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A review paper about major problems of crops yield reduction in Pakistan.

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ABSTRACT

As an overall review, agriculture contributes 21% of total GDP of the country and provides employment to more than 48.4% of total work force of the country (Azam & Shafique, 2017). Cropping sector has 60% of the total agriculture contribution to the GDP while the livestock and forestry accounts for 40%. Water deficiency and drought conditions, long duration load shedding issue, poor extension services, absence of land reforms, absence of distribution of certified varieties, high price of fertilizers, deliberate use of adulterated, non-recommended and expired insecticides, non utilization of cultivable waste land, conventional farming practices, indirect access of farmer to main market, absence of ecological based cropping pattern, smuggling of agricultural inputs and outputs, lack of cooperation between agricultural research, education & extension services, absence of crop insurance, depletion of forests, lack of modern post-harvest technologies and disease outbreaks of poultry birds are some of the key issues that are playing a negative role in demotion of agricultural sector in Pakistan.

Keywords: Agriculture Pakistan, World Contribution of Pakistan Agriculture

Brief History:

Pakistan is a country that was once known for its excellent water resources. It is now gaining attention as a water-deficit country. Indus river is considered as the backbone of agricultural economy as it provides the 90% contribution towards the total agriculture requirement of the country.

Use of adulterated or expired insecticides. Although government has claimed that it has controlled the pesticide adulteration and decreased it to 1% but there is a continuous trend of using low quality insecticides Poor quality insecticides affect the environment and also induce some of the serious health issues due to their prolonged residual effects (Lal, 2018). Moreover, during the peak season there has been a shortage of the good quality insecticides and the market is dominated by the business of the adulterated or expired insecticides which in turn are detrimental for the overall economic progress and the sustainable agriculture in Pakistan.

MAJOR PROBLEMS

Pakistan is a country suffering from shortage of electrical power. The demand of electrical power supply is increasing at a rapid pace while on the other hand the capacity of previously installed production turbines is decreasing gradually. Load shedding has a direct impact on crop yield in Pakistan as more than 1075073 tube wells in the country are unable to perform at an optimum level to irrigate the agricultural land due to long hours of load shedding especially in summer season (A. Ali, 2017). Unannounced load shedding during summer season has already disturbed the sowing of different crops in central and lower Punjab regions. Diesel is an alternate of electricity to be used to run tube wells across the agricultural land but the increased prices of diesel has put another burden on poor farmers of the country.

Unfortunately, developing countries, including Pakistan, are failing to transfer agricultural technology to the farmer level in country. Out dated traditional extension services are unable to fulfil the demands posed by modern crop production and protection.

Absence of distribution network for quality seed. Poor quality seed has a major effect on the germination as well as the overall vigor of the plant especially in the case of wheat which is considered as the staple food in Pakistan (Ullah et al., 2020). Provincial Seed Corporations are intended to distribute the quality seed. Due to the limited level availability of certified seed, misguidance by many local seed distributors and low quality seed the agriculture sector is suffering from low production per unit area. Availability of poor quality seed is one of the major problems in modern agricultural context in Pakistan (Ashfaq et al., 2017). High price of fertilizers and monopoly of companies. High prices of the fertilizers are mainly due to the increase in the prices of the natural gas and monopoly of the fertilizer companies working in Pakistan. Increased General Sales Tax on the natural gas is also one of the reasons for this hike in the prices (Daily Nation, 2012). The increase in the gas prices has a direct effect on the per bag price of every fertilizer especially urea which is being deliberately used in the agricultural sector (H. H. Ali et al., 2017). Due to the increase in the prices of these fertilizers an average farmer fails to give his best on the farm and in turn low yield cause the financial pressure and other problems. As high as 2.5$ increase per bag of urea is expected by the peak season in 2013 which will be overall discouraging for the farming community in Pakistan (Rahut et al., 2016).

CONCLUSION

Promotion of control environmental sheds can help in coping with the threats of lower yields of crops in agricultural country like Pakistan. It should be subsidized by the government to help the farmers to make the shift from traditional methods of farming to the controlled agricultural sheds. Modern post harvest technologies should be made available to farmers along with training incentives to reduce the losses and to improve overall yield of crops in a country with scarce water resources like Pakistan. Pakistan is a agro based country and the problems related to this major sector pose threats to the overall economy and the strategic situation. In long term context, the present situation is alarming because of the lack of interest of higher authorities towards this important sector. Adopting the practical suggestions given in this review will definitely increase the Agricultural GDP of Pakistan

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