



## OPINION IN LEAD

### COP26 refocuses on climate finance

The 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) saw the countries updating their climate pledges but richer countries failed to keep up the promise of raising US\$100 billion in climate funding to vulnerable countries.

COP26, which was hosted in Glasgow, Scotland from 31 October to 13 November 2021, after repeated delays caused by the pandemic brought together leaders from all around the world to discuss and accelerate the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Adaptation, mitigation and finance were heavily discussed and emphasized during the conference. The event saw countries [pledging to work](#) towards ways to limit the increase of global average temperatures to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. One-hundred thirty countries have pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030. Likewise, more than one hundred countries signed the U.S.- and European Union-led [Global Methane Pledge](#) and agreed to collectively slash methane emissions by 30 percent by 2030. The countries also agreed on what is being called the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#), which called for renewed efforts to raise ambition on cutting emissions, climate finance, adaptation and the loss and damage already being caused by warming. Twenty-three countries went further than the Glasgow Climate Pact, [making new commitments](#) to phase out coal.

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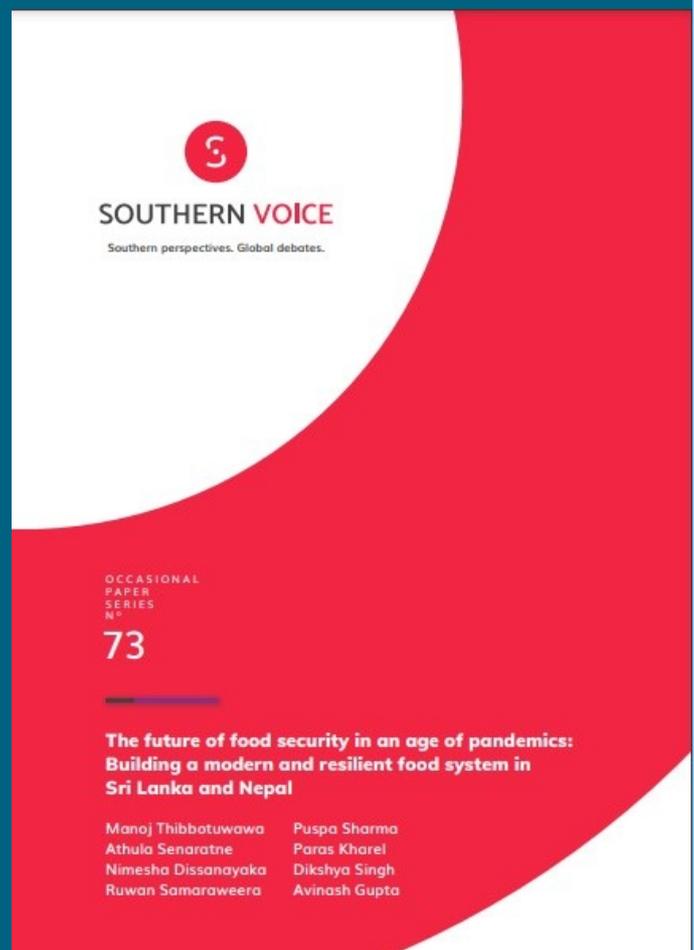
## REPORT

The future of food security in an age of pandemics: Building a modern and resilient food system in Sri Lanka and Nepal.

A pandemic with the scale and severity of the current coronavirus has not been experienced in any of the South Asian countries in recent decades. Furthermore, even apart from challenges presented by the pandemic, South Asia is one of the hotspots of global food insecurity. This study, published by Southern Voice, investigates ways to strengthen agri-food markets and value chains—and related social-protection mechanisms—to build a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive food system in Sri Lanka and Nepal, with the aim of helping these countries make a speedy recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic shock. Combining secondary research with primary data collected through in-depth interviews, the study, undertaken by Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) and South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) analyses the impacts of COVID-19 on rice and vegetable value chains in the two focal countries.

In the shorter term, the study suggests that ensuring a smooth supply of inputs, such as seeds, fertiliser, and agro-chemicals; improving access to agricultural financing; establishing efficient decentralised public and private procurement and distribution systems that feature buffer stocks and utilise e-commerce; and strengthening food-related social security programmes can help mitigate the effects of the pandemic. In the medium and longer terms, the study recommends addressing several larger, structural issues in the food system; these issues are related to agri-extension, food-system monitoring, food processing and value addition, and farm-market linkages.

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## Pakistan, China vow to tap full potential of Gwadar port, free zone

Pakistan and China resolved to redouble efforts to tap full potential of the Gwadar port and free zone and to ensure that the local population fully benefits from the projects.

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## India imposes antidumping duty on 5 Chinese goods for 5 years

India has imposed antidumping duties on five Chinese products for five years to guard local manufacturers from cheap imports.

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## No long-distance travel for Afghan women without male relative: Taliban

The Taliban authorities say women seeking to travel long distances should not be allowed on road transport unless they are accompanied by a close male relative.

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## How Nepal's bid to diversify trade after the blockade fell flat

Experts say over-reliance on the southern neighbour has rather increased because of a lack of strong policies and failure to implement recommended measures.

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## Bangladesh drafts land port upgrade plan

Bangladesh has proposed to develop infrastructure at a number of land ports of the country to improve the trade relation with South Asia sub-regional countries.

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## High shipping rates wreak havoc on Nepal's foreign trade

Nepal's domestic traders say that international freight charges have swelled by three to five times, pushing up the cost of imports.

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## Sri Lanka plans to pay off Iran oil debt with tea

Sri Lanka plans to settle a debt for past oil imports from Iran by paying it off in tea as the country plans to send US\$5m worth of tea to Iran each month to clear a US\$251m debt.

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## Nepali importers suffer as China continues to hold up shipments

Delays in the delivery of goods and constant disruptions on the roads to Khasa and Tatopani have also resulted in higher transportation costs, traders say.

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## Rohingya sue Facebook for \$150bn over Myanmar hate speech

Dozens of Rohingya refugees in the UK and US have sued Facebook, accusing the social media giant of allowing hate speech against them to spread.

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## Events

**TRADE + SUSTAINABILITY HUB**

Industrial Policy in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Session 12 | December 2 | 10:30 a.m. CET virtual

Industrial Policy in the Age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution

**TRADE + SUSTAINABILITY HUB**

International Support Measures for the Graduating LDCs: Perspectives from South Asia

Session 14 | December 2 | 12 p.m. CET virtual

International Support Measures for the Graduating LDCs: Perspectives from South Asia

**ONLINE SESSION**  
**BUILDING LOCAL RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS TO END HUNGER – LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND**

DATE: 07 DECEMBER, 2021 | TIME: 12:00 PM - 13:30 PM PST

  
**Ms Dikshya Singh**  
FCI, SAWTEE, IISD

Addressing food processing industry's challenges to create better market linkages for the producers and the consumers, review agriculture financing service, further agri extension service and information dissemination and increase capacity of e-commerce are prime recommendations

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Building Local Resilient Food Systems to end Hunger- Leaving no one behind

### EDITOR

Dikshya Singh

### CONTACT

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)

P.O. Box: 19366, Tukucha Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-1-4424360, 4444438 Fax: 977-1-4444570

Email: [enewsletter@sawtee.org](mailto:enewsletter@sawtee.org)

Web: [www.sawtee.org](http://www.sawtee.org)

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