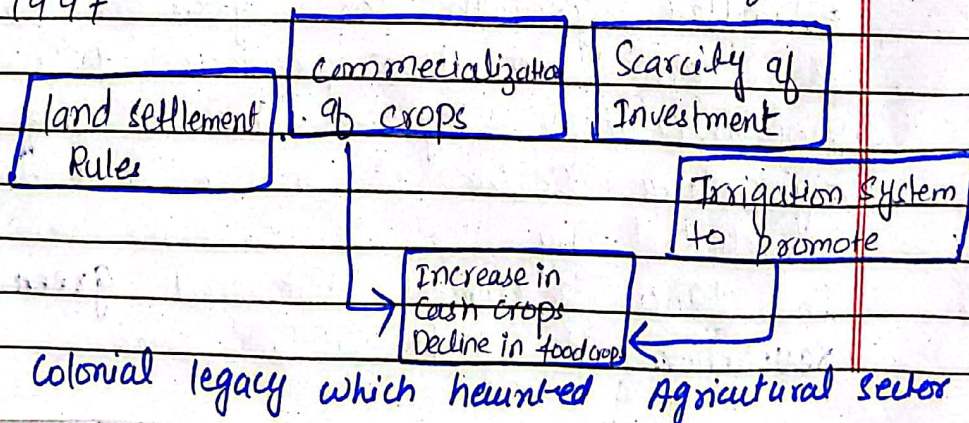


Having largest irrigation system in the world, the land of sub-continent served as main food supply basket for British power for more than a century but now Pakistan has to import food commodities? Discuss in details the causes of this Agricultural decline?

Introduction :-

Under colonial era agriculture sector was occupation of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population in South Asia. It served as the main food supply basket for British power for more than a century (Economy of India 1858-1947, Thakur Roy). Moreover, the growth of agriculture sector was stagnant and inequalities increased which also continued even after 1947.



Pakistan is the agrarian country. Agricultural sector contributes **22.7%** to GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of country, **37.1%** to the employment generation and it also provides the raw material to the industries. (**Economic Survey of Pakistan 2022-2023**). There are many factors that contribute towards the decline of agriculture sector of Pakistan.

Causes of Agricultural Decline:

Poor Government Policies

Agriculture sector of Pakistan has the great potential to flourish but it is declining due to the negligence of government ineffective policies.

2021-22

4.27%

2023

1.5% ↓

Estimated growth for year 2023 is less than the previous year growth. Colonial legacies, haunted the agriculture sector it further had been perpetuated by the post colonial era.

In 1960's government announced **green revolution** in which subsidies were

given to landlords without paying due attention to peasant. However, these policies still exist in deep roots of Pakistan.

Heritage law:-

According to (Inter-provincial) Government of Pakistan Provincial Report 93% of agricultural land is held by small farmers which is less than 12.5 acre. It is also a constraint for agriculture sector.

Irrigation Woes:-

Pakistan has 16 Barrage, 23 interlinked canal, 02 siphons and 43 total canals. These were established during British era. However, these are now depleted or leaked and needs some renovation. Despite having largest irrigation system it still have the problem to cultivate the crops due to low storage capacity.

Indus Irrigation System

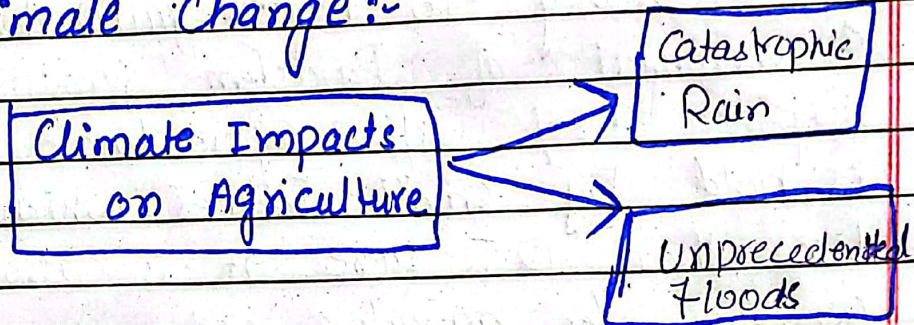
Tarbela Dam	Primary storage
Kinjar lake	Secondary storage
• Barun, Bolon	Other
Bund Khusdill Khan	

40 million acre land is controlled by fresh water.

Looming water crisis:-

According to reports Pakistan's water storage capacity is **10%** which is below the international standard which is **40%**. Pakistan is wasting Fresh water reservoir. However, it is estimated Pakistan will face water crisis by **2025** (UNDP, PCRWR reports)

Climate Change:-



Economic Survey of Pakistan (2022-23) and World Bank report described that flood in Pakistan affected the $\frac{1}{5}$ populated area of Pakistan, life of **33** millions people and **4.4** million acre ~~land~~ agricultural land. It ~~entirely~~ exacerbated the food insecurity in Pakistan. Furthermore, catastrophic rain also worsen the impacts and deteriorated the crops.

18th Amendment and agricultural decline

According to Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce on agriculture, major decline has been witnessed in agricultural products export. It also showed concerns that provinces lack expertise,

and resources, and have financial constraints. However these are contributing toward agricultural decline. Another concern is export is federal subject while agriculture is provincial subject.

Alienation from Technology:-

Another ~~reason~~ reason behind agriculture decline is alienation of technological advancements.

lack of advanced Machinery



lack of seed reforms / low yielding cultivation



lack of training and Research

Remain: Ways to Improve Agriculture Sector

→ Cooperative Farming:-

Cooperative farming under cooperative societies pools the resources and help farmer to cultivate their crops. It provides necessary basic and advanced machinery to enhance the cultivation.

- Seed sector of Pakistan needs reforms
- Revise agricultural land settlement rule through mutual cooperation among farmers
- Shift the trends from cash crops to food production
- Shift the agricultural subject to Federal to enhance its efficiency
- Effectively enhance the water storage capacity.
- Increase forestation. Trees like **Kikar** absorb excessive water through evapotranspiration. It will help to cope with catastrophic rains. A forestation around agricultural land.
- Preventative measures to deal/tackle with flood
- Investment in research and development give proper to farmers
- ~~Need~~ a policy ^{shift} that helps poor farmers to grow their own crops rather than only subsidizing the landlords.

Conclusion:-

Pakistan's agricultural sector has the great potential to revive the bloated economy of Pakistan. However, effective and efficient measures are required to tackle the looming threat on agriculture sector. It can only be possible through mutual cooperation from government and public to address all the issues of climate change, and other socio-economic factors worsening the agriculture sector of Pakistan.