

AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN PAKISTAN AND HOW TO COUNTER IT

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→ 14 major catastrophic glacial lake outburst floods in Pakistan; United Nations Convention on Climate Change
2. Salinity dilemma rising at alarm level
→ 30% of agricultural land adversely affected
3. Excessive reliance on outdated agricultural techniques
→ 66% of water losses due to unlined canals

4. Disturbance in water flows from upper riparian regions
→ Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance in May after India-Pakistan stand off

5. Labor force migrating to urban centers for better future
→ 45% of people were urbanized from 2014 to 2024

6. Government prioritizing manufacturing industry sidelining agriculture sector
→ 0.2% of total federal budget expenditure on agriculture

7. Withdrawal of subsidies
→ IMF's austerity measures

IV Remedial Measures to Counter Agricultural Decline in Pakistan

1. Distributing water through lined canals
→ 6 lined-Canal Project

2. Investing in cutting-edge technology to boost agricultural efficiency
→ Crop management through remote sensing

3. Inaugurating hybrid seeds
→ 50% increase in cereal by hybrid seeds in Kenya
4. Facilitating farmers with agro-chemicals at affordable rates
→ Insecticides and herbicides
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According to 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%). These figures reflect the sharp decline in the agricultural production and efficiency in Pakistan. Every country is bestowed with unlimited natural resources. After utilizing those resources, country's dependence lies on those factors of production. Owing to natural beauty and scenic views, Denmark's and Switzerland's GDP ~~relies~~ on the tourism industry. Conversely, Pakistan possesses vast land and Indus River that flows from Himalayan region to the Arabian sea. Covering whole Pakistan. Containing unimaginable land of agricultural fields from north to south. Unfortunately, during recent decades the ~~land~~ size of agricultural production is being shrinking. That has ^{spiralled} ~~spiralled~~ into decline in agricultural fields also. Giving some alarming indicators for food ~~instability~~ insecurity within a country. Therefore, this essay would underscore the concept of agricultural lands in Pakistan. After that, it would highlight the congenit reasons for agricultural decline. Lastly, it would provide some pragmatic and remedial measures to counter agricultural decline in the

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vicinity of Pakistan

To start with, every nation's economic backbone is defined by what the country contains or in which sector it is specializing. Similarly, Pakistan has immeasurable agricultural fields that is solely supported by rivers and canals. After the independence in 1947, Pakistan had considerable industries on which country's expenditure could rely. At that time, Pakistan utilise its water sources and increase its ~~pro~~ agricultural production. A Resultantly, earnings from agricultural fields became the backbone of the country. The real nightmare came, when after four decades, state witnessed sharp decline in agricultural production. The reason dette for diminishing were; droughts, floods, unlined canals, unequal and unfair distribution of water in the provinces, districts and tehsils. Occasionally, political power was also used to pressurise the vulnerable party. So are the grounds to decline in the agricultural fields in Pakistan.

Exotic changes in weathers

pattern resulting into destructive flood is the first convincing reason of declining agricultural production in Pakistan.

Considering the repercussion of climate change and global warming, Pakistan is ranked at the 8th most vulnerable and impacted country according to the United Nations framework for convention on climate change (UNFCCC). Having said that, the weather in Pakistan is unpredictable. Leaving some region in drought like Thar and Thal while remaining area in floods. As per UNFCCC, Pakistan has witnessed 14 major glacial lake outburst floods by the end of June 2025. When these floods enter into rivers and canal banks. The pressure and density of water exacerbates in the rivers. That sometimes transformed into weakening and breaking of river banks that wipe out the agricultural fields. Economically weak and fragile Pakistan, witnessing such glacial outburst has changed the ^{agricultural} outlook of the country. Henceforth, pernicious floods instigated by changing weather has adversely affected the overall agricultural fields in Pakistan.

Salinity dilemma rising at alarm

outlook of the green land. Hence, obsolete techniques and equipment are also to some extent responsible factor for agricultural decline.

Fourthly, disturbance in water flows from upper riparian regions also decrease agricultural results. Most of the time, India being upper riparian stops ~~water~~ water flow. Whenever, there is political, economical, religious, or social or cultural between two ~~co~~ nuclear countries, India and Pakistan, India shuts down barrages gates and threat to put Indus water Treaty in abeyance. According to World Bank, Pakistan's agriculture lies on eighty ~~per~~ percent (80%) water coming from Indian rivers. Knowing this fact, India creates complication for Pakistan to weaken Pakistan's economy. During recent stand off, Indian Prime Minister said: "water and blood cannot move together". Having such thinking has led to water weaponization. Ergo, obstacles created by ~~water flows~~ is upper riparian has also led to agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Labor force migrating to urban centers for better future is the fifth ground of agricultural decline in Pakistan. Paucity

of basic education, health facilities, ^{employment} opportunities and other necessities ^{and} ~~other~~ ^{to} ~~repet~~ human capital to move developed cities to avail such facilities. When human labor migrate to the privileged cities, then ~~there~~ ^{few} number of ~~people~~ ^{labor} force is left to irrigate and ~~cultivate~~ ^{cultivate} huge lands. United Nations Global Migration Database illustrates around forty-five percent (45%) surge to urban migration in Pakistan from 2014 to 2024. When such massive labours would ~~start~~ ^{leave} these cities for unavailability of basic needs, then who will cultivate large fields? Therefore, migration of human also plays significant role in agricultural decline.

What is the sixth reason of agricultural decline in Pakistan? The sixth ground of agricultural shrink in Pakistan is that government is prioritizing manufacturing industries instead of specializing in the agricultural sector. Government strategic planning was produce value-added product by using agricultural resources, as a main raw material. Unfortunately, due to changes in government, ~~either~~ ^{not} the target of value-added ~~products~~ ^{product} is achieved but it has drastically ~~impacted~~ ^{deminished} the agricultural

production. Wheat production ~~is~~ is declined by six point five percent (6.5%) in Pakistan, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Thus, government's ~~mis~~ miscalculated risk to switch from ~~agricultural~~ agricultural economy to manufacturing industry has also deteriorated the agricultural fields.

Withdrawal of subsidies is the last nail in the coffin due to which Pakistan has lost its agricultural potential. Since Pakistan has joined International Monetary Fund (IMF), Pakistan has taken 25 loans. Each loan tranche comes with heavy austerity measure. The most recent loan programme was approved when government eliminated all of its subsidies to its producers. That has increased the cost of procuring of seeds and other agricultural materials for the farmers. Farmers being helpless, cultivate only limited area of field, leaving other part uncultivated that reduce agricultural production. Truly, withdrawal of subsidies has proved the final straw for agricultural decline in the peripheries of Pakistan.

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Potential preceding paragraphs ^{shed light} ~~to shed~~ on the grounds for agricultural decline. However, preceding paragraphs would highlight the pragmatic remedial measures to counter agricultural decline in Pakistan.

What is the first and foremost necessary measure Pakistan must do promptly to counter the agricultural decline? Pakistan must distribute water through lined ~~canal~~ canal. This would help in irrigating vast agricultural fields. It would be easy for agricultural landowners to take away water to their land. When more land is ~~watered~~, watered, more fertile land it will be and more agricultural crops can be harvested. Moreover, State Initiative of G-canal project is highly appreciated. But, instead of ~~Pakistan~~ taking water to deserted regions it would be better to transport water to the infertile land, where water is unable to reach. Fertile land will generate more agricultural outcomes. Thus, water must be distributed through lined canal to avoid seepage and to increase agricultural results.

Secondly, investing in cutting-edge

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technology to boost agricultural efficiency & will also help in ~~the~~ countering agricultural decline. Government institutions must invest in advance agricultural technology to boost productivity. Ministry of Agriculture and irrigation must allow zero taxes on agricultural technology imports. Government must use remote sensing for crop management. This would help government to identify affected areas, where further work is needed. Moreover, this would also help in times of floods to detect the flow of water and create diversions accordingly. Henceforth, concentrating on technology is one of the counters to agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Introducing hybrid seeds is the third counter to agricultural decline. As per Kenya government, they have witnessed fifty percent (50%) raised in the production of cereal in their agricultural fields, after utilizing hybrid seeds. Hybrid seeds would allow to increase crop production by multiple times. This would increase the agricultural production within the same field. ~~Reiter~~ Furthermore, Pakistan government has taken an initiative for hybrid seeds.

Syngenta, Haldi seeds and SunCrop are widely used. But state need to encourage its farmers to use these seeds ^{to cultivate} in their land. This would not only increase crop production but also government and farmer would be able generate significant earnings. Thus, widely used of hybrid seed would counter agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Facilitating farmers with agro-chemicals at affordable price is one of the counters for agricultural decline in Pakistan. State must provide agro-chemicals like pesticide, herbicide and insecticide, by using such chemicals, crops would be prevented from insect attacks and abnormal crop growth. China's agricultural farm land ~~was~~ observed ~~an~~ rapid growth in their crops after implementing agro-chemicals in their fields. Pakistan's government must ensure that these chemicals are available at every tier level at the economical rate. So that it become accessible for every farmers. Clearly, agrochemicals would ~~aggravate~~ and counter agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Fifthly, awareness and education about climate resilient crops must be encouraged by government to cultivate. Considering that Pakistan is witnessing harsh weather conditions, then government should encourage crops that are resilient to that weather after a thorough research. Crops such as sweet potatoes and millet are crops that can be cultivated even in harsh extreme weather conditions. By this way, reliance on water would be reduced. And stabilize food productivity in harsh conditions. Consequently, climate resilient crops need to would also counter to agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Shifting to the drip irrigation system is the seventh counter to agricultural decline. By drip irrigation, water would be effectively utilized. As water would be provided directly to plant roots via tubes, pipes and emitters. This would eventually minimize evaporation and water run-off. This would overall improve yields of agricultural land. Pakistan need to implement policies and project as Israel has done for drip irrigation that has changed the world for agriculture.

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lastly, it is high need of time for government to provide basic facilities to farmers in the countryside so that migration is controlled. By this way, agricultural decline would be controlled. As more people would prefer to stay with their extend families instead of living alone in the cities, when fundamental goods and services are provided. For example, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) like policies must be introduced in Pakistan, where government pays direct payments and rural development funds to support young farmers and improve rural life, to provide incentives to stay in agricultural areas. Ergo, Policies like CAP would also counter the agricultural decline in Pakistan.

To cap it all, Pakistan is an agrarian nation, forty percent (40%) of GDP is generated from the agricultural production and ancillary activities. It is time for ~~govt~~ state institutions to pay attention on the agricultural production and efficiency. ~~Else~~^{lest}, government would face food insecurity that would

Further weaken Pakistan's economy after
ending agricultural product billy. Monopoly
of land owners must be ended. Caste
and maps must be eliminated. In addition
to this, hands must be joined with
foreign friends like China and Saudi
Arabia to invest in agricultural sector
of Pakistan. Saudi has pledged to
invest at least \$10 billion in agricultural
sector. This ~~st~~ investment would change the
agricultural outlook of Pakistan. Agriculture
decline would be hampered. ~~and~~ Pakistan
need state needs to ^{distribute} ~~distribute~~ water
via ~~a~~ pragmatic approaches, bring modern
technology, hybrid seeds and awareness
regarding climate resilient crops would
help drastic improvement ^{and} ~~to the~~ transform
the agricultural outlook of Pakistan.
~~currently~~ One need to realise that after
every tunnel there is a light.