

## Topic : Agricultural decline in Pakistan and how to counter it.

### Outline :

#### 1. Introduction

Thesis statement : Pakistan is facing significant decline in agricultural sector due to loss of water and old methods for cultivation of crops resulting in food insecurity and impact on country's GDP. Use of advance technology for irrigation and cultivation of crops is necessary to combat the issue.

#### 2. Agricultural decline of Pakistan and its decline in the recent years

#### 3. causes of decline of agricultural sector in Pakistan :

a, Water shooatage in agriculture sector due to sole dependence on Indus water Basin

b, Climate change impacts : Rise in floods and droughts.

c, Use of old methods for irrigation of agricultural land

d, Water demanding crops cultivation in the upper riparian areas of country.

e, Uneducated farmers : lack of knowledge of crop rotation and advanced agricultural methods.

f, Lack of use of technology for seeds cultivation and pesticide control.

g, Decline due to cultivation of lesser productive crops on agricultural lands

4. Consequences of agricultural decline in Pakistan
- a, Negative impact on country's GDP
  - b, Impact on industrial sector of the country
  - c, Rise in prices of food items in the country
  - d, Loss of export sector and rise in import of food items
  - e, Rise in food insecurity and malnutrition
  - f, Social unrest and rise in provincial conflicts
- 5, Solutions to counter the agricultural decline of Pakistan:

- a, Countering the water related issues through construction of dams and cultivation of water demanding crops in lower riparian areas.
- b, Education to farmers regarding advanced crop cultivation methods.
- c, Use of advanced technology for irrigation of lands such as drip irrigation methods
- d, Import of good quality seeds and its accessibility to farmers.

#### 6 - Conclusion.

##### Essay.

Pakistan which was once called the bread basket of South Asia is facing significant agricultural decline in the recent years. There are several causes which lead to the agricultural decline in the country. Pakistan has been faced with severe water accessibility issue due to its sole dependence on the Indus water Basin for its water needs. Moreover, the climate change effects have also resulted

in rise of floods and droughts in country resulting in loss of crops and agricultural lands. In addition to it, use of old methods for irrigation of land, cultivation of water demanding crops in upper riparian areas of country and lack of use of technology for seeds cultivation and pesticide control has also resulted in the agricultural decline of the country. Furthermore, the uneducated farmers and their lack of knowledge of crop rotation methods and advanced technology also result in agricultural decline of Pakistan. The decline of agriculture sector has several consequences in the country such as, negative impact on country's GDP, impact on industrial sector and exports of the country. Moreover it also results in the rise of food prices and food insecurity in Pakistan. Pakistan must take significant steps to combat the issue of agricultural decline of the country. Such as countering water related issues and use of advanced methods for seed cultivation and irrigation purposed. In addition to it, the education to farmers is also necessary to mitigate the issue of agricultural decline of Pakistan. Hence, in conclusion, Pakistan is facing significant decline in agriculture sector due to loss of water and old methods for cultivation of crops resulting in food insecurity and impact on country's GDP. Use of technology for irrigation and cultivation of crops is necessary to combat the issue. If Pakistan remains successful to counter the issues faced

by the agricultural sector of the country, the country can regain its agricultural potential in future years.

Pakistan, since its inception, is dependent on its agricultural sector for its economy. The country was called the breadbasket of South-Asia as it was the major exporter of the food items in the south Asia. However, in recent years, the country has been faced with severe agricultural decline which has negatively impacted the food sector and industrial sector of the country. The country, used to export agricultural goods to the world, is now dependent on the imports to make its ends meet. Therefore the agricultural decline in Pakistan is a major concern for the country.

There are several causes of the agricultural sector decline in Pakistan. The issue of water shortage in country has led to the water scarcity in the country leading to droughts and loss of agricultural crops. The country is solely dependent on the Indus water for its agricultural needs, the abeyance of Indus water has resulted in the loss of accessibility of water for agricultural purpose in Pakistan. As the water fails to reach the agricultural lands especially the lower riparian areas of the country, the significant decline is seen in the agricultural sector of the country. Therefore

the shortage of water is the major cause of the decline of agricultural sector of Pakistan.

In addition to the shortage of water the impacts of climate change are also a cause of the decline of agricultural sector of the country. The climate change in Pakistan has resulted in the increase in floods during the rainfall season and droughts during the rest of the year. This has caused the loss of crops worth billions to the floods since the past few years. For instance in Sindh, in 2022, the loss of crops in the province to floods resulted in the loss of 1.3 bn worth crops. (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2023). Moreover, the increase in heat has also resulted in droughts in major parts of the country. Hence, the climate change impacts are a major cause of the agriculture decline of the country.

Apart from the climate change effects, the use of old methods for the irrigation of agricultural land has also caused the agricultural decline in the country. The methods used for irrigation are based on the canals which are outdated and hence most of the water is lost due to the seepage through canals decreasing the accessibility of water to the crops. In addition to it the outdated irrigation methods of the country has also increased the water scarcity in the country. According to a

a research, the outdated structure of canals result in the 22% water through seepage in Pakistan. (PASA, 2025) Hence, the outdated irrigation methods are a leading cause of the agricultural decline of the country.

In addition to the outdated irrigation practices, the crops cultivation organization in the provinces is also a cause of the agricultural decline of the country. The provinces where the water reaches first, called as the upper riparian regions, cultivate the water demanding crops such as the sugarcane and wheat. This causes the loss of water to the lower riparian region and hence the agricultural land is lost to water scarcity in the country. Therefore the poor governance regarding the cultivation of crops also cause the decline in the agriculture sector of Pakistan.

Beside the cultivation of water demanding crops in the upper riparian region the education of farmers also impact the agriculture sector of the country. The farmers in Pakistan are mostly uneducated which leads to the agricultural decline in the country. The uneducated farmers are not trained for the advance methods of the agriculture such as crop rotation leading to the loss of agriculture land. Moreover, farmers are also not known of the advanced technology methods for the

cultivation of crops. In most of the provinces of Pakistan, the farmers harvest seeds, water crops and use pesticide using the manual machinery and do not use the advance methods for the crop cultivation. Hence the uneducated farmers are also a major cause of the agricultural decline of the country.

In addition to the uneducated farmers, the lack of use of advanced technology is also a major cause of the agriculture decline in the country. The farmers known are to the advanced technology still cannot use it due to the economic constraints and lack of awareness of government programs and funds for agriculture. The provinces are still using outdated harmful pesticides which are not only posing negative impact on crops but is also an issue of pollution of the country. Hence, the lack of access to the advanced technology is also a major cause of the decline of agriculture sector of the country.

Apart from the lack of use of advanced technology, the cultivation of lesser productive crops on agricultural lands is also a cause of agricultural decline of the country. Pakistan is a country where the agriculture land holds huge potential. However due to the fear of crops loss due to floods and pesticides farmers usually move towards easier crops rather than productive crops for their agricultural land. For instance, due to the

fear of loss of crops farmers usually harvest cattle food in their agriculture land which hold potential for the growth of crops such as rice, wheat and sugarcane. Moreover, farmers also move towards lower quality of rice to save themselves from loss. However, the lower quality of rice is lesser productive and usually lesser demanding around the world which result in the agricultural decline of the country. Although in comparison to Pakistan, India cultivates high quality of agriculture products and export it to major parts of USA and Europe. Therefore, the cultivation of lesser productive crops, result in the agricultural decline of Pakistan.

The agricultural decline in Pakistan has several consequences for the country such as it has negative impact on Pakistan's GDP. The agricultural export of Pakistan is the major part of the country's export which causes the rise of country's GDP. The loss of agriculture has left Pakistan with fewer crops resulting in the decline of Pakistan GDP. The agriculture sector of Pakistan contributes to 24-25% of Pakistan's GDP. (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2024) This loss result in the major negative impact on the country's GDP.

In addition to the loss to Pakistan's GDP, the ~~loss~~ of agriculture sector also result in the negative impact on the industrial sector of

the country. The raw material for most of the industries is also taken from the agriculture<sup>sector</sup> of country. The loss of agricultural sector result in the increase of raw material of industries due to which the industrial sector faces major loss. Due to this reason, many industries shut down in the country. According to the governor of Sindh in 2023 alone, 22 industries were shut down in the province. (WFP, 2024). Therefore the decline of agriculture sector is also a leading cause of the decline of industrial sector of the country.

In addition to the negative impact on industrial sector, the decline of agriculture sector also result in the ~~ag~~ food prices in the country. This is a major cause of food inflation in the country which result in negative impact on the health of the public. The loss of food to the country causes the increase in the prices of food and goods in the country. According to the research, the food import bill has rose upto 47% in the urban areas and 50% in the rural areas in the past 5 years (Mahum Fatima, Food insecurity in Pakistan, 2024). Therefore the loss decline of the agriculture sector of the country result in the rise of food prices in the country.

Apart from the rise in food prices the decline in the agriculture sector also result

in the decline of exports and rise in imports of the country. This has a major impact on the country's GDP and loans. The country which was rich in the agricultural products is now on the verge to import food items for making its end meet. This has resulted in the ~~loss~~ decline of country GDP as well as increased the prices of the food items. Moreover, the issue has also impacted the country's growth as the major focus of Pakistan is shifted to port food for its population. For instance, in the first quarter of the year 2025, Pakistan has imported palm oil from other countries most in the previous years. This has made a new record for the port of Palm oil in Pakistan. (Pak Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Report, 2025). Therefore the decline of agriculture sector has a major impact on the exports and imports <sup>decline</sup> of the country.

Beside the rise in exports and decline of exports the loss of a decline of agriculture sector has also resulted in the increase in food insecurity and malnutrition of the country. The population of Pakistan is mostly poor who cannot afford the rised food prices and hence, are forced to live their lives malnourished and without a balanced diet. The food of families of families of farmers solely depend on the grown crops, however, the food accessibility loss has resulted in the ~~to~~ increase in food insecurity.

and malnutrition in the country. According to the World Food Program, 20.5% of Pakistan population is malnourished and 80% of the population cannot afford a balance diet. (World Food Program, Country Report, 2024). Therefore the decline of agriculture sector in Pakistan has resulted in the increase in the malnutrition and food insecurity in the country.

In addition to the food insecurity, the decline in the agriculture sector has also resulted in the social unrest and conflicts among the provinces. The population due to the ~~loss~~ loss of accessibility to food cause havoc in the country resulting in the social unrest of the country. Moreover, the population also start to move towards other countries which also cause brain drain in the country. Furthermore due to the agricultural decline, the conflicts among the provinces also increase which is significant through the conflicts on the 1991 Accords among provinces. Therefore the decline of agriculture has a major impact on the provincial conflicts and provincial conflicts.

In order to combat the issues related to the agricultural decline of the country, Pakistan must take significant measures to combat the issue. In this regard the country must try to solve the issues related to the water accessibility to the

agricultural lands. In this regard, it is necessary to line the canals to prevent seepage of water and also increase the water storage capacity through the construction of dams.

Moreover, it is also necessary to save the crops from the floods through the advanced methods such as tunnel methods where tunnels are made to save the land from the rainfall and riverine floods. Therefore, the solving of the floods and water issue is necessary to solve combat the agricultural decline issue of the ~~the~~ country.

In addition to the mitigation of water issues, it is also necessary to educate the farmers about the advanced technology regarding agriculture and advance methods for the cultivation of crops. In this regard, the awareness ~~seminars~~ seminars can be done in the provinces and also through the ~~television~~ television. The education of farmers will lead to the advancement of crops and better productivity of agriculture land.

Beside the education of farmers the use of advanced crop cultivation methods is also necessary for the rise of agriculture sector of Pakistan. In this regard the government can take the help of public to invest in advance technique in return of

Share in income through agriculture goods. Moreover, developed countries can also be involved to provide advanced technology for the cultivation of crops and harvesting it.

Therefore, through the use of advanced technology the country can increase its agricultural productivity thereby combating the issue of agricultural decline of the country.

In addition to the use of advanced technology, it is also necessary to import good quality seeds from the developed countries. The seeds are engineered for the better productivity and hence aid in the improve of the agriculture sector of the country. Moreover, the seeds must be accessible to farmers with subsidies in order to increase its accessibility to the farmer. Hence the use of advanced seeds and its accessibility to the farmers is important to the issue of agriculture decline of the country.

In conclusion, Pakistan holds a significant potential in the agriculture sector. However, in recent years the country is facing decline in the agricultural sector due to the use of outdated methods of irrigation and loss of water to the agricultural lands. In addition to it, the uneducated farmers and their old practices also result in the decline of the agriculture sector of the country. The

decline in the agriculture sector has significant impact on major parts of the country. Such as negative impact on country's GDP and impact on the imports and exports of the country. Moreover it also result in the rise of food insecurity and malnutrition ratio in the country. There is a dire need to solve the issue of water accessibility to agricultural lands in order to save the country from the agricultural decline. In addition to it, education to farmer and use of advanced methods for cultivation and harvesting of crops is ~~next~~ necessary to combat the issue of the decline of agriculture sector of the country. If Pakistan remain successful to save the country from agricultural decline, the country can again gain its potential in agriculture sector and benefit from its products in future.