

Agricultural problems in pakistan



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Agriculture and Its Problems in Pakistan Introduction From time Immemorial, agriculture has been the major occupation of the people of Pakistan. Even today agriculture is a major sector and occupies a very important place in the economy of Pakistan. It not only provides food for our growing population but is a source of raw materials for our principal industries as well as a source of foreign exchange for our government. 32% of our gross domestic products belong to this sector. It engages 53% of our employed labour .

About 75% of our people are engaged directly or indirectly with this profession. A large part (about 10%) of Pakistan's exports is made up of primary commodities , including the major cash crops. In addition to this major large scale industries like cotton textile and sugar etc. as well as medium and small scale agro-based and cottage industries are directly dependent on this sector for their raw materials. Problems in Agriculture Following are the causes of our backwardness in agriculture: 1. Lack of Education The farmers of our country are mostly un-educated and lack technical knowledge .

They are unable to understand the modern scientific methods of agriculture and often remain ignorant of good means to protect and increase their yield. Their production is therefore low. 2. Lack of Capital The majority of our farmers are poor and they often live in a hand to mouth position. Most of them are always under heavy burdens of debts. So due to lack of capital they cannot afford to purchase modern scientific implements, chemical manures, improved types of seeds etc. Hence they can not attain the required standards. 3. Following the Old Traditions

Most of our farmers are still stuck to the old traditions of their fore fathers. The circumstances have compelled them to use the crude implements, because due to small holdings of land and poverty they are unable to acquire and use modern scientific methods. That is why their standard is lower than that of cultivators in developed countries. 4. Water-logging and Salinity Due to excessive use of canal water, most of our cultivated lands have become victims of these two dangerous diseases. Every year , salinity alone, is turning about 1, 00, 000 acres of arable land into marches and salt lands. Water-logging is no less injurious.

On the other hand the measures taken so far are quite inadequate for such issues. 5. Uneconomical Land Holdings Due to our law of inheritance, our farmers command very small pieces of hands which prove to be costly. A farmer cannot afford tractors and other machineries for a small piece of land and those his income is low. Hence his interest is converted to some other sector. 6. Scarcity of Water Our farmers have to face many problems due to scarcity of water which is one our major problems. Large tracts of land estimated to be about 22 million acres is lying uncultivated due to shortage of water.

Rainfall is uncertain and the existing irrigational facilities in our country are quite insufficient and need to be extended. 7. Land Tenure System The land tenure system of Pakistan has creates a chain of intermediaries in between the state and the tenants. The system, instead of being conducive to agricultural development , stands in the way of its progress. 8. Soil Erosion In some areas of our country, especially in hilly regions, the upper fertile soil is

being eroded by different natural agents of change . Thus the fertility is poor and soils are becoming less productive. 9. Lack of Organized Marketing

The marketing facilities for agricultural products in Pakistan are still far from satisfactory level. Our cultivators can not get just prices for their produce due to defective marketing organization. Moreover the chain of middlemen between the producers and ultimate consumers take a heavy share of their produce . Thus the cultivators do not take much real interest in increasing their product too.

10. Pests and Crop Diseases Due to lack of agricultural education and methods of modern research, our farmers cannot control the various diseases of crops and attacks of pests and insects. The result is low yields.

11. Poor Means of Transportation The agricultural activities in our country are performed in rural areas, but most of our villages have no road or railway links with our markets. So farmers have to face innumerable hardships to sell their products. Hence the farmers take very little interest in their profession and production suffers. 12. Lack of Credit Facilities The resources required for agricultural operation are land, layout, live stock, farm equipment, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation, transport etc. For the convenient and timely procurement of these resources the farmers must have easy access to credit.

The A. D. B. P and commercial banks provide loans to the farmers which are insufficient because our farmers are very poor. 13. Low Yield Per Acre Due to the above mentioned facts , it is clear that the yield per acre of various crops in our country is comparatively low than of the other countries. Hence we are backward agriculturally. Suggestions Or Remedies To Overcome The

Problems 1. Reclamation of Land The land which has been declared useless

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due to salinity and water-logging should be reclaimed. Tube-wells should be installed in the affected areas to decrease the salinity.

Beds of new canals should be made of concrete to avoid water-logging.

These measures should be taken on priority basis to avoid further deterioration of land . 2. Irrigation Facilities The major problem of agriculture in Pakistan is scarcity of water. Most of the land is lying unused due to this problem. Therefore, it is necessary that the irrigation facilities be extended for increasing agricultural out put. 3. The Use Of Fertilizers The agricultural yield can also be increased to a great extent by using fertilizers. The use of artificial manure should be introduced through out the country.

Due to poverty and illiteracy our farmers hesitate to purchase the fertilizers.

4. Credit Facilities The use of better seeds, fertilizers and modern implements is not possible without adequate credit facilities for the farmers.

The government has extended the existing credit facilities to a large extent.

The commercial banks also grant loans to the farmers, but still there is a need for more facilities as our farmers are very poor. 5. Better Seeds The

farmers should be provided better quality seeds at the lowest price and at the right time. Better seeds will ultimately give better yield. . Plant Protection

Various plant diseases damage a large part of our crops. But our farmers have no effective control over them. Therefore, preventive and neurative

measures should be taken throughout the country. 7. Co-operative Farming

Co-operative farming refers to the farming done on the basis of mutual help and co-operation. Under this method the small holdings are consqildated . In

this way the owners of small holdings can also use fertilizers and modern

equipments jointly. After harvesting, the yield can be distributed among the owners according to their ownership