

Information Note on Areas of Collaboration between Punjab and Russian Federation

Trade, Industry & Investment Collaboration

Pakistan is currently exporting US\$ worth 160 million to the Russian Federation. The Key products include:

- US\$ 65 million worth of vegetables and fruits. A major portion of this amount is citrus fruits. The total imports by the Russian Federation is over US\$ 7 billion for this category. Punjab has a large production base in citrus, mango and other fruits and vegetables. The share of Punjab's produce is minimal in total demand. Areas of possible trade (B2B) and also investments in processing units may be explored to increase this trade chain.
- Russian Federation currently imports over US\$ 8.5 billion worth of pharmaceutical products. Pakistan's share in this is only US\$ 1 million. The potential to expand trade in this area may be explored as Punjab is home to several world class pharmaceutical producers. Moreover, collaboration between chemical industry in Russia and pharmaceutical industry in Punjab may be explored for potential cross-investments.
- Pakistan is only exporting US\$ 6.5 million out of total demand of US\$ 650 million Russian imports. Punjab has a strong potential and manufacturing base in footwear, this sector may be potentially explored for trade and cross-sector investments.
- Pakistan is exporting around US\$ 40 million worth of apparel goods to Russia against a total demand of over US\$ 8 billion. Given, Punjab is expanding its potential manufacturing capacity by inviting relocation of garments industry from China, this area calls for a stronger trade collaboration.
- Other areas where Punjab can benefit in trade relations is cutlery, knives, daggers, surgical goods and sports goods. These are all core SME clusters in the Punjab that can benefit from getting a greater share of Russian market.
- Russia imports over US\$ 15 billion worth of vehicles, Punjab's tractor industry and auto-parts manufacturers can collaborate closely. Russia has much

advanced engineering base and Punjab can attract expertise in these sectors to expand trade and investment.

- Russia also offers a significant market for meat and dairy products. Poultry can be exported in large quantities, if local manufacturers are able to meet sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards. Collaboration from Russian standards and certifying body can help build that capacity.

Education Sector Governance & Innovation

Provision of Education for All is a right under Constitution. Punjab Government has been spending significantly to improve provision of education. The Punjab Government can benefit from Russian collaboration by learning from their successful interventions including:

- **More use of incentives for teachers:** In both primary and secondary education, Russia's largest organisational innovation was an increase in the use of incentives to promote teacher retention in schools.
- **Innovative use of student assessments for monitoring school progress over time:** Another top Russian organisational innovation was the use of student assessments for monitoring progress over time. Between 2000 and 2009, Russia saw a 14% point difference in the percentage of 15-year old students in schools where assessments are used for monitoring progress from year-to-year; as of 2009, over 98% of all Russian secondary students were enrolled in schools using this practice.
- **Remedial education innovations in mathematics and Science:** Educational innovation has also resulted in increased availability of remedial education in math and science at the primary school level.
- Innovation in parental involvement in education can be indicated by increases in parental invitations to join school committees at either the primary or the secondary level.
- Russia's top pedagogic innovation was greater use of textbooks as primary resources in grade 8 mathematics specifically.
- Another pedagogic innovation in the Russian educational system is the change in use of same-ability grouping of students in secondary school subjects.

- Russia also saw innovation in the use of computers to look up ideas and information in primary and secondary school classes.

Skills Sector Reforms & Governance

Punjab can also benefit from Russia's latest reform in the TVET Sector and any lessons that can be replicated in the Punjab. The key areas of TVET Reforms in Russia include:

- Creation of a competency-based TVET system that is flexible and adaptive to change and that implements modern educational programmes taught by qualified and motivated trainers;
- Fostering continuing vocational education and training and lifelong learning;
- Strengthening the link between TVET and the labour market;
- Developing and institutionalizing the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the National Qualifications System; (this is an important area for the Punjab) and
- Enhancing the quality of TVET and to establish an independent quality assurance system for TVET.

The PSDP should be made to coordinate on these activities as they are also in process of designing and implementing similar reforms.