P179 / SDG-2 and Global South: Food Security, and Inclusive Public Policy

Topic : State and Policy Capacity

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GENERAL OBJECTIVES, RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

General Objectives

In SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture are highlighted to end hunger and achieve food security. Despite remarkable gains in agriculture output and social safety nets, hunger, malnutrition and inequitable access to nutritious food continues to be a plaguing problem globally in the Global South. The challenges emphasise how far we need to go before production-based interventions in order to have holistic public policies addressing institutional inequities, livelihood insecurity, climate vulnerabilities and differential access to public resources.

This panel will discuss the role of public policies, governance institutions and political processes in SDG 2 implementation in Asian, African and Latin American countries. It aims to provide comparative analysis on agricultural income support, public food distribution systems, nutrition programmes, climate-resilient agriculture and digital governance. Policy implementation and institutional capacity, intergovernmental coordination and policy distributional impact on smallholder farmers, women, rural households and socially disadvantaged groups will be covered in greater detail.

Research Questions

The Panel will discuss three interrelated research questions:

What are the impacts of institutional arrangements, political economy and administrative capacity on the design and implementation of food security and agricultural policies in the Global South?
2. How effective are public interventions, such as agricultural subsidies, direct cash transfers, public distribution systems and nutrition programmes in enhancing food security, livelihoods and equitable access to key resources?
How can comparative policy learning, South–South cooperation and innovative governance approaches augment the integration of food security, social protection and environmental sustainability in the pursuit of SDG 2?

Scientific Relevance

The scientific interest of this panel is to link the SDG implementation with the current contentions in comparative public policy, development governance, and the political economy of welfare. Research in this area often focuses on the impact of institutions on agricultural productivity and food security outcomes, but more attention should be given to the impact of institutional contexts, institutional design, implementation mechanisms, and social inequalities on agricultural productivity and food security outcomes.

The panel's discussion will look at how comparative, empirical and interdisciplinary approaches help to understand the varying outcomes of similar policy interventions in different countries and subnational contexts. It will also examine how experiences in the Global South can be put to use in the wider theoretical discussions on state capacity, policy innovation, distributive justice and sustainable development.

The panel's most significant contribution is to not just view the Global South as a beneficiary of international development policies, but also as a source of institutional innovation and policy knowledge. The results will contribute to comparative knowledge on food security governance and the development of context-specific solutions for the strengthening of inclusive, resilient and sustainable food systems. Towards this end, the panel aims to foster academic debate and discussion between public policy research and the operational problem of meeting SDG 2 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Achievement of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) for countries in the Global South is still a pressing challenge. Although agricultural production, social protection and food distribution has improved, vulnerable groups remain exposed to hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity and unequal access to nutritious food. Public

policies addressing these challenges must be holistic and prevent a disjointed approach by implementing policies and initiatives related to food security, sustainable agriculture, social justice and inclusive development.

This proposed panel for the conference welcomes theoretical, empirical and comparative research on the governance of food systems and SDG 2 implementation in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The panel's goal is to push forward the field of comparative public policy scholarship by discussing the various factors affecting food security outcomes, including institutional arrangements, political economy, administrative capacity, and policy innovations. It also aims to showcase policy experiences from the Global South and promote South–South knowledge sharing. The paper proposals can also look at country specific policy initiatives for achieving Zero Hunger.

Suggested Themes

We invite papers on, but not limited to, the following themes:

(1) Food security policies and achievements of SDG 2.
(2) Agricultural subsidies, direct cash transfers and farmers welfare.
(3) Public distribution systems and food security governance.
(4) Nutrition policies, social protection and inclusive development.
(5) Climate change and sustainable agriculture and resilient food systems.
(6) Digital technologies and implementation of agricultural policy.
(7) Food and agricultural inequalities and the inequalities between gender, caste and class.
(8) Smallholder farmers, rural livelihoods and agrarian transformation.
(9) Food and state capacity: political economy and institutional issues in food governance.
(10) Comparative public policy and South–south cooperation for sustainable development.

Submission Guidelines

Interested scholars are welcome to send an abstract of 300 words containing the research goals, questions, method and potential impact of the research on public policy scholarship.

We are especially interested in comparative, interdisciplinary and policy-oriented articles from young researchers and scholars in the Global South.