

## Agri-Finance CoP Meeting

### Climate Smart Agricultural Finance

The SME Finance Forum has created a Community of Practice, which convenes a group of AgriFinance experts and practitioners from member and non-member institutions to discuss and document recent innovations. This CoP on AgriFinance has a main objective of promoting learning and sharing of good practice examples that help members improve their offering to Agri-SMEs. The CoP organizes deep-dive workshops regularly covering different aspects SME finance in the agricultural field.

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The upcoming CoP Meeting will be held on **April 20th, 2022** at **8 a.m. EDT**, will cover the theme of "**Climate Smart Agricultural Finance**".

Recognizing the importance of climate risks in agriculture and the role of agriculture in total emissions, members of the CoP for Agricultural Finance expressed interest in focusing the April 2022 CoP meeting on the topic of financing climate smart agriculture.

Climate change and climate risks are the main reason for the perceived high risks in agricultural finance. Climate smart agriculture provides ways to improve productivity while at the same time making agriculture more resilient to climatic risks and less polluting. This also reduces the riskiness of clients in the agricultural sector that invest in such technologies. Climate risk mitigation and adaptation are becoming key focus areas for financial institutions, particularly when it comes to lending to agriculture, a sector that is vulnerable to climatic risks. Climate smart agriculture, improve risk management but also provides new opportunities for financial institutions to expand their lending into a new area.

The CoP meeting in April will start by presenting the case for climate smart agriculture finance. Following this introduction, a panel of two to three members will discuss their experiences in promoting climate smart agricultural finance focusing on both challenges and achievements. After the panel, a moderated discussion amongst CoP members will follow.

#### CoP Chair



**Panos Varangis** is currently the Head, Agricultural Finance, Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation, Global Practice at the World Bank Group. Prior to that Panos led IFC's work in advising financial institutions to provide financial services to SMEs, agribusinesses, and farmers. Before joining IFC, Panos served as the Deputy CEO of the Agricultural Bank of Greece (2004-2009). From 1987 to 2004, he worked at the World Bank in various positions at the International Commodities Division, the International Trade Division, the Bank's Research Department, and finally at the Agricultural and Rural Development Department where he oversaw a global program on commodity risk management. Panos holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in New York.

## Speakers

**Juliana Lopes, FIG CSA Climate Finance Team, IFC**

## Moderator



**Toshiaki Ono** is a senior financial sector specialist at the World Bank where he supports various lending projects and analytical work to promote access to finance in the agriculture sector mainly in Africa and Asia & Pacific. Prior to joining the World Bank, Toshiaki held several positions at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) where he worked for agriculture finance and agribusiness development projects in South Asia and Africa. He also has practical experience in debt financing and investment banking through his earlier work at the Development Bank of Japan and Nomura. Mr. Ono holds an MBA from Columbia University in New York.

Registration is open for members on [Member's portal](#).

If interested in participating, please send an email to [Carina Carrasco](#).

## Agenda

**Date:** April 20, 2022

**Time:** 8:00AM-09:30AM EDT (Estimated Duration: 1h 30m)

**Topic:** *Climate Smart Agricultural Finance*

No.	Item	Time (AM)
1	<b>Welcome and Opening remarks</b> <i>By Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum</i>	8:00 - 8:05
3	<b>Introducing the case for financing Climate Smart Agriculture</b> <i>By Juliana Lopes, FIG CSA Climate Finance Team, IFC</i>	8:05 - 8:15
4	<b>Panel of two to three CoP members discussing their experiences</b> <i>Hosted by Quyen Nguyen and Panos Varangis, FIG CSA Climate Finance Team, IFC</i>	8:15 - 8:35
3	<b>Moderated discussion on CSA finance</b> <i>By Toshiaki Ono, Senior Financial Sector Specialist in the Finance, Competitiveness &amp; Innovation Global Practice at the World Bank Group.</i>	8:35 - 9:10
6	<b>Closing remarks</b> <i>By Hourn Thy</i>	9:10 - 9:15