

Bring further maturity in your arguments/writing but adding appropriate and mature jargons

## Can Agriculture be ignored for developing other sectors?

### Outline

This essay would secure around 30-33 marks

1. Introduction paragraph

2. Thesis Statement: Two viewpoints exist in the world, one favours the the engnoring of agriculture sector. While, other view<sup>is</sup> that development of agriculture sector is pivotal for the development of other sectors. So, it should not be ignored at any cost. No doubt, the second viewpoint ensures the sustainable development of a country.

Mature your thesis statement

3. Agriculture sector cannot be ignored for developing other sectors

- a) Agriculture: Foundation of Industrialization
- b) Agriculture sector: Source of Rural employment
- c) Ensures food security
- d) Economic spillover effects of agriculture
- e) Source of foreign exchange

4. Agriculture sector can be ignored.

- a) All Industries Donot depend on Agriculture
- b) Increased Urbanisation: Reduce rural employment value

- c) Food security through imported food ✓
- d) Negative spillover effects of agriculture
- e) Non-agricultural products: high forex value ✓

Argument is unclear

## 5. Synthesis

- a) Interdependence of Agriculture and Industrial sector for economic growth ✓
- b) Rural employment: A key pillar for equitable economic progress ✓
- c) Self-reliance is better than relying on others ✓
- d) Negative spillover effects?? of non-agricultural sectors ?
- e) Non-agricultural products perpetuate foreign exchange inequality ✓

## 6. Conclusion

Agriculture is the most important industry in the world, it is a source of food, security and sustainable development.

Ban Ki-Moon, the former secretary of the United Nations has articulated the importance of agriculture in the befitting manner. It is an

**undeniable** undeniable reality that agriculture has served as the building block of various developed countries. It is also a cornerstone for the sustainable development of the developing countries. It not only provides food but also ensures security of the state and drives it <sup>to</sup> the path of sustainable development. In the modern era of information technology and industrialization, two viewpoints exist regarding the importance of agriculture sector. One of them opines that development

of agriculture sector can be sacrificed for the sake of the development of other sectors. On the contrary, another viewpoint is also prevalent that supports the notion of not ignoring agriculture sector at the opportunity cost of other sectors. Although, all the sectors in the world have their due importance but the value of agriculture sector cannot be undermined. Agriculture sector is the foundation of industrialization it ensures food security, empowers rural population, and possesses economic spillover effect in the market and along with this, agriculture sector is also one of the major sources of foreign exchange earnings. Those who oppose the idea that agriculture sector cannot be ignored, claim that industrial sector does not solely depend

on agricultural raw materials. Moreover, they opine that urbanization has undermined the significance of agriculture sector and imported food items also regulate the food security in a country. Furthermore, they believe that non-agricultural products are more valuable in international trade and agriculture sector <sup>also</sup> possesses negative spillover effects on the economy and environment. Though, these realities exist but it is also an admitted fact that agriculture sector and other sectors especially industrial sector are interdependent for driving up economic growth. In addition to it, agriculture sector is a key pillar for equitable economic progress and self-reliance. In food production is better than depending on others. Moreover, if agriculture sector has negative spillover effects, then

other sectors also have negative spillover implications. So, ignoring agriculture for the development of other sectors is neither rational nor beneficial.

Agriculture sector is the foundation of industrialization. It provides raw material to various industries, which ramp up their production capacity and in turn promote industrial sector developments. There are various agricultural products which are being used as raw material in industries like cotton crop supplies the basic element for textile industry, sugarcane run sugar industries while wheat is the fuel of wheat mills. Its evident example is the rapid industrialization of Bangladesh, the reason of such massive industrialization

(2)

is its textile sector which depends on cotton crop that is supplied by its agriculture sector. Textile sector of Bangladesh has employed 4.2 million people and its share in the total Bangladesh exports stands at 42 billion dollars in 2023. So, it can be said that agriculture sector supports industrial sector.

Agriculture sector is not only a source of industrialization but also a major source of rural employment. In agriculture sector, mostly rural population is linked across the globe, they spend their whole lives in cultivating, harvesting and selling agricultural products like crops, vegetables, fruits etc to earn their livelihood. Due to the lack of alternative employment

~~employment~~ sources in the rural areas, people usually remain associated with it and their progress and economic well being become tied with <sup>the</sup> agriculture sector growth and development. In case of Pakistan, 62.8% of the <sup>total</sup> population reside in rural areas while 60-70% of the rural population is either directly or indirectly belongs to agriculture sector. Finance division reports, hence, agriculture sector is the source of rural employment.

Along with providing employment to rural population, agriculture sector plays crucial role in ensuring food security and stability. Food insecurity is a situation in which people remain deprived of the daily



food intake and resultantly become victim of malnourishment. Agriculture sector is the source of crops like wheat, rice, maize etc, it provides fruits and vegetables along with it livestock, being the part of agriculture sector, is the source of meat for the people and it maintains the consistent supply of food for the people and prevent food insecurity.

According to the World Bank, agriculture sector has pivotal role in ensuring food security across the globe. In case of Pakistan, 37% population of the agrarian country with poor agricultural productivity is facing food insecurity. So, it can be said that agriculture sector is the backbone of food security.

Along with it, agriculture sector's development is also pivotal because it has positive spillover effect on the economy. When the agriculture sector grows, it raises the income level of the people associated with it, either directly or indirectly, which in turn results in increasing the demand for non-agriculture products. When the demand rises, producers expand their production levels that creates employment opportunities in the market along with ramping up the economic growth of a country. Its best example is the case study of China. During green revolution in China, its agricultural productivity had enhanced which resulted in improving the living standard of people. Moreover, it has driven up the non-agricultural sector in

China and paved the way for its economic growth and development. Hence, Agriculture sector cannot be ignored for other sectors.

Agriculture sector not only possesses positive spillover effects but it is also a source of foreign exchange earning. In the world, agricultural countries export their agricultural surplus products to the importing countries and in return, earn foreign exchange which helps in maintaining their balance of payment favourable. Agriculture sector is one of the major sources of earning foreign exchange for the developing countries having viable agriculture environment and fertile land. According to the World Food programme reports

USA is the biggest food items exporter of the world. Its export volume of food items stand at more than 170 bn\$. While, other large food exporting countries include China, Russia, India etc. So, agricultural sector assists the developed as well as developing countries to earn foreign exchange.

Although agricultural sector is pivotal but some think tanks do not support the neglect of other sectors for the sake of the development of agriculture sector. One of the major reason for it is that industrial sector does not wholly and solely depend on agricultural raw material. World is progressing with every passing year and now it has embarked on the

of automation and information technology. There are large chunk of industries which are uncorrelated with agriculture sector and its evident example is the automotive industry that depends on the supply of steel, tyres, plastic, iron etc. Likewise, the industry of information technology is dependent on firewalls, minerals for making cables etc. Japan is progressing in the field of automation. Honda, Suzuki etc are included in its big companies. They don't demand agriculture products as raw material. So, weighing agriculture sector's development at the cost of other sectors is illogical and non-beneficial.

As all industries are not dependent on agriculture

sector, similarly, urbanization has reduced the rural employment share in agriculture sector with the advancement of facilities provision in the urban areas, people are migrating from rural areas to urban areas in the search of better employments, acquiring education and availing good health facilities which are not available in rural areas. This rapid pace of urbanization has diverted the people from agricultural sector employment towards the urban sector employment sources of industries, etc. In Pakistan, urbanization is increasing at fast pace. According to the United Nations, in 1950's one-third of world population was residing in urban areas and it is expected that in 2050's two-third of world's population will be in urban areas.

It is creating employment opportunities demand in urban areas. So, urbanization has reduced the reliance of rural population on agriculture sector.

Moreover, food security in the world can also be ensured by imported food items. In the world, various countries are meeting the nutritional demand of their population by importing food products from the countries that have agricultural surplus. They are diversifying their economic structures by promoting industrial sector, information technology sector along with automation to reduce their dependence on only one sector so that they can tackle the climate disasters implications and cannot become underprivileged.

due to heavy reliance on agriculture sector. Its best example is Norway which has low level of agriculture land but despite this it is enjoying food security.

It is due to the import of food products. So, agriculture sector is not only the assurance of food security of a country.

In addition to its agriculture sector has negative spillover effects on the environment.

The countries which are expanding their agricultural land, they are cutting trees which is the source of deforestation.

Moreover, <sup>their</sup> usage of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides etc is also releasing harmful green house gases in the environment that is raising the global temperature and causing the



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adverse climatic change.

The negative implications of agriculture on the environment along with with environment polluting factors has brought the devastating change in the climate like destructive floods, prolonged drought period, violent hurricanes, change in weather pattern and deadly heat waves. These changes are impacting the development of other sectors. United Nations has changed its stance from the global warming to global boiling. It highlights the critical situation of climatic change and agriculture sector is one of the culprit of it.

Along with having negative spillover impacts on environment, it also has low market value in trade markets.

Agricultural Products are imported by the countries at low prices while these countries pay high prices for the import of non-agricultural products like petroleum products, machines, vehicles, medicines etc. Their low value impedes the economic growth of the countries which are reliant on the agriculture sector for their economic well-being. These countries often face unfavourable balance of payment in the trade market. Its best example is Pakistan, being agrarian country, its export basket mainly consists of food items. While, its import basket contain valuable goods like machines, petrol, diesel, automotive items etc. In 2022, Pakistan faced the trade deficit of upto \$30 billion. Although, due to import restrictions,

it was shrank to 25-30bn in 2023. But, it shows that agrarian countries face worrisome crisis of balance of payment deficit due to low value of agricultural products.

Although, agriculture sector development has some opportunity cost in terms of the development of other sectors. But, it is pivotal for the economic well-being of the world. One of the major reasons is the heavily interdependence of the agriculture and industrial sector for economic growth. Although, all industries don't get their raw material from agriculture sector but still get benefits from its development. In Brazil, biofuel industry is flourishing with every passing year and it depends

on the raw material of sugar cane that is derived from agriculture sector. Biofuel industry is helping the people of Brazil to improve their living standard and adopt a better life style. Likewise, industrial sector produces many machines that are used in agriculture sector like harvesters, threshers, seed chiller etc to ramp up agriculture productivity. Hence, both agriculture and industrial sectors are inter-dependent.

Along with interdependency, it is an admitted fact that rural employment is a key pillar for equitable economic progress. Although, people are moving towards urban areas but still, large chunk of the world's population reside in rural areas. With the developments

of agriculture sector, more employment opportunities are created in rural areas that can raise the living standard of people, which hinders their movement towards urban sector. It is an admitted fact and a cultural factor that people especially of rural areas love their land and they don't love to leave their place. But, due to economic and educational etc compulsion, they are forced to leave and move to urban areas. But, when improved employment system is available to them in rural areas, they don't want to leave it. So, agriculture sector development is pivotal for ensuring equitable economic growth.

Along with its agriculture sector development plays vital role in ensuring food security than imported goods. Every country wants to become self-reliant in food requirements rather than depending on other for food support. When countries import food products, it reduces their foreign exchange reserves and along with it, these imported items are more expensive than domestically produced items. It in turn leads to food inflation in the importing country. According to the world system theory, core countries exploit the peripheral countries for their own benefit. Similarly, in the world, exporting nations exploit importing countries by charging high prices because they know that importing countries will have to import the food items at

any cost to meet food demand. So, self-reliance in agriculture is better than relying on imported food.

Moreover, the development of other sectors also have negative spillover effects. When transportation sector grows, it increases the demand for fossil fuels to run the vehicles, which emit greenhouse gases and deteriorate air quality. Similarly, with the advancement of IT sector, e-waste has also increased that is polluting the environment. Its best example is the deadly smog in London in 1950's. Due to massive industrialization, atmospheric quality was deteriorated to such an extent that deadliest smog took place and it engulfed

thousands of innocent lives ✓  
Some condition is now-a-days  
being faced by Punjab in  
~~the~~ Pakistan. Smog has  
turned into the shape of  
the bomb of diseases that  
is dwindling the living  
standard and health situation  
of its residents. So, it  
can be derived that non-  
agriculture sector also has  
negative spillover impact on  
environment ✓

Moreover, foreign exchange  
earning from agriculture sector  
is mostly a major source of  
foreign reserves for developing  
countries. ✓ Because, it is usually  
seen that developing nations  
are mostly agrarian, they  
earn foreign currency by  
exporting food products  
and importing non-agriculture



products. Pakistan is a developing country and its export of food items has worth of 8-9 bn\$ annually.

Agriculture sector results in the flow of foreign exchange inside <sup>into</sup> the developing countries.

On the contrary, development of other sectors like industries,

IT sector, automotive sector usually benefit non-agrarian countries. As, most of developed nations export non-agrarian products to developing countries, and get larger inflow of foreign exchange.

Pakistan imports petroleum products, machines, vehicles etc from other countries especially from Saudi, USA, Japan etc. It depicts that dollars flow to developed nation is more than developing nations, which perpetuate inequality. So, the development of agriculture

is pivotal for developing nations to earn foreign exchange. ✓

To recapitulate it, agriculture sector cannot be ignored at the cost of the development of non-agricultural sectors. ✓

The development of agricultural sector plays vital role in empowering rural sector, fostering industrialization and ensuring food security across the world. ✓ Moreover, it has multiple positive economic spillover effects that further increase its due importance. Along with it, agriculture sector is the source of foreign exchange. ✓ So, it is proved that by developing other sectors, agriculture sector development cannot be ignored. ✓ It should be developed for fostering the development in other sectors. ✓