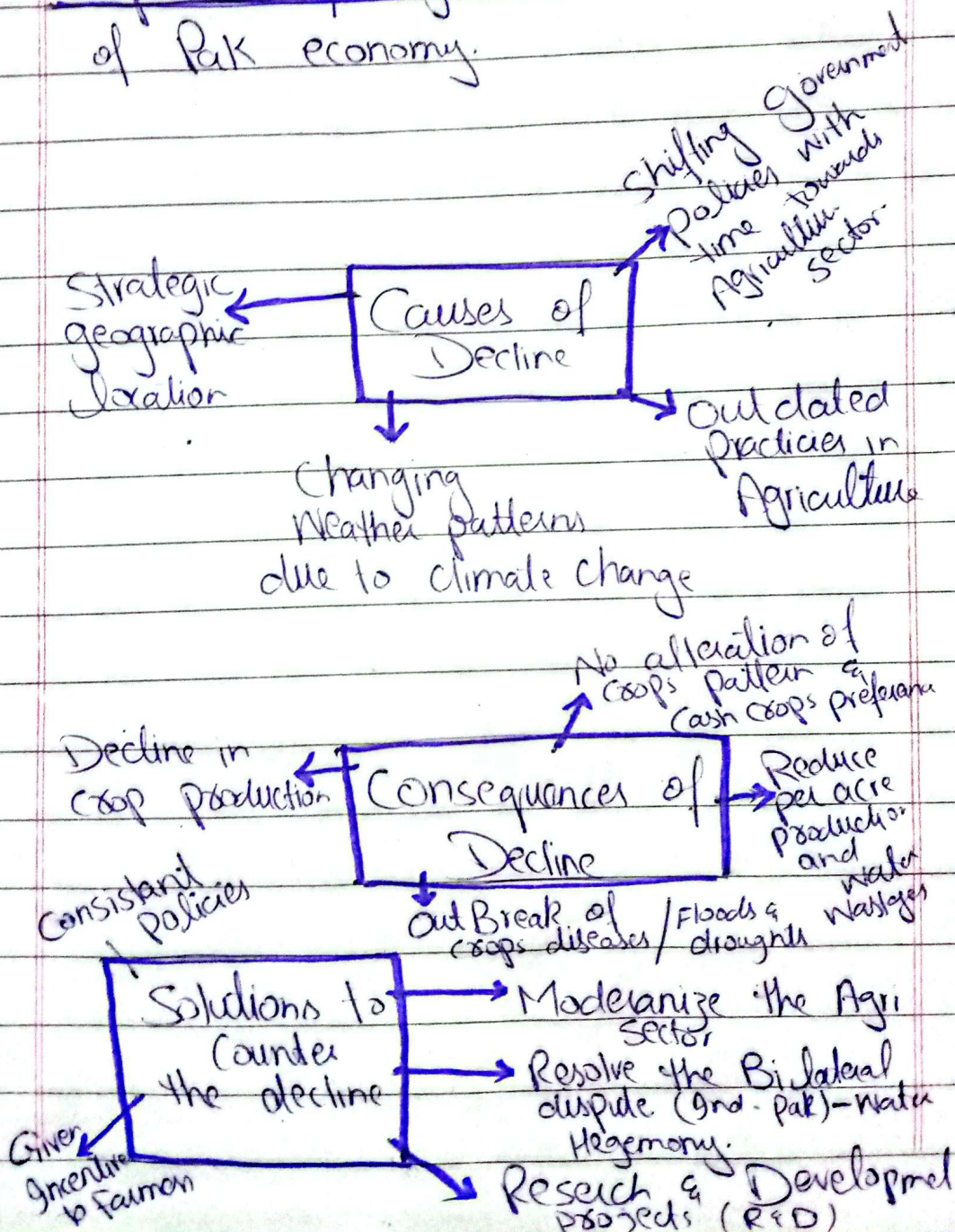


Topic: Agricultural Decline in Pakistan & how to Counter it:

Brain Storming

Importance of Agriculture: Backbone
of Pak economy.



The ESSAY

Outline:

1 - Introduction

Attention grabber

Background information

Thesis Statement:

2 - Agricultural decline in Pak

(A) Causes of Decline

2.1 - Strategic geographic location.

2.1.1 Pakistan as a lower riparian State

2.1.2 Weaponization of Water by India (as an immediate response).

2.1.3 Building Infrastructure by India and diverting Water Course.

2.2 - Changing Weather patterns due to Climate Change.

2.2.1 cloudburst and flash floods

2.2.2 Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)

2.3 - Outdated practices in Agriculture

2.3.1 Using less-resilient seeds

2.3.2 Dry digging, open water channels and use tubewells to extract fresh water

2.3.3 No Alteration of Crops growing patterns

2.3.4 Preferring Cash crops production.

2.4 Shifting government policies

2.4.1 High oil prices & expensive Solar pannels

2.4.2 Fixed less price for wheat, rice, soyabean, cotton in market — parallel to high prices for users/buyer

(B) Consequences of Decline:

2.1 - Decline in Crop production

2.1.1 Decline in wheat crops

2.1.2 Decline in Rice crops

2.1.3 Decline in Cotton field

2.2 - Changing Weather patterns

2.2.1 outbreak of Crops diseases

2.2.2 Less Water availability during sowing seasons and floods during Harvesting Seasons.

2.3 Reduce per acre production in addition to Water Wastages.

2.3.1 per acre production now and in past

2.3.2 Water Wastages due to open - Karez System

2.4 Impacts of government policies

2.4.1 Less benefits for Farmers and vice versa for Retailers

2.4.2 Converted into liability for Farmers instead of their Strength.

3. How to Curb this decline (Way forwards)

3.1 Modernize the Agriculture Sector

3.1.1 Provide drought / Disease resistant Seeds.

3.1.2 Commencement on Non-Renewable energy

3.2 Resolve the Bilateral dispute

3.2.1 - Ensure the firmness of practicing IWT.

3.3 Introduce Research & Development projects.

3.3.1 Link - Academia - Agri Sector

3.34. Give incentives to the farmer

3.4.1 Consider the farmer demand while policy formalization

3.4.2 fair distribution of Int out

The Essay

Every states has some powers that provide them resilience but if their abilities become abandoned, then such abilities can be turned into their liabilities. Same thing is happening in Pakistan nowadays. Agriculture is Consider as the backbone of Pakistan's economy. As this state is gifted by God in the form of rich soil minerals in addition to four seasons variation throughout the year. It added almost 70% in GDP production that rapidly decline. Similarly, Pakistan remained a largest exporter of wheat, rice, cotton, maize and other crops to USA, China, India, UK, Saudi Arabia from decades. But unfortunately, Pakistan import these crops especially wheat from

Other Countries. There are number of Causes that plays pivotal role in decline of agricultural production. Among them, Strategic geographic location, changing weather pattern due to climate change, outdated agricultural practices and shifting government policies are notable.

These Causes having enormous consequence in the form of decline in crop production, outbreaks of diseases, water wastages and converting farmers strength into their vulnerability are understood. Therefore, there is an immense need to take immediate steps to counter this decline by adopting modernization in Agriculture sector, resolving bi-lateral dispute, introduce R&D projects and give incentive to farmers.

First of all, the importance of agriculture sector in Pakistan is understood as it is the central pillar or backbone of Pakistan's economy. It contributed to 70%

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in Pakistan's economy but now, surging towards decline. This essay will explore the causes of decline in agricultural production in Pakistan, its consequences and way forward steps to counter this decline. At last, it will be followed by a comprehensive conclusion.

Pakistan's Strategic location on the world map, on one hand act as their strength, and on other hand make it vulnerable being lower riparian. Pakistan is located in South Asia where water flows from India to Pakistan and ultimately fall into the Arabian Sea. The rivalries among India and Pakistan is not new. Since the time of independence, India uses different tactics to counter Pakistan and in this case, by weaponization of Indian water flow India violate GWT by constructing dams such as Keshan ganga dam, to reduce the water flow in Pakistan. Similarly, in the recent

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Stand off between India and Pakistan.
May - 2025, India immediately suspend the Sole fragile treaty to handle Water dispute. Moreover, India releases excess water during the Sowing seasons of Crops in Pakistan. It releases thousands of Cubic Water in April that led the floods in plain agrarian regions in Pakistan. Not only by releasing Water, India exercised as a hegemon of Water by blocked Water or reduced flow that harm the Crops production in Pakistan.

The Second major Cause of decline is Changing weather patterns due to Climate Change. Now, from the previous 2 decades, Pakistan is facing prolonged Summer seasons, intense Winter season, settled monsoon spells, Cloud bursts, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) etc. Although, Pakistan is contributing to less than 1% in GHG emissions but their consequences in the form of changing weather pattern are immense.

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For example: Flash floods in 2022¹ in Pakistan swept across the country from Karachi to elevated northern areas. 300 million people were affected and 330 billion \$ loss in terms of economy were experienced by Pakistan. Similarly the flash floods in 2024 and 2025 (print) ^{paint} a grim picture of mass destruction, displacement, infrastructure damages and livestock damage. Pakistan is trapped in a relief-destruction cycle that remains continuous until some serious steps will be taken.

Now, analyzing the third major factor that lead Pakistan towards this agricultural decline. It is outdated practices in Agriculture Sector. The world is living in 21st Century, exploring advance technology, in every field of life. Yet, Pakistan still entraped in outdated practice to meet ^{it's} demands or to support it's backbone. For example, in Pakistan, farmers have still using

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1. Less resilient seeds from droughts, or pest attacks. China, in the neighbour of Pakistan, utilizing seeds innovation opportunity, not only to meet its own demands but also to support its economy by imposing crops production. Every year, 1-2 million acre land production just go into drain due to less resilience.

In the same way, relying on oil, petrols to run tubels in Pakistan by farmers make them prone to less production capacity. Open drainage system has wasting the water more comparing to utilization in growing phase of agriculture.

Last but not least the under-mining factor of exodng agricultural producers in Pakistan is shifting government policies. In Pakistan, as a democratic state, governments has been changed with time either due to ending tenures or by political insugences. Every new government formalize its own policy to run agriculture.

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Sector. But the irony is, the government never consider the demands of farmers while pen down the policies. A number of times, their policies provide benefits to the retailers in markets but not to the farmers direct. As a result, their conditions are become more vulnerable to put forward their efforts to increase the production rate.

All these causes explore a grim picture of Pakistan being a vulnerable state that lead it towards a surge of decline. Every cause has its own consequences and in this case, these consequences push the Pakistan towards a liable state.

First consequence of this decline is decline in crop production due to hostile acts of India by weaponization of water. For example, in Sindh and South-Punjab, farmers observe the decline in

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production due to India's less-serious behaviour of releasing water towards Pakistan. The flow of Indus-Water is a big source of crop production in Pakistan. India releases water either when flow rises in India or to jeopardize the standing crops in Pakistan during harvesting seasons. In the same way, India hold water when there is an immense need during sowing seasons. The farmer faces floods and drought, as a result in countering seasons of requirements.

The Second Consequences is observed in domain of climatic changing patterns. As a result of 2022 floods, people were lose their houses, connected roads, power infrastructure, displacement of millions of people. It is notable that Pakistan's economy lagging to bear such kind of burden. Although International funds has also been receiving by Pakistan due to the member of COPs meeting and also in the form of other humanitarian aids but these

are not sufficient to manage the crisis in Pakistan. For example, in recent COP-30 meeting in Belém, International donor States agreed to increase the funds to vulnerable states of 15% at the end of 2035.

But it's a far-away hope as Pakistan has been bearing the crisis from 2 decades and each year brings new, intense destruction as a result of natural disasters. Furthermore, melting glaciers in Pakistan not only reduce the reserves of freshwater supply but also appeared in the form of floods that forced the people living in mountains to be displaced at some other place.

Third and the last consequence of decline appeared in the form of shifting government policies. Now, farmers prefer to grow cash crops to get monetary benefits irrespective of the impact on land. When some kind of crop again & again, specific kinds of minerals will

decline in soil and turn the soil into barren land.

Now, here are some way forward steps to counter the stage of decline of agricultural production in Pakistan.

First of all, there is a need to resolve the water issue with India diplomatically. Second, adopting advance technology to practicing in agriculture. Shift the farmers toward non-renewable energy sources, drought resilient crops, pest-resistant medicines. Sprinkling water technique, and rely on using surface water ^{or rain water} instead of extracting ground water. Third, adopt research and development projects and link academia with agriculture sectors. Establish labs to testify the seeds prior to sowing, and also develop institutes to elevate the research in various degree programs related to agriculture sector. Faisalabad agricultural university performing their role in this regard for example. And

Last one is to provide incentives to farmers, so they can easily meet their daily life demands and also spend to increase the production of farm land.

Conclusion:

Agriculture production in Pakistan is under decline due to enormous factors such as, geographic location, climate impacts on changing weather patterns, out dated practices in agriculture sector and continue shifting policies of government. These factors enclosed notable consequences in the form of water weaponization by India, decline in crop production due to drought, floods, cloud bursts and Golfs. But the hope is still alive to counter the causes of decline in the form of adopting modernization in agriculture sector, introducing research and development programmes, providing incentives to farmers and solving bi-lateral dispute over water with India diplomatically.