (Marisa Panyachiva)	Other	UN
Dr. Vanida Khumnirdpetch (Wannika Wutthi)	Policy	Bureau of Foreign Agriculture Affairs, Ministry Of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Makiko Yashiro	Policy	UN
Jan Willem Ketelaar	Policy	UN
English - Manuel Espinosa (Manuel Espinosa)	Business	The Phoenix Group
EN Naphat.Earth (SOS Thailand) (Naphat Phongpheat)	Business	SOS Thailand
Eugene Itua: West Africa Capitals Coalition Hub (Eugene Itua)	Membership organisation	West africa regional platform for natural capital
EN- Marci Baranski (Marci Baranski)	Society and conservation	UNEP
Non (Non Boakhem)	Research and Academia	UNDP
HE LI	Other	FAO
Nirmalie Pallewatta English (Nirmalie Pallewatta)	Research and Academia	University of Colombo
Caroline Ouko	Research and Academia	CETRAD
English - Dawn Neo (Dawn Neo)	Other	Global Food Partners
English - Colin Porteous - Peace Parks Foundation (Colin Porteous)	Society and conservation	Peace Parks Foundation

Isabel Weitzel	Other	GIZ
English - Babar Shahbaz (Babar Shahbaz)	Research and Academia	University of Agriculture Faisalabad Pakistan
English - Spencer Phillips (Spencer Phillips)	Society and conservation	Key-Log Economics
English - Yen Truong Root (Yen Truong)	Society and conservation	Root
Chone Chaowai	Standard setter	IUCN
Gábor Figezky	Society and conservation	IFOAM
SVThailand - Sakulthip Kiratiphantawong (Sakulthip Kiratiphantawong)	Standard setter	Social Value Thailand
Voravee Saengavut	Research and Academia	Khon Kaen University
Marie-Yon Struecker	Society and conservation	UN
Pankaj Srivastava	Research and Academia	GITAM (Deemed to be University)
Delia Dean	Business	The World Bank Group
Naomi Young	Membership organisation	UNEP WCMC
Kessara Jitniyom	Business	Ingredion Thailand

Appendices

[Link to video recording](#)

[Thailand Roundtable Recording](#)

[Link to slides](#)

[Thailand Roundtable Slide Deck](#)

Invitation mail (Mailchimp and mail)

- [Mailchimp invitation](#) sent on November 16th 2021 to 2,116 recipients
- E-mail to participants of the kick-off dialogue that launched TEEBAgriFood for Business in Thailand

Dear partner,

In March 2021, you participated in the kick-off dialogue that launches the Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity project for Business in Thailand.

We are delighted to invite you for the **roundtable consultation Thailand** of *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Business project* a **United Nations Environment Programme led by Capitals Coalition**. The event is co-organized with support from UNDP and the Sustainable Rice Platform. It will take place on **25 November from 14:00 to 17:30 Bangkok time in Thai and English with simultaneous interpretation**. More information is on the invitation and concept note attached. You can register here and feel free to share this invitation with your colleagues and network.

A high-level panel will open the event to set the scene of the food system transformation and possible business actions.

It will be followed by the presentation and consultation on the draft TEEBAgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business an international guidance for agri-food companies to include nature and people in their decision-making better. The event is a precursor of the Thai training program for business.

Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday,

The TEEBAgriFood for Business team

Promoting a sustainable agriculture & food sector

Invitation to join
**Online Roundtable
Thailand**
TEEBAgriFood Operational
Guidelines for Business

25 November 2021 14:00 - 17:30 (UTC+7)



In partnership with UNEP TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity) and with support from the European Union, the Capitals Coalition and ERM are delighted to invite you to attend our **Thailand online roundtable** to explore the [TEEBAgriFood Operational Guidelines for Business](#).

The Guidelines are built on a synthesis of the latest cutting-edge science to be applied by agri-food businesses worldwide. The Guidelines help shape practices, guide investments and inform decisions that transform our food systems by providing businesses with the tools they need to measure and value their impacts and dependencies on nature, people, society and the economy.

The TEEBAgriFood project for business happens in seven countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand. You can discover more about the project [here](#) and the [business's pilot applications](#).

During this virtual event, the draft version of these Guidelines will be presented to a wide range of stakeholders. Participants will have the opportunity to learn, provide comments and input into the development process. The roundtable will be held on the 25th November afternoon and include a multi-disciplinary high-level panel discussion.

Agenda

14:00 – 17:30

- Welcome & introduction
- Panel on food system transformation and business actions
- Introduction to the Guidelines
- Presentation of Frame and Scope stage and feedback session
- Presentation of Measure, Value and Apply and feedback session
- Training sessions announcement and closing

[Register here](#)

[Sign up here](#) to receive updates about the project.

Organizers



With support
from



- Targeted invitation to Charoen Pokphand Group

04th November 2021
The Hague

To: Mr. Boonchai Opas-Iam Likit, Chairman of U.S. Business Charoen Pokphand Group

Subject: Invitation to participate in a panel discussion on Food System Transformation on the 25th November

Dear Mr. Boonchai,

We are delighted to invite you - or one of your team members - to be a speaker on our upcoming event: **“Panel discussion on Food system transformation during the roundtable consultation on Operational Guidelines for Business”** as part of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood) project. [Registration link](#)

The event will take place online on the **25th of November**, from **14:00 to 17:30** Bangkok time. It is part of [TEEBAgriFood program](#) led by UN Environment and implemented by [Capitals Coalition](#) - a global collaboration redefining value - in partnership with ERM, Sustainable Rice Platform, and UNDP.

We would be grateful if Charoen Pokphand Group could actively participate in the **panel discussion from 14:20 to 15:00**, moderated by **UNDP** and with speakers from the **Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives** and **Sustainable Rice Platform**. More information on the event, the agenda, and the framing of the discussion are in the concept note attached.

Could you please confirm your interest and indicate who would be available to participate as a panelist for the 16th November? Please, send your reaction to Louise Amand (louise.amand@capitalscoalition.org) who is managing this session.

Thank you for your attention, and we remain available if you have questions.

With kinds regards,



Martin Lok
Executive Director Capitals Coalition
martin.lok@capitalscoalition.org