Pakistan is the global host for World Environment Day 2021. This year’s theme is “Ecosystem Restoration”. Sustainable Development Policy Institute is supporting Government of Pakistan in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

**OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Since the emergence of COVID-19, SDPI knowing its role as a think tank is helping government with evidence-based research, capacity building and policy advice. In case you missed what SDPI is doing on this front, visit us at [here](#).

**OUR PUBLICATIONS**

**SCOPING STUDY OF CENTRAL DATA FACILITY FOR FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN SUSTAINABILITY RANA JUNAID ZAHID**

The overall impact of COVID-19 on food security and agricultural food systems was not known in the initial phases of COVID-19. However, during the last five months of unfolding of the diseases in Pakistan, COVID-19’s effect on lives and livelihoods, more so for the poor, is gradually turning economic access to food for masses difficult. According to World Bank Group, South Asian countries may face food security challenges both in terms of supply and demand if not properly managed especially for marginalized sections in the society. Pakistan is no exception to it. Already it is understood that food insecurity as per National Nutrition Survey 2018 is 36% – almost matching the poverty numbers (39%). These numbers are now set to deteriorate given current circumstances. Read more [here](#).

**DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE AND CREATIVE ECONOMIES: CREATIVE AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN PAKISTAN AHAD NAZIR**

The British Council is the United Kingdom’s international organisation for enhancing cultural relations and offering educational opportunities. Developing Inclusive and Creative Economies (DICE) is a British Council global pilot programme (2018-2020), which takes a holistic approach to imagining and building an economy that is equally accessible to all. DICE is delivered with and for women, youth, people disabled by society, and other groups that are excluded from the mainstream economy. The programme is co-designed by a global team and growing network in Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, South Africa, and the UK. DICE is founded on the hypothesis that supporting the development of creative and social enterprise is an effective way to address the issues of unemployment and unequal economic growth and build more inclusive societies. Read more [here](#).
OUR OPINION PIECES

COVID LESSONS FROM INDIA BY DR ABID QAIYUM SULERI
The silver lining amidst this crisis is the volunteerism of the Indian civil society. Many citizen groups are trying to fill the void left by the government. They are organizing the supply of oxygen cylinders and circulating information about the availability of bed, ventilator and other essential supplies. Read more here.

PTI’s GREAT INFLATION CHALLENGE BY DR VAQAR AHMED
While trade with India could not be mobilized due to political milieu in the region, it will be appropriate to explore deeper trade cooperation in both energy, food and other consumer items with Iran. This could stabilize both prices and supplies of food and oil in southern provinces of Pakistan. Read more here.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY AND TAX EVASION BY WASIF NAQVI
According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, cigarette production increased at an unprecedented rate during Covid-19. Immediately after the budget was announced, the industry started forestalling and produced 21.4 billion sticks during July-Nov 2020, an increase of 3.5 billion sticks compared to the same period in 2019. The growth compared to the previous year was 76 percent in July, 22 percent in August and 18 percent in November. Read more here.

PAK-SAUDI ECONOMIC TIES AND VISION 2030 BY SHAKEEL AHMED RAMAY
Pakistan should work to get maximum jobs for its nationals in Saudi Arabia under the Vision 2030 by building a strong base of skilled labour force. Unskilled labour will have very limited opportunities in the new economy of Saudi Arabia. Pakistan can also join hands to improve the human and social capital of Saudi Arabia through the provision of quality educationists and medical staff. Read more here.

SOCIAL COHESION TO COUNTER TERRORISM, VIOLENT EXTREMISM SANA MALIK
Pakistan needs programmes to address the underlying violence in communities by moving beyond the labelling of youths as victims or perpetrators of violence to engage them in peace-building efforts, giving them ownership of their efforts, and providing them opportunities to encourage the use of music, sport, media and IT for peace projects that promote tolerance, conflict resolution, reconciliation and interfaith harmony. Read more here.

70-AND STILL GOING STRONG SHAKEEL AHMAD RAMEY
The new strategic interests of its Western friends revolve around containing China. They need allies who can help them achieve this goal, and India is willing to do the job. Read more here.

YOUTH AS NATIONAL DIVIDED ALI REHMAT SHIMSALI
The ILO estimates that the unemployment rate for 2020-21 will remain at 9.56 percent. To improve labor force participation rates, an additional 1.3 million jobs must be generated each year for the next five years. Read more here.
OUR WEBINARS

Since the emergence of pandemic COVID-19, SDPI started webinar series for awareness, capacity building and policy advice. Since March 2020, SDPI has organized more than 100 webinars. Below are some of the webinars conducted during the month of May 2021.

Complete video discussion is available at our Facebook page.

Complete video discussion is available at our Facebook page.

Key takeaways by the eminent experts can be found at our Twitter.

Key message and deliberation of panelists are available at our LinkedIn page.
Watch complete video [here](#).

Webinar’s complete video can be watched at our [Facebook](#).

Key takeaways of the webinar can be read at our [Twitter](#).
Watch complete discussion of the Launch at our Facebook

OUR CAMPAIGN ON #NoMoreSmoking

"15% of males deaths and 1% of female deaths are related to tobacco use and exposure. Around 110,000 people die annually from tobacco-related diseases in Pakistan."

SOURCE: THE UNION

"Moving from three-tiered tobacco taxation to two tiers reduced tobacco tax evasion - why would we go back to three tiers and allow tax evasion by the TI? Is FBR really planning to go back to three tiers again?"

#NoMoreSmoking
OUR CAMPAIGN ON “NO ONE IS SAFE UNLESS EVERYONE IS SAFE”

SDPI has launched a campaign for the awareness around COVID-19. It covers, but not limited to, myths and misconceptions around COVID-19 vaccine, challenges of vaccination, life after COVID19 etc. To know more about campaign in upcoming days watch this space.

SDPI IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Executive Director SDPI Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri appeared on Dawn News about IMF and at GTV News about Food Hoarding and Budget 2021. He also appeared at HUM News about Negotiating Economic Policy, at Neo News about Economic Growth and 92 News about GDP Recovery and Express News about Green Bond.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TELEVISION (SDTV) SHOWS

SDPI’s SDTV produces Vlogs, documentaries and talk shows. Please click on the images given below to watch video of your interest. Also suscribe us at our YouTube channel.
A webinar on ‘Ensuring Food Security Amid Covid-19 Through Ecosystem Restoration’

EXPERTS SUGGEST URGENT REFORMS IN CURRENT PENSION SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRY
خطرے کی گھتائی، مجموعی تنخواہ اور پنشنز بلز کے ذریعے کی حکومتی امدادی سپس تجاوز کر سکتےہیں

Speakers call for reforms in current pension system of the country

Experts suggest urgent pension reforms

Pension reforms at federal, provincial levels stressed

Reform of Pensions: Lessons from Successful Examples in Pakistan

Salary, pension bills to exceed total revenue within seven years

بڑھ سے تیزی بجٹ کا پنشن

No Attention Paid To Agricultural Sector Of Country After 1960: PM

Government commits to the development of the agricultural sector on priority: PM
COVID-19 Indicates Importance of Addressing Climate Change Threats: Amin

Development of agricultural sector Govt’s top priority: PM

Govt committed to development of agriculture sector on priority: PM

COVID-19 signifies importance of dealing with threats posed by Climate Change: Amin

COViD-19 Stimulates Pakistan To Face Threats Upright; Malik Amin Aslam

Telecom sector proposes abolishment of WHT

Agriculture is among top govt priorities, says PM

Govt committed to development of agriculture sector on priority: PM

All-out steps to be taken to develop agricultural sector: PM

Govt sharpens focus on agri sector

Agriculture is a Priority of Present Govt: PM

Govt seeks roadmap for agri development

Govt plans to have constant monitoring system on tobacco consumption: Nausheen Hamid
Tobacco taxation, related health issues need monitoring systems

Tax evasion in tobacco industry results a loss of billions of rupees to the national economy

**DR HAMID SAYS CONSTANT MONITORING SYSTEM ON TOBACCO CONSUMPTION IS ON THE CARD**

Dr Hamid says constant monitoring system on tobacco consumption is on the card

Tobacco lobby demands tax relaxations in the name of illicit trade – Research Study

Tobacco industry seeks tax relaxations in the name of illicit trade’: SDPI

Tobacco lobby demands tax relaxations in the name of illicit trade: study

Indiscriminate implementation of laws against tobacco products demanded

Cigarette output figures being fudged to evade tax: SDPI

Experts suggest immediate steps to ensure transition to clean energy in Pakistan

Experts Suggest Immediate Steps to Ensure Transition to Clean Energy in Pakistan

Leading Pakistan economists doubtful over country’s 3.94 pc GDP rate

Interview: Rashakai SEZ under CPEC to boost Pakistan’s economy amid financial challenges, says Pakistani expert

Ways to benefit economy discussed at KU webinar

Pakistan fares poorly with food security

Minister terms food security as apex priority

*Follow our social media for more updates*