



SOUTH PUNJAB FOREST COMPANY

South Punjab Forest Company (SPFC)

Grow Green to Earn Green



Interview

Public Private Partnership designed to attract private investment and improve the service delivery: Agha Waqar Javed

Agha Waqar Javed, Member (PPP-P&D Board) Head of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Cell is a high-profile bureaucrat who has an experience of more than twenty years in the corporate sector. PPP Cell is serving as a focal point for supporting all PPP initiatives in the province. This cell promotes and facilitates PPP development in Punjab while performing a role of knowledge manager, policy and project advisor.



Agha Waqar Javed, Member (PPP-P&D Board)

Agha Waqar Javed Member (PPP) shared his vision, inspiration and future course of action about PPP Cell in an exclusive interview with South Punjab Forest Company on February 24, 2017. He has discussed the role of SPFC in promoting forestry investments in the country as well.

1) How was the experience of heading PPP Cell for the last three years?

Working at Public Private Partnership Cell has been a tremendous experience for me, as we deal with a multitude of projects of various sectors. We have worked with sincerity, honesty, commitment and passion. I am thankful to my supervisors because without their support and cooperation, I would have not been able to go that far. PPP Cell has delivered several development projects and I believe that the future of this cell is very bright.

2) How PPP Cell has been playing its role in Punjab for economic prosperity?

It is important to note that the development resources are scarce all over the world and in coming days, fiscal space for developmental projects will reduce, so where the government has limited financial resources and wants to benefit from the entrepreneurial abilities of the private sector, the role of PPP comes in. We are making progress in 15 sectors and have had success in changing the mindset of traditional public mode to partnership mode, which has efficiency and no delays. Most importantly, through PPP funding, benefit is given directly to the communities, as social sector projects are completed within stipulated time frame.

3) What are the recent developments at PPP Cell?



Agha Waqar Javed in conversation with SPFC's officials

PPP Cell has a robust legal and institutional framework. In past two and a half years projects worth Rs.46 billion have been awarded such as Gujranwala-Sheikhupura road, Pakpattan THQ hospital, Lahore Ring Road, Ashiana Housing Scheme and Kahna Kacha Flyover etc. We have several pipeline projects worth an estimated Rs.185 billion which is higher than the Annual Development Program of many provinces. In PPP's the equity dimension is also important that only those people have to pay who use a particular facility. For instance, the Lahore Ring Road Project toll is paid by those users only who get value for money.

I believe that equitable development is imperative for the progress of our country. Recognizing our efforts, Asian Development Bank is keen to finance our Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and so is Department for International Development (DfID). World Bank is also partnering with us under the J&C P4R Program. We are pleased to have the confidence of foreign players. We are now leading the country in PPP projects and even planning to venture in water, sanitation and tourism sectors too.