

Overview of important food crops in Pakistan

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Agriculture sector is a vital component of Pakistan's economy as it provides the raw materials to down the line industries and helps in poverty alleviation. This sector contributed 19.8% in GDP and it remains by far the largest employer absorbing 42.3% of the country's total labour force. The agriculture sector growth is contingent on favourable weather conditions. There is a strong relationship between agriculture and climate - temperature, precipitation, floods and other aspects of weather that finally affect economic performance including agriculture production, commodity prices and finally economic growth.

During FY 2016, the performance of agriculture sector as a whole remained dismal as it witnessed a negative growth of 0.19% against 2.53% growth during the same period last year. The growth of crops declined to 6.25%. The last negative growth in Agriculture was witnessed in 2000-01, when agriculture growth declined to 2.18%.

The agriculture mix of Pakistan is heavily based on important crops (wheat, rice, sugarcane and maize) which account for 23.55% of the value added in overall

Table 1: Population of important food crops (Thousand Tonnes)

Year	Sugarcane	Rice	Maize	Wheat
2009-10	49,373	6,883	3,261	23,311
2010-11	55,309	4,823	3,707	25,214
2011-12	58,397	6,160	4,338	23,473
2012-13	63,750	5,536	4,220	24,211
2013-14	67,460	6,798	4,944	25,979
2014-15	62,826	7,003	4,937	25,086
2015-16 (P)	65,475	6,811	4,920	25,482

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
P: Provisional (July-March), Figures in Parentheses are growth / decline rates.

Table 2: Population to Pakistan

	2014	2015	2016
Total Population (Million)	188.02	191.71	195.4
Urban Population (Million)	72.50	75.19	77.93
Rural Population (Million)	115.52	116.52	117.48
Population Growth Rate (Percent)	1.95	1.92	1.89

Source: Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms (Population Projections for the year 2007-2030)

agriculture and 4.67% of GDP. The other crops account for 11.36% of the value added in overall agriculture and 2.25% of GDP. Production of major food crops are given in Table-1.

The demand of food crops in Pakistan is growing at a rapid pace mainly because of the increase in population, urbanization and moderately rising household spending. Population of Pakistan is given Table-2.

Sugarcane: Sugarcane is high value cash crop of Pakistan and significantly important for sugar and sugar related industries in the national economy of our country. Its production accounts for agriculture's value addition and 0.6% in overall GDP. During 2015-16, the sugarcane crop stood at 1132 thousand hectares compared to last year's area of 1141 thousand hectares showing a decline of 0.8%.

Sugarcane production for the year 2015 increased to 65.5 million tonnes from 62.8 million tonnes of last year's production showing an increase of 4.2%.



The decline in area is due to disposal problem of cane and payment difficulties restricted acreage of sugarcane that shifted sugarcane area to other competitive crops. The increase in production is due to favourable weather condition. The area, production and yield of sugarcane for the last five years are given in Table 3.

Rice: Rice is an important food and cash crop in Pakistan and it is the second staple food after wheat. It accounts for 3.1% in the value added in agriculture and 0.6% of GDP. During 2015-16, rice crop was cultivated on an area of 2748 thousand hectares showing a decrease of 4.9% over last year's area of 2891 thousand hectares. Rice production remained 6811 thousand tonnes, showing a decline of 2.7% over corresponding period of last year's record production of 7003 thousand tonnes. Rice area decreased due to less economic returns to the farmers on account of decline in rice prices both domestically and globally during last year's crop.

Depressed prices and rising cost of production encouraged farmers to substitute rice with fodder and maize. This sharp drop in prices mainly reflects pressure of large carryover stock from a record FY 2015 rice harvest. Specifically, abundant rice supply (owing to healthy crop in both FY 2014 and FY 2015), and sluggish exports particularly of Basmati, has led to a steep rise in rice stocks. In the case of Basmati rice, Pakistan's exports are already facing tough competition from India in the UAE market.



Table 3: Area, Population and Yield of Sugarcane

Year	Area		Production		Yield	
	(000 Hectares)	% Change	(000 Tonnes)	% Change	(Kgs / Hec.)	% Change
2011-12	1,058	--	58,397	--	55,196	--
2012-13	1,129	6.7	63,750	9.2	56,466	2.3
2013-14	1,173	3.9	67,460	5.8	57,511	1.8
2014-15	1,141	- 2.7	62,826	- 6.9	55,062	- 4.3
2015-16 (P)	1,132	- 0.8	65,475	4.2	57,840	5.05

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

P: Provsuibal (July-March),

As for the export of non-concerned, severe drought in Thailand largest exporter of non-basmati varieties created opportunities for Pakistan to increase exports. The rice exports particularly Basmati rice also

remained subdued in 2015 year. On the other hand other varieties of rice exports improved in quantity by 9.9%. The area, production and yield of rice for the last five years are shown in Table-4.



Wheat: Wheat is the most popular food crop of Pakistan and its products are used in a number of ways. Being the staple diet of most of dominates all crops in acreage and production. Wheat accounts for 9.9% of the value added in agriculture and 2.0% of GDP of Pakistan. During 2015-16, area under wheat cultivation has increased to 9260 thousand hectares from last year's area of 9204 thousand hectares which shows an increase of 0.6%. While production of wheat stood at 25.482 million tonnes during 2015-16, showing an increase of 1.6% over the last year's production of 25.086 million tonnes. The production increased as crop was sown at appropriate time and available moisture particularly in Barani Track supported germination/growth and availability and use of inputs remained adequate. The area, production and yield of wheat for the last five years are shown in Table-5.

Maize: Maize contributes 2.2% to the value added in agriculture and 0.4% to GDP. During 2015-16, cultivated area under maize crop has increased to 1144 thousand hectares, showing an increase of 0.2% over last year's area of 1142 thousand hectares. Maize crop production stood at 4.920 million tonnes during 2015 showing a decrease of 0.3% over the last year's production of 4.937 million tonnes position is presented in Table-6.

Table 4: Area, Population and Yield of Rice

Year	Area		Production		Yield	
	(000 Hectares)	% Change	(000 Tonnes)	% Change	(Kgs / Hec.)	% Change
2011-12	2,571	--	6,160	--	2,396	--
2012-13	2,309	- 10.2	5,536	- 10.1	2,398	0.1
2013-14	2,789	20.8	6,798	22.8	2,437	1.6
2014-15	2,891	3.7	7,003	3.0	2,422	- 0.6
2015-16 (P)	2,748	- 4.9	6,811	- 2.7	2,479	2.4

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
P: Provsuibal (July-March),

Table 5: Area, Population and Yield of Wheat

Year	Area		Production		Yield	
	(000 Hectares)	% Change	(000 Tonnes)	% Change	(Kgs / Hec.)	% Change
2011-12	8,650	--	23,473	--	2,714	--
2012-13	8,660	0.1	24,211	3.1	2,796	3.0
2013-14	9,199	6.2	25,979	7.3	2,824	1.0
2014-15	9,204	0.1	25,086	- 3.4	2,726	- 3.5
2015-16 (P)	9,260	0.6	25,482	1.6	2,752	0.9

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
P: Provsuibal (July-March),

Table 6: Area, Population and Yield of Maize

Year	Area		Production		Yield	
	(000 Hectares)	% Change	(000 Tonnes)	% Change	(Kgs / Hec.)	% Change
2011-12	1,087	-	4,338	--	3,991	--
2012-13	1,060	- 2.5	4,220	- 2.7	3,981	- 0.3
2013-14	1,168	10.2	4,944	17.2	4,233	6.3
2014-15	1,142	- 2.2	4,937	- 0.1	4,323	0.2
2015-16 (P)	1,144	0.2	4,920	- 0.3	4,301	-0.5

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
P: Provsuibal (July-March),

Reference

1. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.
2. Trade Development Authority of Pakistan
3. Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan.
4. Agricultural Statistics, of Pakistan -2015-16.
5. Pakistan Horticulture Development and Export company - Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan.
6. Ministry of Planning Development and Reforms. ♦

