Media Coverage

4th RASTA Conference



PIDE MEDIA

September 03 - 04, 2024, Islamabad



1st Day

Web Coverage

Business Recorder

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40320723

Islamabad Post

https://islamabadpost.com.pk/pide-hosts-4th-rasta-conference/

CNN Urdu

https://cnnurdu.org/11293/

Associated Press of Pakistan

https://www.app.com.pk/business/pides-4th-rasta-conference-sparks-innovative-solutions-for-pakistans-bright-future/

Lead Pakistan

https://leadpakistan.com.pk/news/pide-hosts-4th-rasta-conference-to-unveil-key-research-findings-in-education-healthcare-exports-investment/

Independent News Pakistan

https://www.inp.net.pk/news-detail/pakistan/pide-hosts-4th-rasta-conference-to-unveil-key-research-findings-in-education-healthcare-exports-investment

The Asian Telegraph

https://theasiantelegraph.global/?p=18093

EW News



https://eastwestnewswire.com/pide-hosts-4th-rasta-conference/

The Voice of Melang

https://voiceofmelange.global/?p=16793

The Pakistan Times

https://thepakistantimes.com.pk/pide-hosts-4th-rasta-conference-to-unveil-key-research-findings-in-education-healthcare-exports-investment/

2nd Day

Business Recorder

https://www.brecorder.com/news/40320891/taxing-absentee-landlords-could-generate-rs7961bn-experts

Associated Press of Pakistan

https://www.app.com.pk/business/pides-4th-rasta-conference-experts-discuss-pakistans-food-agriculture-fiscal-management-issues/

Independent News Pakistan

https://inp.net.pk/news-detail/pakistan/pide-4th-rasta-concludes-with-critical-insights-on-foodagriculture-fiscal-management

Bol News

https://www.bolnews.com/business/2024/09/pide-4th-rasta-concludes-with-critical-insights-on-food-agriculture-fiscal-management/

Urdu Point



https://www.urdupoint.com/en/business/pides-4th-rasta-conference-experts-discuss-1859875.html

The Asian Telegraph

https://theasiantelegraph.global/?p=18154

EW News

https://eastwestnewswire.com/pide-4th-rasta-concludes-with-critical-insights-on-food-agriculture-fiscal-management/

Voice of Melange

https://voiceofmelange.global/?p=16852

The Pakistan Time

https://thepakistantimes.com.pk/pide-4th-rasta-concludes-with-critical-insights-on-foodagriculture-fiscal-management/

Head Topics

https://headtopics.com/pk/8073686932521164878-58451763

Greet Post

https://greenpost.com.pk/pphs-2024-marks-a-significant-milestone-in-socio-economic-research-dr-nayab/





September 05, 2024

PIDE 4th RASTA concludes with critical insights on food agriculture, & fiscal management

STAFF REPORTER

The RASTA Conference 2024 concluded today with an impactful second day of sessions, focusing on pressing issues in food, agriculture, and liscal management in Pakistan. Hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the conference brought together experts and policymakers to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing these critical sectors.

The day began with a session on "Food & Agriculture," which featured significant discussions on the effects of government policies on agricultural production. Khair Muhammad Kakar from UET Khuzdar presented a comprehensive analysis of the impact of government policies on olive production in Pakistan. His research highlighted that while government initiatives have promoted olive cultivation, several challenges persist, such as limited technical knowledge among farmers, inadequate access to quality plant materials, and insuffi-

cient processing facilities. Kakar emphasized the need for consistent and targeted policy interventions to overcome these barriers and enhance olive production, particularly in regions like Balochistan, which show considerable potential.

Saranjam Muhammad Baig from Karakoram International University, Gligit, provided an International University Gligit, provided an International University Gligit, provided an International University Gligit Gligit-Baltistan. His study revealed that despite the region receiving substantial wheat subsidies since the 1970s, food insecurity remains a significant issue, affecting over 50% of the population. Baig's analysis identified inefficiencies in the subsidy distribution, with wealthier households benefiting disproportionately. He recommended a targeted subsidy approach, improved transparency in distribution, and support for local agriculture to address these inefficiencies

and enhance tood security in the region.
Irfan Ahmad Baig from MNS University of
Agriculture, Multan, discussed the complexities



of taxing rental income in agriculture. His presentation shed light on the skewed land distribution in Pakistan, where a small percentage of large landowners hold a significant portion of the land. Baig argued for comprehensive agrarlan tax reform to address this disparity and suggested that taxing absentee landlords could be an effective way to generate revenue for public services and infrastructure development.

Following a tea break, the conference continued with the RASTA Showcase-II session, where Dr. Durre Nayab, Director of Research

conducted in Pakistan ensuring a broader scope and more detailed survey includes digital data collection methods one of the most extensive panel surveys ever penditures, and subjective welfare, making it on CNIC/B-form registrations, eating-out ex-2024 also introduced new modules, focusing eracy and care work employment. The PPHS assets, and new metrics such as financial lit data on education, employment, household panding its urban representation and covering 14 additional districts. For the first time, the various rounds, with the 2024 iteration ex Bank in 2001, the survey has evolved through (PIDE) with financial backing from the World Pakistan Institute of Development Economics holds over the past decades. Initiated by the the dynamic shifts within Pakistan's house search, offering comprehensive insights into a significant milestone in socio-economic re 2024 Round. She said that PPHS 2024 marks the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS at PIDE Islamabad, presented the findings from





September 05, 2024

agriculture, & fiscal management PIDE 4th RASTA concludes with critical insights on food.

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Saranjam Muhammad Baig from Karakoram International University, Gilgit, provided an in-depth examination of the political economy of wheat subsidies and food security in Gilgit-Baltistan. His study rewealed that despite the region receiving substantial wheat subsidies since the 1970s, food insecurity remains a significant issue, affecting over 50% of the population. Baig's analysis identified inefficiencies in the subsidy distribution, with wealthier households benefiting disproportionately. He recommended a targeted subsidy approach, improved transparency in distribution, and support for local agriculture to address these inefficiencies and enhance food security in the region.

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September 04, 2024

PIDE Hosts 4th RASTA Conference to Unveil Key Research Findings in Education Healthcare, Exports, & Investment

■ NEWS DESI

in shaping Pakistan's future. tance of research-driven strategies conference underscored the impordemics, and industry leaders, the care, exports, and investment sectors such as education, healthpivotal research findings in critical a two-day event that showcased Attended by policymakers, acanosted the 4th RASTA Conference Development Economics (PIDE) Pakistan Institute of

two showcase sessions, covering detailed RASTA Progress Report topics such as food and agriculture, leature five technical sessions and ighted that the conference would Project Director of RASTA. He high presented by Dr. Faheem Jehangii The event commenced with a

17 research teams to present their iscal management, and more. These sessions brought together

> ing high-quality, evidence-based policy research knowledge network and promot-

of healthcare professionals, the for software export growth, and the the mental health and well-being of research in policy development of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of impact of government policies on potential of Pakistan's IT industry edge research, including studies on PIDE, emphasized the essential role featured presentations of cutting-He noted that the conference

the 2024 round of the Pakistan ity billing system and findings from provements in Pakistan's electricsignificant projects, such as imshowcase sessions highlighting sions, the conference included In addition to the technical ses-

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Panel Household Survey (PPHS).

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and opportunities within Pakistan's

pharmaceutical, mental health, and critical insights into the challenges ference, titled "Education and Healthcare," featured an array of The first session of the con-

higher education sectors.

ceutical industry in Pakistan. His a presentation on the pharmareliance on imports. emphasizing the country's heavy sis of the manufacturing of Active study provided an in-depth analy-Karachi, opened the session with Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) institute of Business Management Kazi Afaq Ahmed from the

API production, which he argued dependency but also stimulate would not only reduce import for strategic investments in local growth within the sector. Ahmed highlighted the necessity

presented a study focusing on the Shah from Sukkur IBA University pharmaceutical manufacturing. that could foster domestic capabilicomprehensive industrial policy ties and promote self-sufficiency in Following this, Mir Muhammad His research pointed towards a

government decision-making

by healthcare professionals in mental health challenges faced Pakistan.

out among healthcare workers. severe impact of resource shortthe high levels of stress and burnport systems, which contribute to and insufficient mental health supages, such as inadequate staffing Shah's research underscored the

delivery. cialists and a national initiative for could alleviate pressure on spe-Practitioner (GP) system that recommendations, including and improve overall healthcare providers to better manage stress enhanced training of healthcare the implementation of a General He proposed several policy

critical examination of the 18th of Peshawar then provided a higher education system. Amendment's impact on Pakistan's Aamer Raza from the University

tion has led to inconsistencies in ernance and funding challenges dles in terms of funding allocation. gions and created significant hureducational standards across relution of powers to the provinces Raza argued that the decentralizathat have emerged since the devo-He suggested a re-evaluation of His analysis focused on the gov-

quality in higher education. The session concluded with

oversight to ensure uniformity and the amendment's implementation.

advocating for stronger federal

eted challenges in education and proaches to address the multifacthe need for integrated policy appresentations and emphasizing who provided closing remarks Development & Special Initiatives Social Sector, Ministry of Planning synthesizing the insights from the healthcare. Rafiullah Kakar, Member of the



TWIN CITIES



PIDE hosts 4th RASTA conference to unveil key research findings

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted the 4th RASTA Conference, a two-day event that showcased pivotal research findings in critical sectors such as education, healthcare, exports, and investment. Attended by policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, the conference underscored the importance of research-driven strategies in shaping Pakistan's future. The event commenced with a detailed RASTA Progress Report presented by Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Project Director of RASTA. He highlighted that the conference would feature five technical sesions.

ture. The event commenced with a detailed RASTA Progress Report presented by Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Project Director of RASTA. He highlighted that the conference would feature five technical sessions and two showcase sessions, covering topics such as food and agriculture, fiscal management, and more. These sessions brought together 17 research teams to present their findings, fostering an extensive knowledge network and promoting high-quality, evidence-based policy research. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the essential role of research including studies on the mental health and well-being of healthcare professionals, the potential of Pakistan's IT industry for software export growth, and the impact of government policies on olive production. In addition to the technical sessions, the conference included showcase sessions highlighting significant projects, such as improvements in Pakistan's electricity biling system and findings from the 2024 round of the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS). Dr. Haque further elaborated on RASTA's mission, describing it as Pakistan's largest and most comprehensive social sciences research network, dedicated to bridging the gap between research and policy to enhance public policy and guide government decision-making. The first session of the conference, titled "Education and Healthcare," featured an array of critical insights into the challenges and opportunities within Pakistan's pharmaceutical, mental health, and higher education sectors.



Kazi Afaq Ahmed from the Institute of Business Management, Karachi, opened the session with a presentation on the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan. His study provided an in-depth analysis of the manufacturing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), emphasizing the country's heavy reliance on imports. Almed highlighted the necessity for strategic investments in local API production, which he argued would not only reduce import dependency but also stimulate growth within the sector. His research pointed towards a comprehensive industrial policy that could foster domestic capabilities and promote self-sufficiency in pharmaceutical manufacturing. Following this, Mir Muhammad Shah from Sukkur IBA University presented a study focusing on the mental health challenges faced by healthcare professionals in Pakistan. Shah's research underscored the severe impact of resource shortages, such as inadequate Kazi Afaq Ahmed from the Institute of Business Management, Karachi, opened the session with

staffing and insufficient mental health support systems, which contribute to the high levels of stress and burnout among healthcare workers. He proposed several policy recommendations, including the implementation of a General Practitioner (GP) system that could alleviate pressure on specialists and a national initiative for enhanced training of healthcare providers to better manage stress and improve overall healthcare delivery. Aamer Roan from the University of Peshawar then provided a critical examination of the 18th Amendment's impact on Paleistan's higher education system. His analysis focused on the governance and to the stress of t uation of the amendment's implementation, advocating for stronger federal oversight to ensure uniformity and

quality in higher education. The session concluded with Rafiullah Kakar, Member of the Social Sector, Ministry

Ránfulhi Kalar, Member of the Social Sector, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who provided closing remarks synthesizing the insights from the presentations and emphasizing the need for integrated policy approaches to address the multifaceted challenges in education and healthcare. The second session, focusing on "Pakistan's Export Potential," was a deep dive into the opportunities and challenges within the halal beef and IT industries. Shahzad Kouser from COMSATS University, Islamabad, began the session by analyzing the global demand for halal beef and Pakistan's potential to become a leading exporter. He identified key challenges, including adherence to international standards, logistical bottlenecks, and limited market access, which currently hinder Pa-and limited market access, which currently hinder Pa-and limited market access, which currently hinder Pamain releasant ransstants posemas to tectoriae a stating-exporter. He identified key challenges, including adher-ence to international standards, logistical bottlenecks, and limited market access, which currently hinder Pa-kistant's competitiveness in the global market. Kouser-proposed a multi-faceted strategy to overcrome these transposed and multi-faceted strategy to overcrome the chancing supply chain infrastructure, and exploring new markets through targeted trade agreements. Following this, Naveed Arshad from LUMS, Lahore, presented a compelling case for the IT sector as a significant driver of economic growth. Arshad highlighted the untapped potential in software exports, emphasizing the need for strategic investments in education and infrastructure. He advocated for policy reforms aimed at creating a more conducive environment for IT businesses, which could significantly boose Palsistans's standing in the global IT market. His proposals included upskilling the work-force, improving internet infrastructure, and offering tax incentives to attract foreign tech firms to invest in Pakistan. The session was moderated by Zafar ul Hasari, Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Develop-ment & Special Initiatives, who provided additional con-text and facilitated discussions on how Pakistan could ef-fectively position itself in these emerging global markets. In the RASTA Showased session, Afia Malik, Senior Research Economists at PIDE, presented her research on improving efficiency in Pakistan's electricity billing system. Malis's study explored innovative approaches to reduce energy westing and enhance the financial health of the energy sector. She discussed the importance of technology adoption in billing processes and proposed policy interventions that could streamline operations.





PIDE Hosts 4th RASTA Conference to Unveil Key Research Findings in Education, Healthcare, Exports, & Investment

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evidence-based policy research. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Chairman of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphasized the essential role of research in policy development. He noted that the conference featured presentations of cutting-edge research, including studies on the mental health and well-being of healthcare profes-

sionals, the potential of Pakistan's IT industry for software export growth, and the impact of government poli-cies on olive production. In addition to the technical sessions, the confer-ence included showcase sessions high-lighting significant projects, such as improvements in Pakistan's electricity billing system and findings from the 2024 round of the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS).

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overcome these barriers, including improving standards compliance, enhancing supply chain infrastructure, and exploring new markets through targeted trade agreements. Following this, Naveed Arshad from LUMS, Labor research a compliance Lahore, presented a compelling case for the IT sector as a significant driver of economic growth. The session was moderated by Zafar ul Hasan, Joint moderated by Zafar ul Hasan, Joint Chief Economist, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, who provided additional context and facilitated discussions on how Pakistan could effectively position itself in these emerging global markets.

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The final session of the conference, centered on "Investment Strategies," featured critical analyses of how Pakistan can attract and retain invest-Pakistan can attract and retain invest-ment, particularly in light of recent economic challenges. Syed Twangar Hussain Kazmi from Torque Commu-nities, Islamabad, provided a roadmap for leveraging Foreign Direct Invest-

overcome these barriers, including ment (FDI) to spur local innovation ment (PDI) to spur local mnovation and economic growth. Drawing on examples from East Asian economies, Kazmi highlighted the importance of creating a favorable investment climate through policy stability, infrastruc-ture development, and innovative forming mechanisms. Abeld Whide financing mechanisms, Abdul Wahid from NUML, Islamabad, discussed the

from NUMI, Islamabad, discussed the alarming trend of decapitalization in the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). Tomorrow, on the second day of the conference, the following research will be presented: Impact of Government Policies on the Production of Olive in Pakistan, 'The Political Economy of Wheat Subsidy and Food Security in Gilgit-Baltistan, 'Taxing the Rental Justice of Americal Pure Ambrico for Gilgit-Baltistan, 'Taxing the Rental Income in Agriculture' Analysis of Alternate Options,' 'Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024 Round' by Durre Nayab, Director of Research, 'The Governance Struc-ture and Flaws Within: A Case Study of the Ministry of Science and Techof the Ministry of Science and Technology and Its Public Sector Entities, 'Governing Public Sector Projects in Gilgit-Baltistan: A Multi-Stakeholder Gilgit-Baltistan: A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis, 'Documentation Simplifi-cation via Tax E-Filing: Examining Barriers to Adoption and Continu-ance Intention of Using E-Filing by Taxpayers in Pakistan, and 'Analysis of Tax Expenditures in Pakistan.

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NATIONAL

VC PIDE termed RASTA Pakistan's largest social sciences research network

Haque, Chairman of RASTA and Vice-Chancellor of PIDE, emphaned the essential role of research in policy development. He noted that the conference featured presentations of cutting-edge research, including studies on the ntal health and well-being of healthcare professionals, the potential of Pakistan's IT industry for software export growth, and the impact of government policies on olive production. In addition to the technical sessions, the conference included showcase sessions highlighting significant projects, such as improvements in Paki-stan's electricity billing system of the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (FFHS), Dr. Haque further ted on RASTA's mission, describing it as Pakistan's largest and most comprehensive social sciences research network, dedicated to bridging the gar be-

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rnment decision-making. The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) hosted the 4th RASTA Conference, a twoday event that showcased pivotal research findings in critical sectors such as education, healthcare. by policymakers, academics, and industry leaders, the conference underscored the importance of research-driven strategies in shap-ing Pakistan's future. The event commenced with a detailed RAS-TA Progress Report presented by Dr. Faheem Jehangir, Project Director of RASTA. He highlighted that the conference would feature five and findings from the 2024 round technical sessions and two showas food and agriculture, fiscal management, and more. These sessions brought together 17 research teams to present their findings, fortering an extensive knowledge network and promoting high-quality, phan ned policy re

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the Social Sector, Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Ini tiatives, who provided closing remarks synthesizing the ins from the presentations and em-phasizing the need for integrated policy approaches to address the multifaceted challenges in educa tion and healthcare. NEWS DESK





September 05, 2024

NATIONAL NEWS

Taxing absentee landlords could generate Rs79.61bn: experts

government of Pakistan can generate at least Rs79.61 hil-Puk istori.

Irfan Ahmad Baig from University sharing the findings of his research study, on the concluding day of the 4th RASTA Conference 2024, organized by Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), here on Westweeter

Buig, while discussing the complexities of taxing rental income in the agriculture sector, stated that the sector can raise substantial revenue for public services and equitable growth, saying that referres are needed for better tax collection and compliance, especially for resnal

Baig in his presentation shed light on the skewed land distribution in Pakistan, where a small percentage of large landowners hold a significant portion of the land. He argued for comprehensive agrarian tax reform to from address this disparity and suggested that taxing absen- Gilgit, provided an in-depth

Khair Muhammad Kakar ion annually by taxing from UET Khunlar presentabsentee landlords in ed a comprehensive analysis of the impact of government policies on olive production in Pakistan. His research Agriculture Multan; while highlighted that while goverriment initiatives have promoted olive cultivation, several challenges persist, such as limited technical knowledge among farmers, inadequate access to quality plant materials, and insufficient processing facilities. Kakar emphasized the need for consistent and targeted policy interventions to overcome these barriers and enhance olive production, particularin regions like Balochistan, which show considerable potential.

Khair Mulammad Kakar explored critical topics such as the impact of government policies en olive production in Pakistan, the political economy of wheat subsidy and food security in Gilgit-Baltistan, and taxing rental income in agriculture.

Saranjam Muhammad Karakoram International University, tee landlords could be an examination of the political

that despine the region receiving substantial wheat subsidies since the 1970s, food insecurity remains a significarst issue, affecting over 50 per cent of the population. Baig's analysis identified inefficiencies in the subsidy distribution, with wealthier households benefiting disproportionately. He recommended a targeted subsidy approach, improved transparency in distribution, and support for local agriculture to address these inefficiencies and enhance food security in the region.

Dr. Durre Nayah, Director of Research at PIDE Islamabad, presented the findings from the Pakistan Panel Household Survey (PPHS) 2024 Round. She said that PPHS 2024 marks a significant milestone in socio-economic research, offering comprehensive insights into the dynamic shifts within Pakistan's households over the past decades. Initiated by the Pakistan Institute Development Economics (PIDE) with financial backing from the World Bank in 2001, the survey has evolved through various rounds, with

effective way to generate economy of wheat subsidies the 2024 iteration expanding ISLAMABAD: A research revenue for public services and food security in Gilgit- its urban representation and study has revealed that the and infrastructure develop- Bultistan. His study revealed covering 14 additional districts. For the first time, the survey includes digital data collection methods, ensuring a broader scope and more detailed data on education. employment, bousehold assets, and new metrics such as financial literacy and care work employment. The PPHS 2024 also introduced new modules, focusing on CNIC/B-form registrations. eating-out expenditures, and subjective welfare, making it one of the most extensive panel surveys ever conducted in Pokismas

This landmark survey is vital for policymakers, economists, and researchers, providing critical data to understand the socio-economic transitions in the country With a robust sample of over 8,500 households, the PPHS 2024 allows for deeper analysis of urban and rural dynamics, offering a cleaner picture of poverty, labor mobility, and household consumption patterns. The findings will help shape future policies aimed at addressing social inequality, employment trends, and household security, underscoring the importance of long-term data tracking in socio-economic

