

AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN PAKISTAN AND HOW TO COUNTER IT

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III. Reasons for Agricultural decline in Pakistan

A. Erratic changes in weather patterns leading to destructive floods.

→ 1.7 million hectares of agricultural land wiped out, World Bank

B. Excessive reliance on outdated and obsolete agricultural methods and techniques.

→ 90% of Pakistan's freshwater with drains, The Agricultural Economist.

C. Government prioritizing the manufacturing sector sidelining agricultural production

→ 0.2% of total expenditure of the Federal budget

IV. Remedial Measures to counter Agricultural Decline in Pakistan

A. Investing in advance agricultural technology to boost efficiency

B. Inaugurating hybrid seeds and focusing on fertilizers

→ 50% increase in cereal by fertilizers, Reuters

C. Distributing water through cemented canal systems to avoid seepage and evaporation

→ 66% average water losses due to unlined canals, Tribune

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According to ~~an~~ Institute of Agricultural Research (IAR), agriculture's share in Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has drastically fallen from thirty-nine percent (39%) in the 1960s to nineteen percent (19%) even though it still employs nearly forty percent (40%) of the labour force. These figures highlight the sharp decline in the agricultural production and efficiency in Pakistan. Each country is bestowed with ^{unlimited natural} resources. After utilizing those resources, country's dependence lies on those factors of productions. Owing to natural beauty and scenic views, Denmark's

and Switzerland's GDP relies on the tourist industry. Conversely, Pakistan possesses Indus River that flows from Himalayan region to the Arabian Sea. Providing vast land of agricultural fields from north to south. Unfortunately, during recent decades, the size of agricultural region is shrinking that has spiralled into decline in agricultural fields and production of Pakistan. Giving some alarming indicators for food insecurity within a country. Therefore, this essay would highlight the conceptualization of Agricultural Fields in Pakistan. After that, it would null over the cogent reasons for agricultural decline. Lastly, it would provide some pragmatic and remedial measures to counter agricultural decline in the vicinity of Pakistan.

To start with, every nation's economic back bone is defined by what the country contains or in which sector it is specializing. Similarly, Pakistan has limitless agricultural fields that is solely supported by rivers and canal system. After the independence in 1947, Pakistan had no few and countable industries on which country's expenditure could rely. At that time, Pakistan utilize its water sources and increased agricultural production. After that earnings from agricultural fields became the backbone of the country.

The real nightmare came, when after four to five decades, state witnessed sharp decline in agricultural production. The grounds of ~~death~~ diminishing were drought, unlined canals, unequal and unfair distribution of water in the ~~state~~ district and tribal, occasionally political power was also used to oppress the opposition. So are the reason due to decline in agricultural fields in Pakistan.

Exotic changes in weather patterns resulting into destructive floods is ^{the first} ~~one~~ of the reason of declining agricultural production in Pakistan. Considering the repercussion of climate change and global warming, Pakistan is one of the most impacted countries from these two upmentioned catastrophes. Owing to this, the weather in Pakistan is unpredictable and unimaginable. Leaving some regions in drought like Thar and Thal while remaining areas in floods. When the rainfall flood water enters into river and canal banks. The pressure and ~~death~~ density of water exasperated in the rivers. That sometimes transformed into overfearing and breaking of river banks that wiped out the agricultural fields, livestock and village side people's homes. According to world bank around 1.7 million hectares of ~~the~~ agricultural land had

been destroyed by the 2022 destructive and massive floods. Pakistan economically ^{stable} country facing such damages each year has worsen the agricultural makeup ~~for~~ ^{of} the country. Therefore, pernicious floods every year has declined and adversely impacted the overall agricultural fields, production and efficiency in Pakistan.

Secondly, excessive reliance ~~of~~ on outdated and obsolete agricultural methods and techniques is also responsible for diminishing agricultural production in Pakistan. As per The Agricultural Economist, ninety percent (90%) of Pakistan's freshwater withdrawn from fresh water ~~resour~~ reservoirs. Government never eagerly unearth other water sources or utilize this water effectively through sprinkle irrigation. During the recent standoff on Eastern and Western borders, water coming from India and Afghanistan is drastically reduced as both nations decided to hinder water flow knowing Pakistan's economy rely on these water sources. Having outdated ~~so~~ agricultural equipment reduces the efficiency and productivity. Access to tractors, threshers and boring water facilities ^{are} still ~~is~~ not possible. Due to high and expensive per day rent to utilize these services. ~~seen~~ Henceforth, farmers ~~it~~ depend on the old school techniques and methods that is time consuming and less

effective. Hence, prevalence of traditional equipment, techniques and modes of ~~operands~~ ^{operation} are also to some extent responsible for factor for shrinking agricultural fields.

Government is prioritizing to manufacturing sector that has sidelined agricultural production and land is the third ground of dwindle in agricultural sector of Pakistan. Pakistani state always wanted to be economic-in-transit from ~~switching~~ ^{switching} to primary sector to secondary and tertiary sector. But unfortunately each government is failed to do. Because of this, successive governments have underinvested the agricultural fields ^{and reform} that has further worsen the agricultural production. Moreover, government also pay little attention towards the enhancing primary sector-based goods. For example, according to federal budget 2025-26 only point-two percent (0.2%) of total expenditure attributed to the agricultural lands. This figure underscores the prioritize set by the governmental institutions. Ergo, government's focus on manufacturing industry has marginalized the agricultural product that once used to be the backbone of the economy.

Previous paragraphs shed light on the grounds for agricultural decline. However,

preceding ~~para~~ paragraphs would highlight the pragmatic remedial measures to ~~counter~~ counter agricultural reduction in Pakistan.

What is the first and foremost necessary measure Pakistan must do promptly to counter the agricultural decline? Government institutions must invest in advance agricultural technology to boost efficiency and productivity. Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation must allow zero taxes on agricultural technology.

Agriculture-based banks, Zarai Banks, must be strengthened and more loan at lower interest rate must be given.

The concept of leasing (^{gāssrook} Ijarah) must be ~~being~~ introduced at the ~~lower~~ ^{grassroot} level so that after purchasing machinery owner of farmer must be the real owner of the equipment after paying installments. New cutting-edge technology would increase productivity, efficiency and effectiveness, morphing into more production of agricultural goods in the short span of time. Clearly, investment in new equipments and plant and machinery would ~~increase~~ counter the agricultural decline.

Secondly, inaugurating hybrid seeds and focusing on fertilizers is the second

counter to the reduction in agricultural. As ~~decline~~ per ~~the~~ Reuters, fifty percentage (50%) increase was witnessed in cereal production with the help of fertilizers.

Sprinkling the ~~fertilizer~~ fertilizers in the fields would definitely boost agricultural production.

State needs to provide these fertilizer in subsidised rates and local government must act as an ~~an immediately~~ intermediary between state government and farmers so that fertilizers are reached correctly. Moreover, hybrid seeds such as Green Gold, Syngenta, Tass and Pioneer must be ~~not~~ plough in the fields as these hybrid seeds have faster growth, and disease resistance.

This would provide another opportunity to excel Pakistan's decreasing agricultural production.

Distributing water through cemented canal system to avoid seepage and evaporation is the third ~~reason~~ of how remedial measure to counter agricultural decline in the peripheries of Pakistan. According to ~~the~~ Tribune, sixty six percent (66%) of average water losses ~~are~~ occurred due to unlined canals. Allowing water to flow through lined canals would increase the accessibility and availability of water in the far-reach areas. By this way level of agricultural outcome increases instead of diminishing.

~~Inauguration~~ Inauguration of six (6) canals from Indus river is one of the effective measures to increase agricultural productivity in Pakistan. With the help of Cholistan Project, corporate farming would be possible. However, it may reduce water distribution in the southern part ofindh. leaving lower sides of sindh just a barren land. Truly, distributing water through canal system would help to ~~accelerate~~ the agricultural's production instead of diminishing.

To cap it all, Pakistan is an agrarian nation, forty percent (40%) of GDP ~~comes~~ is generated from the agricultural productions and ancillary activities. It is high time for the governmental institutions to pay attention on the agricultural production and productivity. Else there ~~would~~ ^{be} another blow coming from the decreasing agricultural ~~goods~~ ^{goods} and food insecurity that would further weaken Pakistan's economy. Relevant institutions and authorities must provide seminars to the farmers to increase productivity, equipment must be provided at reasonable price ~~tag~~, monopoly from landowners must be eliminated. Hands must be joined with ~~so~~ foreign good friends like ~~to~~ the USA and China. Saudi Arabia has pledged to invest at least \$10 billion investment in Pakistan's

agricultural sector. This investment would change the agricultural outlook of the Pakistan. Pakistan still need to grab the opportunity as it would change the fortune of the nation. Following the sharp increment in the agricultural production. One needs to realize that every dark cloud has a silver lining. There is decline in agricultural sector of Pakistan, investment in the ~~field~~ ^{field} would surely be prove fruitful for Pakistan.