



### 1. What policy interventions could play a vital role to enhance agricultural productivity in sustainable manners in Pakistan?

Over the past fifty years, Pakistan has achieved substantial growth in yields and production of wheat, rice and cotton. Continued investments in agricultural research and extension are crucial for promoting technical change in agriculture especially in the presence of climate change. Investments in physical infrastructure are also needed to maintain irrigation canals, water courses and drains. In addition, it is important to adopt appropriate soil conservation techniques on upland areas

highly susceptible to erosion, so that land productivity in these areas does not suffer; lands facing increased salinity will also require significant conservation efforts.

### 2. How can Pakistan achieve food security with increasing population pressure?

Achieving food security requires ensuring sufficient access to food, as well as adequate supply of food. Increasing food production in Pakistan can help ensure supply of food but broad-based economic growth that raises incomes of the poor will be essential to enable these population groups to be able

to purchase enough food at affordable prices. Well-targeted safety nets can help, but they are not a substitute for pro-poor economic growth. Finally, food security also includes adequate nutrition, which requires not only sufficient calorie consumption, but also sufficient micro-nutrients and adequate sanitation and health so that nutrients from food can be effectively utilized by individuals. In all these areas, appropriate policies towards international trade will aid food security.

### 3. Rural areas are centers of food production but then why are rural areas more food insecure than urban areas in Pakistan?

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Food insecurity in rural areas is to a large degree a problem of rural poverty. Poor rural households in Pakistan lack sufficient resources (particularly land and livestock) to produce enough food or earn enough non-farm income to purchase enough food.

#### 4. What policy initiatives can help to improve food security in Pakistan?

In addition to the economic policies described above that promote increased agricultural productivity and increased incomes of the poor, etc., research in many countries has shown that increased education and empowerment of women can lead to improved health and nutrition outcomes for infants and young children.

#### 5. What kind of land reforms encourage adoption of modern technologies? Do you think it has any link with land use efficiency?

Land reform does not necessarily lead to adoption of modern technologies and increased land efficiency. However, if those who acquire more land through land reform also have adequate access to agricultural inputs, extension services, affordable credit and markets for their output, it is likely that land use efficiency would improve as smaller farmers may be able to devote more labor resources per hectare than larger farmers do. The Government may also consider voluntary consolidation of land and promoting contract farming to address the high level of land fragmentation and commercialization of agriculture

produce of small farmers.

#### 6. Can you suggest some policy interventions that can lead to improved water use efficiency in the agriculture sector of Pakistan?

Maintenance of the physical infrastructure (dams, canals, water courses, etc.) is, of course, essential. Strengthening water user associations has also proven effective in many cases in helping to increase water use efficiency in parts of Pakistan, as well as other countries. Public policy needs to focus on creating awareness for efficient use of water, increasing water productivity, and moving to crops that use less water. Pricing water in irrigation systems, as done in many countries, also could be considered as an option for providing incentives for farmers to use water in the most efficient ways.

#### 7. Rural transformation leads to alleviate poverty but how can Pakistan speed up the process of rural transformation?

Rapid economic growth will itself encourage structural transformation in the economy in which the share of agriculture in total employment and economic output (GDP) declines over time. Successful economies with large rural populations have achieved this structural transformation by rapid growth in non-agriculture accompanied by substantial growth in the agricultural sector, as well.

Growth in the urban economy can benefit agriculture and the rural economy by increasing demand for agricultural products and by providing job

opportunities for rural laborers that migrate to cities (or work in nearby small towns). But without adequate investment in the rural sector, slow growth in the rural economy can be a drag on the overall economy.

Evidence from successful transforming economies suggest that for countries with large rural populations like Pakistan, agricultural growth is crucial for rapid economic growth and poverty reduction. Continued investment that raise agricultural productivity (such as agricultural research and extension, irrigation infrastructure, etc.) could help ensure rapid economic growth in Pakistan likewise results in positive outcomes for both urban and rural populations.



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