

NEWS LETTER

Edition 42

5 June 2022



The price of crude oil today stands at \$105+/barrel due to rising demand caused by the disruption in the natural gas supply from Russia, signaling a stressful economic time ahead for the global south.

Editor in Chief: Dr. Ejaz Sandhu

Editor: Aiman Adnan

Designer: Samra Naz

Highlights

- From the Desk of Chairman

Focus Areas

- Research and Consultancy Wing
- Education and Learning Wing
- Think Tank Wing
- Knowledge Management Wing



Shahid Javed Burki

Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

The War in Ukraine; Pakistan needs to watch with a keen eye

Those who study wars and write about them invariably reach one conclusion: the assumptions made by those who start the conflicts are seldom fulfilled. The latest example of this truism is the war Russia began by invading Ukraine on February 24. The Russians assumed

and the world accepted their belief that what they were launching will be a short war; that Ukraine would fall within a matter of days; that Moscow would be able to put in place in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, a puppet regime that would take its orders from Moscow; and that Russia would regain some of what it had lost in 1991 when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics fell and a dozen or so countries that were once its became independent. Ukraine was one of them.

Ukraine had a great deal in common with Russia; like the Russians, most Ukrainians were ethnic Slavs who also subscribed to the Eastern Orthodox Church; a good proportion of its citizens spoke Russian. By sending in a large contingent of its troops to invade Ukraine within a few days – perhaps even less than a week – Vladimir Putin would declare victory. The Russian president who had been in that position for more than two decades would walk back history when Russia was a great power; one of the two along with the United States. I write this on May 14, 2022, 79 days after Moscow sent in its troops. The Ukraine adventure, instead of making Russia stronger, has weakened it. Today's news is that the state of Finland to Russia's northwest has decided to join the NATO alliance. Sweden, Finland's neighbor, is likely to follow it into NATO. The Russian response to these moves was – as should have been expected – hostile. It is not clear whether Moscow would retaliate by the use of force.

The American reaction to the Ukraine invasion has taken several forms. Among the more effective is the sharing of information gathered by Washington's vast network of intelligence agencies and agents. President Biden's White House took the decision to make public what it had gathered about the massing of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine. This was done for two reasons. One

was to deter Moscow from making the move into Ukraine; the other to give the Ukrainians the time to prepare themselves for the invasion if it came. The invasion came and the Ukrainians surprised Moscow by mounting a stiff response to the invasion.

While this information was provided openly and served its purpose, there were two others that President Biden was extremely unhappy when it was leaked to the Press. One was about the exact location of the Russian warship Moskva in the Black Sea and the other the exact location of several senior Russian commanders who were directing the Russian effort. The Ukrainians were able to effectively use the two sets of intelligence. They fired two missiles which destroyed the ship and used drones to kill dozens of senior Russian officers.

Thomas L. Friedman, a senior columnist for *The New York Times*, worried about the American involvement. On May 7, he wrote: "Vladimir Putin surely has no illusions about how much the U.S. and NATO are arming Ukraine with material and intelligence, but when American officials, start to brag about playing a role in killing Russian generals and sinking the Russian flagship, killing many sailors, we could be creating an opening for Putin to respond in ways that could dangerously widen this conflict and drag in the U.S. deeper than it wants to be." Continued Friedman: "But we are dealing with some incredible unstable elements, particularly politically wounded Putin. Boasting about killing his generals and sinking his ships or falling in love with Ukraine in ways that will get us enmeshed there forever, is the height of folly." Ukraine is not all that far from Pakistan, and we need to watch developments there with a keen eye.



Shahid Najam
Vice Chairman

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

The Planning System in Pakistan

Pakistan on independence inherited very weak economic foundations. The leadership at the time was fully cognizant of the enormity of the problems especially lack of industrial base, hydro-electric power and infrastructure and absence of the financial and planning institutions.

The Government in 1948 established two institutions i.e., a Development Board and a Planning Advisory Board. The former was tasked to "update" projects planned immediately preceding partition by the Department of Planning and Development of the Government of British India. The Board confined itself to formulating the projects in isolation. In 1950, under the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia, the Board did make an attempt to develop a larger plan and produced a compendium of hoc projects. In 1951 the Development Board and the Planning Advisory Board were merged to create a planning entity which proved an unsuccessful experience. An Economic Appraisal Committee established in 1952 advised the need for an efficient planning Organization which led to the creation of a Planning Board in 1953 to embark on a five-year development plan.

The Ford Foundation in February 1954 and

Harvard University's Graduate School of Public Administration were also engaged to provide economic advisers to assist and train Pakistani economic planners and guide country's economic transformation away from feudalistic base to a modern technological axis. The efforts to institutionalize planning ultimately culminated in setting up of the Planning Commission in 1959. The first 5 years Plan 1955-60 had, however, already been formulated in 1955. The Second Five-Year Plan (1960-65) was based on mix of private enterprise-social responsibility model and was hailed and adopted by many other countries including South Korea. Ever since, the country has formulated 12 five-years plans including the current 2018-2023 plan and has even articulated Vision 2025, in 2007.

These development plans have, however, failed to yield tangible results. The country continues to face gigantic economic challenges and has been lethargic in responding to the opportunities unveiled by globalization to become part of regional value chains or global production network. More than 39% of people are afflicted by poverty; our ranking on Human Development Index (2021) is 154 out of 189 countries; 152 out of 153 countries as regards economic participation and opportunity; 149 out of 153 countries on health and survival; and 144 out of 153 countries on educational attainment.

The causes of failure of these plans to yield tangible results are multiple and include: fragmentation of the planning, institutional and policy processes; lack of sectoral priorities and skills-competence and expertise mix; dearth of accurate data and evidence based planning analysis; unresponsiveness to the people's felt needs especially the poor; emphasis on growth without heed to the occupational structure and huge backlog of unemployment and labor productivity; neglect of climate change impact on the economy;

skewed fiscal system and phenomenal growth of black money; and inefficiency of the public sector enterprises.

Above all, the potential for technology, agriculture and SME sectors has not been fully harnessed to boost the economy, generate wealth, create employment and augment the income level of the poor. The emphasis has been on capital intensive urban industrial base to the neglect of rural-agro-based industrial growth. CPEC offers a massive opportunity to spur technology transfer and integrate Pakistan economy with regional value chains. This, a priori, entails a shift in the planning rationality from planning by a "bureaucratic-political elite" to planning by an amalgam of techno-professional and people centered political process with climate smart agriculture, SMEs and technology as the driving engine for sustainable development.



Tariq Hussain
Member, Board of Directors
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Climate Change and Public Policy

The recent (April 4, 2022) United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report gives an unambiguous message to the world: -

"The Earth is on track to warm by an average of 3.2 °C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century. Altering that course to limit global

warming to under 2.00 °C would require that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions should peak no later than 2025".

National and corporate pledges to reduce GHG emissions to date add up to a "***litany of broken promises***", said the United Nations Secretary General at the News Conference releasing the Report. But the grim warning by IPCC should wake us up. The effort level by humanity can be increased because the tools needed to do better are available at this time.

The tools and strategies that governments, corporations, and individuals can use to cut GHG emissions are "***known science***".

Planned and coordinated actions in critical sectors—transportation, energy, urban development, agriculture and forestry—can halve GHG emissions by 2030.

For example, in the transportation sector--which contributed 15 % to global GHG emissions in 2019 ---the accelerated introduction of electric vehicles can reduce GHG emissions significantly provided the electricity is produced by low or zero emission carbon electricity sources. For aviation and shipping reduced GHG emissions can be produced by greater use of hydrogen and biofuels.

In Urban areas --which contributed 70 % of global GHG emissions in 2020—buildings in established areas can be retrofitted with systems to capture carbon and repurpose it to produce cleaner urban areas. New urban areas could use energy efficient infrastructure and use methods and materials that use low or zero carbon emissions.

Energy production can utilize solar, wind, ocean, safe-nuclear sources to produce electricity in all sectors. Conservation of energy and energy efficient technology (for

lighting, heating, washing,) can significantly reduce GHG emissions.

Agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors –which contributed 22 % of global GHG emissions in 2020—can expand the use of agroforestry in cropping, increasing forestation, and decreasing deforestation. Use of agroforestry in field crop production can both decrease GHG emissions and increase land and water productivity. So, it will be win-win for both the environment and the farmer.

The Report also has some recommendations about the effect of lifestyle changes on GHG emissions. These changes include shifting towards plant-based diets, more walking and conservation. All of these are a win-win scenario. But humans need incentives. So, government policies which facilitate adoption of these win-win practices would make both the environment and the humans healthier.

Improved carbon capture technology, low emission material and methods, and lower cost renewable energy would require research.

All of this is exciting. It can be done. What is needed is action by all of us—governments, corporations and individuals.

Not doing all or most of it would mean that our grand -grand kids will not have a habitable place to live in.



Dr. Muhammad Ejaz Sandhu
Director Operations, Education and Learning

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Economic Impact of Health Monitoring of Rail System in Pakistan

Pakistan is a developing country and trying to sustain the economic crises with possible ways of generating revenue through business and trade. Pakistan's geo-strategic importance can be best understood from regional and global perspectives. In geographical terms, it is surrounded by four countries: Afghanistan, Iran, India, and China, each of which is a major player in driving the world economy. Thus, this strategic importance has led us to act as a bridge for the flow of the economy and the opportunity of concept is to develop a global village to boost the economy and the communities. In this regard numerous initiatives took place and are evident of showing how rail is becoming the part to bring benefit for Pakistan and the people of Pakistan. China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and trilateral container train service to connect Pakistan with Iran and Turkey are few examples of these initiatives. The literature reveals the possibilities of the solution for health monitoring for rail tracks and rail cars. But the existence and feasibility of such a solution are mostly for rail infrastructure laid in European countries. But from the feasibility perspective it is required to calculate the

gravity of the problem such as dilapidated track section(s), loose coupling, poor ballast conditions, and compromised conditions of rail's suspension system.

This deals with the National relevance by supporting the national institute Pakistan Railway for bringing automation for maintaining a sustainable service. It also covers the following SDGs for Pakistan.

Sustainable cities and communities (SDG-11): The proposed solution will be a value addition for human wellbeing by providing the safe travel for all and by ensuring safety (SDG-11.2). With reporting of faults, it will be possible to mitigate the disaster situations by reducing the accidents and thus will help to gain the risk reduction. Also, this solution will benefit PR for bringing work efficiency and efficient resource utilization (SDG-11. B).

Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG-9): This development will provide the national institute an asset toward bringing more sustainable transport services (SDG-9.1). Through this indigenous effort, we support domestic technology development for our local problems to bring the benefit of being cost-effective and customization. This will be beneficial and will be a value addition by ensuring safety (SDG-9.2).

Decent work and economic growth (SDG-8): Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high-value-added and labor-intensive sectors (SDG-8.2).

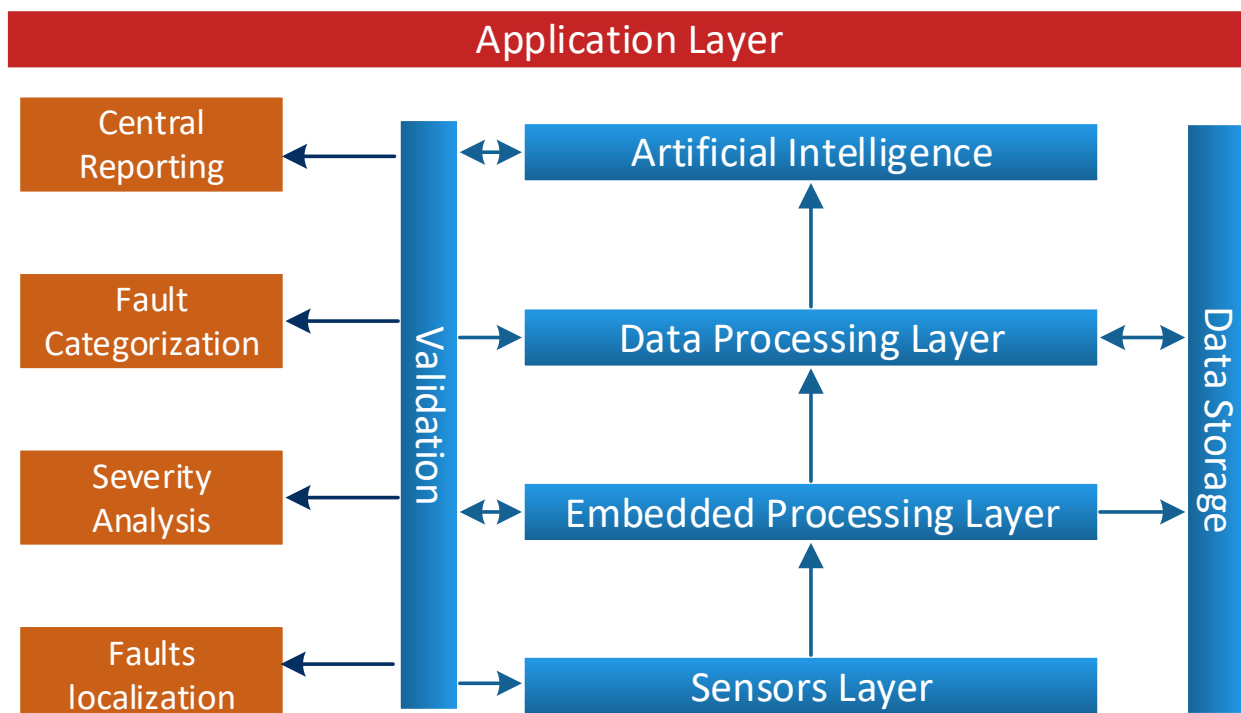


Figure1: Proposed Architecture



Atr un Nisa
Senior Research Fellow
 The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
 of Public Policy at NetSol

Pakistan's Economic Update (April 2022)

Pakistan's economy is on the growth trajectory confronting risks of inflation and external sectors pressures. In the real sector, during Jul-Mar FY2022, the agriculture credit disbursement increased by 0.5 percent to Rs 958.3 billion compared to Rs 953.7 billion same period last year. The production of all major Kharif crops increased compared to last year's production: Cotton increased 17.7 percent to 8.3 million bales from 7.1 million bales, Rice increased by 10.7 percent to 9.3 million tonnes from 8.4 million tonnes, Sugarcane increased by 9.6 percent to 88.8 million tonnes from 81.0 million tonnes and Maize increased by 8.6 percent to 9.7 million tonnes from 8.9 million tonnes which will jack up agriculture growth for FY2022. For Rabi season 2021-22, wheat production is estimated 26.8 million tonnes showing decrease in production by 2.5 percent over the last year (27.5 million tonnes).

During Jul-Feb FY2022, LSM (Large Scale Manufacturing) witnessed the growth of 7.8 percent against the growth of 2.2 percent same period last year. The outstanding performance in sub-sectors of LSM has been observed especially in Furniture, Wood Products, Sports, Automobile, Tobacco, and Wearing Apparel. On YoY basis, LSM growth clocked at 8.6 percent in February 2022 against 4.5 percent in the same month last year. During the period under review, 17 out of

22 subsectors of LSM have witnessed positive growth.

CPI inflation was recorded at 10.8 percent during Jul-Mar compared to 8.3 percent in the same period of last year. CPI for the March 2022 recorded at 12.7 percent on YoY basis against 9.1 percent in March 2021. The overall spike in CPI is on account of increased in the prices of imported items, as the country is a net importer of items especially crude oil, pulses and edible oil which ultimately transmitted into domestic prices. Upward price movement is further fueled by Russia Ukraine war, supply chain disruption and recovery in global demand.

The fiscal deficit stood at 4.0 percent of GDP during the first nine months of the current fiscal year against 3.0 percent of GDP last year. Similarly, the primary balance posted a deficit of Rs 447.2 billion (-0.7 percent of GDP) as compared to surplus of Rs 451.8 billion (0.8 percent of GDP). During Jul-Mar, FY2022, the total revenues grew by 17.7 percent to Rs 5,874.2 billion against Rs 4,992.6 billion in the same period of FY2021. On the other hand, total expenditure, grew by 27.0 percent to Rs 8439.8 billion during Jul-Mar FY2022, against Rs 6,644.6 billion in the comparable period of last year. Within total expenditures, PSDP spending increased by 58 percent to Rs 1032.7 billion in Jul-Mar FY2022 against Rs 653.9 billion in the same period of last year. While current spending increased by 21.2 percent to reach Rs 7,378.0 billion as compared to Rs 6,085.4 billion last year.

The Current Account posted a deficit of \$ 13.2 billion for Jul-Mar FY2022 as against \$ 275 million last year. The current account deficit widened due to the constantly growing import volume of energy and non-energy commodities, along with a rising trend in the global prices of oil, COVID-19 vaccines, food

and metals. Exports on fob grew by 26.6 percent during Jul-Mar FY2022 and reached \$ 23.7 billion (\$ 18.7 billion last year). Imports on fob grew by 41.3 percent during Jul-Mar FY2022 and reached \$ 53.8 billion (\$ 38.1 billion last year).

Structural policies should be designed to attract more productive investments from foreign sources (Foreign Direct Investments) and from both private and public domestic investors. Strengthening of Pakistan's overall supply side through increasing its productive potential would allow it to produce more for exports and to discourage import. These prospects would relax the external constraint that has historically weighed on Pakistan's economy, and which has caused regular Balance of Payments crises and an accompanying stop-and-go profile in Pakistan's economic growth path.

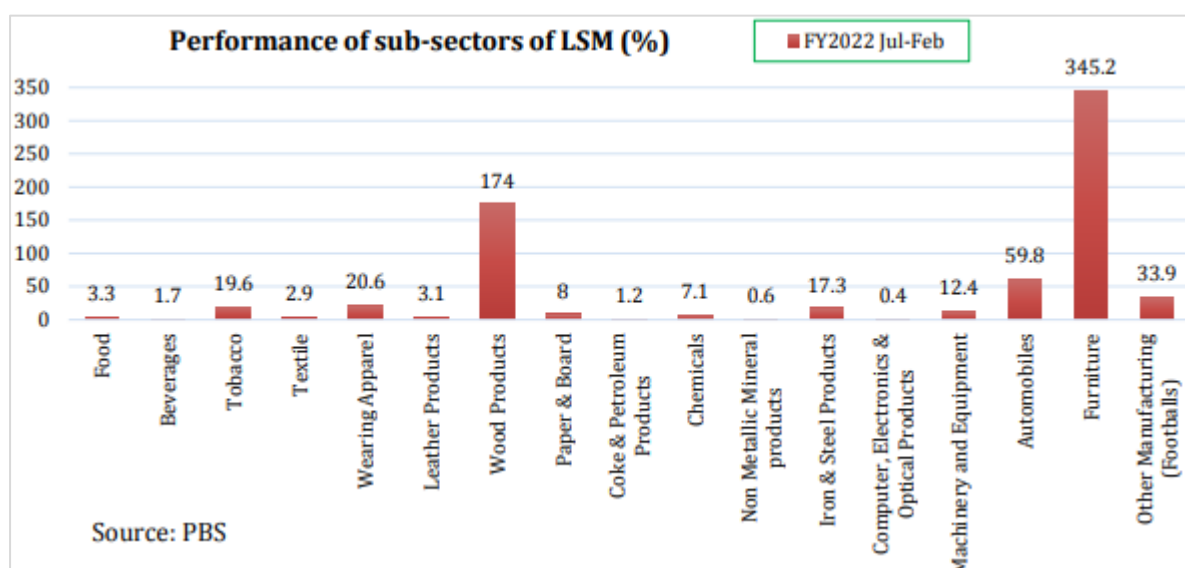


Figure 1

Prices in Pakistan						
Months	Sugar Refined (Rs/Kg)	Cooking Oil Dalda (Rs/5Kg)	Vegetable Ghee Dalda (Rs/Kg)	Wheat Flour (Rs/20Kg)	Petrol (Rs/Litre)	Hi-Speed Diesel (Rs/Litre)
Mar-21	98.1	1500.2	297.5	957.9	112.9	117.1
Mar-22	87.6	2258.2	451.2	1167.4	150.6	144.9
% Change						
Mar-22/Mar-21	-10.7	50.5	51.6	21.9	33.4	23.8

Source: PBS

Table 1



Aiman Adnan
Research Fellow

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

Russo-Ukraine War: Implications for Pakistan

Thinking of the “nervous nineties”, the inflated oil prices in the wake of Russo-Ukraine War comes to the fore. The price of crude oil today stands at \$105+/barrel due to rising demand caused by the disruption in the natural gas supply from Russia,¹ signaling a stressful economic time ahead for the global south.

The war that had started in the early 2022 with Putin's “limited war” vision doesn't seem to be stopping any time soon. Total war it has proven to be. Earlier today, it was reported that Russian forces had entered Svitlodarsk and hung up a Russian flag² while the bodies of more than 200 people have been discovered in the rubble of a high-rise apartment building in the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol.

Given this situation, the on-going World Economic Forum (WEF 2022) has also been dominated by Russo-Ukraine Crisis talks in one way or another. This clearly indicates how significant it is, in the global milieu. However, it is especially of much greater importance for the developing world after for the US and its Western allies. Pakistan in particular, where the current economic situation is grave and requires serious attention to keep it afloat, must be cognizant of the economic consequences of this crisis.

First, it is clear that along with the rising global temperature and a harsh heatwave that has hit Pakistan and India, the agriculture has come

under pressure. Pakistan's wheat production has to be augmented by importing the same crop. India faces the same problem of wheat shortage due to the same reason. To manage its wheat demand, Pakistan imported wheat from Ukraine (breadbasket of the Europe) and Russia. However, this time it is not going to be the case as Russia has stopped its wheat export and Ukraine is embroiled in its own war. Pakistan imported \$496M wheat from Ukraine between 2019 -2020.³ Pakistan will either face a serious wheat deficit or would have to import it at higher global prices prompted by the shortage of supply, globally.

Second, Pakistan must now recalibrate its dependence on hydrocarbon usage. Reliance upon the use of fossil fuels and natural gas is worrisome on two accounts- it is rapidly degrading the environment and also leaving Pakistan without any developed mechanism of recycling the non-renewable energy sources or any arrangement for the large-scale usage of renewable sources in the wake of supply deficit of Russian gas.

Third, Pakistan must be ready for a prolonged period of higher oil prices. They can have a devastating effect on Pakistan's growth prospects especially at this stage. A \$10-20 rise in oil prices for a couple of quarters can conveniently burn \$1-2 billion of the already dwindling reserves along with a colossal loss to Pakistan's purchasing power. To break the fall, Pakistan must arrange for oil credit facility to persevere through this tough period.⁴

¹ <https://tradingeconomics.com/commodity/crude-oil>

² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/live/2022/may/24/russia-ukraine-war-updates-moscow-to-deepen-ties-with-china-lavrov-says-west-pledges-to-send-more-advanced-weapons-to-ukraine-live#block628d16998f08b48a6e74355d>

³ [https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateralproduct/wheat/reporter/ukr#:~:text=The%20main%20destination%20of%20Wheat,and%20Vietnam%20\(%2453.8M\).](https://oec.world/en/profile/bilateralproduct/wheat/reporter/ukr#:~:text=The%20main%20destination%20of%20Wheat,and%20Vietnam%20(%2453.8M).)

⁴ <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2341183/russia-ukraine-conflict-may-jolt-pakistans-economy>



Sana Ahmad
Research Assistant

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

The Covid-19 Crisis

The hallmark of any pandemic is the emphasis on the numbers of people dying. Covid-19 outbreak forced us to confront our deepest fears and anxieties. For example, the elderly, people with preexisting health conditions could succumb to it quickly, employees were let go in millions, health workers were on the frontline, reminding us of the momentary nature of life and how fractured the world truly is. However, it can be deduced that Covid-19 has also helped in awakening humanity.¹

Healthcare, hybrid workstations, food insecurity are soon going to be a priority of the government systems; a clear indication that we are now headed towards a gentler society. In Pakistan, many people joined hands in providing food and shelter to the homeless and the needy. It was seen that where a large number of population was homebound, some people found solace in discovering art and creativity, books and online meetings became a sensation of the pandemic, planting a garden and resorting to take leisure walks, swimming and biking were adopted by people equally. Inner reflection has become a powerful tool in helping people become mindful of their surroundings and each passing moment.

People have emerged as responsible beings from the pandemic and quarantining. They have acknowledged the Earth's survival

counting on consuming less and connecting with it more. Coincidentally people have been provided with time to find a balance between their work and personal life. Where they were more oriented towards hard work and materialism, now they also give importance to fulfilment in their life.

A window has been opened through the outbreak of Covid that is conducive to the challenging times that humanity today faces. Crises like these have a way of pushing forward harsh truths. Respect for nature is mandatory for humanity's own survival. To meet our basic needs for shelter and food, we need to be self-reliant and invest in sustainable agriculture by tying ourselves down to our communities. The social injustices that came to light during this pandemic have left a lot of questions unanswered. The needs of the people must come before the pursuit of wealth. Basic social services like healthcare must come to countries like Pakistan. We must grow more compassionate and united in our response to the pandemic.

¹ Forrest Rivers, *COVID-19 and Humanity's Spiritual Awakening* (Arizona: Conscious Living Media/Vizia Fiction, 2021), 16.



Mamonah Sattar
Research Assistant

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute
of Public Policy at NetSol

World Food Safety and Pakistan Scenario

Agriculture in Pakistan accounts for 23.13 % of GDP, reported the economic survey of Pakistan (2020), main crops in agriculture sector are about 25.6 % of total crops while contribution of major crops in GDP is about 5.4%. Pakistan's most important crops are wheat sugarcane, cotton and rice which add up to 75% in the agriculture economy. Moreover, Pakistan is also the 4th largest mango producer. However, due to the rising temperatures as a result of climate change, an aggravating water shortage, food, and biodiversity insecurity is visible across Pakistan and India¹. The heat wave has dented wheat crop yields at a time when global supplies are strained due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, forcing South Asian countries to cut-off exports to the global market.

Pakistan had harvested a plentiful crop and produced a record 28.75m tonnes of wheat last year; however, Pakistan government still felt the need to import 2.2m tonnes of grain to meet local requirements and build strategic reserves of 1m tonnes². One must remember that Pakistan stands 5th in the world population.³ Food safety measures are the primary steps to make food safe. Bread is one of the most crucial food items in maintaining world food stability, but it is getting extremely expensive and scarce. Other commodities like milk and cereals when poorly processed and

adulterated to fill the requirement of locals, result in foodborne illnesses e.g., diarrhea, E. Coli, food poisoning.

Food safety estimates cannot be made due to the absence of any monitoring, surveillance, and infection control in Pakistan. Basically, food safety is an approach that ensures that food is safe to eat. Though Pakistan has infamous laws for food safety from the years of 1960s, but these laws remain poorly enforced. The government of Pakistan should at least take measures amid this heat wave and increasing ratio of local consumption to keep food safe, consistent, and edible. World food safety day is celebrated on June 7th; the institutes and ministries associated with ensuring food safety must start taking the state of affairs seriously.

¹ Anadolu Agency, "Rising Temperatures Trigger Water, Food Insecurity in Pakistan, India," DAWN.COM, last modified May 19, 2022, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1690460>.

² "Wheat Production to Hit New Record This Year in Pakistan," Geo.tv: Latest News Breaking Pakistan, World, Live Videos, last modified April 13, 2021, <https://www.geo.tv/latest/345013-wheat-production-to-hit-new-record-in-this-years-harvesting>.

³ accessed May 23, 2022, <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/population-by-country.htm>.



Duaa Ahmed

Research Intern

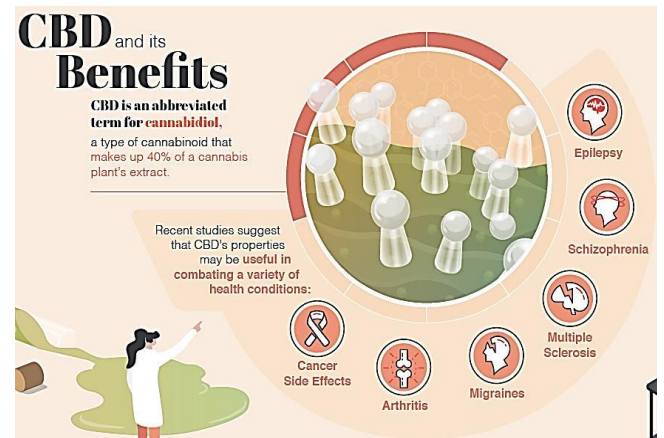
The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

Hemp Cultivation -Towards a Progressive Agricultural

With agriculture roughly contributing 23.13% to Pakistan's GDP¹, the former Minister for Science and Technology, Fawad Chaudhry, announced the Cabinet's approval for Hemp Cultivation in late 2020. This announcement was met with praise and viewed as one of the solutions to combat Pakistan's economic slump. This milestone came shortly after the UN reclassified cannabis usage for medicinal purposes from one of the world's most dangerous drugs. The decision acts as a confluence between medical advancement and strengthening economies around the world. Of the world's largest continental cannabis market - worth \$18.1 billion in North America - Canada's cannabis market is expected to grow at an annual rate of 10 percent over the next five years to \$8.8 billion². Although Pakistan intends to take a more conservative approach with legalization within the industrial sector and healthcare, it is still marketed as a multi-million-dollar industry.

Under the *Industrial Hemp and Cannabis Policy 2021*, Pakistan will be able to reduce its deficits by exporting cannabidiol (CBD) and its other derivatives. The potential of the Cannabis industry, aside from its recreational usage, is vast; hemp byproducts can help with excess demand in textiles, cotton, biofuel, food, and medicine. The former Minister for Science and Technology, Shibli Faraz, stated

that one acre of land could theoretically produce 10 liters of CBD oil. In addition, the flexible plants' seeds produce hemp oil, while its leaves are used for medicinal purposes, and the stems can be repurposed and turned into fiber to replace cotton in the textile industry. With hemp stalk working as a lucrative alternate to cotton, officials stated hemp producers are establishing themselves in Jhelum, Peshawar, Chakwal, and Islamabad; the weather conditions in the Pothohar region are favorable for hemp growth.



Although numerous environmentalists have lobbied for hemp production to promote social housing, many worry monopolizing hemp processing would make it carbon positive. As cannabis is indigenous to the Indian Subcontinent and holds cultural significance in the country's tribal belt³, local farmers are well-versed in the indigenous knowledge of hemp cultivation. The government should capitalize on its human capital by subsidizing and practicing contract farming. An integrated participatory rural development plan would create employment opportunities, boost welfare, and adapt quickly to local conditions. Additionally, emerging local cannabis startups face the first-mover advantage held by existing and established Tobacco Companies.

Junaid Zaman, the CEO of Shamanic Biohacker, expressed his concern regarding the cannabis licensing awarded to "players from the Tobacco Industry." Lastly, the lack of transparency and updates has led many companies that applied for licensing to await approval for the use of industrial Hemp.

In recent years, the Tax, Investment, and Exports nexus has contributed to a lower percentage of the country's GDP. Although Pakistan is at a political precipice and has a dwindling economy, this working policy can assuage some debt burden while supporting an increase in foreign reserves and reassuring patrons of the economy. The domino effect of the Industrial Hemp and Cannabis Policy 2021 would not only aid in sustained economic growth but also in providing support for more progressive policies in the future, impacting the socio-economic state of the country for the better.

¹"Pakistan's GDP Across Sectors"-

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/383256/pakistan-gdp-distribution-across-economic-sectors/>

²"Canadian Statistics on Cannabis Legalization"-

<https://www.bnnbloomberg.ca/cannabis-canada-weekly-market-expected-to-double-by-2027-pot-stocks-up-on-u-s-legalization-hopes-1.1743189#:~:text=Brightfield%20said%20it%20expects%20Canada's,in%20edibles%20and%20vape%20products>

³"History of Cannabis"- <https://csalabs.com/the-early-history-of-cannabis-and-hemp-in-asia/>



Samra Naz
Assistant Manager IT/Knowledge Management

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol

On 12th April 2022, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) and MetaAgri Greater Venture Collective of Pakistan (MGVCP). MGVCP is the corporate face of the group business points which aims to loop, create and monetize a new economic ecosystem for Pakistan to assert its future as a new protein and good food marketplace of Asia. The purpose of MOU is to provide a framework of collaboration between the parties in the areas of mutual interest especially related to Food Security, Agriculture, Food export, Gender Inclusive practices, Bio-Economy, Public Policy, Governance, Skills & Human Resource Development to help formulate and suggest comprehensive policies, and programs in the context of Pakistan.



On 14th April 2022, Another Memorandum of Association (MOU) was signed between BIPP and Lahore College for Women University (LCWU). Both parties agreed to cooperate in the areas of mutual interest on a non-exclusive basis especially relating to politics, economics and social issues in the context of Pakistan and developing short-term courses in international business, globalization and professional training and to foster and collaborate in policy dialogues, education and learning, and joint research and consultancy. Under this MOU, Mr. Shahid Javed Burki and family will offer scholarships to the students of LCWU in the domains of Pharmacy, IT and Engineering on need cum merit base where income of the family of the student should not exceed Rs. 70,000/= per month. 20 Scholarships will be offered from Fall 2022 admission for bachelor program. Students must have to maintain 2.75 GPA to receive the scholarship.

BIPP signed another MOU with Education Scenario International (ESI) on 20th April 2022. The basic objective of this collaboration is to enhance the participation of youth and women in the economy of the country, formulate and advise the Government for Policy Making in the desired areas. This would be achieved through different initiatives at local, national and international levels.



On 21st April 2022, The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy (BIPP) and MGVCPC conducted an awareness session on "Valorizing the Economy: Connectivity Dividend" hosted by Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI). The key-note speakers for the session were Mr. Shahid Javed Burki, Former Vice President World Bank & Former Finance Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Turab Randhawa, Founder, Meta-agri Greater Venture Collective of Pakistan (MGVCPC), Mr. Eldos Kenzhahmetov, Former Representative of Kazakh Invest National Company. The event was attended by, Mr. Long Chunjiu, Chief Scientist of Longping South Asia Seed R&D Center, Mr. Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Mr. Aksom Zaheer, Dr. Renuka Thakore, Founder Global Sustainable Futures and Mr. Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI.



THE SHAHID JAVED BURKI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The female students (any domicile holder) to be enrolled in fall session 2022 from the following institutes and programs and are eligible to apply:

- 1** Fatima Jinnah Medical University (MBBS)
- 2** Lahore College for Women University (BSCS, BSSE, BSEE, D Pharmacy)
- 3** University of Lahore (BS Nursing)

Scholarship Amount: Semester Fee for 8 to 10 semester and 5 year MBBS.

Application would be opened in the last week of July 2022. Test or an Interview would be conducted at the respective university premises or BIPP office.

FALL SESSION 2022 INTAKE

The Shahid Javed Burki Institute of Public Policy at NetSol (BIPP) has instituted "The Shahid Javed Burki Scholarship Program" (SJBSP) for female students based on need and merit to help them realize their career objectives, contribute to achieving the national development objectives and play their overall societal role as enlightened citizens of Pakistan to serve humanity.

More info

Call us +92-42-35913304
admin@sjbipp.org

Mr. Shahid Javed Burki exchanged his ideas in the opening remarks that our prime focus is on securing sustainable growth in renewed agriculture options to lessen the balance of trade deficit, in the backdrop of the lessons from the Chinese experience of poverty alleviation through exploiting agricultural resources, gender inclusion in agricultural practices, and tapping on food demands of the 76 million people of the Central Asian States.



Mr. Turab Randhawa, Founder, Meta-agri Greater Venture Collective of Pakistan (MGVCP), and Mr. Aksom Zaheer stressed upon the legal frameworks that support AgriTech Startups in Pakistan. While Dr. Renuka Thakore also highlighted the importance of Systems-Thinking and creating sustainability through mutually beneficial partnerships. Mr. Eldos Kenzhahmetov, Former Representative of Kazakh Invest National Company shared about how we could identify opportunities of mutual trade of agri-based products between Kazakhstan and Pakistan.



BIPP started a new policy hub series on Pakistan – Optimism and Hope and the first episode is out on the topic of National Narrative. You may watch full episode on the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Q2sXpK7Gxk&t>



On 19th May 2022, The Shahid Javed Burki institute of Public Policy at NetSol had a brainstorming session with new board members on strategic development plans to expand within the ambit of BIPP's mandate. The meeting was followed by post Eid lunch.





Policy for Present, Gains for posterity,
Reducing Deficit, Producing Results

Mission Statement

BIPP's mission is to improve the welfare of the citizenry with particular emphasis on identifying policy measures that will lead to inclusive, people-centered growth with equity, political stability and sustainable development besides fully harnessing the potential for regional and global integration of the country. BIPP primary areas of interest encompass social, economic, environmental and political development and security, trade and foreign policy-related issues.

<http://www.sjbipp.org/>

admin@sjbipp.org

+92-42-35913304

138, Abubakar Block, New Garden Town, Lahore