

Green Transition in South Asia

More than two decades of sustained economic growth across most of South Asia have raised living standards and brought about significant poverty reduction. However, the region is facing severe and rising environmental pollution, with major adverse impacts on health and productivity, and on livelihood opportunities for the poor (World Bank 2023).

South Asia is also very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with some countries being among those most affected by increasing climate change-induced weather shocks worldwide (Ibid.). This too has grave implications for growth and poverty alleviation. Poor households and the small, informal firms (including agriculture) in which they tend to work are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and pollution. The poor may be affected disproportionately more than the rest and may also be less likely to benefit from the green jobs without well-designed and targeted support (Ibid.). There is a need for concerted policy action to arrest these challenges.

Against this backdrop, the session invites papers addressing one of the following (or related) questions:

- What are the health and productivity impacts of pollution and climate-change-induced rise in temperatures and extreme weather events?
- Are poor and socioeconomically deprived segments of the population more vulnerable to these impacts and why?
- How can households and firms adapt to climate change and protect themselves from pollution?
- What factors constrain households and firms from adopting green technologies and adapting to climate change?
- What type of public policies and interventions can help accelerate green technology adoption and adaptation to climate change?

In addition to contributed papers, this session will feature a presentation of the World Bank's upcoming South Asia Economic Focus, Fall 2023 issue.

Reference

World Bank 2023, 'The 12th South Asia Economic Policy Network Conference on Green Growth in South Asia, Dhaka, Bangladesh, October,' Call for Papers, <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2023/10/30/the-12th-south-asia-economic-policy-network-conference-on-green-growth-in-south-asia>>.

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