

Agriculture decline in Pakistan and how to counter it-

Outline :

(i) Introduction

(ii) Agriculture decline : Why?

- (a) Climate change
- (b) Resource mismanagement
- (c) Outdated farming techniques
- (d) Lack of crop diversification
- (e) Over reliance on canal irrigation system
- (f) Water scarcity
- (g) Overpopulation
- (h) Urbanization

(iii) Effects of agriculture decline :

- (a) Food insecurity
- (b) Low GDP
- (c) Reduction in exports
- (d) Unemployment
- (e) Child diseases (Anemia)
- (f) Crime rate high

(iv) How to counter agriculture decline in Pakistan:

(i) Promotion of Sustainable agriculture:

- (a) climate resilient agriculture
- (b) Drought resistance crops

(ii) Modern farming techniques:

- (a) Revamping of canal system
- (b) Promotion of drip and Sprinkle irrigation
- (c) Use of hybrid seeds to increase crop production

(iii) Sustainable Land usage

(iv) Insurance of small farmers

(v) promotion of SIFC plans

(vi) Implementation of effective governance:

- (a) provide financial Access

(b) Launch crop insurance

(c) Strengthening institutions

(vii) Resource Management:

(a) Enhanced water storage capacity

(b) Regulate Groundwater to prevent waterlogging.

(viii) Conclusion.

"Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and any stable economy."

Agriculture, one of the essential sectors of Pakistan that provide food as well as a highly contributed in the economy of Pakistan. It provides employment to millions of people and a source of earning in many families. Pakistan facing multiple challenges and one of them is agriculture decline. Agriculture decline means reduction in crop production that directly means slowdown or low GDP growth of a country. It happens because of climate change, resource mismanagement, outdated farming techniques, water scarcity, overpopulation. The Surging threat like agriculture decline results in food insecurity, low GDP, exports reduction and unemployment. So, to counter this emerging threat country needs Sustainable agriculture practices, Modern farming techniques, effective governance and resource management. To illustrate, the causes

of agriculture decline in Pakistan is climate change. Climate change is a global issue however, Pakistan is one of the vulnerable countries that affected by climate change. In Pakistan it results into droughts and floods. Floods causes a huge economic loss as well as human loss. According to recent geospatial impact assessment conducted by FAO of flood affected areas, flood water inundated around 1.2 million hectares in Punjab province. Major affected crops are Rabi crops. In contrast to human losses around 33 Million people is displaced.

On the other hand, one of the major problem is resource mismanagement. For example, mismanagement of water by canal irrigation system. It requires a lot of time as well as the

quantity of water waste is too high.
As water scarcity is a problem so, it
is necessary to ~~avoid~~ ^{evade} the
overusage of water. Beside of this,
outdated farming techniques also leads
towards a major contribution in
agriculture decline. **As Pakistan**
agriculture sector contributed
towards **25% of the GDP** so it causes
a great impact on economy.

In contrast, increase in over
population leads towards increase in
food consumption. As Pakistan population
is **255-2 million** that contain
64% youth (below 30) making it **5th**
largest youth bulge in the world (**According**
to Economic Survey of Pakistan) - so
higher the population and lower
the food and agricultural production
causes food security in the country.
This can be proved by rank of
Pakistan in **Global Hunger Index**
which is **106 out of 123**.

Additionally, where all reasons contributed towards the agriculture decline the effect is far more severe - According to (The Nations), agriculture loss alone is **430 billion** till September 2025. However, the total economic loss is \$2.9 billion - In contrast to provinces, punjab face losses of around **632 billion**, KPK - **51.3 billion** and sindh around **32.2 billion** - All this prove the agriculture decline mainly in the area of punjab.

However, decline in **agriculture sector** is decreased from **0.5%** to **0.3%** and in industrial sector around **0.1 to 0.2%** - Similarly, livestock also contributed to evade the food security and fulfill the need of the country - But in 2025, around **22,8342 livestock losses** are reported -

Moreover, Imports and exports of the country represents the economic status and stability of the country. If the exports is high and the imports are less then economy of the country is in Trade surplus.

Meanwhile, if imports are more than exports then country is in trade deficit - As Pakistan is an agricultural farmland, mostly exports of Pakistan related to agricultural - Pakistan is one of most biggest exporters of Rice in the world - But due to climate

change, **exportable surplus** of rice is expected to decline from 5.8 million tons to 4.6 million tons last year.

Overall, exports fall from around \$0.45 bn -

"The future of the agriculture lies Sustainability and respect for nature."

To counter the agriculture decline, the promotion of Sustainable agriculture is necessary. As Pakistan is top of the list of countries that mostly hit by climate change. Therefore, options available for Pakistan is to shift the agriculture practices towards modern climate resilient agriculture and drought resistance crops. As Pakistan faces both floods and droughts so, according to this these two actions are necessary to be taken. For example, Agro-climate resilient in semi-arid Landscapes is a project funded by worldbank. It works on restoring degraded landscape in semi-arid zones and promotes Sustainable Land and Water management as well as Sustainable agriculture.

afterward, introducing a new modern farming techniques.

increase our production capabilities -
Increase in production decreases
the risk of food security - A
steps to be taken like revamping
of canal system and shift towards
drip irrigation and sprinkle
irrigation - For example, Israel, Spain,
USA, that uses sprinkle irrigation
and increase crop production - It
helps them in economic growth
enhancement as well as combating
food security risk -

In case of Pakistan, a huge
landscape is available but old
farming techniques not able to meet
the desired targets - If land
uses in sustainable manners then
it enhances the production as
well effectively increases the
economy of Pakistan - For example,
use of hybrid seeds in limited area
to increase crop yield like China -

In addition to recent countermeasures,
Promotion of initiatives like SIFC
to promote sustainable agriculture.
SIFC, which is a new established
institution for attracting investment
in Pakistan mostly in agriculture
Sector - Under BRI project, the major
investment is in the agriculture sector
China is the world largest consumer
and importer of agriculture goods
mostly from USA, Canada, and Mexico.
So, under BRI investment in South Asia,
majorly in Pakistan can decrease
the risk of food insecurity in China
and many other countries in the
Middle East - So the function of SIFC
is to grab the attentions of the
investors in Pakistan, and facilitates
towards increasing economic growth.

Despite this, effective
governance is necessary for
evading the agriculture decline.

Providing easy and financial access to farmers & loans can facilitate the farmer for more agricultural practices. Launching crop insurance and strengthening institutions play a vital role in stabilizing agriculture.

In the same way, reduced and regulate the waterlogging issues in specific areas and enhanced the water storage capacity for better and effective agriculture.

At the end, agricultural decline in Pakistan is mainly due to climate change, water scarcity and resource mismanagement. So, to counter this problem it is essential to revamped our canal system and promote towards drip and sprinkle irrigation, climate resilient agriculture and

drought resistant crops for high
yield crop production - Moreover,
initiatives like SIFC and promoting
effective governance is important
for combating agriculture
decline.