

Agricultural Decline in Pakistan

and how to counter it

Outline

1- Introduction:

* Pakistan being an agricultural country, faced a massive decline of agricultural share, from 53% in 1950 to 19-20% in 2024-25, in GDP. This decline shows the severity of the issue.

* Thesis statement:

Pakistan is facing the issue of agricultural decline due to faulty reforms in agriculture sector, weak implementation of the reforms, feudalism, lack of modern technology, lack of research centers, population explosion, old irrigation system and natural disasters. To counter the situation Pakistan needs agricultural reforms to end feudalism, technological development, development of research centers, development of irrigation system and disaster management.

2. Causes of Agricultural Decline in

Pakistan:

* Faulty reforms and their improper implementation failed to end feudalism. Case in point: General Ayub Khan reforms in 1959 to General Zia ul Haq reforms in 1977.

* Lack of modern machines and technology to develop the farming methods.
Case in point: Dependence of farming on animals for ploughing due to limited tractors and modern machines.

* Old and outdated irrigation system of lands.
Case in point: Silting of canals and dams led to decline of Pakistan irrigation system from 1st rank to far below.

* Lack of research centers in Pakistan
Case in point: Import of the 1st hybrid seed from India.

* Population explosion causes massive urbanization
Case in point: More than 54% of the Pakistan population is urbanized.

* Natural disasters causes direct damage to the lands and crops.
Case in point: Floods in 2022 and 2025 caused the destruction of wheat and maize crops.

3. Ways to Counter Agricultural

Decline in Pakistan:

* Strict Implementation of proper agricultural reforms to end feudalism.

- * Technological development and introduction of modern machines in farming.
- * Development of research centers.
- * Introduction of use of medicines in rural farming to prevent agricultural diseases in crops.
- * Modernization of the irrigation system.
- * Investment in the proper disaster management to counter crops and human losses.

4- Conclusion:

The Essay

Pakistan being an agricultural country faced a massive decline of agricultural share, from 53% in 1950 to 19-20% in 2024-25, in GDP. This decline shows the severity of the issue. Once agriculture was a backbone of the ~~pat~~ Pakistan's economy but unfortunately it is near to crumble now. It is the political interference which never allows the implementation of agricultural reforms. The reforms of

General Ayub Khan and Zulfikar Ali Butto were ended by General Zia-ul-Haq by declaring them ~~unislamic~~ in 1977. This act encouraged the feudalism which led to agricultural decline.

Secondly, the lack of modern technology and machines caused the Pakistan's agriculture less competitive. In the rural areas, still the manpower and animals are used for ploughing the lands. On the other hand, the irrigation system of Pakistan was once one of the top irrigation systems but due to no maintenance and development it remained ineffective and inefficient. Pakistan is an agricultural country and it cannot contain these issues because agriculture is the sole pillar in the economy of Pakistan. These issues are due to faulty reforms in agriculture sector, weak implementation of the reforms, feudalism, lack of modern technology, lack of research centers, population explosion, outdated irrigation system and natural disasters. To counter the situation Pakistan needs agricultural reforms to end feudalism, technological development, development of research centers, modernization of irrigation system and proper disaster management system.

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Since the inception of Pakistan agriculture was the core source of revenue generation and had a major contribution in the exports but there were some issues which were considered as hurdles like feudalism. For this purpose General Ayub Khan carried out agricultural reforms in 1959. His aim was to end feudalism and promote agriculture to contribute more in the exports but due to political interference and reforms evasion, it was partially implemented. After that Zulfikar Ali Butto was the second reformer who reawakened the agriculture reforms and made them more stricter but due to political instability, his tenure ended before time. General Zia-ul-Haq was the third who did reforms in agriculture sector. He declared all the previous reforms unislamic. The court also supported his idea. This act supported the feudalism. The exploitation of the poor farmers started once again. Due to political instability, weak implementation of reforms and the role of General Zia-ul-Haq reforms made the Pakistan's agriculture sector as handicap.

The second and most important reason of the Pakistan's decline in agriculture sector is the

lack of modern machines and technology to be used in the farming system. the outdated and conventional farming techniques are still used in the rural areas of Pakistan. Animals and manpower is used for farmings and ploughing. There are no tractors, and other farming tools. These issues made a massive decline in the production and also made the Pakistan's agricultural exports moreless competitive.

One of the reasons of Pakistan's decline in agriculture is the old and outdated irrigation system. Once the irrigation system of Pakistan was used to be counted as one of the top irrigating systems around the globe. The formation of new lands structure requires the canals to be adjusted and aligned with new structure. On the other hand the recurrence of floods caused the tearing and destruction of the canals and river which needs to be repaired on time. Also the dams and canals are required to be cleared once in a decade. But unfortunately the government of Pakistan's focus was always diverted by the

other issues like political instability and budget crisis. So due to no maintenance and development in the irrigation system, the agriculture sector of Pakistan badly suffered.

The research centres are always important for the progress in every field. Pakistan had no proper agricultural research center in history. Due to this reason Pakistan is always dependent on other advanced countries for the development in agriculture sector. The new hybrid seeds, disease control measures and modern farming techniques can be invented and discovered through the agriculture research centers. Pakistan is using the same farming techniques with no modern hybrid seeds which were used before. The first hybrid seed in Pakistan was imported from India. This shows the condition of the Pakistan's agricultural research centers.

Pakistan is also facing the problems of population explosion. The multiplication in the population has very bad consequences for the agriculture sector. As the number of people increases it leads to the excessive division of lands in parts

which causes agriculture decline. It also leads to the infrastructure development on the fertile land and massive urbanization which not only causes the shortage of fertile land but also the mean of pollution. Both air pollution and water pollution are very harmful for crops. Nearly 54% of Pakistan's population is urbanized till now. So population explosion is also considered one of the reasons of the agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Natural disasters causes direct damage to the crops. Pakistan is the country which is sandwiched between the world largest economies like China and India, due to the use of excessive fossil fuels and technology the environment suffers. This leads to the issues of climate change. Pakistan is suffering the consequences of the climate change in the form of natural disasters. It is evident from the history of Pakistan's floods. The flood in 2010, the floods in 2022 and the cloudbursts in 2025 caused a massive damage to the agriculture sector of Pakistan. The current cloudbursts caused significant damage to the crops which made Pakistan, being an agricultural country,

Import wheat and other agricultural goods-

All these causes contribute significantly to the Pakistan's agricultural decline. Pakistan instead of exporting the agricultural goods, to support his economy and generate revenue, is importing the basic agricultural goods like tomatoes from Afghanistan, wheat from Ukraine. Strict reforms and measures are required for Pakistan to get out of this crisis.

In order to come out of the agricultural crisis Pakistan needs to introduce strict reforms and their complete implementation to end feudalism. Pakistan needs to introduce the land ceiling and ensure the complete implementation so that to end feudalism. Because without ending feudalism it is difficult for Pakistan to promote the agriculture sector.

The second and important method to come out of these crisis is technological development. Pakistan needs modern machines and technology to be introduced

in the farming. The old and outdated methods of farming can never help Pakistan to come out of these crisis. So the invention and import of the modern machine and technology is needed.

Pakistan need to develop and invest in research center. because the research center discovers and invents the new ways of farming and also contribute to the development of hybrid seeds and disease detection and countering methods. If the farming sector use the modern high yielding seeds with the modern control methods of the diseases, it can easily come out of the crisis.

In Pakistan there is still no concept of crops diseases and their control measures in most of the rural areas. The farmers guideness is required to guide them about the crops diseases and the use of medicine to counter the crop

losses and increase the yield.

Proper investment is required in the irrigation system. Because the current irrigating system is not fulfilling the needs of the farmers. Water is the basic need for the crops and giving proper amount of water after specific period of time will ensure the agricultural development in Pakistan.

Pakistan needs to counter the natural disaster which not only damages the crops but is also a reason of human losses. Pakistan is repeatedly facing with the floods leading to the crops losses. A proper well managed disaster system will not only save crops but also human lives.

Concluding the topic, Agriculture is the backbone of the Pakistan's economy. Pakistan can not contain the agricultural losses. Since the inception of Pakistan agriculture sector is declining from 53% to 19% which is a major loss. Pakistan needs to

address this issue seriously.
Day by day debt burden is increasing.
Pakistan is struggling for the
debt servicing. In such situations
Pakistan needs impulsive action
to counter the issue and support
the economy. It can be hoped in
future that if Pakistan will
strictly adopt reforms, to end feudalism,
~~technology~~ technology problems and other
issues, it will rise again in the
agriculture sector which will increase
the Pakistan's exports and also
counter the economic crisis.