

Annual Report 2022-23



Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI)

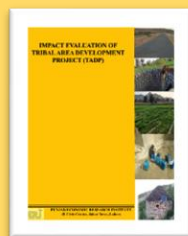
Contents



The study on "Capacity Building of OSH Regimes" has notably improved workplace safety awareness, facilitated the widespread adoption of safety practices, and effectively reduced workplace hazards, thereby contributing to a safer and more secure working environment for society.



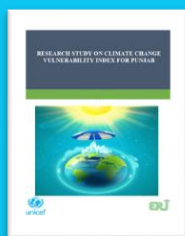
The Agricultural Development Project in Koh-e-Suleman has significantly boosted farming productivity, improved livelihoods, and reduced poverty, particularly benefiting marginalized farmers in the region.



The TADP project has significantly uplifted the socio-economic conditions of the Tribal Areas in DG Khan and Rajanpur, fostering improved infrastructure, agricultural productivity, healthcare, education, and overall well-being through community-driven initiatives and solar system interventions.



The mid-term evaluation of revealed positive progress, including increased rice yields, enhanced farmer awareness, and successful distribution of farm machinery, demonstrating tangible benefits for the society and agriculture sector.



The study on climate change vulnerability in Punjab provides crucial insights and recommendations to enhance environmental strategies, education, healthcare, and resilience, ultimately aiming to minimize the adverse effects of climate change and improve the well-being of the diverse communities in the province.



The training Workshop on Research Ethics significantly enhanced participants' understanding of ethical standards in research, fostering a culture of responsible and trustworthy research practices that positively contribute to societal well-being, particularly in the context of children and women.

Preface

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) for the fiscal year 2022-2023. This report highlights PERI's endeavors in various sectors to promote economic growth, address socio-economic challenges, and contribute to regional development.

A key focus is the impactful assessment of the "Capacity Building of OSH Regimes" project, enhancing occupational safety in 66 industrial units. Positive outcomes include heightened awareness, increased safety practices, and reduced workplace hazards, emphasizing the importance of continuous efforts for safer working conditions.

The report delves into the Third-Party Validation of the "Integrated Plan for Development of Agriculture in Tribal Area of Koh-e-Suleman, D. G. Khan." Positive outcomes underscore the effectiveness of interventions in enhancing agricultural productivity, improving livelihoods, and alleviating poverty.

An in-depth analysis of the Tribal Areas Development Project (TADP) in DG Khan and Rajanpur reveals substantial improvements in infrastructure, community development, and solar systems, showcasing the positive outcomes of community-driven approaches and skill development initiatives.

This compilation reflects PERI's commitment to evidence-based research, sustainable development, and the well-being of Punjab's people. Gratitude is extended to authors, contributors, and collaborators. We hope the insights in this concise report contribute to informed decision-making and inspire further initiatives for socio-economic advancement.



Insights from the Mid-Term Evaluation of the National Programme for Enhancing Profitability Through Increasing Productivity of Rice highlight progress in boosting rice productivity across 15 districts, emphasizing the need for sustained awareness, efficient machinery distribution, and timely fund availability.

A significant portion of the report focuses on the Research Study on the Climate Change Vulnerability Index for Punjab, recommending targeted strategies and awareness campaigns to mitigate vulnerabilities, especially in South Punjab. Lastly, outcomes from the Training Workshop on Research Ethics, in collaboration with UNICEF-Punjab, stress the importance of ethical research practices, particularly when engaging with vulnerable populations.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY BUILDING OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH REGIMES TO PROMOTE THE SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE WORKPLACES

In Pakistan, inadequacies in safety standards affect exports.

The Punjab Economic Research Institute's evaluation of the "Capacity Building of OSH Regimes" project in 66 industrial units reveals positive outcomes. Beneficiaries demonstrated heightened awareness (98%), adoption of safety practices (89.4%), and reduced hazards (92%).

Recommendations include extensive awareness campaigns, media engagement, seminars, and involvement of trainers from industries and academia. The project's extension and legal/moral measures are proposed for comprehensive OSH implementation.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY BUILDING OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH REGIMES TO PROMOTE THE SAFER WORKING CONDITIONS AT THE WORKPLACES



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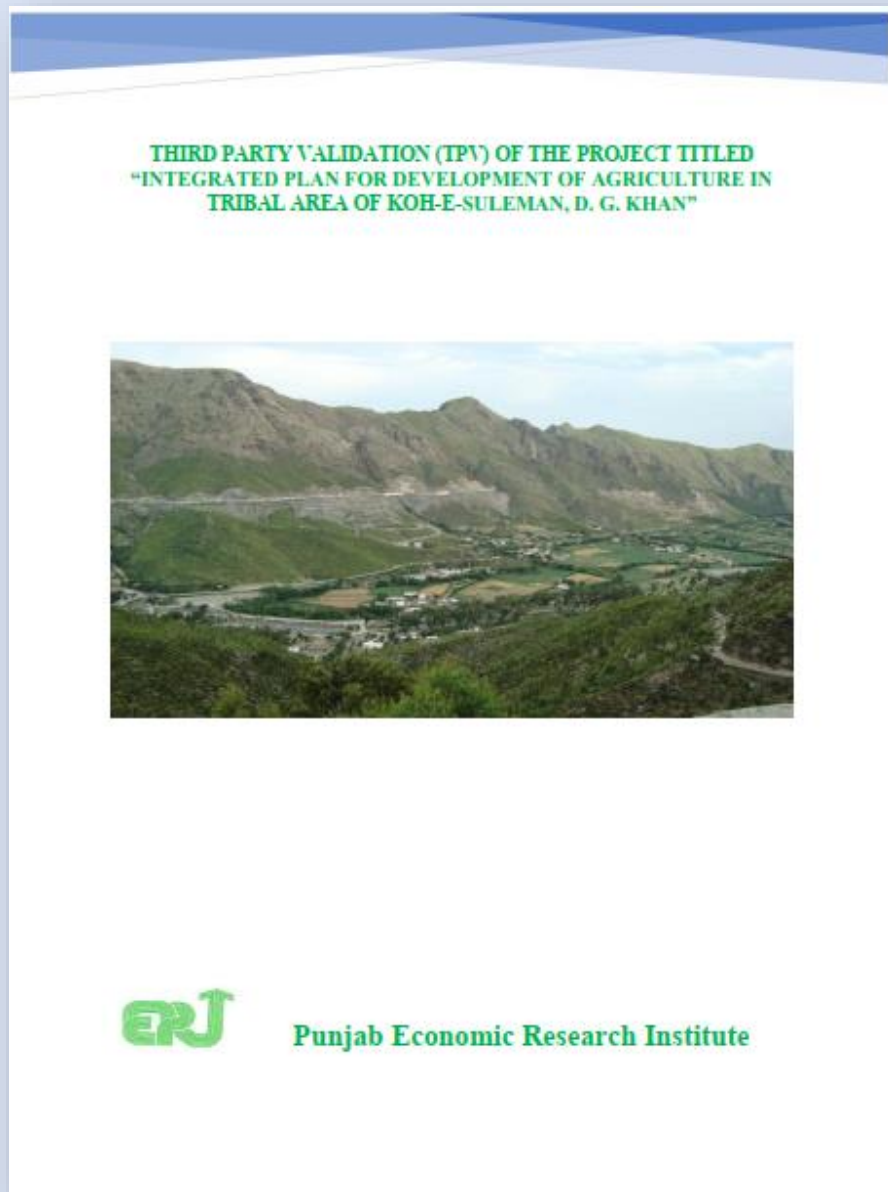
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THIRD PARTY VALIDATION (TPV) OF THE PROJECT TITLED “INTEGRATED PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN TRIBAL AREA OF KOH-E-SULEMAN, D. G. KHAN”

The Agricultural Development Project in the Tribal Area of Koh-e-Suleman, led by the Government of Punjab, addresses the region's challenges, including a large population, limited resources, and geographic constraints.

With a focus on certified seed distribution, orchard establishment, demonstration plots, farmer training, water storage ponds, and solar-powered irrigation, the project aims to enhance agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and alleviate poverty.

The initiative demonstrates success in implementing cost-sharing models, providing quality seeds, and effectively managing water resources, contributing to positive outcomes for the tribal residents, particularly those with limited education and small landholdings.



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IMPACT EVALUATION OF TRIBAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (TADP)

The Tribal Areas of DG Khan and Rajanpur, marked by poverty and lack of infrastructure, witnessed a positive transformation through the "Tribal Areas Development Project (TADP)."

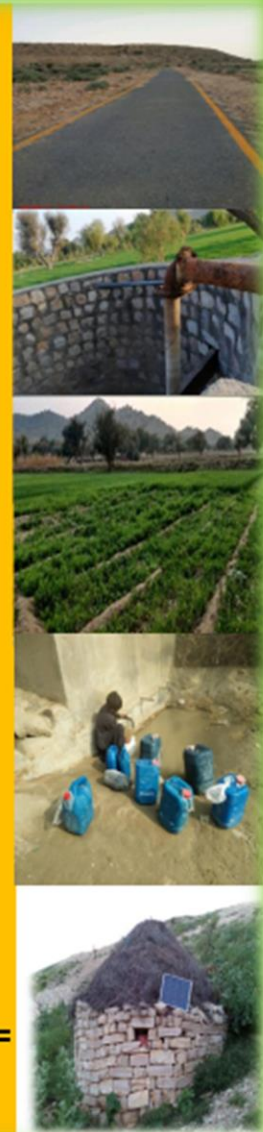
The project focused on physical infrastructure, community development, community organization, and various solar systems, including 100-watt and 3000-watt solar systems. The impact analysis revealed substantial improvements, such as enhanced connectivity, increased agricultural productivity, reduced travel time, improved health conditions, and heightened security. The provision of solar systems significantly transformed daily life, reducing reliance on kerosene lamps, lowering expenses, and boosting education and awareness.

The community-driven approach, involving Community Organizations, proved successful, leading to improved well-being and economic opportunities. Skill development initiatives, conducted through the Punjab Skill Development Fund, further empowered the youth, resulting in increased income and positive economic outcomes for the tribal population. Overall, the TADP project successfully addressed the socio-economic challenges of the region.

IMPACT EVALUATION OF TRIBAL AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (TADP)



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Mid-Term Evaluation of National Programme for Enhancing Profitability Through Increasing Productivity of Rice

The Government of Punjab launched the "Enhancing Profitability through Increasing Productivity of Rice" project in 2019-20 across 15 districts to boost rice productivity within five years.

The mid-term evaluation, conducted by the Punjab Economic Research Institute, revealed positive progress. The average yield of basmati and coarse rice increased, though partially meeting the project's targets. Knowledge about demo plots and large gatherings increased, indicating successful awareness campaigns.

The project distributed farm machinery through balloting, but inadequate training was provided. Despite delays, beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the machinery's quality.

The study recommended sustaining awareness efforts, avoiding duplication with similar projects, ensuring timely fund availability, prioritizing research and development, and continuing the successful interventions for the project's remaining period.



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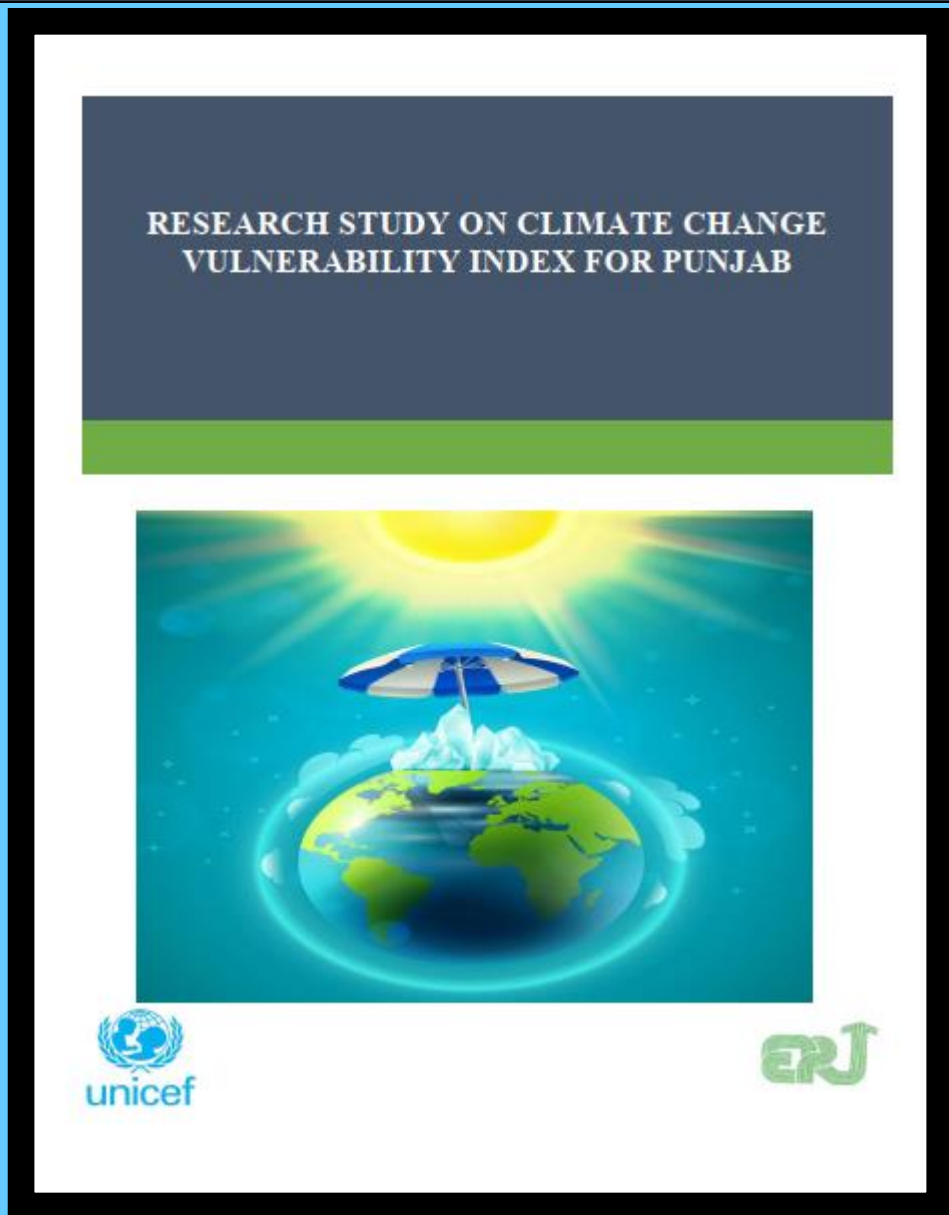
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RESEARCH STUDY ON CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY INDEX FOR PUNJAB

Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, faces multiple climate challenges, including high carbon emissions, air and water pollution, floods, droughts, and urban flooding. Variations in ecological zones result in differing living standards and climatic conditions for residents. Climate uncertainties significantly impact the overall ecosystem and the health of children and women.

A study assessed the climate change vulnerability index for Punjab's districts, using socio-economic indicators and climatic variables. The index includes Exposure, Sensitivity, and Adaptive Capacity dimensions. DG Khan and Bahawalpur were highly vulnerable in 2018, while Gujranwala, Lahore, and Rawalpindi were less vulnerable. South Punjab had low adaptive capacity. Recommendations include local environmental strategies, education on climate hazards, programs for childhood nutrition, improved water and sanitation, and a focus on women's health during pregnancy. Special attention is needed for South Punjab, youth engagement, and rigorous area-specific research. Awareness campaigns and social media can help minimize climate change vulnerabilities.



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Training Workshop on Research Ethics (Special Reference to Children & Women)

- Punjab Economic Research Institute (PERI) with the collaboration of the UNICEF-Punjab conducted a three-day training workshop titled “Training Workshop on Research Ethics (Special Reference to Children & Women)” covered theoretical and practical aspects of research ethics from August 3-5, 2022. The workshop aimed to address the limited access to research ethics training in countries like Pakistan.
- Dr. Amina Ahmed, facilitator, initiated the workshop by assessing participants' existing awareness on Day 1. Discussions centered around the significance of research ethics, drawing on national and international practices. Concerns were raised about research credibility, especially when engaging with illiterate and naive respondents. Participants shared experiences, emphasizing the importance of anonymity and trust in data collection.
- Dr. Amina delved into ethical steps in a quantitative research framework, basic principles per the Belmont Report, and ideal elements of ethical research during her sessions on Day 1 and part of Day 3. Dr. Saima Batool, facilitator, continued the workshop on Day 2 and the remaining half of Day 3. She covered fundamental tools of ethical research, ethical issues, and global norms. Group activities encouraged participants to share personal experiences, highlighting concerns such as privacy, plagiarism, informed consent, and fake data.
- The workshop concluded with a closing ceremony moderated by personnel from Punjab Economic Research Institute. Certificates of participation were awarded, and a token of appreciation was presented to Dr. Shahid Adil, the chief guest. Dr. Avais Tahir, Director PERI, and Mr. Nouman Ghani, representative of UNICEF-Punjab, delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the importance of ethical research practices for the overall quality and acceptance of research in a broader audience.



**Muhammad Ansar
Kamal**
Assumed the Charge of
Director PERI
w.e.f. 13 February 2023.





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