



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies
Islamabad**

Agricultural Developments in 21st Century



“CGSS is a Non-Profit Institution with a mission to help improve policy and decision-making through analysis and research”

Copyright © Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)

All rights reserved

Printed in Pakistan

Published in November, 2017

ISBN 978 969 7733 12 5

Please do not disseminate, distribute or reproduce, in whole or part, this report without prior consent of CGSS



CGSS
Center for Global & Strategic Studies

3rd Floor, 1-E, Ali Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92-51-8319682

Email: info@cgss.com.pk Web: www.cgss.com.pk

Seminar Report

“Agricultural Developments in 21st Century”



Organized by
Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad
In collaboration with
Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)
at
Islamabad Club, Islamabad
on
23rd October 2017

Participants

The Seminar was attended by almost 140 participants including government representatives, retired senior armed forces officers, diplomats, and law enforcement officials, students from across the country and individuals from public and private entities.

Host **Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI (M), (Retd)**
President, Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS)

Guest Speakers **Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed – Senior Advisor Ministry of**
National Food Security and Research (MNFSR)

Dr. Yusuf Zafar – Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research
Council (PARC)

Dr. Muhammad Ashraf – Chairman Pakistan Council of
Research in Water Resources (PCRWR)

Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais – Former Provincial Agriculture
Minister

Dr. Irfan Baig - Dean Faculty of Social Sciences &
Humanities, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of
Agriculture, Multan

Introduction of the Speakers

Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed – Senior Advisor Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR)

Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed is Senior Advisor, Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR). Mr. Zahoor is a seasoned mass communication specialist, diplomat and Public Administrator. He worked with various international agencies notably US-AID and American Embassy. He is an effective member of the team negotiating Pakistan-US Strategic Dialogue. He is also the Chairman of the Afghanistan - Pakistan – US Trilateral Secretariat on Agriculture.



Dr. Yusuf Zafar – Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)

Dr. Yusuf has served as Head of Division Plant Biotech and Director, National Institute for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering at Pakistan Atomic Energy from 1992 to 2007. Later, he was appointed as the Director General of Pakistan Atomic Energy. Currently, he is working as Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council.



Dr. Muhammad Ashraf – Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR)

Dr. Ashraf has more than 25 years of experience in development and management of water resources and has over 70 national and international research publications at his credit. During his professional career, he worked for different national and international organizations. Presently, he is working as the Chairman of Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR).



Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais – Former Provincial Agriculture Minister

Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais is Former Provincial Agriculture. Mr. Mumtaz has been a member of Pakistan Central Cotton Committee and also worked as Director Punjab Dairy Development. He has worked under different capacities notably as Member Senate University of Agriculture Faisalabad Board and as Director Agri-Business Support Fund. He was also the Chairman of Punjab Agriculture & Meat Company.



Dr. Irfan Baig - Dean Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan

Dr. Irfan Baig has nineteen years of experience in teaching, scientific research, capacity development, monitoring and evaluation. His professional experience includes work with multiple national and international organizations. He has also worked on several projects pertaining to agricultural and economic development. Currently, he is the acting Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agriculture University Multan.



Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd) – President CGSS.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd) is the former Director General Anti-Narcotics Force and has also remained Pakistan's Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina. He has served on various command, staff and instructional assignments including Military Intelligence Directorate, General Headquarters and Inter-Services Intelligence Headquarters.



Seminar Report

The Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS) arranged a seminar on “Agricultural Developments in 21st Century”. The event brought together government representatives, retired armed forces officers, diplomats, students of agriculture studies from across the country and individuals from public and private entities. Approximately 130 participants graced the event.

The guest speakers included Dr. Muhammad Ashraf – Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais – Former Provincial Agriculture Minister, Dr. Irfan Baig - Dean Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, (Multan); Dr. Yusuf Zafar – Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed – Senior Advisor Ministry of National Food Security and Research (M NFSR). Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI (M), (Retd) - President CGSS also delivered a talk on this occasion.

The aim and focus of the seminar was to analyse in detail the ‘Agriculture Developments in 21st Century and Current Agricultural Status of Pakistan’. The seminar extensively highlighted the contributions of agriculture in Pakistan’s economy and also enlightened the audience about the different challenges and issues to the agricultural industry of Pakistan.

SESSION: I

Opening Remarks by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI(M), (Retd) – President CGSS

The session was hosted by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) – President CGSS. On behalf of the Centre for Global & Strategic Studies, he extended his warm welcome to the worthy panellists and other participants of the event. He also paid special gratitude to honourable speakers, Dr Muhammad Ashraf – Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais – Former



Provincial Agriculture Minister, Dr Irfan Baig - Dean Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan, Dr Yusuf Zafar – Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed – Senior Advisor Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), for sparing their precious and valuable time.

While expressing his views on the pertinent topic, the President CGSS stated that Agriculture is considered as the backbone of Pakistan's economy. Being an agrarian state, it plays a significant role in boosting the economy of the country. Statistically, the agricultural sector in Pakistan contributes approximately, 19.5% in the total GDP. In addition, it absorbs the highest labour force that accounts approximately 42.3% of the total labour consumed in Pakistan. Therefore, the development in this sector is essential to enhance the economic growth of the country.

He further enlightened the participants that although Pakistan has enormous agricultural potential but, there are certain issues and problems that create hurdles to attain substantial achievements. For instance, water management crisis and salinization, which is one of the major challenges relating to the Agricultural development of the country. Other issues include climatic change, low quality seeds and fertilizers, outdated methods and techniques and traditional tools for harvesting, deforestation and land desertification.

Furthermore, Limited Cultivable Area is another major problem which is causing severe impacts on the agricultural development of Pakistan. Notably, the total area of Pakistan is about 79.6 million hectares, out of which only 23.7 million hectares (28%) area is used for agricultural purposes and about 8 million hectares area is idle and un-utilized. Moreover, low per hectare yield, lack of infrastructure and irrigation facilities, inadequate agricultural research, reassurance of natural disasters and poor financial position of farmers are also badly impacting the Agricultural sector.

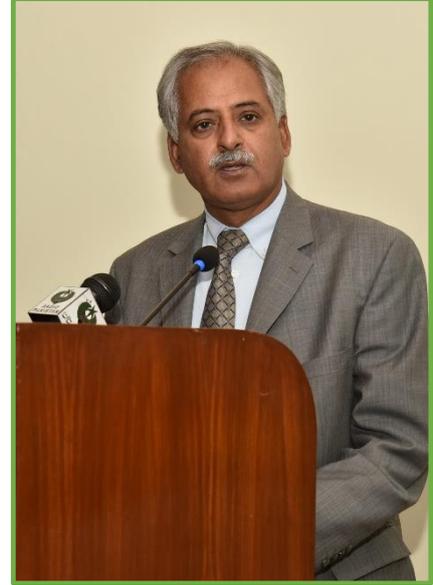
He concluded his opening remarks by urging that there is a dire need to overcome these issue to attain the substantial improvement in the economic development to fit the challenges of this century.



Speaker 1: Dr. Muhammad Ashraf – Chairman Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR)

DR. Muhammad Ashraf delivered an inclusive speech on the topic “Importance of Water Resources in Agricultural Sector” by extensively elaborating the essence of water, its consumption in agricultural sector and certain challenges in water management.

He commenced his speech by expressing his gratitude to Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery HI (M), (Retd) – President CGSS for providing him with an opportunity to share his views on such august forum.



While elaborating the essence of water, he indicated that water is an essential component of survivability of living things. He also cited different references from Holy Quran regarding the essence and necessity of water.

He also informed the participants with some interesting facts regarding existing water resources and irrigational system of Pakistan. For instance, Pakistan has world's largest surface and ground water resources and largest contiguous irrigation systems in the world. In addition, having one of the largest ground water resources of the world after India, USA and China, it owns ground water supplement over 60% of the surface water supplies and 90% drinking water.

وَأَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً بِقَدَرٍ فَأَسْكَنَهُ فِي الْأَرْضِ وَإِنَّا عَلَى ذَهَابٍ
بِهِ لَقَدِيرُونَ. فَأَنْشَأْنَا لَكُمْ بِهِ جَنَّاتٍ مِّنْ نَّخِيلٍ وَأَعْنَابٍ لَّكُمْ فِيهَا
فَوَاكِهُ كَثِيرَةٌ وَمِنْهَا تَأْكُلُونَ. ﴿سُورَةُ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ آيَت ۱۹-۱۸﴾

And We send down water from the sky according to (due) measure, and We cause it to soak in the soil; and We certainly are able to drain it off (with easy). With it We grow for you gardens of date-palms and vines: in them have ye abundant fruits: and of them we eat (and have enjoyment).

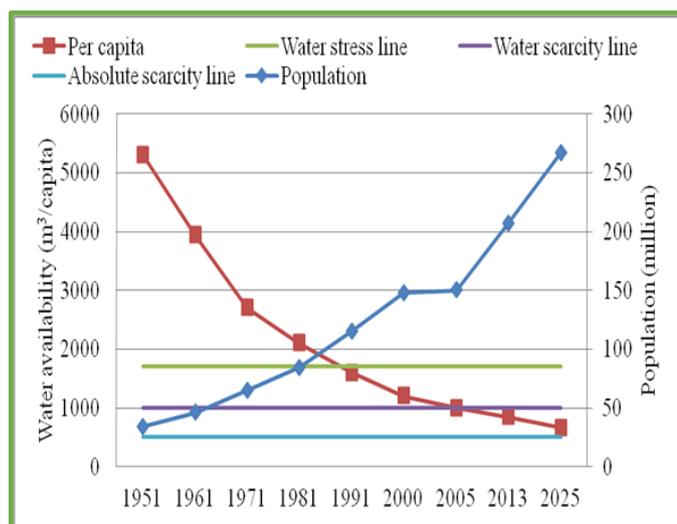
At present, Pakistan has three major storage reservoirs with a live designed storage capacity of 15 MAF which is further supported by 23 barrages, head works and syphons respectively. There are 45 main irrigation canals in the country which serves for irrigational purpose such as crops cultivation and water provision.

While shedding light on statistics regarding water consumption and contribution of agriculture, he stated that in Pakistan more than 93% available water is used for agricultural purposes and around 60% of ground water in the country contributes to

Crop	CWR (mm)	Farmer's Practice (mm)
Wheat	406	965
Rice	991	2794
Maize	381	838
Cotton	660	1270
Banana	1092	5080
Sugarcane	1194	3302
Citrus	1092	1778
Potato	610	1346

agriculture. Moreover, 80% of the total arable land is been irrigated, which produces enough resources that are sufficient to fulfil almost 90% of total food and fibre requirements in Pakistan. Notably, it accounts for approximately a quarter of the country's GDP and employs 44% of the labour force and supports 75% of the population. It also accounts for 60% of foreign exchange earnings of Pakistan. As far as water requirement is concerned, minimum daily domestic water requirement is 50 litres per person. A vegetarian diet of the same nutritional value requires 2,600 litres and 70 times more water to grow food than directly use for domestic purposes.

Furthermore, he highlighted issue pertaining to water irrigation and management of Pakistan. According to him, it is expected that due to water shortage and management crises there would be shortage of food that would be



equals to approximately 70 million tons by 2025. Water scarcity in Pakistan is increasing gradually, evidently, there was 11% of water shortfall in the year 2004 and it is speculated that the percentage will increase up to 31% by the year 2025. Furthermore, recurring flood of years 2010, 2011, and 2014 caused the loss 90 MAF

water. There is only 10% of the average annual flow of river water, which is inadequate for harvesting and crops cultivation. Likewise, various other constraints such as low system efficiency, low land and water productivity, ground water depletion and disposal cause water shortages and management crises. He also proposed two types of solution to address the respective issues and challenges.

Potential of Adopting Bed Plating Technology

Description	Wheat	Cotton	Maize	Rice
Area under crop (Mha)	8.41	3.05	1.02	2.52
Average production (000 bales/000 tons)	21749	11655	3313	5563
Average yield increase (%)	17	12	27	25
Increase in national production (000 bales/000 tons)	3654	1364	885	1396
Average water saving (%)	46	43	42	30
Potential of increasing area under crop (Mha)	3.83	1.31	0.43	0.76

If we save only 10% of the existing losses of water, it will be of the order of about 6 MAF/year

First is “Hard Path” in which he urged to increase storage and improve water governance through constructing small and large dams where possible and by improving the surface water management with proper pricing. He also suggested for legal reforms through legislation and restriction of indiscriminate groundwater abstraction.



Second is the “soft path” in which an integrated approach is required to use the available water resources by conveyance and application efficiencies, by consuming high-efficiency irrigation systems and through changing the existing cropping patterns. In addition, adaptation of low delta crops through proper irrigation scheduling is a need of the hour. Lastly, he gave a brief account of initiatives taken by (PCRWR), such as the development of National Water Research Agenda (2016-2025), determining of water requirement of major crops grown in Punjab and Sindh through systematic study and initiatives of research and introduction of high efficiency irrigation systems such as growing rice.

Speaker 2: Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais – Former Provincial Agriculture Minister

Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais enlightened the participants on the topic “Modernization in Agriculture” through providing an overview of Pakistan’s agricultural system, which was followed by an elaboration of process of mechanisation and its essence in crops cultivation and effective livestock growth. He was of the view that Pakistan has huge potential and capacity in crops and livestock growth. For instance, there are four different seasons which provides ideal climatic conditions for favourable agricultural and livestock growth.



He further stated that Pakistan holds immense significance in global agriculture production as it is ranked at fourth number in cotton production, third in date’s production, fourth in milk production, seventeenth in export of hides and leather products and fifth in “kinnow” Production respectively. Furthermore, it is also the third largest mango exporter and ranked at tenth number in the production of all crops.

The geostrategic location of Pakistan is another additional factor which provides massive opportunity to increase its agricultural and livestock exports to the booming markets of Central Asian Republics.

While highlighting the challenges and constraints of agricultural production and livestock growth, he indicated that farmers in Pakistan are compelled to adopt

traditional mechanism of crops and livestock growth due to insufficient policies and support from the government. Thus, factor of mechanisation is missing which eventually reduces the production of crops.

He also presented the case study of an ideal mechanized farm in order to specify the essence of mechanization. He explained that mechanization covers all levels of farming and processing technologies, from simple and basic hand tools to more sophisticated and motorized equipment. It also eases and reduces hard labour and relieves labour shortages. In addition, it improves productivity and timeliness of agricultural operations and improves the efficient use of resource. Notably, it also enhances market access and contributes to mitigate climate related hazards. Lastly, Sustainable mechanization considers technological, economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects when contributing to the sustainable development of the food and agricultural sector.

He concluded his speech by urging the provincial and federal authorities to adopt stringent farmer's friendly policies in order to enhance the better production of crops and livestock to pave path for growth in GDP.

Speaker 3: Dr. Irfan Baig - Dean Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan

The topic of his speech was "Role of Academia in Bringing Change in Agriculture Sector of Pakistan". He stated that academia plays a significant role in the agricultural development of any country. As vindicated by the history, agriculture sector has witnessed massive transformation after the increasing role of academia in the research and training by the formulation of different institutes, such as Higher Education in Agriculture 1878 in Coimbatore, Famine Commission (1880 and 1901)

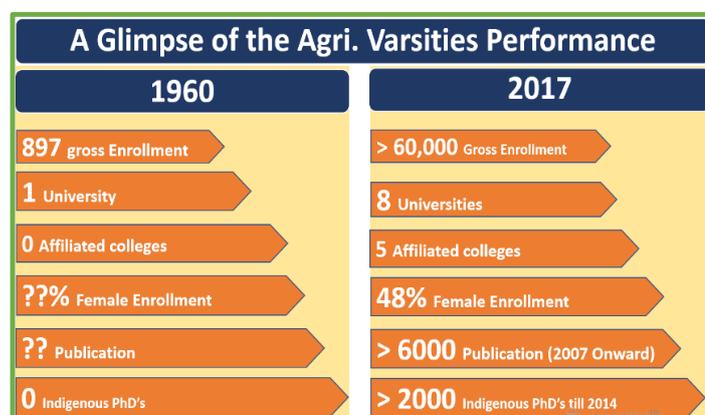


which stressed upon the need of infrastructure and agricultural education. Likewise, Higher Education and Research Institute (Imperial Agricultural Research Institute) was established in 1905, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in 1929 stressed for field postings of agriculture experts. However, after the independence, increasing requirement of food necessitated the focus on strengthening the agriculture sector

Academia bring independent and diverse perspectives to relevant issues, provide technical expertise, nurture innovation and critical thinking and can help develop skills and resources essential for current and future human needs

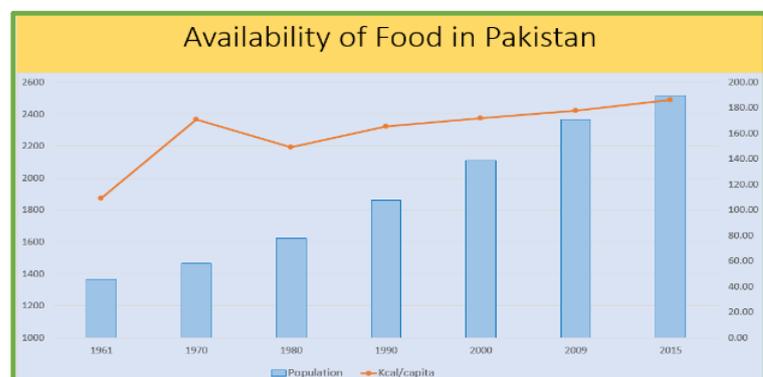
institutions which resulted into origination of The Village Cooperative Movement, The Village Agricultural and Industrial Development Program (Village-AID), The Basic Democracies System (BDS), Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) and Training and Visit (T&V) System which established a new mechanism of agricultural development through land-grant triangle.

Furthermore, it has helped in education and Training of man power through Problem based applied research and Indigenization of the Technology. He further explained that the increasing role of academia in agricultural sector has brought



massive transformations. In the year 1960, there was only one agricultural university in Pakistan, whereas, currently there are eight agricultural universities with 60000 enrolled students. Most importantly, there are more than 6000 publications and more than 2000 PhD's in Pakistan. The food availability has also increased due to development of agricultural techniques which is subordinated to the role of academia.

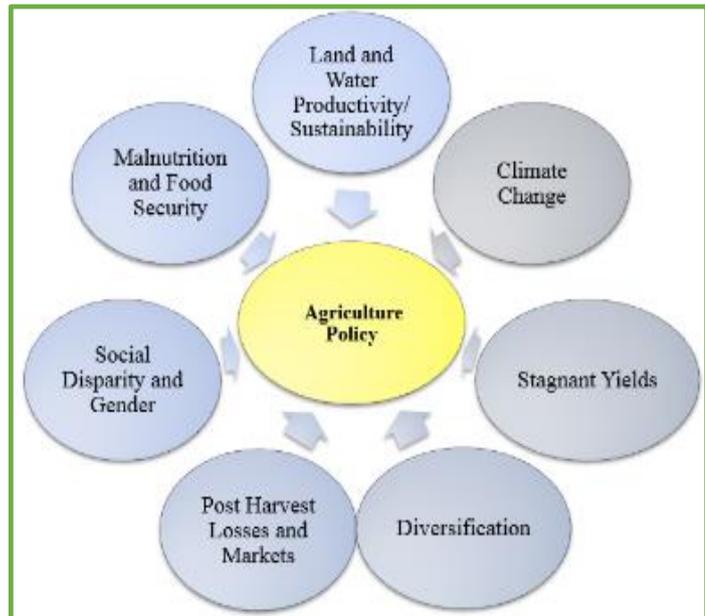
Adding further, the research in the field of agriculture has increased the indigenous crops production over the years in Pakistan. Around 95% of the total wheat area in Pakistan is under indigenous varieties.



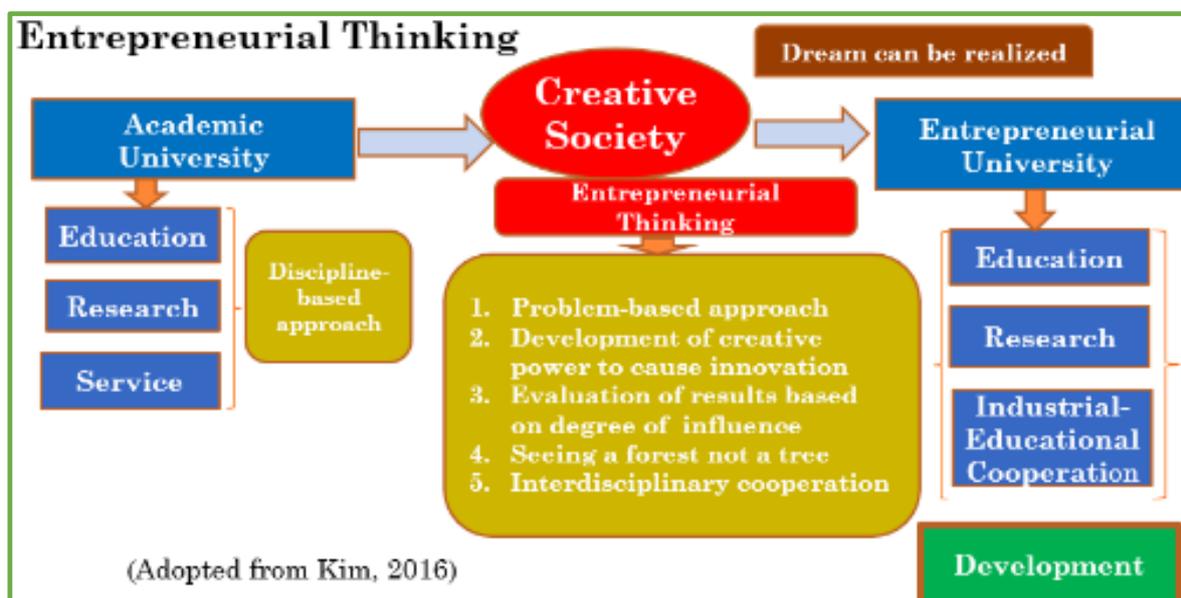
Similarly, more than 85% of the area under rice crop in Punjab is occupied by varieties evolved by local research and development institutions. Additionally, more than 55% of the area under sugarcane crop in Punjab is occupied by varieties

evolved by AARI and about 80% of the area under cotton crop in Punjab is occupied by varieties evolved indigenously. The rate of return on investment in agricultural research in Punjab is more than 80 % as compared to the 40 % of the rest of the developing countries.

The returns on agriculture research and development



expenditures in Punjab are higher than any other sector of the economy including education, infrastructure and health. Pakistan is having highest per capita agriculture value addition in the region after Iran. While highlighting the challenges to Pakistan's agriculture sector he mentioned that currently Pakistan is ranked at 99 number in Global Agricultural Productivity Index due to low-efficiency usage of resources. There are numerous constraints in value addition and diversification which needs to be addressed. There is a lack of indigenization of the world successful farming and developmental agricultural policy formulation. In order to combat these challenges, he offered a comprehensive strategic plan in which he urged upon the active partnership among stakeholders and farmer and insisted that market centred research mechanism should be developed through an active partnership with industry and research organizations. He concluded his speech by giving a case



study model for Entrepreneurial University.

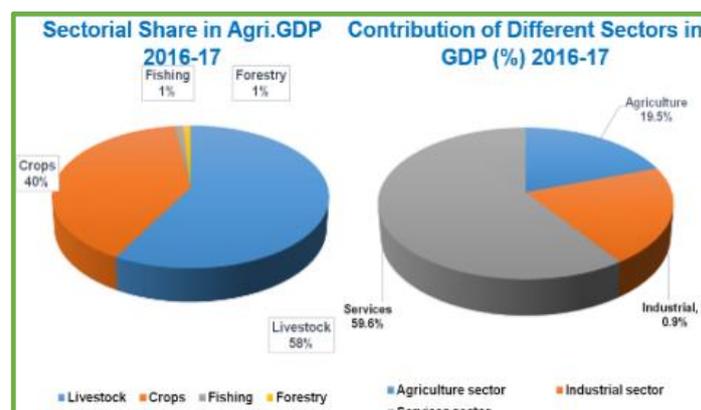
Speaker 4: Dr. Yusuf Zafar – Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)

Dr Yusuf Zafar began his Keynote Speech on the topic “Pakistan’s Vision on Agriculture for 21st Century” by acknowledging the commendable effort of the CGSS for its vital contribution in providing an august forum to discuss one of the important factors of Pakistan’s economic development and sustainability. Leading further, he gave an overview of Pakistan’s progress in agricultural sector since independence by expressing his views that country made tremendous development through the agricultural transformation from food shortages and import to self-sufficiency and exports.



Agriculture looks simple and easy to a person whose plough is pencil and is thousand miles away from the corn fields (D. Eisenhower USA President)

He also mentioned that the role of agricultural industry cannot be negated due to its massive input in the economy of Pakistan. For instance, it contributes 19.5% to national GDP and employed 42.3% labour force. Besides, it holds a massive share of 57.5% of exports Pakistan. However, the current situation is alarming due to insufficient agricultural developmental and reformative policies at the government level. To support his statement, he also gave different statistics of current agricultural trends. For instance, \$1.2 billion and \$2.7 billion of pulses and edible oil were imported in the fiscal year 2017.





Adding further, he gave a detailed account of challenges to the agricultural sector in which he mentioned that declining availability of quality land and water resources and slow growth in productivity of major crops is one of the core issues of low productivity. He also added that rising cost and availability of production inputs (energy, fertilizers, pesticides, and seed) and erosion of export competitiveness in wheat, rice and animal-based products are also hindering the improvement in agricultural and livestock growth.

There are also several other issues, such as absence of dynamic advisory services and technology transfer, less focus on dietary diversity, nutrition and healthy food and lack of infrastructure and technologies for post-harvest management and value addition. Furthermore, he indicated that there are difficulties in improving the capabilities of National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) to address and achieve the complex research goals of modern agriculture due to low investment in agricultural research.

While giving the way forward, he was of the view that government need to prioritize challenges and issues in order to improve agricultural sector by revamping NARS for enhanced competitiveness, productivity and profitability through value chain driven agriculture diversification. Likewise, lifting small farmers out of poverty and enhancing market access and developing a critical mass of skilled service providers for modernizing agriculture will help to boost the agricultural sector. He also laid great emphasis on the usage of Nanotechnologies, biotechnology and reforming of agriculture markets (intelligence, responsive, hygienic and efficient). He was also convinced that mechanization must be brought in on urgent basis for precision



planting, harvesting and post-harvest processing. In addition, farm level diversification for food security, livelihood improvement and import substitution is also necessary to improve the agricultural growth.

Speaker 5: Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed – Senior Advisor Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR)

Mr. Malik Zahoor Ahmed presented on the topic “Agricultural Development and National Security”. He appreciated the discourse about agricultural development from previous speakers. He also encouraged the audience to study a book related to agricultural development titled written by “Food Policies for Developing Countries” by Per Pinstrup Anderson. He said that economy and National security is complementary and agriculture is



combined with security through notion of food security and it not only concerns the food industry, but it also concerns all areas of national security. Hence, Economic development and security are interlinked with each other but for the future investments, security environment must be viable and secured. He informed the audience that the concept of national security evolved after World War II. It was decided in the post war period that military will be a part of security policy but soft political power will be exercised as a means of influence. The third one is an economic power. He mentioned countries like Germany and Japan, however, they are not sovereign (due to the US military presence) but still have influence due to

economic prosperity. He further informed that a state's legitimacy is less disputed when the nutritional needs of its population are met. Moreover, agriculture is not only for food, it is also a source of job creation and demographic regulation, therefore, agriculture plays a significant role in stabilizing the internal dimension of national security.

He further highlighted the issues pertaining to agricultural development and its consequences for the national security. He was of the view that government has to increase its efforts in terms of policies and agricultural investment to raise the impetus of national security. He concluded his speech by urging the social, political and military institutions to collaborate each other in order to have strong national security.



SESSION- II

Question and Answer Session

The Question and Answer session was moderated by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffrey, HI (M), (Retd) – President CGSS. He thanked all the participants and worthy speakers who graced the occasion by participating in the seminar and all other eminent scholars, analysts and professional who have shared their valuable views about such an imminent topic and also highlighted the challenges faced by Pakistan pertaining to emerging Agricultural Developments in 21st Century. He acclaimed that all the presentations were well elaborate and have been of great significance as they contain awareness about the facts and statistics related to the agro sector in Pakistan. He further hoped that certainly these conclusions and suggestions will make their way to those who formulate policies as well as decision makers. In addition to enriching each one of us with some very thought provoking ideas.

Question #1

The first question was asked by **Colonel Riaz, (Retd)** and was related to cross price management. According to him, cross price management has immense significance for the agricultural development and welfare of local farmers in Pakistan. By over viewing the historical development during the era of General Pervez Musharraf, Colonel Riaz, (Retd) narrated that, during the last days of his era, the price of wheat was 600 rupees per Maund while there was wheat shortage in Pakistan and the country has no other option but to import the wheat in order to overcome the crisis. Whereas, the subsequent government of President Asif Ali Zardari has increased the price up to 1200 rupees per Maund, which was double the price that has been charged by the previous government, however, the wheat import has been stopped. After wheat, the Sugar industry in Pakistan also faced similar kind of shortage. In addition, the current vegetable crisis is also an example, where the prices have elevated up to their extremes. The main reason behind this recurrent price management crisis in the



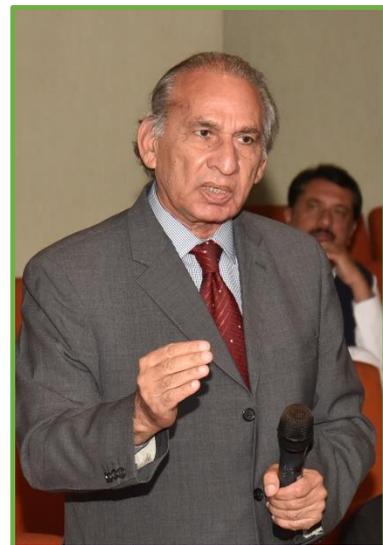
agricultural sector is that the farmers are cultivating the crops which are financially more feasible to them without knowing the cost of the input price. Furthermore, he suggested that in order to overcome these issues the inflation should be accounted, input cost should be discussed and Annual inflation should be adjusted in prices of commodities. Otherwise, we may face such kind of crisis again and again. What are your views on this issue?

Answer

Dr. Yusuf Zafar (Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council) have replied that the government is very conscious about input cost whereas, the cardinal points discussed in the national food policy are also based on it. The government is also subsidizing input costs of various commodities such as fertilizers, pesticides, harvesters and machinery. Furthermore, the government is also seriously considering to have cold chain development, whereas, other efforts are also underway to address the concerns related to problems pertaining to the agricultural sector in Pakistan.

Question # 2

Vice Admiral Ahmad Tasneem (retired Pakistan Navy) has commented that Korean grass is known to remains evergreen throughout the year and have much better quality than the local grass grown in Pakistan. He asked Dr. Yusuf Zafar to shed a light on any planned development projects regarding growing high quality grass in Pakistan and if the government has not took any initiative so far then what are the reasons behind the lacking of any such endeavors?



Answer

Dr. Yusuf Zafar (Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council) replied that agriculture is a very vast field and it is difficult to focus on and give enough time to such a wide array of things. “Self- Sufficiency” is a myth and its era is now over. A country cannot develop capacity in every walk of life, however, there are countries who are entitled to achieve their best in certain fields. For instance, Singapore which is one of the most developed economies across the world and can be termed as

food secure country does not even have agriculture or poultry industry. It is pertinent to mention that the service sector in Singapore is strong and the country has all the resources and purchase power, which is necessary for buying commodities such as wheat, basmati rice and any other food item. Gladly, Pakistan has achieved substantial development in the agricultural sector and is capable enough to grow such crops which the country was unable to grow in the yesteryears such as Mexican lemon, strawberry and Chinese lemon, which has excellent taste for making lemonade. Hence, as compared to the past decades, Pakistan has magnificently diversified its agricultural sector but still the country is unable to produce everything domestically. We also have the example of the United States of America (USA), which is one of the leading economies across the globe, but still the country has to import bananas from Mexico as bananas are not locally produced in all 52 states of the USA. Furthermore, although there is a niche in growing Korean grass, it may not be feasible for local farmer due to immense input cost and required expertise.

Question # 3

Asmat Kakar (Student) asked the worthy panelists about their opinion on the performance of civil government in Pakistan. He asked that whether it is the civilian government who is responsible for the bad performance of agricultural sector in the country? Is it the responsibility of civilian government only to correct everything in the country when our stick market is also going good?



Answer

Malik Zahoor Ahmad (Senior Advisor Ministry of National Food Security and Research) replied to this question and said that whenever military took control over the country there has been different compulsions. For instance, in 80s, if Pakistan has not opted for the United States of America, the Soviet Union would have captured our country. I also criticize the civilians and there are certainly some problems which need to be pointed out in order to improve the situation. Now the system here in Pakistan is changed. In the past, a Deputy Commissioner could

control the whole district without any help from government in case of floods but it is not like that now.

At the end of the session, he came up with few suggestions. He complimented Mr. Minhais by adding that Pakistan is in need to have thousands of farmers like him which would prove to be effective for the agricultural sector of the country. Furthermore, he emphasized on the need to embrace new technologies and mechanization by our farmers and accentuated that the policymakers in Pakistan are in need to change the vision as done by the Shastri of India who had a slogan for farmers called “Jai Jawan, Jai Jai Kisaan” and the farmers here in Pakistan are badly in need of that. Moreover, he added that having an access to the local markets is the right of Pakistani farmers; therefore, local farmers should be prioritized. In addition, he suggested that we should focus on the efficiency of getting more yield from crops with modernized equipment and techniques.

While shedding light on the adverse environments in the power echelon and policymaking, he addressed the decision makers that unfortunately, the lobbyists have some agendas, therefore, it is becoming difficult to attain fruitful changes in the existing policies but one must look forward to the remedial measures to ensure proper development of the agricultural sector.

Moreover, he suggested that the input cost of commodities such as pesticides should be decreased for local farmers. He was not satisfied by the policy approach of previous governments and decision makers who were unable to pay proper attention to the agricultural industry in Pakistan, which is one of the most important sectors of Pakistan for revenue generation and economic development. Adding further he praised armed forces and even local level farmers who despite facing extreme circumstances are still working with their full dedication. He ended with a



positive note; that Pakistan is in need of a vision for the development of its farmers and local level producers.





Center for Global & Strategic Studies
Islamabad

3rd Floor, 1-E, Ali Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92-51-8319682

E-mail: info@cgss.com.pk Website: www.cgss.com.pk