

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.

### 1) Introduction

### 2) Historical Overview of Agriculture Sector in Pakistan

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a) Imports of food products in fiscal year 2023 amounting to \$6bn, according to State Bank of Pakistan.

### a) Causes for agricultural decline

#### a) Administrative Causes

i) Outdated Irrigation Infrastructure

ii) Inept implementation of land reforms

#### b) Environmental Causes

i) Vulnerability to climate change-induced disasters

ii) Scarcity of Natural Resources

c) Economic Causes

i) Lack of Investment in Technology and Education

ii) Outdated Industrial Sector

iii) Unequal distribution of Resources

d) Political Causes

i) Inefficient Policies of Stakeholders

ii) The exploitation of farmers in the hands of feudal lords

e) Social Causes

i) Rapid Population growth

ii) Horizontal Expansion of areas and urbanization

c) Measures to uplift Agriculture Sector

a) To build consensus on making of dams

b) To take Land Reforms

c) To make strategies for making good use of disaster-vulnerable land

d) To ensure investment and technology in Agriculture Sector

e) Conclusion

## 1) Introduction :-

the largest irrigation system <sup>having</sup> in the world which served as the main food supply basket for the British power for more than a century. But now Pakistan has to import its food products. There are administrative, environmental, economic, political, as well as social causes for this huge decline in the agricultural sector. However there are measures such as building consensus on making of dams, land reforms ensuring of investment, to mention a few. If these measures are taken in an effective way, they can ~~then~~ bring Pakistan back to food exporting country by eliminating all odds.

## 2) Historical Overview of Agriculture Sector in

# Pakistan :-

In past century times, Pakistan acted as a food exporting country due to well and updated agricultural system. It exported wheat, rice, maize, cotton to Asian, Middle East, and European countries, receiving an excessive amount of money. ~~These~~ These facts show that Pakistan, in history, acted as an agrarian land and had largest irrigation system.

## 2) The current situation of Agriculture Sector in Pakistan:-

Currently, the agriculture situation in Pakistan is worst as the country is importing more than half of the food products for its domestic needs. According to the latest report by State Bank of Pakistan, Pakistan imported

about \$6bn of food products in Fiscal Year 2023. This figure shows the worst condition of one of the largest irrigation systems of the world, i.e., Pakistan Irrigation System.

#### 4) Causes for Agricultural decline in Pakistan-

There are many causes for the agricultural decline in Pakistan. These causes are discussed below:

#### a) Administrative Causes-

This type of causes include the outdated irrigation system present in Pakistan. This system lacks modern machinery and also modern technology due to which it cannot work efficiently. Other cause is the inept implementation of land reforms. The government of

Pakistan is unable to make or implement policies for the effective utilization of working or lands.

## b) Environmental Causes:-

Environment acts as the impediment in the progress of agricultural practices. As Pakistan is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters due to its geography. So, government and people of Pakistan are unable to handle them. Moreover, there is scarcity of water in certain areas of Pakistan due to lack of management of water bodies. These reasons cause the agricultural system to decline.

## c) Economic Causes:-

Due to worst economic conditions, Pakistan's agricultural sector is highly affected. Because the government of Pakistan is unable to invest in technology and education. Further, the industrial sector has outdated materials which could not meet the contemporary needs. Additionally, there is unequal distribution of resources where farmers are not given enough land to cultivate. These causes add to the fall of agriculture system.

## d) Political Causes:-

In Pakistan, stakeholders are unable to make efficient policies and in this way hindering the progress of agriculture sector. There is other reason which is the farmers are

exploited in the hands of feudal lords. They use farmers as puppets to work them on their lands. In return, pay them low wages. Such conditions impede the progression of agriculture sector.

## Social Causes:-

Another reason which is contributing socially to the decline of agricultural sector in Pakistan is the rapid population growth. According to latest data, Pakistan is ranked as the fifth most populous country in the world having more than 240 m population. Such high population leads to high urbanization rate. Moreover, there is no planning in Pakistan for vertical housing.



And horizontal expansion of houses are adding fuel to the fire.

## 5) Measures to uplift Agriculture Sector in Pakistan:-

The effective measures to uplift agriculture sector in Pakistan ~~are~~ include the building of consensus on making of dams by the government of Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan needs to take land reforms, and make strategies for making the good use of disaster-vulnerable land. Additionally, the country has to ensure investment and technology in agriculture sector. Such measures would be sufficient for the prosperity of agricultural land in Pakistan.

## 6) Conclusion :-

Although, in past Pakistan acted as the food exporting country having the largest ~~econom~~ irrigation system. But currently Pakistan comes under the umbrella of food importing countries. As the country is unable to fulfill its domestic need of food. The ~~re~~ causes behind this downfall are administrative, political, economic, environmental, and social, etc. However, if proper strategic measures are taken, then country can ~~move~~ adopt toward updated irrigation system in the world.

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