Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Opportunities for Cotton Supply Chains

The fact that raw cotton and textiles make up nearly 60% of the exports of Pakistan, provide employment to more than 30% of the total labour force and contribute around 9% to the GDP of Pakistan makes this sector extremely relevant not only to economic development, but also to human and social development of the country. Previous years have brought a number of climate catastrophes for Pakistan, which has severely impacted the production of cotton and associated industries and resulted in the loss of revenue as well as increased food and income insecurity.

Economic relevance of the cotton crop is not only high in case of Pakistan, but for other developing countries/regions, such as India, Bangladesh and Africa as well. While climate change poses a significant threat to the cotton sector in almost all of these regions, there arises an opportunity for mutual understanding of threats for tackling climate risks at the regional level. Sharing of lessons learnt would not only help in promoting a climate-resilient cotton market system in cotton producing developing countries, but would also encourage inter as well as intra-regional collaboration and peace.

In this context, the panel will centre on the following questions:
1. How is cotton supply chain impacted by climate change (production and livelihood perspective)?
2. What are the adaptation needs of the cotton sector (farmers, textile producers, textile and cotton traders, etc.)? What kind of adaptation strategies are currently practiced to adapt against climate change?
3. What are the adaptation options for business and private sector investment opportunities in responding to climate change?
4. What kind of policies can help support the actors of cotton markets in times of crises and in strengthening climate-resilient business models?
5. How can countries/regions collaborate to address climate change and what opportunities are there for inter and intra-regional collaboration on climate-resilient cotton production?

Abstracts from African and Asian countries, with a focus on semi-arid regions, are highly encouraged.

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