

## **Panel: Harnessing the Potential of Agriculture Value Chains in South Asia**

Experiences from East Asia, Europe and North America demonstrate that regional value chains (RVCs) remain a key foundation towards becoming an active participant in global value chains (GVCs). The key channel through which this happens is the potential opportunities for exports and imports of intermediate and finished goods and services. In this context, national and regional trade policies, along with bilateral and regional agreements, play a key role in bringing countries and their enterprises closer. A number of preferential agreements today are designed with the objective to promote value chains. Apart from this, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in exporting industries, which also carries a technology transfer component, helps a country's integration into value chains. In this context, the determinants of FDI also impact the country's progress towards integration with RVC. This panel will, thus, focus on the following aspects of agricultural value chains:

- a. What are the major channels which can promote RVCs?
- b. How can national industrial, trade and investment policies help create and strengthen RVCs?
- c. Which trade barriers need to be urgently addressed across South Asia for helping RVCs?
- d. Which supply side issues in agriculture need to be addressed for boosting productivity in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries?

### **Panel Organisers:**

Mr Asif Javed, Project Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Email: [asifjaved@sdpi.org](mailto:asifjaved@sdpi.org)

Mr Syed Shujaat Ahmed, Project Associate, Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Email: [shujaat@sdpi.org](mailto:shujaat@sdpi.org)