



**Table 2.1: Agriculture Growth (Base=2015-16)**

Sector	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (R)	2023-24 (P)
Agriculture	0.94	3.91	3.52	4.21	2.27	6.25
1.Crops (i+ii+iii)	-4.38	6.32	5.83	8.22	-1.03	11.03
i) Important Crops	-8.59	5.24	5.82	5.50	0.34	16.82
ii) Other Crops	3.62	9.21	7.95	11.90	-0.92	0.90
iii) Cotton Ginning	-11.23	-4.06	-13.08	9.22	-22.84	47.23
2.Livestock	3.65	2.80	2.38	2.25	3.70	3.89
3.Forestry	7.22	3.36	3.35	0.70	16.63	3.05
4.Fishing	0.78	0.63	0.73	0.35	0.60	0.81

R: Revised, P: Provisional

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

**Table 2.2: Actual Surface Water Availability**

Period	Kharif	Rabi	Total	% increase/decrease over the average system usage (103.5 MAF)
Average system usage	67.1	36.4	103.5	-
2015-16	65.5	32.9	98.4	-4.9
2016-17	71.4	29.7	101.1	-2.3
2017-18	70.0	24.2	94.2	-9.0
2018-19	59.6	24.8	84.4	-18.5
2019-20	65.2	29.2	94.4	-8.8
2020-21	65.1	31.2	96.3	-7.0
2021-22	65.1	27.4	92.5	-10.6
2022-23	43.3	29.4	72.7	-29.8
2023-24	61.9	30.6	92.5	-10.6

Source: Indus River System Authority

## 2.2 Crop Position

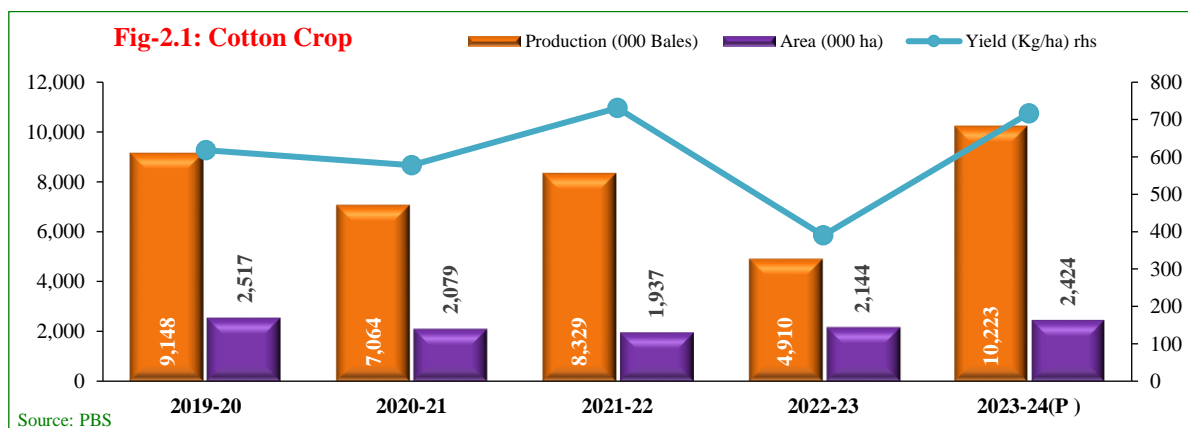
During 2023-24, the critical crops contributed 20.67 percent to value addition in agriculture and 4.97 percent to GDP. Other crops contributed 13.51 percent in value addition to agriculture and 3.25 percent in GDP.

### 2.2-1 Important Crops

#### i) Cotton

During 2023-24, cotton area cultivation increased to 2.4 million hectares (ha) against 2.1

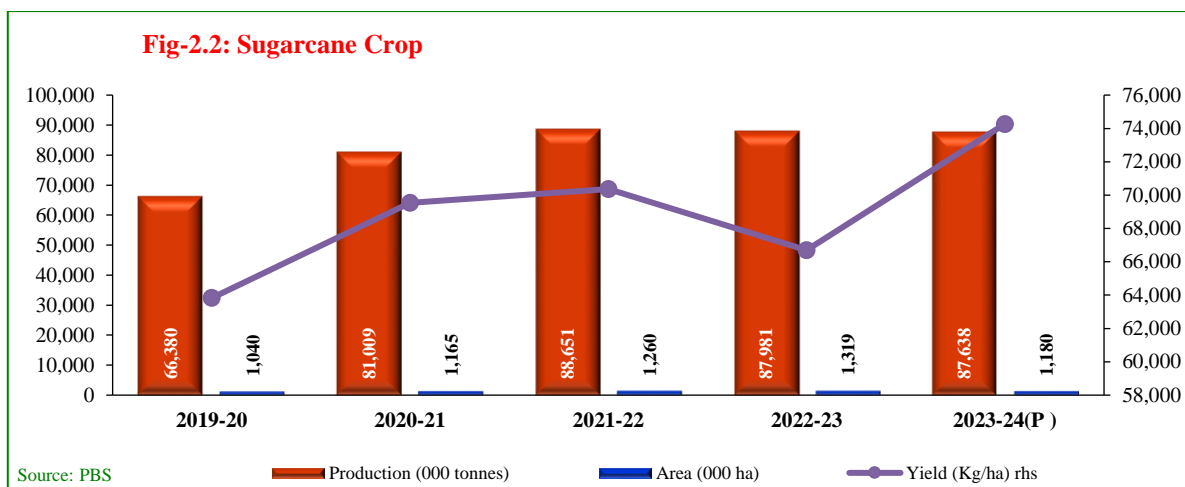
million ha last year, showing a growth of only 13.1 percent. In contrast, its production recorded a remarkable increase of 108.2 percent to 10.2 million bales (Fig-2.1). It has share of 0.7 percent in GDP and 2.9 percent in agriculture value addition. The increase in the area under cultivation has contributed to increased cotton production. This overall improvement in production is linked to a better quality of pest-resilient seeds, favourable weather conditions, and attractive fixation of the intervention price of cotton (Phutti) at Rs 8,500/40 kg at the start of the sowing season.



### ii) Sugarcane

During 2023-24, sugarcane was cultivated on 1.2 million ha, showing a decrease of 10.5 percent compared to 1.3 million ha last year. It has share of 0.8 percent in GDP and 3.5 percent in agriculture value addition. Its production slightly

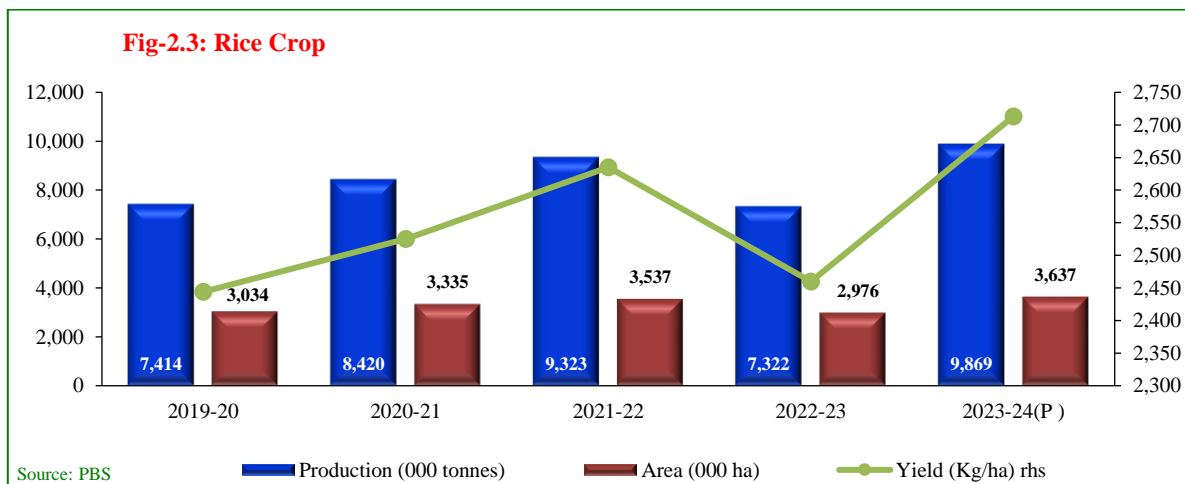
declined to 0.4 percent in 2023-24 to 87.6 million tonnes over 88.0 million tonnes last year. Though the total production area has decreased, the yield increase (Kg/ha) is encouraging, highlighting the optimal agriculture policy mix (Fig-2.2).



### iii) Rice

Rice remained the promising crop 2023-24; its area significantly increased by 22.2 percent to 3.6 million ha from 3.0 million ha. Its production increased 34.8 percent to 9.9 million tonnes in 2023-24 against 7.3 million tonnes last year. It

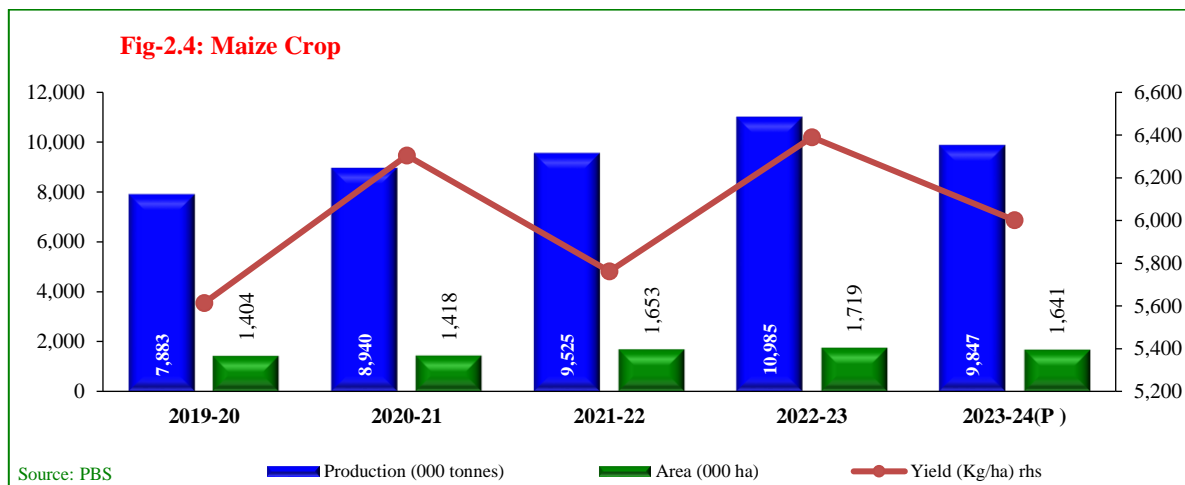
has share of 0.6 percent in GDP and 2.5 percent in agriculture value addition. The rise in rice production was due to increased area under cultivation, supported by higher rice prices, favourable monsoon rains, and better export prospects since last year. (Fig-2.3)



### v) Maize

During 2023-24, maize crop was cultivated on 1.6 million ha, showing a decrease of 4.5 percent over last year's cultivation of 1.7 million ha. Its production declined 10.4 percent to 9.8 million

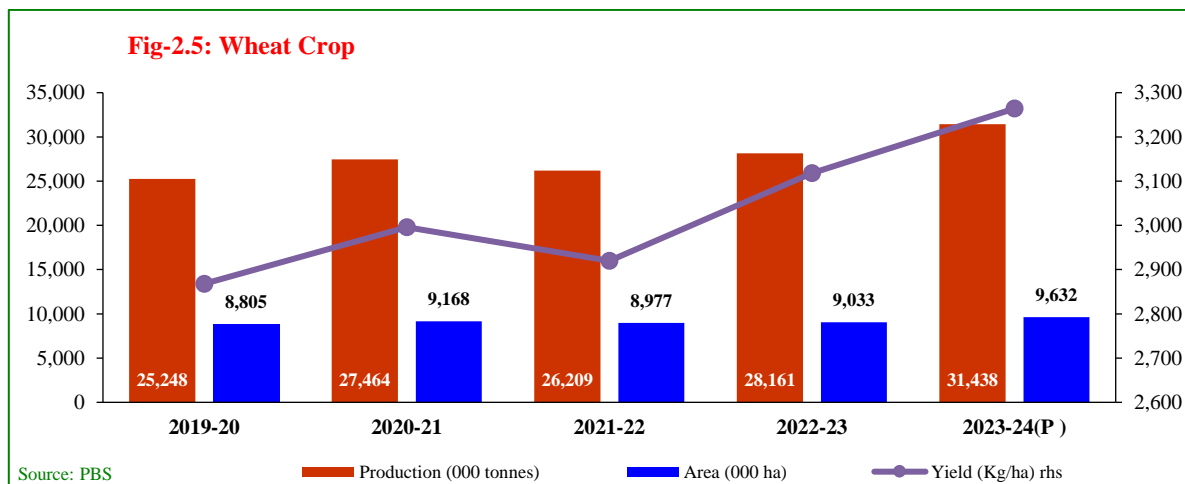
tonnes from 11.0 million last year. It has share of 0.7 percent in GDP and 2.9 percent in agriculture value addition. The decline in production is due to less cultivation than the previous year (Fig-2.4).



**iv) Wheat**

During 2023-24, wheat was sown at 9.6 million ha against last year’s area of 9.0 million ha, showing an increase of 6.6 percent. Wheat production stood at 31.4 million tonnes compared to 28.2 million tonnes last year, and a growth of 11.6 was observed in wheat production (Fig-2.5). The government has maintained the MSP at Rs 3,900/40 kg for 2023-

24. A dry spell in December 2024 could hurt its yield. Nonetheless, considering the situation during the sowing season regarding weather conditions, soil moisture, input availability, and the sown area in various provinces, wheat production remained promising, barring any unexpected lousy weather at harvest time. It may be worth noting that this crop has 9.0 percent share in agriculture and 2.2 percent in GDP.



**2.2-2 Other Crops**

During 2023-24, the production of Bajra and Barley increased to 14.8 percent and 6.8 percent to 294 thousand tonnes and 42 thousand tonnes, respectively, compared to last year. The production of Rapeseed & Mustard, Jawar, and Gram declined by 44.5 percent, 20.6 percent, and 5.5 percent, respectively, due to a decline in the

area sown. However, the production of Tobacco retained its level last year. Mash, Onion, Moong, and Potato production increased by 31.9 percent, 20.4 percent, 13.6 percent, and 1.5 percent, respectively. However, a decline has been witnessed in the production of Masoor and Chillies by 11.9 percent and 15.3 percent, respectively (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3: Area and Production of Other Kharif and Rabi Crops** Area: 000 Hectares; Production: 000 Tonnes

Crops	2022-23		2023-24(P)		% Change in production
	Area	Production	Area	Production	
Bajra	241	256	238	294	14.8
Jowar	59	49	47	39	-20.6
Gram	843	244	794	230	-5.5
Barley	41	40	44	42	6.8
Rapeseed & Mustard	613	673	352	373	-44.5
Tobacco	46	152	46	152	0.0
Masoor	7.4	4.7	6.6	4.1	-11.9
Moong	218	135	201	153	13.6
Mash	7.0	4.2	7.0	5.6	31.9
Potato	341	8,320	339	8,441	1.5
Onion	136	1,843	142	2,220	20.4
Chillies	48	109.6	49	92.8	-15.3

P: Provisional

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

**i) Oilseeds**

During 2023-24 (July-March), 2.717 million tonnes of edible oil (including oil extracted from imported oilseed) of value Rs 794 billion (US \$ 2.809 billion) was imported. Local edible oil

production during 2023-24 will remain at 0.471 million tonnes. The total availability of edible oil during FY 2024 (July-March) from imports and local production is estimated at 3.188 million tonnes (Table 2.4).

**Table 2.4: Area and Production of Major Oilseed Crops** 000 Tonnes

Crops	2022-23			2023-24 (P)		
	Area (000 Acres)	Production		Area (000 Acres)	Production	
		Seed	Oil		Seed	Oil
Cottonseed	5,312	1,296	156	5,849	2,142	257
Rapeseed & Mustard	1,332	675	243	850.8	416	150
Sunflower	187	133	51	155.0	98	37
Canola	205	141	54	108.5	72	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,036</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>6,963</b>	<b>2,728</b>	<b>471</b>

P: Provisional

Source: Pakistan Oilseed Department (POD), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

**Box-I: Oilseeds Development**

The government is striving hard to increase oilseed production in the country. M/o NFS&R has proposed the first-ever comprehensive National Oilseed Policy, which will be submitted to the competent forum for approval. The policy will focus on enhancing the production of edible oils and reducing dependence on imports, improving the profitability of the oilseed growers, access to the credit facility, availability of good quality sowing seed at reasonable prices, and dissemination of the latest approved production technology to the oilseed growers. Another key feature of the policy is to recommend measures for improving the quality of edible oils to protect people's health and rationalize consumption.

Furthermore, a new project to introduce soybean production in the country is being prepared to meet our poultry industry and edible oil requirements. M/o NFS&R is also considering extending the National Oilseed Enhancement Programme (NOEP) to sustain the momentum gained during the last four years in enhancing the area and production of the oilseed in the country.

Source: Pakistan Oilseed Department (POD), M/o NFS&amp;R

## 2.3 Livestock and Poultry

### 2.3-1 Livestock

Animal husbandry is a cornerstone of Pakistan's rural economy, with more than 8 million rural families deeply engaged in livestock production. This sector is a vital lifeline for these families, contributing significantly to their livelihoods by accounting for around 35-40 percent of their total income. In the broader economic landscape, the livestock sector has solidified its position as the primary driver of agricultural growth, comprising approximately 60.84 percent of the agricultural value added and 14.63 percent of the national GDP during FY2024.

The gross value addition of the livestock sector has shown an increase, rising to Rs 5,804 billion in 2023-24 from Rs 5,587 billion in 2022-23, marking a growth rate of 3.9 percent. Moreover, the sector's net foreign exchange earnings make a meaningful contribution, accounting for approximately 1.6 percent of the total exports in the country.

The government has recognized the inherent potential of this sector for economic growth, food security, and poverty alleviation in the country and has accordingly focused on its development. The overall strategy for livestock development revolves around promoting "private sector-led development with the public sector providing an enabling environment through policy interventions." Regulatory measures have been implemented to enhance per unit animal productivity by improving

veterinary health coverage, husbandry practices, animal breeding practices, assisted reproductive techniques (Embryo Transfer Technique, In Vitro Fertilization, etc.), artificial insemination services, use of balanced ration for animal feeding, and controlling livestock diseases such as FMDE, PPR, LSD, and Avian Influenza.

The primary objective is to leverage the potential of the livestock sector for economic growth, food security, and rural socioeconomic uplift. To address investment-related issues in the value-added livestock export sector, the government is considering developing export meat processing zones and disease-free zones and compartments for FMD, PPR, and HPAI, among others, as well as facilitating the establishment of modern slaughterhouses based on the industry's requirements. The government also provides various schemes through the financial sector for a limited period to boost the livestock sector.

The focus of the present government is on breed improvement for enhanced productivity, establishing a nucleus herd, identifying breeds well adapted to various agro-ecological zones of Pakistan, and importing high-yielding exotic dairy, beef, mutton breeds, and genetic materials (semen, ova, embryos). By implementing these measures, the government aims to stimulate growth in the livestock sector, generate employment opportunities, and contribute to the country's overall economic growth and food security. The national herd population of livestock for the last three years is given in Table 2.5.

Species	2021-22 <sup>1</sup>	2022-23 <sup>1</sup>	2023-24 <sup>1</sup>
Cattle	53.4	55.5	57.5
Buffalo	43.7	45.0	46.3
Sheep	31.9	32.3	32.7
Goat	82.5	84.7	87.0
Camels	1.1	1.1	1.2
Horses	0.4	0.4	0.4
Asses	5.7	5.8	5.9
Mules	0.2	0.2	0.2

<sup>1</sup>: Estimated figure based on inter-census growth rate of Livestock Census 1996 & 2006

Source: Ministry of National Food Security & Research

The position of milk and meat production for the last three years is given in Table 2.6.

Species	2021-22 <sup>1</sup>	2022-23 <sup>1</sup>	2023-24 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Milk (Gross Production)</b>	<b>65,745</b>	<b>67,873</b>	<b>70,071</b>
Cow	24,238	25,151	26,099
Buffalo	39,503	40,678	41,887
Sheep <sup>2</sup>	42	42	42
Goat	1,018	1,046	1,074
Camel <sup>2</sup>	944	956	956
<b>Milk (Human Consumption)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>52,996</b>	<b>54,707</b>	<b>56,474</b>
Cow	19,390	20,121	20,880
Buffalo	31,603	32,542	33,509
Sheep	42	42	42
Goat	1,018	1,046	1,074
Camel	944	956	968
<b>Meat<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>5,219</b>	<b>5,504</b>	<b>5,809</b>
Beef	2,461	2,544	2,630
Mutton	782	799	817
Poultry meat	1,977	2,160	2,362

- 1: The milk and meat production figures for the indicated years are calculated by applying milk production parameters to the projected population of respective years based on the inter-census growth rate of Livestock Census 1996 & 2006.
- 2: The figures for the milk production for the indicated years are calculated after adding milk production from camel and sheep to the statistics reported in the Livestock Census 2006.
- 3: Milk for human consumption is derived by subtracting 20 percent of wastage (15 percent from faulty transportation and lack of chilling facilities and 5 percent from suckling calf nourishment) from the gross milk production of cows and buffalo.
- 4: The figures for meat production are for red meat and do not include edible offal.

Source: Ministry of National Food Security & Research

The estimated production of other livestock products for the last three years is given in Table 2.7.

Products	Units	2021-22 <sup>1</sup>	2022-23 <sup>1</sup>	2023-24 <sup>1</sup>
Eggs	million Nos.	22,512	23,819	25,212
<b>Hides</b>	<b>000 Nos.</b>	<b>19,384</b>	<b>20,039</b>	<b>20,717</b>
Cattle	000 Nos.	10,127	10,509	10,905
Buffalo	000 Nos.	9,142	9,414	9,694
Camels	000 Nos.	115	117	118
<b>Skins</b>	<b>000 Nos.</b>	<b>62,250</b>	<b>63,697</b>	<b>65,181</b>
Sheep Skin	000 Nos.	12,088	12,231	12,376
Goat Skin	000 Nos.	31,784	32,645	33,530
<u>Fancy Skin</u>	000 Nos.	18,377	18,821	19,275
Lamb Skin	000 Nos.	3,590	3,633	3,676
Kid Skin	000 Nos.	14,787	15,188	15,599
Wool	000 Tonnes	48.4	49.0	49.6
Hair	000 Tonnes	31.0	31.8	32.7
Edible Offal's	000 Tonnes	465	478	492
Blood	000 Tonnes	77.0	79.0	81.0
Casings	000 Nos.	62,888	64,351	64,851
Guts	000 Nos.	20,599	21,292	22,009
Horns & Hooves	000 Tonnes	68.2	70.2	72.3
Bones	000 Tonnes	1,020.7	1,052.0	1,084.3
Fats	000 Tonnes	322.9	332.5	342.5
Dung	000 Tonnes	1,448	1,493	1,540
Urine	000 Tonnes	437	450	464
Head & Trotters	000 Tonnes	290.4	298.7	307.2
Ducks, Drakes & Ducklings	million Nos.	0.35	0.34	0.32

- 1: The figures for livestock products for the indicated years were calculated by applying production parameters to the projected population of respective years.

Source: Ministry of National Food Security & Research



### 2.3-2 Poultry

The poultry sector is a vibrant component of the livestock industry, providing employment opportunities to over 1.5 million people in the country. With a substantial investment of more than Rs 1,056 billion, this industry has experienced impressive growth, averaging a remarkable 7.3 percent annual growth rate over the past decade. This expansion has led to Pakistan becoming the eleventh largest poultry producer in the world, with vast potential for future growth and advancement. The poultry sector contributes around 40.7 percent of the country's gross meat production.

To further strengthen and develop this industry, the poultry development strategy focuses on

critical areas such as disease control, cutting-edge technology for poultry production in controlled environments, processing and value addition, improving poultry husbandry practices, and expanding product diversification.

Despite its growth and potential, the poultry sector in Pakistan faces various challenges, including disease outbreaks, feed quality issues, high production costs, non-availability of locally grown crops like soybeans, and market fluctuations. Addressing these challenges is essential for sustaining the sector's growth and ensuring food security in the country. The estimated production of commercial and rural poultry products for the last three years is shown in Table 2.8.

**Table 2.8: Estimated Domestic/Rural & Commercial Poultry**

Type	Units	2021-22 <sup>1</sup>	2022-23 <sup>1</sup>	2023-24 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Domestic Poultry</b>	<b>million Nos.</b>	<b>92.62</b>	<b>94.04</b>	<b>95.50</b>
Cocks	million Nos.	13.20	13.55	13.92
Hens	million Nos.	45.52	46.34	47.17
Chicken	million Nos.	33.90	34.15	34.41
Eggs <sup>2</sup>	million Nos.	4,552	4,634	4,717
Meat	000 Tonnes	129.76	132.36	135.01
<b>Duck, Drake &amp; Duckling</b>	<b>million Nos.</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.32</b>
Eggs <sup>2</sup>	million Nos.	15.78	15.12	14.49
Meat	000 Tonnes	0.48	0.46	0.44
<b>Commercial Poultry</b>	<b>million Nos.</b>	<b>1,632.06</b>	<b>1,792.46</b>	<b>1,968.71</b>
Layers	million Nos.	68.49	73.28	78.41
Broilers	million Nos.	1,548.51	1,703.36	1,873.69
Breeding Stock	million Nos.	15.06	15.81	16.61
Day Old Chicks	million Nos.	1,617.41	1,779.16	1,957.07
Eggs <sup>2</sup>	million Nos.	17,944	19,170	20,480
Meat	000 Tonnes	1,846.48	2,027.57	2,226.54
<b>Total Poultry</b>				
Day Old Chicks	million Nos.	1,651	1,813	1,991
Poultry Birds	million Nos.	1,725	1,887	2,065
Eggs	million Nos.	22,512	23,819	25,212
Poultry Meat	000 Tonnes	1,977	2,160	2,362

1: The figures for the indicated years are statistically calculated using the statistics for 2005-06.

2: The figures for Eggs (Farming) and Eggs (Desi) are calculated using the poultry parameters for egg production.

Source: Ministry of National Food Security & Research

### Ongoing Projects of Livestock

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) DAI Pakistan, in collaboration with the M/o NFS&R, executed the Fleming Fund Country Grant Pakistan Phase-I (2019-June 2023), aimed at combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Key achievements of this phase include developing surveillance strategies, refurbishing laboratories, conducting surveys, and initiating advocacy efforts.

Following the successful implementation of Phase-I, the UK government has allocated an additional 6 million pounds sterling grant for Phase II of the Fleming Fund Country Grant (FFCG), which began in January 2024 and is scheduled to conclude in December 2025. This phase emphasizes producing high-quality data, conducting thorough analysis, fostering data sharing, and ensuring sustainable investments.



TCP / PAK / 3804 - FAO Pakistan successfully executed the "Support Development and Piloting Pakistan Animal Identification and Traceability System (PAITS)" project to establish a robust animal identification and traceability system in Pakistan. With a budget of US\$ 231,000, the project developed software-based modules for animal identification, registration, health monitoring, traceability, and a monitoring dashboard. The successful pilot phase has demonstrated the feasibility and effectiveness of the software system, paving the way for its nationwide implementation. This achievement not only opens avenues for Pakistan to access international markets but also ensures enhanced management of livestock identification and movements. The next plan is to deploy the system across the country under the auspices of the Animal Husbandry Commissioner Office of the M/o NFS&R.

The project with the title of National Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Eradication Programme, Phase-I, Risk-Based PPR Control in Sheep and Goats of Pakistan was initiated in 2020-21 with an allocated budget of Rs 1787.71 million by the National Veterinary Laboratory. It aligns with international commitments to eradicate the PPR disease by 2030. The successful completion of this initiative is set to make Pakistan PPR disease-free and eligible for World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Certification. Key activities within the project encompass the procurement and distribution of PPR vaccines, training of veterinary personnel in sample collection, storage, and diagnosis, and provision of necessary laboratory equipment. 19.85 million doses of PPR vaccine have been procured and distributed. Provinces maintain emergency reserves, and awareness materials are circulated among farmers to facilitate disease control efforts.

Animal Disease Surveillance and Information System: Under TCP/PAK/3909, with a total allocation of US \$ 175,724, a comprehensive feasibility study has been conducted, aiming to develop an animal disease surveillance system tailored to the specific needs of Pakistan. The study involved a thorough assessment of the current animal disease reporting systems at various levels in the country to identify their

strengths, gaps, opportunities, and challenges. The proposed system utilizes the latest technological advancements and enables real-time animal disease reporting. This facilitates appropriate and timely actions for disease control, prioritizing resource allocation for prevention efforts. The system provides critical information to farmers, veterinarians, and other stakeholders, enabling them to respond to outbreaks promptly and efficiently. By minimizing the impact of animal diseases on the economy and public health and safeguarding the food supply chain, the project contributes significantly to national welfare. PC-I is in the process of approval to execute it.

Pakistan's Collaboration with World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and Trade: Compliance with WOA standards is essential for maintaining sanitary trade between countries, as mandated under WTO agreements. Member countries, including Pakistan, must regularly report animal disease data to WOA to inform trading partners and facilitate trade. To streamline this process, WOA manages the online World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), where the office of Animal Husbandry Commissioner submits data biannually and immediately for Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs), zoonotic diseases and emerging/re-emerging animal diseases, crucial for trading partners of regional and international markets.

WOAH is essential in improving veterinary infrastructure and capacity-building in Pakistan and has allocated US\$ 30,000 for Provincial Antimicrobial Use (AMU) workshops and Veterinary Education Establishments seminars. US\$ 15,000 has been released in the 1st phase and is currently being utilized. Furthermore, WOA-sponsored technical experts actively contribute to legislative efforts, exemplified by their involvement in drafting "The Pakistan Animal Health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health Act." This legislation aims to observe international standards in disease surveillance, animal welfare, and veterinary public health. Additionally, WOA's engagement in programmes like the WOA Laboratory Training Programme, Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluations, and

veterinary service gap analysis highlight its commitment to improving Pakistan's veterinary services, thus enhancing the sector's overall performance.

In addition to the above, the following policy measures are taken during July-March FY2024;

- a) 244.2 tons of calf milk replacer valued at US\$ 453.5 thousand by the corporate dairy subsectors
- b) 487 tons of cattle feed premix valued at US\$

728.1 thousand by the corporate meat subsectors

- c) 2.65 million doses of high-yielding dairy cattle breeds of Holstein Friesian and Jersey for enhanced milk production and Brahman for improved meat production.
- d) To facilitate the private sector, the Animal Quarantine Department has been entrusted with integrating the necessary certifications with Pakistan Single Window to harmonize the trade of animals and animal-origin products.

#### Box-II: The Role of CPEC in the Agriculture Sector

Under the Agriculture Cooperation, a comprehensive National Action Plan for Agriculture Modernization has been prepared. Cooperation in capacity building, germplasm resources, agricultural product processing, agrarian technology extension, fishery science, and technology. Aquaculture aquatic product processing, establishment of FMD free zones in Pakistan, market information & agricultural trade, and cooperation for Agricultural Development have been agreed between the two sides.

Numerous protocols have been signed to enhance Pakistan's agricultural exports to China. Protocol for the export of Dried Chili was signed in July 2023, and Protocols for the export of Dairy Products, Hides of Donkey, and Heated beef were signed in October 2023. Consensus has also been reached to transfer the Chinese Juncao Technology to Pakistan for the breeding of Juncao and Juncao mushroom varieties, production and processing of Jancao forage and promotion of livestock feeding, processing and promotion of Juncao organic fertilizer, soil & water conservation demonstration and capacity building of researchers & farmers.

Both sides encourage and promote G2G and B2B cooperation under CPEC to create employment opportunities and promote the export of agricultural products. Chinese and Pakistani research organizations and enterprises have joined hands in animal husbandry, crop cultivation, and product processing. The following initiatives are currently under development:

- Corporate Agriculture Farming
- Establishment of the Center for Sustainable Control of Plant Pest and Diseases
- Juncao Technology Demonstration and Extension Project
- Development of FMD Free Zones and local production of FMD vaccines
- Mechanization harvesting and post-harvesting processes
- Pak-China Modern Agricultural Science & Technology Transferring Center

Source: China Pakistan Economic Corridor Secretariat, M/o PD&SI

## 2.4 Farm Inputs

### 2.4-1 Fertilizer

Overall domestic production of fertilizers during FY2024 (July-March) increased by 17.3 percent to 3.253 million tons over the same period of FY2023 (2.773 million tons), while import of fertilizer also increased by 23.7 percent (524 thousand tons). Hence, fertilizer availability increased by 18.1 percent (3.776 million tons). Total offtake of fertilizer nutrients also increased

by 18.7 percent (3.957 million tons). This offtake seems high due to the extraordinarily low offtake during the previous year due to floods. Though gas prices for urea plants increased, the average prices of urea and other nitrogen containing fertilizers were mismatched with increased gas prices and were unjustifiably high. Moreover, the government decided to import urea on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. Imported urea (by Trading Corporation of Pakistan) landed between 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> January

2024. After a series of negotiations with the local urea industry, a mechanism was agreed upon, and marketing of imported urea started in mid-February 2024.

The total availability of urea during Kharif 2023 was 3,397 thousand tonnes, comprising 69 thousand tonnes of opening inventory and 3,328 thousand tonnes of domestic production (Table 2.9). Total offtake was 3,322 thousand tonnes, leaving an inventory of 77 thousand tonnes for Rabi 2023-24. Availability of DAP was 794 thousand tonnes, comprising 274 thousand tonnes of opening inventory, 392 thousand tonnes of local production, and 128 thousand tonnes of imported supplies. DAP offtake was

758 thousand tonnes, leaving an inventory of 38 thousand tonnes for the upcoming Rabi 2023-24.

The total availability of urea during Rabi 2023-24 was 3,698 thousand tonnes, comprising 77 thousand tonnes of opening inventory, 220 thousand tonnes of imported supplies, and 3,401 thousand tonnes of domestic production (Table 2.9). Total offtake was 3,525 thousand tonnes, leaving an inventory of 174 thousand tonnes for Kharif 2024. Availability of DAP was 983 thousand tonnes, comprising 38 thousand tonnes of opening inventory, 393 thousand tonnes of local production, and 552 thousand tonnes of imported supplies. DAP offtake was 874 thousand tonnes, leaving an inventory of 78 thousand tonnes for Kharif 2024.

**Table 2.9: Fertilizer Supply Demand Situation**

000 Tonnes

Description	Kharif (Apr-Sep) 2023		Rabi (Oct-Mar) 2023-24	
	Urea	DAP	Urea	DAP
Opening Stock	69	274	77	38
Imported Supplies	0	128	220	552
Domestic Production	3,328	392	3,401	393
Total Availability	3,397	794	3,698	983
Offtake/Demand	3,332	758	3,525	874
Write on/off	1	1.9	0	-30.6
Closing Stock	77	38	174	78

Source: National Fertilizer Development Centre

### 2.4-2 Seeds

Seed is the major input needful for gaining better output from agriculture. Quality seed helps in successful harvest, improved climate resilience, better yields, and global recognition for enhancing agricultural profitability.

#### Achievements of the Seed Sector FY2024

- Seed Business Regulation Committee (SBRC), in its 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> meetings, had recommended accepting submitted applications of 134 seed companies as local seed producers were directed to submit performance agreements and performance bonds by their five-year seed production for obtaining registration certificates to do seed business.
- SBRC had accepted applications of 80 seed companies as Seed Importers on fulfillment of preliminary requirements as laid down in amended rules.
- SBRC had accepted applications of 11 seed companies as Seed Exporters for a grant of registration certificate, which was later approved by the ministry.
- SBRC accepted applications from 17 processing units for registration, further strengthening the seed-processing infrastructure.
- A total of 151 (Local:145, Importer:05 & Exporter: 01) seed companies' registration was renewed for five years (2023-2028) based on satisfactory progress for the last three years.
- Registrations of 89 seed companies as local seed producers were cancelled, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.
- Rigorous sampling and testing protocols were applied, with 637.5 thousand MT of locally produced seeds tested for purity, germination, and seed health.

- Imported seed consignments totalling 46.6 thousand MT underwent testing to ensure compliance with Seed (Truth in Labeling) Rules, 1991.
- A comprehensive examination of approximately 193 candidate lines across various crops was conducted for Distinctness, Uniformity, and Stability (DUS) trials.
- Multiple Variety Evaluation Committee meetings (VEC) meetings were held to assess and recommend varieties for cultivation, ensuring diversity and quality in agricultural produce.
- Meetings of the Provincial Seed Councils deliberated on the distribution and cultivation of approved varieties, fostering collaboration between provinces for agricultural development.
- The registration of new Horticultural nurseries and certification of nursery plants aimed to promote the production and dissemination of disease-free and high-quality nursery plants.
- The Central Seed Testing Laboratory

(CSTL) obtained an accreditation extension, facilitating seed testing services and enhancing Pakistan's recognition in the global seed market. The CSTL played a crucial role in ensuring the quality of seed lots through rigorous testing protocols and accreditation by international standards.

- Efforts were made to strengthen collaboration with various countries and international organizations for the development of the seed sector.
- The implementation of a digital technology on MIS based seed certification system would improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the seed certification process. The MIS-based system facilitated the certification of over 1,300 varieties of more than 50 crops, providing real-time data for decision-making and enhancing stakeholder accessibility. Efforts were made to digitize seed registration processes, improving accessibility and efficiency in seed business operations.

The area, seed requirement, and seed availability during FY2024 (July-March) are given in Table 2.10.

**Table 2.10: Area, Seed Requirement and Seed Availability** Metric Tonne

Crop*	Sowing Area (000 Hectare)	Total Seed Requirement	Seed Availability			
			Public	Private	Imported	Total
Wheat	9,250	1,142,375	65,319	463,778	0	529,097
Cotton	2,767	54,672	0	12,632	0	12,632
Paddy	3,070	45,624	69	22,725	9,175	31,969
Maize	1,331	32,866	0	1,839	20,778	22,617
Pulses	1,213	85,413	0	1,049	0	1,049
Oilseeds	830	4,100	365	6,433	620	7,419
Vegetables	280	8,400	16	1,596	1,394	3,006
Fodders	2,038	61,140	46	21,426	6,481	27,953
Potato	166	415,000	0	0	6,758	6,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,944</b>	<b>1,849,591</b>	<b>65,816</b>	<b>531,479</b>	<b>45,207</b>	<b>642,501</b>
			<b>10.24%**</b>	<b>82.72%**</b>	<b>7.04%**</b>	<b>-</b>

\*: Except wheat all seed availability figure are provisional as seed sampling and testing is in process

\*\* : Values of Public, Private and Import are given on the basis of percentage value out of total seed availability.

Source: Federal Seed Certification & Registration Department, M/o NFS&R

### 2.4-3 Farm Machinery

Farm mechanization is a vital factor in accelerating growth in the agriculture sector. The main constraint in increasing agriculture productivity includes the non-availability of quality tractors and farm machinery. Under the FY2024 budget, the following steps were taken to promote agricultural productivity;

- Electricity/diesel bills are among the most significant expenses for farmers. An allocation of Rs 30.0 billion has been made to switch 50,000 agricultural tubewells to solar energy.
- Harvesting period is getting shorter due to climate change. Also, if the farmer has to raise three crops, harvesting the ripe crop as

soon as possible is essential. This requires combined harvesters. All duties and taxes may be exempted on combined harvesters to promote the use of combined harvesters.

- To increase rice production, seeders, Rice Planters, and Dryers are exempted from duties and taxes.

The domestic tractor industry has played a pivotal role in fulfilling farmers' tractor

requirements. The number of operational tractors in the country is around 692,626, resulting in the availability of around 0.9 horsepower (HP) per acre against the required power of 1.4 HP per acre. During FY2024 (July-March), total tractor production reached 36,304 compared to 22,626 produced last year, showing an increase of 60 percent due to rapid growth in agriculture land reclamation after the recent floods. (Table 2.11).

**Table 2.11: Prices, Production, and Sales of Locally Manufactured Tractors FY2024 (July-March)**

Tractors Model-(HP)	Tractor Price (Rs)	Production (Units/ Nos.)	Sales (Units/ Nos.)
<b>Al-Ghazi Tractors Limited</b>			
NH-480-S (55-HP)	2,194,000	2,457	2,499
NH-480-PP (55-HP)	2,278,000	2,081	2,192
NH-Ghazi (65-HP)	2,555,000	5,363	4,841
NH-640 (75-HP)	3,325,000	2,559	2,316
NH-Dabung (85-HP)	3,430,000	263	256
NH-70-56 (85-HP)	4,575,000	-	02
Total		12,723	12,106
<b>M/s Millat Tractors Limited</b>			
MF-235 (50 HP)	2,040,000	15	06
MF-240 (50 HP)	2,190,000	5,653	5,788
MF-260 (60 HP)	2,550,000	162	153
MF-260 SE (60 HP)	2,600,000	3,334	3,380
MF-260 Delux (60 HP)	2,775,000	20	07
MF-360 (60 HP)	2,690,000	66	63
MF-360 4WD (60 HP)	3,795,000	49	21
MF-375 (75 HP)	3,345,000	155	237
MF-375 4WD (75 HP)	4,500,000	19	20
MF-385 (85 HP)	3,465,000	13,472	13,228
MF-385 Delux (85 HP)	3,760,000	99	67
MF-385 4WD (85 HP)	4,585,000	527	536
MF-385 4WD Delux (85 HP)	4,875,000	10	04
Total		23,581	23,510
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>36,304</b>	<b>35,616</b>

Source: Tractor Manufacturers, Federal Water Management Cell

#### 2.4-4 Irrigation

The monsoon season (July-September) 2023 recorded above-average rainfall, 146.4 mm, showing an increase of 3.9 percent against the normal average rainfall of 140.9 mm. During the post-monsoon season (October-December) 2023, rainfall was recorded at 26.8 mm against

the normal average rainfall of 26.4 mm, showing an increase of 1.3 percent. However, during the winter (January-March) 2024, rainfall remained above 80.8 mm against the normal average rainfall of 74.3 mm, showing an increase of 8.8 percent. Rainfall recorded during the reference period is given in Table 2.12.

**Table 2.12: Pakistan's Rainfall\* Recorded During 2023-24** (in Millimetres)

	Monsoon Rainfall (Jul-Sep) 2023	Post Monsoon Rainfall (Oct-Dec) 2023	Winter Rainfall (Jan-Mar) 2024
Normal**	140.9	26.4	74.3
Actual	146.4	26.8	80.8
Shortage (-)/excess (+)	+5.5	+0.4	+6.5
% Shortage (-)/excess (+)	+3.9	+1.3	+8.8

\*: Area Weighted      \*\*: Normal/Long Period Average of 1961-2010

Source: Pakistan Meteorological Department



Canal head withdrawals during Kharif 2023 increased to 61.85 MAF from 43.27 MAF in Kharif 2022, showing an increase of 43 percent. During Rabi 2023-24, it increased to 30.59 MAF

from 29.37 MAF during Rabi 2022-23 showing an increase of 4 percent. The province-wise details are shown in Table 2.13.

**Table 2.13: Canal Head Withdrawals (Below Rim Stations)** Million Acre Feet

Province	Kharif (Apr-Sep) 2022	Kharif (Apr-Sep) 2023	% Change in Kharif 2023 Over 2022	Rabi (Oct-Mar) 2022-23	Rabi (Oct-Mar) 2023-24	% Change in Rabi 2023-24 Over 2022-23
Punjab	26.14	31.42	20	15.96	16.61	4
Sindh	15.56	28.00	80	12.31	12.41	1
Balochistan	0.80	1.57	96	0.80	0.94	18
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	0.76	0.86	13	0.32	0.63	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>43.27</b>	<b>61.85</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>29.37</b>	<b>30.59</b>	<b>4</b>

Source: Indus River System Authority

Pakistan faces a shift from water-stressed to water-scarce status due to factors such as population growth, industrial expansion, inefficient irrigation, unsustainable groundwater use, inadequate storage, low water productivity, poor efficiency, and contamination of water resources. This has led to both quantitative and qualitative water losses. To tackle these challenges, the water sector’s long-term planning acknowledges these issues based on the National Water Policy. The plan adopts the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach, aligning with the policy’s objectives. The connection between water, food, climate, and energy security becomes more evident in the impending water crisis. The comprehensive plan addresses this nexus, guided by equity, efficiency, affordability, participatory decision-making, environmental sustainability, and practicability in line with Vision 2025 and the National Water Policy.

#### 2.4-4(a) Water Sector Issues and Impact of Climate Change

Pakistan experiences winter snowfall primarily in its Northern Areas. Rainfall across the country varies significantly in quantity, timing, and spatial distribution. The mean annual precipitation ranges from under 100 mm in portions of the Lower Indus Plain to over 750 mm near the foothills of the Upper Indus Plain. The nation relies on the three western rivers of the Indus (Kabul, Jhelum, and Chenab). Meanwhile, the three eastern tributaries – Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas – were allocated exclusively to

India. Approximately 2.66 million acre-feet (MAF) of water flows from India to Pakistan through these eastern rivers, complemented by an additional 3.33 MAF of runoff generated within Pakistan’s catchments. The Kabul River contributes 21 MAF to Pakistan’s total surface water. According to Indus River System Authority (IRSA) facts and figures (Year 2022), the Indus River System receives an average annual inflow of about 146 to 150 MAF, predominantly sourced from snow and glacial melting. The current water availability at canal head works is about 97.51 MAF, with estimated annual losses of around 50 MAF. Pakistan extracts approximately 50 to 52 MAF from aquifers, surpassing the sustainable limit of safe yield (WAPDA).

Regarding vulnerability to climate change, Pakistan ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in the Global Climate Risk Index 2023, based on weather-related events from 2000-2019. Despite contributing less than 0.9 percent to total global emissions, the country demonstrated high vulnerability during the 2022 devastating floods, highlighting the urgent impact of climate change.

#### 2.4-4(b) Key Initiatives

Water projects achieved remarkable milestones, setting a precedent for excellence and innovation in water resource management. The dedicated efforts yielded key accomplishments that have addressed critical challenges and paved the way for sustainable and resilient water systems. This period of intense activity and progress signifies



a commitment to advancing the water augmentation goals and contributing to the well-being of communities through impactful water projects. The major achievements of the water sector are given as follows:

- Presentation of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan (2024-2029) covering the Water Resource Sector was initiated through extensive consultation with all stakeholders.
- Finalization of National Flood Protection Plan-IV (NFPP-IV) (substantially).
- Preparation of a National Master Plan for Flood Drainage has been initiated.
- Sindh Water Policy has been developed and launched in August 2023.
- A total of 71 Water Sector Projects costing Rs 2,089.23 billion are reflected in PSDP 2023-24 with an allocation of more than Rs 100.35 billion.
- Mega projects of national importance, i.e., the Diamer-Basha Dam and Mohmand Dam projects, remained priority projects. Continuous efforts are being made to ensure timely completion.
- Work on Kachhi Canal Phase-I with 74,000 acres CCA has been completed substantially.
- Progress of Kachhi Canal Phase-I (Remaining works) having an additional 30,000 acres CCA is 95.56 percent.
- Flood Emergency Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Projects in Sindh,

Balochistan and KP are being implemented on a fast-track basis.

## 2.5 Agricultural Credit

To increase the flow of credit to the agriculture sector, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has allocated an indicative disbursement target of Rs 2,250 billion for FY2024, which is 26.7 percent higher than last year's disbursement of Rs 1,776 billion. Currently, 47 financial institutions are providing agriculture loans to the farming community, which include five major commercial banks, 13 medium & small sized commercial banks, 6 Islamic banks, 2 specialized banks and 11 microfinance banks besides 10 Microfinance Institutions/Rural Support Programmes.

During July-March FY2024, the agriculture lending financial institutions disbursed Rs 1,635.2 billion, which is 72.7 percent of the overall annual target and 33.8 percent higher than Rs 1,221.9 billion disbursed during the same period last year. Further, the outstanding portfolio of agricultural loans increased by Rs105.8 billion, reaching Rs 818.7 billion at the end of March 2024, compared to Rs 712.9 billion at the end of March 2023, witnessing 14.8 percent growth. In terms of outreach, the number of outstanding borrowers reached 2.70 million at the end of March 2024. The group-wise breakup of agriculture lending during July-March FY2024 against the annual indicative targets is given in Table 2.14.

**Table 2.14: Supply of Agriculture Credit by Institutions**

Banks <sup>1</sup>	Target FY2023	FY2023 (July-March)		Target FY2024	FY2024 (July-March)		% Change over the Period
		Disbursed	Achieved (%)		Disbursed	Achieved (%)	
		Rs billion					
5 Big CBs	966.0	666.7	69.0	1,147.0	870.5	75.9	30.6
ZTBL	124.0	47.1	38.0	115.0	59.4	51.7	26.3
PPCBL	13.0	6.2	47.7	15.0	6.6	44.0	6.5
DPBs (13)	350.0	259.6	74.2	488.2	389.1	79.7	49.9
IBs (6)	103.0	62.0	60.2	167.0	124.1	74.3	100.2
MFBS (11)	230.0	158.7	69.0	280.6	160.1	57.1	0.9
MFI/RSPs (10)	33.0	21.6	65.4	37.2	25.3	67.9	17.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,819.0</b>	<b>1,221.9</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>2,250.0</b>	<b>1,635.2</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>33.8</b>

Source: State Bank of Pakistan

The sectoral breakup of agriculture financing during July-March FY2024 shows that out of the total disbursement of Rs 1,635.2 billion, the farm

sector received Rs 876.7 billion (53.6 percent) while Rs 758.5 billion (46.4 percent) was disbursed to the non-farm sector. Further, the

<sup>1</sup> **CBs:** Commercial Banks, **ZTBL:** Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited, **PPCBL:** Punjab Provincial Cooperative Bank Ltd, **DPBs:** Domestic Private Banks, **IBs:** Islamic Banks, **MFBS:** Microfinance Banks, **MFI/RSPs:** Microfinance Institutions/Rural Support Programmes

data on farm credit by the size of land holdings reveals that Rs 344.6 billion has been disbursed to ‘subsistence’ farms, which witnessed 47 percent growth compared to the same period last year. Moreover, Rs 123.2 billion has been disbursed to ‘economic’ farms and Rs 408.9 billion to ‘above-economic’ farms witnessing growth of 48.3 percent and 32.9 percent,

respectively. Whereas, under the non-farm sector, Rs 187.2 billion has been disbursed to small farms and Rs 571.3 billion to large farms with 11.4 percent and 34.9 percent growth, respectively, mainly due to credit off-take in the Livestock/Dairy & Meat sector. The sector-wise comparative details of credit disbursements are given in Table 2.15.

**Table 2.15: Credit Disbursement to Farm & Non-Farm Sectors** Rs billion

Sector (Land Holding/Farm size)	FY2023 (July-March)		FY2024 (July-March)		% Growth over the Period
	Disbursement	% Share in Total	Disbursement	% Share in Total	
<b>A Farm Sector</b>	<b>625.1</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>876.7</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>
1 Subsistence Holding	234.4	19.2	344.6	21.1	47.0
2 Economic Holding	83.1	6.8	123.2	7.5	48.3
3 Above Eco. Holding	307.7	25.2	408.9	25.0	32.9
<b>B Non-Farm Sector</b>	<b>596.8</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>758.5</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>27.1</b>
1 Small Farms	170.3	13.9	187.2	11.4	10.0
2 Large Farms	426.6	34.9	571.3	34.9	33.9
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>1,221.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,635.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>

Source: State Bank of Pakistan

The agriculture financing by sector and purpose shows that the farm sector production loans and non-farm sector working capital loans witnessed growth of 31.7 percent and 30.8 percent respectively. Moreover, the development loans for the farm sector grew by 222.1 percent compared to the same period last year, primarily

due to the Markup Subsidy and Risk Sharing Scheme for Farm Mechanization (MSRSSFM) announced under the Kissan Package 2022 of GoP. However, the Fixed Investment loans under the non-farm sector witnessed a decline of 7.9 percent. (Table 2.16)

**Table 2.16: Credit Disbursements by Sector and Purpose** Rs billion

Sector & Purpose	FY2023 (July-March)		FY2024 (July-March)		% Growth over the Period
	Disbursement	% Share in Total	Disbursement	% Share in Total	
<b>A Farm Sector</b>	<b>625.1</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>876.7</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>
1 Production Loans	596.9	48.8	785.8	48.1	31.7
2 Development Loans	28.2	2.3	90.8	5.6	222.1
<b>B Non-Farm Sector</b>	<b>596.8</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>758.5</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>27.1</b>
1 Working Capital	539.2	44.1	705.4	43.1	30.8
2 Fixed Investment	57.7	4.7	53.1	3.2	-7.9
<b>Total (A+B)</b>	<b>1,221.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,635.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>33.8</b>

Source: State Bank of Pakistan

### SBP’s Initiatives for the Promotion of Agriculture Financing

For the promotion of agricultural financing, in collaboration with federal and provincial governments, SBP has taken certain initiatives. These include;

- Adoption of Agriculture Credit Scoring Model for banks performance,
- Introduction of Champion Bank Concept for underserved areas,

- Implementation of risk mitigation and incentive schemes: Crop Loan Insurance Scheme (CLIS) & Livestock Insurance Scheme for Borrowers (LISB), Credit Guarantee Scheme for Small & Marginalized Farmers (CGSMF),
- Implantation of Electronic Warehouse Receipt Financing (EWRf) uptake strategy.

To facilitate farmers and revive the economic activities in flood-affected areas, SBP has been implementing various agriculture financing-

related components of the PM's Kissan Package, 2022. These include:

- **Markup Waiver Scheme (MWS)** for subsistence farmers against agriculture loans with outstanding balances (including markup) of up to Rs 500,000 per loan that were regular as of June 30, 2022. Under the scheme, banks provided mark-up waiver of Rs 2.96 billion to eligible farmers, where 50 percent of the waived amount (Rs 1.48 billion) was borne by GoP.
- **GoP Markup Subsidy Scheme (GMSS)** for revival of agriculture/livestock sectors against loans of up to Rs 500,000 to subsistence farmers. Under the scheme, Rs 10.05 billion was disbursed to 43,465 borrowers during its term, which ended on December 31, 2023.
- **Interest Free Loans and Risk Sharing Scheme for Landless Farmers (IF&RSLF)** up to Rs 200,000 in flood-affected areas. Under IF&RSLF (merged with CGSMF), Rs 5.8 billion was disbursed to 47,425 borrowers and the scheme ended on December 31, 2023.
- **Markup Subsidy and Risk Sharing Scheme for Farm Mechanization (MSRSSFM)** for loans upto Rs 30 million for the purchase of tractors, threshers, combined harvesters, planters etc. As of April 15, 2024, Rs 31.6 billion has been disbursed to 14,240 borrowers. The scheme has been extended by GoP till June 30, 2024.
- **PM's Youth Business and Agriculture Loan Scheme (PMYB&ALS).** The first phase of PMYB&ALS was completed successfully whereby banks achieved their assigned targets of Rs15 billion for agriculture financing by the end of June 2023. For FY 2024, the target of Rs 40 billion has been assigned to 16 banks for agriculture financing. As of March 31, 2024, Rs 26.8 billion have been disbursed under this scheme.

Besides the above-dedicated schemes for agriculture, agro-based SMEs have also been allowed to avail financing under SBP's ongoing scheme for SME Modernization, in line with the

Kissan Package.

## 2.6 Forestry

Pakistan has an area of 4.51 million ha (5.1 percent) under forests. By forest type, coniferous forests have the most significant proportional coverage (37 percent) followed by Scrub Forests (22.2 percent), Littoral and swamp forests (Mangroves) (7.3 percent), Riverine Forest (7.8 percent) and Irrigated Plantations (6.3 percent). The average annual rate of deforestation has been assessed as 11,000 ha. The Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination (M/o CC&EC) in collaboration with the provincial/territorial forestry departments is implementing measures to enhance forest cover in the country.

M/o CC&EC is implementing Green Pakistan-Upscaling Programme, Phase-I across the country with the overall objective of reviving forestry and wildlife resources. The total cost is Rs 125.1843 billion. Under the programme, the plantation target of sowing, re-growing and distributing 2.12 billion plants has been accomplished at the national level. The programme is under revision for the next four years (2024-2028) with an extended scope of including carbon finance mechanism through facilitation of carbon project development, scientific assessment of natural resources, livelihood creation for local communities and overall biodiversity conservation.

Climatic conditions, rural poverty, dependence on natural resources, meagre forest cover, and deforestation have rendered the country as one of the most vulnerable to climate change effects. Besides, these resources are under tremendous pressure owing to changes in land use and habitat destruction and population pressure for fuel wood and timber.

## 2.7 Fisheries

Fisheries are a vital component of Pakistan's economy, providing essential livelihoods for coastal communities. It falls under the umbrella of agriculture plays a crucial role in the economy and food security. It serves as a valuable alternative protein source contributing to a reduction in the reliance on conventional meats

(mutton, beef, and poultry). Despite its relatively modest share of 0.31 percent in the GDP, the fisheries sector’s impact extends far beyond economic figures, contributing to food security, employment, and sustainable resource management. During FY2024 (July-April), total fish production reached 720.9 thousand MT, comprising 410.9 thousand MT from marine fisheries and the rest from inland waters.

Pakistan's export of fish and fisheries products has shown a steady increase in recent years, reflecting the growing demand for seafood in international markets. The main export items

include fresh and frozen fish, shrimp, shellfish, and processed fish products such as fillets, canned fish, and fishmeal. Major export destinations for Pakistani fishery products include the Middle East, European Union, United States, and Southeast Asia. During FY2024 (July-March) Pakistan’s major fish buyers included China, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Middle East. Sri Lanka and Japan. A total of 206.970 thousand metric tons of fish and fish preparations were exported. The export earnings for the same period were approximately US\$ 534.217 million. (Table 2.17)

**Table 2.17: Exports of fish and fisheries products FY2024 (July-March)**

Countries	Quantity (000 MT)	Value (US\$ million)
EU	1.789	6.957
Non-EU	205.181	527.260
Total	206.970	531.217

Source: Marine Fisheries Department

### Concluding Remarks

Farmers are in the process of sowing Kharif crops in the country. The initial input situation highlights favourable production against last year. Furthermore, commodity prices are expected to remain stable because of improved yield, crop production, profitability, and stable international commodity price forecasts in the international market. However, farmers may adjust their sowing decisions, given expected profits. The targeted subsidies will also be critical to deal with the financial challenges, farmers may face during the season. In this regard, the incentives offered by the Federal Government, the recently introduced Kissan Card Scheme by the Government of Punjab and incentives by other provincial governments are favourable for agriculture-led economic growth.

As such, the government’s support will remain critical in the short-term whereas the self-sustainability of the agriculture sector is to be prioritized.

The major bottlenecks in the agriculture sector are access to high-quality inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, and mechanization, along with challenges in finance, efficient market systems, research and development, and extension services. However, the government is addressing these issues by promoting market-driven agricultural production and productivity, enhancing agricultural value addition, and improving access to both domestic and international markets. These efforts aim to enable agriculture to contribute significantly to the economy’s structural transformation.