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MEMOONA ARSHAD

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ENGLISH ESSAY

AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN PAKISTAN AND HOW TO COUNTER IT.

OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION
2. AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN PAKISTAN
3. CAUSES OF AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN PAKISTAN
 - a. Governance and policy issues are the main causes of agricultural decline in Pakistan.
 - b. Water scarcity and mismanagement is also causing agricultural decline in Pakistan.

c- Climate change is also one of the main causes of agricultural decline in Pakistan.

d- Outdated farming techniques in Pakistan are also causing agricultural decline

e- Financial hurdles to farmers are also contributing to agricultural decline in Pakistan.

4. IMPACTS OF AGRICULTURAL DECLINE ON ECONOMY OF PAKISTAN.

5. WAYS TO COUNTER AGRICULTURAL DECLINE IN PAKISTAN

a. Prioritizing farming in governance and policy formulation.

b. There is need to ensure water management to counter agricultural decline.

c. It is need of the hour to make agricultural adaptations to climate change.

d. Ensure integration of technology and emphasize on modern farming practices to counter agricultural decline.

e. To counter agricultural decline, there is need to focus on public awareness and education.

6. CONCLUSION.

Agriculture contributes about 23% to Pakistan's GDP, but Pakistan has been facing decline in agricultural growth. As said that, Pakistan has been experiencing agricultural decline over time. There are several factors responsible for decline in agricultural growth in Pakistan. Governance and policy issues are contributing significantly to agricultural drop in Pakistan. Similarly, water scarcity and mismanagement is also responsible for agricultural decline in Pakistan. In addition to, climate change and out-dated farming techniques are also causes of decline in agriculture in Pakistan. Moreover, there are financial hurdles to farmers in Pakistan that contribute to agricultural decline. This rapid increase in agricultural decline has significant impact on

economy of Pakistan either directly or indirectly in the form of inflation, unemployment and increase in import of food. However, there are certain ways for Pakistan which can help to counter agricultural decline.

They involve governance and policy reforms by prioritizing farming in it, and ensuring proper water management.

Moreover, there is need to make adaptations to climate change, and integrate technology as well as modern farming practices. Similarly, there is also need to focus on public awareness and education to counter agricultural decline in Pakistan. Pakistan has been facing agricultural decline due to several causes. There is a need to turn the tables and take pragmatic measures to counter this agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Pakistan is an agrarian land, but now it is facing the issue of agricultural decline. In FY 2024-25, the overall agricultural growth dropped by 0.56%. Besides that, the major crops subsector has experienced a substantial decline of about 13.5%. This includes decline in wheat 8.9%, Maize 15.4% and Rice 1.4%. This is a huge decline in agricultural sector of Pakistan.

There are several factors responsible for agricultural decline in Pakistan.

The main cause is issue in governance and policy formulation. Agriculture sector is not being prioritized in policy making process. In fact, government imposes taxes on agricultural products such as urea nitrate etc. There is lack of investment by the government on agriculture driven projects and lack of political will as well. Moreover there is no proper infrastructure to store them, which results in spoilage and then decline. Other than that, there is no policy and law enforcement against hoarding (illegal storage to increase the prices and to earn profit). To sum up all, governance and policy formulation and implementation flaws are resulting in agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Moreover, along with governance and policy flaws, water scarcity and mismanagement is also causing agricultural decline in Pakistan. Pakistan has the largest water irrigation system i.e., Indus River System, but still Pakistan is facing water scarcity. Water level in Pakistan has reached to critical threshold of 500m^3 per capita, an

indicator of water scarcity. The other sources of water for Pakistan, besides Indus River System are glaciers melt. But the main issue resides here is mismanagement. In Pakistan, there are still out-dated tube wells irrigation techniques which result in the loss of water about 60%. Other than that, lack of water storage structures, i.e., dams e.t.c. also results in loss of water. To conclude, water scarcity due to mismanagement of water is one of the main causes of agricultural decline in Pakistan. Furthermore, climate change is also a main cause of agricultural decline in Pakistan. Pakistan has become most vulnerable country to climate change. The changing weather patterns due to climate change are significantly impacting agricultural output in Pakistan. Torrential rains, hailstorms, floods, droughts and heatwaves, all are impacts of climate change that effect crops production as well as threat to livestock. Rains, hailstorms and floods result in destruction of crops as happened in 2022 and now in 2025. Similarly, droughts and heatwaves result in early ripening

of crops, decreasing crops yield. In a nutshell, Pakistan is most vulnerable to climate change and this vulnerability is causing agricultural decline.

In addition to climate change, outdated farming techniques also cause agricultural decline in Pakistan. Farmers use outdated techniques having lack of technology integration. Moreover, farmers are unaware of the proper land modern practices. They harvest same crops repetitively which results in soil erosion, which ultimately results into decline in crop yield. To sum up, conventional farming practices results in decline in agricultural output.

Moreover, in Pakistan, financial hurdles to farmers also contribute to agricultural decline. The increasing Levy on petrol and diesel, as well as harvesting and transportation costs results in strain on farmers. Moreover, government buy crops such as wheat, sugarcane from farmers at much lower cost.

This results in loss to farmers. All these financial factors discourage agriculture, which ultimately cause decline in agriculture. In conclusion, financial constraints cause decline in agricultural output.

Pakistan has agrarian economy. Agriculture contributes about 23% to GDP of Pakistan. The decline in agricultural output impacts economic growth of Pakistan. The agriculture sector provides about 37% employment. In case of decline in agriculture, the rate of unemployment increases which results in reduction of economic growth. Likewise, agricultural decline also results in inflation in Pakistan, which is also a negative impact on economy of Pakistan. Furthermore, agricultural decline also cause increase in import of agricultural products such as Pakistan has imported wheat in 2021. To conclude, agricultural decline in Pakistan pose negative impacts on economy of Pakistan either directly or indirectly.

However, it is the need of the hour to take pragmatic measures to counter agricultural decline in Pakistan. It includes prioritizing farming in governance and policy formulation and implementation process. Government should provide subsidies to farmers on petrol, diesel and other agricultural products. Through

consensus, there is need to invest in agricultural driven projects. Governments should launch schemes to facilitate farmers. Similarly, cold storage areas need to be built to prevent spoilage. In short, government should make efforts to counter agricultural decline by facilitating farmers and making agriculture a major concern while formulating policies.

Furthermore, besides governance and policy reforms, it is also necessary to focus on water management. Government should invest in ~~est~~ establishing water storages. There is conflict in building dams and canals that results in huge loss of water. To prevent agricultural decline, there is need to build political consensus on building dams and canals. This will help ensuring water conservation, which prevent loss of water and resulting into maximum agricultural output. Thus, it is essential to build water storages to counter agricultural decline in Pakistan.

Moreover, government of Pakistan should focus on making climatic adaptations in agricultural sector. It is fact that Pakistan is most vulnerable to climate change and climate change has severe impacts on agriculture of Pakistan. There is need to promote crops that are climate resilient and that yield maximum output. These adaptations can help in countering agricultural decline and attaining more crop yield.

Additionally, besides climatic adaptations, there is need to integrate technology and adopt modern farming practices. It includes shifting to modern irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation techniques. Moreover, farmers should emphasize on modern farming practices such as changing crops to gain maximum crop yield and to maintain soil fertility. Moreover, using seeds that produce more crops in short period of time. Thus, by integration of technology and adopting modern agricultural practices, Pakistan can enhance agricultural production.

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Last but not the least, along with integration of technology and modern farming practices, it is also necessary to focus on public awareness and education. Most of the population in Pakistan ~~are~~ completely unaware of the water conservation and modern farming practices. People waste a huge amount of water daily being careless of how ^{much it} ~~water~~ is important to save water. This public awareness can be done through campaigns and seminars. Government officials, NGOs and other expertise need to focus on this. Educating people is as important as other steps to counter agriculture decline.

In a nutshell, Pakistan is an agricultural land and livelihood of more than half of its population relies on agriculture. Pakistan has been experiencing agricultural decline for a long time. There are multiple factors involved in agriculture decline. One of these factors is governance and policy issues. However, water mismanagement, climate change, outdated farming

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practices and financial hurdles are causing agricultural decline in Pakistan. This agricultural decline caused negative impacts on economy of Pakistan. However, by taking pragmatic approaches such as governance and policy reforms, water management, climatic adaptations and modern farming practices are required to counter agricultural decline in Pakistan.