

Moderated Discussion: Can the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) be the much-needed engine for rapid pro-poor growth in Pakistan? The Role of an elite Research Center of Excellence in ensuring the success of this opportunity.

Moderator: Sohail Jehangir Malik. MSc (Economics) MADE (Agriculture Development Economics) PhD (Econometrics) is one of Pakistan's most prolific development policy analysts and scholars of international repute. His career spans 44 years. He has worked in the United States, Africa, Asia and Australia.

He started his career as a Staff Economist from the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in November in 1975. He has been Senior Research Fellow and Senior Advisor at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Washington DC; Senior Economist and Poverty Cluster Coordinator at the Evaluation Department of the World Bank; and, Vice President of John Mellor Associates in Washington DC. On leaving the World Bank he opted to teach in Rural Pakistan instead of accepting or seeking bureaucratic Government positions like most returning Pakistani World Bank Officials.

He has held the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Chair in Economics at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and the University of Sargodha. Starting with earlier stints as Adjunct Faculty in Quaid-e-Azam University and the International Islamic University he has promoted the teaching of applied econometrics and rigorous quantitative methods throughout his career. He has supervised over a hundred Masters MPhil and PhD students. He has been a member of several high level national and international policy advisory committees and commissions. In the early 2000s he wrote the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers for the Pakistan Federal Government and the Provinces. In 2002 he founded Innovative Development Strategies (Pvt.) Ltd where he serves as Chairman of the Board. He has lived his life inspired by Allama Sir Muhammad Iqbal teachings. His life's obsession with *Khudi* and his need to lead the life of a *Taer e Lahuti* has ensured the integrity of his research work, his sense of social responsibility and his continued passion for socio-economic uplift and poverty reduction.

He has published one hundred and thirty nine research papers and reports – his papers appear in top peer reviewed journals. He has also authored, co-authored and/or edited co-edited eight books.

His published work is widely recognized. His seminal work in the late 1980s on estimating poverty at the agro-climatic zone level, in the Michael Lipton and Jacques van der Gaag edited World Bank/IFPRI book *Including the Poor* presented for the first time dis-aggregated regional analyses to highlight why one size fits all policies do not work effectively. This work formed the basis for subsequent international advice on poverty reduction strategies. His recent co-edited book *Agriculture and the Rural Economy in Pakistan: Issues, Outlook and Policy Priorities* was referred to in the August 2018 Review in the *American Journal of Agriculture Economics* as the encyclopedia on Agriculture and Rural Policies in Pakistan. His 2017 Chapter on "Agriculture and Rural Development Policies in Pakistan" in *the Handbook of International Food and Agriculture Policies* reflects lessons learnt from over four decades of his work on Agriculture, Rural Development and Poverty in Pakistan – from his work on the 1987 *Report of the National Agriculture Commission of Pakistan*, and the *National and Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers* of the 2000s to the recent *2018 Agriculture Policy of Punjab*. His paper on "The Impact of Growth in Small Commercial Farm Productivity on Rural Poverty Reduction" with John W Mellor published in *World Development* of March 2017 has established the critical importance of agriculture growth together with the development of the rural non-farm sector for rapid poverty reduction. His current work focuses on the inadequacy and poor quality of the available economic data and the decayed capacity for analyses and implementation, to show why rapid pro-poor poverty reducing growth is not possible in Pakistan under the current paradigm and what needs to be done about it. He also teaches economics to post graduate students in nineteen remote universities of Pakistan through live video conferencing under a unique program *Talimullqtisadiat* which he has introduced and is working to propagate.

During the 1970s he was a popular English Newscaster on Radio Pakistan where he read the national news and news commentaries – at that time this was Pakistan’s only radio channel.