WTO ministerial failed to meet expectations of South Asian countries, say experts

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Likewise, chairing the opening session, Pushpa Raj Rajkarnikar, chairman of Institute for Policy Research and Development (IPRAD), stressed the need to explore ways to ensure that South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), as a regional bloc, can serve the common goal of deepening regional cooperation in South Asia. He called for a common South Asian agenda in multilateral forums like WTO.

Speaking in the session, I. Savi, Director of SAARC Secretariat, urged South Asian countries to come together for a greater regional integration in South Asia and stressed the need for putting aside political issues.

In yet another session titled ‘Overcoming Hunger in South Asia: Case of South Asian Food Supply Chain’, former vice chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC), Jagdish Chandra Pokharel, highlighted the need for increasing agricultural productivity with the use of appropriate technologies for overcoming hunger in South Asia.

Similarly, in the session ‘Agriculture Investment in South Asia: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges’, former member of NPC Hari Krishna Upadhyaya stressed the need for increased investments in agriculture sector in South Asian countries.

Altogether 40 stakeholders, including policymakers, from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are participating in the workshop that will conclude on Monday.