

Question number 2

Having the largest irrigation system in the world, the land of the sub-continent served as the main food supply basket for the British power for more than a century, but now Pakistan has to import food commodities. Discuss in detail the causes of this agricultural decline.

Answer

1. Introduction

Agriculture is the means of livelihood of almost two-thirds workforce in the world. Particularly, the British of Indian Subcontinent has considered as the hub of food basket because the people overly depend upon agricultural sectors and trade of food products with other countries. Hence, the rapid growth of population and urbanization of the people have ruined the agricultural sectors in Pakistan, which effect on socio-economic and political development of the country. For instance, out of total population almost forty-five percent of people leave the rural area. As a result, the urbanization has jolted the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of the country's economy. Along with this, the shortage and import of food commodities are creating disharmony in the country. Moreover, Pakistan is confronting food shortage, negligence of administration about agriculture sector, and low financial allocation in budget. Along with this, climate change, flood, political instability, and dwindling of economy are the basic factors of low agriculture development. In a nutshell, the state should take some programmatic steps for reducing the food shortage and improving by different method for agricultural development.

2. Current situation about agriculture

Pakistan's agriculture sector plays a central role in the economy as it contributes 18.9 percent to GDP and absorbs 42.3 percent of labor force. Agriculture sector growth-rate in 90s at 4.4% but slowed to just 2.6% of GDP in 2020-2022. There are not great welfare improvement and poverty remains high in the agriculture sector/rural economy (close to 30%), food security is becoming a major issue, some 30% of the population is undernourished, the livelihood of about 50% of the population still depends on agriculture.

3. Causes to decline agriculture in Pakistan

- Stagnating crop yields with wide gaps between progressive and average farmers
- Poor quality and inadequate supply of inputs and lack of infrastructure
- Under-performance of rural factor and input markets
- High pre- and post-harvest losses
- Declining investment including in research, development and extension
- Frequent insect and pest attacks and high incidence of crop and livestock diseases
- Lack of capital and financial resources
- Lack of international competitiveness of some agricultural commodities

- Low crop diversification
- Highly skewed distribution of farm size and low economy of size and scale
- Inadequate supply of water and the inefficient use of available water resource

4. Solutions about agriculture performance

a) Supply related policies

- Rural infrastructure
- Agricultural research and development, and extension
- Institutions for agricultural resource management
- Farm input and produce pricing

b) Demand related policies

- Income, growth and development
- Education and knowledge
- Food price stabilization

c) Market related policies

- Effectiveness of markets
- Policies to insulate local markets from global market

5. Conclusion

All the above discussion, it is concluded that agriculture is a backbone of every country for the social, economic, and political development. As an agrarian country, Pakistan should take some major and important steps toward agricultural convert into modern and advance technology. More than half of the population connect with agriculture sector and people depend upon the field harvesting and crops growth for involve own contribution in the country. Finally, it is the duty and responsibility of the state to do work on the efficient and provide relief fund for the farmer. The new agricultural development steps is the one of the best plan for the production and growth of crops.