

Advancing Sustainable Agriculture: Innovations, Collaborations and Community Impact

Plenary

Agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy, providing livelihoods for millions of people while ensuring food security for the nation. As the world faces increasing pressures from climate change, resource scarcity, and population growth, sustainable agricultural practices have become imperative. The challenge of feeding a growing population while protecting natural resources is at the heart of global agricultural discussions. This calls for innovative approaches, increased collaborations between the public and private sectors, and a focus on empowering farming communities.

Sustainable agriculture is no longer an abstract concept—it represents a shift toward farming methods that nurture the environment, strengthen rural economies, and ensure long-term food security. Innovations in technology, from precision farming to climate-smart agriculture, are reshaping the future of food production, offering scalable solutions to some of the most pressing challenges in the sector. Moreover, integration of Public-Private Partnerships is crucial in accelerating the adoption of these practices, pooling resources, knowledge, and expertise to drive sustainable change.

This plenary will explore how Pakistan can position itself as a leader in sustainable agriculture, focusing on key areas such as:

- **Innovative agricultural practices:** Examining how technologies like precision agriculture, regenerative farming, and smart irrigation are enhancing crop yields and resilience.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Highlighting the importance of collaboration among government, the private sector, and NGOs to advance sustainable farming initiatives that benefit all stakeholders.
- **Empowering farming communities:** Discussing how sustainable agriculture can improve farmers' livelihoods through knowledge transfer, capacity building, and better access to resources.
- **Challenges and opportunities for Pakistan:** Identifying key barriers to adopting sustainable practices and the role of policy, financing, and infrastructure in addressing these challenges as well as growth opportunities, particularly in regions where agriculture plays a vital economic role.
- **Local, regional and global collaborations:** Exploring partnerships Pakistan can develop to foster a thriving, sustainable agricultural sector and how international cooperation can drive innovation and address global food security challenges.

By focusing on these key areas, the speakers will provide insights into how Pakistan's agricultural sector will not only become more sustainable but also more resilient in the face of global challenges through a holistic approach, where innovation, collaboration, and community impact are interlinked to ensure that agriculture remains a source of prosperity for future generations.

Plenary Organisers

Ms Zainab Naeem, Associate Research Fellow, Sustainable Policy Research Institute, Islamabad
Email: zainabnaeem@sdpi.org

Mr Basit Pirzada, Head of Public Policy, Government Affairs & Sustainability, PepsiCo
Email: basit.pirzada@pepsico.com