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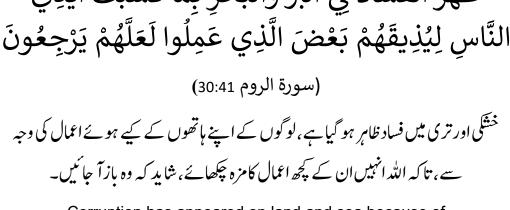
National School of Public Policy Report of Policy Lab on Bridging Gaps in Agriculture Development Policies and their Implementation in Pakistan پاکستان میں زرعی ترقی کی پالیسیوں کے اطلاق میں حاکل رکاوٹوں کا خاتمہ

Policy Analysis & Recommendations- Part-10 of 11 Climate-Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Land & Water Management Innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture and resource management

Team Lead

Dr. Muqeem Islam Soharwardy Phd (Public Policy & Governance) NDU MPhil (Economic Development) Chief Instructor, National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) National school of Public Policy (NSPP), Editor, Khyber Journal of Public Policy (KJPP) Former Director General (NAVTTC), GoP muqeemz@gmail.com, +92-343-5090648

فبشم الله الرحمن الرحيم إِنَّ الله لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنفُسِهِمْ (سورة الرعد 13:11) بے شک، اللہ کسی قوم کی حالت نہیں بد لتاجب تک وہ خود اپنی حالت کو نہ بد لے۔ Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. (Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:11) ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي



Corruption has appeared on land and sea because of what the hands of people have earned, so that He may let them taste part of what they have done, that perhaps they will return (to righteousness). (Surah Ar-Rum 30:41)

Climate-Smart Agriculture, Food Security, and Sustainable Land & Water Management explored innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture and resource management

Research Group

- Dr. Muqeem Islam Soharwardy (Team Lead)
- Mansoor Arshad
- ✤ Mujeeb Ur Rahman
- Muhammad Iqbal

PREFACE

Agriculture remains the backbone of Pakistan's economy, providing livelihoods to a significant portion of the population and contributing substantially to the nation's GDP. However, despite its potential, the sector faces persistent challenges related to productivity, resource management, and international trade. In response to these pressing issues, a *Policy Lab* simulation exercise titled "Empowering Agriculture for Food Security and Economic Growth: Implementation Strategies in Pakistan" was conceived, designed, and mentored by Dr. Muqeem Islam Soharwardy. This Policy Lab initiative aimed to generate actionable policy recommendations through an intensive, research-based simulation exercise complemented by a two-day seminar.

The *Policy Lab* research exercise, conducted between **14th and 18th February 2024**, involved nine specialized research groups, each focusing on critical aspects of agricultural policy. These groups simulated high-level policy interventions, functioning as dedicated task forces and committees under the guidance of subject matter experts. Their work culminated in a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at addressing structural inefficiencies and unlocking new growth avenues in Pakistan's agricultural sector.

The a Policy Lab research groups were structured as follows:

- 1. Expanding Trade Opportunities by Unleashing Pakistan's Milk Export Potential – Focused on identifying barriers to dairy exports and proposing strategic interventions to enhance Pakistan's competitiveness in the global dairy market.
- 2. **Development of Pakistan's Fisheries Sector** Examined strategies to modernize fisheries, improve sustainability, and enhance exports.
- 3. **Increasing Pakistan's Share in International Halal Meat Export** Explored pathways to leverage Pakistan's strength in halal meat production for greater penetration in international markets.
- 4. **Provision of Quality Fertilizer to Enhance Productivity** Investigated fertilizer supply chain challenges and policy measures to ensure the availability of high-quality inputs for farmers.
- 5. **Provision of Quality Seeds to Enhance Productivity** Assessed Pakistan's seed industry, highlighting reforms needed to boost agricultural yields through high-quality seeds.
- 6. **Promoting Water Conservation in Agricultural Practices** Addressed the critical issue of water scarcity by proposing conservation techniques and policy interventions for sustainable irrigation.
- 7. Increasing Pakistan's Share of Fruit Exports Focused on expanding Pakistan's footprint in the global fruit market through improved production, value addition, and trade facilitation.

- 8. Evaluation of Implementation Strategies of Food Security in Pakistan Analyzed the effectiveness of existing food security policies and proposed comprehensive strategies for improved implementation.
- 9. **Increasing Availability of Agricultural Credit** Examined the role of financial institutions in supporting farmers and proposed mechanisms to enhance access to agricultural financing.
- 10. Climate-Smart Agriculture, Food Security, and Sustainable Land & Water Management explored innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture and resource management
- 11. Agricultural Mechanization & Innovation Promoting modernized agriculture through mechanization, crop diversification, and precision farming.

Through rigorous research and a *Policy Lab* simulation, this exercise sought to foster a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in Pakistan's agricultural sector. The insights and recommendations derived from these working groups will serve as a valuable resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and researchers striving to enhance agricultural productivity, food security, and economic growth in Pakistan.

We extend our gratitude to all participants, researchers, and experts who contributed to this initiative. Their dedication and intellectual rigor have resulted in a policy framework that holds the potential to transform Pakistan's agricultural landscape and position the country as a leading player in global agricultural markets.

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It is hoped that the recommendations and findings herein will contribute to evidencebased policymaking, institutional capacity-building, and long-term agricultural growth, ultimately fostering national food security and economic stability. انشاءالله.

Muqeem Soharwardy

Dr. Muqeem Islam Soharwardy, PhD (Public Policy & Governance) NDU MPhil (Economic Development) Chief Instructor, National Institute of Public Policy (NIPA) National School of Public Policy (NSPP) Editor, Khyber Journal of Public Policy (KJPP) Former Director General, NAVTTC, GoP muqeemz@gmail.com , +92 3435090648

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Executive Summary

Pakistan, despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, remains highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The country is facing a range of climate-related challenges, including extreme weather events, water scarcity, and the melting of glaciers. These challenges disproportionately affect the country's marginalized and impoverished communities. Climate change has resulted in the loss of lives, displacement of populations, and significant economic damage, all of which highlight the urgency for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies. In response to these challenges, Pakistan has developed climate change adaptation policies, but further assessment and improvements are necessary to enhance the country's resilience to climate impacts.

Climate Change Vulnerabilities in Pakistan

Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change is marked by a series of extreme weather events. Between 1997 and 2023, the country lost an average of 523 lives annually due to these events. Notable incidents, such as the 2022 Karachi heatwave, have demonstrated the risks posed by urban heat islands. Additionally, devastating floods, including the 2022 floods, which affected 33 million people and caused \$15 billion in damages, have disrupted communities and economies. With an increasing temperature trend of 0.6°C over the last 50 years, projections suggest that temperatures may rise by 3°C to 5°C by the end of this century. Moreover, the water crisis remains one of Pakistan's most pressing climate concerns, with projections indicating a potential decrease of 12-20% in freshwater availability, which could result in a 30% decline in agricultural yields by 2050.

Pakistan's climate-induced challenges have also been accompanied by growing health risks such as skin cancer, heart disease, and vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue. Additionally, the negative effects of climate change threaten the livelihoods of marginalized communities, particularly women and children. These compounding issues necessitate immediate action in areas such as smart agriculture, food security, and sustainable land and water management (SLWM) to bolster resilience and ensure the country's sustainable development.

Policy Landscape and Response

The Government of Pakistan has undertaken several initiatives to address climate change, with a focus on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), food security, and SLWM. Policies such as the National Climate Change Policy 2012, the National Climate Change Act of 2017, and the National Agriculture and Food Security Strategy 2016-2025 have laid the groundwork for addressing the country's climate challenges. However, gaps in the legal and institutional frameworks remain, which hinder the effective implementation of these policies.

For example, the national and provincial policies related to climate-smart agriculture and water management are not fully aligned or comprehensive in addressing the emerging challenges posed by climate change. These shortcomings include outdated regulations, insufficient funding, and the lack of a coordinated institutional framework. At the provincial level, specifically in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), issues such as inadequate land tenure security, poor water management, and inadequate capacity in agricultural institutions contribute to the inefficiency of policy implementation.

The legal and institutional frameworks governing agriculture, water management, and environmental protection face challenges such as insufficient engagement with local communities, lack of proactive urban planning, and insufficient mechanisms for supporting smallholder farmers in coping with climate-related shocks.

Role of Smart Agriculture and SLWM

Smart agriculture has emerged as a promising solution to enhance agricultural productivity, resilience, and sustainability in the face of climate change. By incorporating technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and data analytics, smart agriculture aims to optimize resource use and reduce environmental impacts. Techniques like precision farming, automated irrigation, and the cultivation of climate-resilient crops are essential in helping farmers adapt to changing climate conditions.

Similarly, Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) practices are crucial for maintaining ecosystem health and reducing environmental degradation. SLWM focuses on improving the management of land and water resources to ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. By adopting practices such as integrated watershed management, rainfed farming, and conservation agriculture, Pakistan can mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and improve its agricultural resilience.

Challenges and Gaps in Implementation

Despite the potential benefits of smart agriculture and SLWM, Pakistan's agricultural sector faces significant challenges that hinder the adoption of these practices. The country's inefficient land use, urban sprawl, and poor water management practices are exacerbated by the lack of modern agricultural technologies and climate-smart practices. Furthermore, the absence of a unified framework for land preservation and the failure to modernize irrigation systems contribute to the depletion of natural resources, undermining food security.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the situation is particularly concerning. Historical conflicts, budgetary constraints, and institutional inefficiencies impede the implementation of effective CSA strategies. Additionally, farmers in the region lack adequate knowledge about climate-smart practices, and insufficient training programs exacerbate this issue. To address these challenges, it is crucial to improve institutional capacity, foster awareness, and strengthen policy implementation.

Comparative Analysis and Best Practices

Pakistan's climate-smart agriculture initiatives lag behind neighboring countries like India and Bangladesh, which have implemented successful CSA strategies. India's initiatives, such as the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) program and the Climate Resilient Agriculture Initiative in Andhra Pradesh, have demonstrated success in promoting sustainable farming practices and improving agricultural productivity in the face of climate change. Similarly, Bangladesh has focused on climate-resilient rice varieties, innovative irrigation techniques, and community-based adaptation practices to enhance food security and farming resilience. By learning from these examples, Pakistan can adopt and scale up successful climate-smart practices, including water-conserving techniques, precision farming, and community-driven agricultural initiatives. Furthermore, Pakistan must address gaps in its institutional frameworks, such as improving coordination among agricultural and water management authorities, modernizing irrigation systems, and ensuring better engagement with local farming communities.

Pakistan's agricultural sector faces several challenges that threaten its productivity and food security. However, by addressing systemic issues and implementing targeted strategies, the country can enhance its resilience to climate change and ensure long-term sustainability. The following points summarize the key recommendations and necessary actions for improving the agricultural sector:

• Climate Change and Agriculture:

- Pakistan's agriculture is highly vulnerable to climate change, including flooding, erratic weather patterns, and water scarcity. Strengthening climate adaptation measures is crucial for protecting food security.
- Promoting **climate-smart agricultural practices** is a priority, particularly through conservation of soil, water, and forest cover.
- Urbanization and Land Use:
 - Urbanization, particularly the encroachment on agricultural land by housing societies, has disrupted food production and supply chains.
 - **Urban planning laws** should be enforced to curb the spread of unauthorized housing societies and ensure the protection of agricultural land for sustainable food production.

• Policy and Legislative Frameworks:

- There is a need for a **national food security act** that addresses market regulation, innovation support, and farmer protection.
- Federal and provincial policies must be better aligned to ensure effective implementation of food security measures across the country.
- Microcredit and Financial Support for Farmers:
 - **Microcredit** can help smallholder farmers increase productivity, but reforms are needed to simplify lending processes, reduce interest rates, and speed up loan disbursement.
 - Providing **financial incentives** such as subsidies for water-efficient technologies and drought-resistant crops can encourage adoption of sustainable farming practices.
- Technological Innovation:
 - Technology can transform agriculture in Pakistan by introducing precision farming, modern machinery, and better crop management systems.
 - The government should invest in **technology transfer** and support **public-private partnerships** to increase access to agricultural innovations.

• Institutional Strengthening:

- **Agricultural extension services** must be strengthened to provide farmers with the knowledge and tools needed to adopt sustainable practices.
- **Training programs** for agricultural officers and the use of digital platforms can expand reach to rural communities and promote climate-smart agriculture.

• Coordinated Strategy:

- A **central coordinating body** should be established to ensure that federal and provincial efforts are aligned with national climate and agricultural goals.
- This body would oversee efficient resource allocation and policy enforcement to ensure consistency in implementing sustainable agricultural practices.

Conclusion

Pakistan's agricultural sector remains vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with severe consequences for food security, livelihoods, and overall economic stability. While policies and frameworks for climate adaptation and sustainable resource management are in place, challenges related to implementation, resource allocation, and institutional capacity persist. To enhance Pakistan's resilience to climate change, it is essential to strengthen policy alignment, improve institutional coordination, and scale up the adoption of smart agriculture and SLWM practices. Additionally, targeted interventions for vulnerable communities, increased training and awareness for farmers, and the adoption of global best practices will play a critical role in ensuring a sustainable and climate-resilient future for Pakistan.

Introduction

Pakistan, despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, stands as one of the most vulnerable nations to the impacts of climate change (UN Report, 2020). Extreme weather events, water scarcity, and the melting of glaciers disproportionately affect the country's most impoverished and marginalized communities (Khan & Ali, 2019). In response, the Government of Pakistan has developed climate change adaptation policies to address these challenges. However, an assessment of these policies is essential to identify areas for improvement and enhance the country's resilience to climate change (Ahmed, 2022).

Globally, climate change driven by both natural variability and human activities such as greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, and industrialization presents far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, weather patterns, and societies (IPCC, 2021). Pakistan's challenges are exacerbated by these anthropogenic factors, further stressing the need for effective adaptation and mitigation strategies (UNEP, 2018).

Between 1997 and 2023, Pakistan experienced an average of 523 lives lost annually due to extreme weather events. According to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), the country faced 145 extreme weather events by 2024. Over the past 50 years, Pakistan's average temperature has increased by 0.6°C, with projections indicating a potential rise of 3°C to 5°C by 2100 (IPCC, 2023). The 2022 Karachi heatwave alone resulted in 1,300 deaths, underscoring the risks posed by urban heat islands. Flooding between 2010 and 2023 displaced large populations, particularly the 2022 floods that affected 33 million people and caused \$15 billion in damages (World Bank, 2024). Additionally, the World Bank estimates Pakistan's annual climate adaptation costs to range between \$8 billion and \$15 billion (World Bank, 2024).

One of the most pressing impacts of climate change is the growing uncertainty in water availability, with projections indicating a decrease in freshwater by 12–20% (IPCC, 2014). This will directly affect agricultural productivity, potentially leading to a 30% decline in crop yields in South Asia by 2050 (UN Report, 2021). Additionally, health risks such as skin cancer, heart disease, and vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria are expected to rise (WHO, 2019). The consequences extend to massive migration, loss of culture, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem disruptions, particularly harming marginalized groups like women and children (Ali & Hussain, 2020; Ahmed, 2022).

To combat these issues, smart agriculture has emerged as a promising solution. By incorporating modern technologies such as IoT, AI, and data analytics, smart agriculture enhances farming efficiency, productivity, and sustainability. This approach is particularly relevant for Pakistan as it helps optimize resource use, reduce environmental impacts, and build resilience against climate change (Smith et al., 2020). Techniques such as precision farming, automated irrigation, and

climate-resilient crop varieties can significantly support farmers in adapting to changing climate conditions.

In parallel, addressing food security, defined as ensuring the availability, accessibility, and stability of nutritious food, is becoming more challenging in the context of climate change. The impacts of erratic weather, shifting growing seasons, and water scarcity directly threaten global and regional food systems (Brown & Taylor, 2019).

Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) is a critical component of both food security and climate resilience. By promoting practices that safeguard land and water resources, SLWM helps maintain ecosystem health, reduce environmental degradation, and enhance resilience to climate-induced stresses like soil degradation and water shortages (Green & White, 2022). Together, these efforts in smart agriculture and SLWM are key to ensuring a sustainable future in the face of climate change.

Statement of Problem

Pakistan, an agricultural country, faces significant challenges from climate change, water scarcity, and land degradation, threatening food security and livelihoods. Current policies and frameworks for climate-smart agriculture (CSA), food security, and sustainable resource management are not effective in addressing the prevailing issues in Pakistan. To address these issues, there is an urgent need to align policies, strengthen institutional capacity, and adopt global best practices to ensure sustainable agricultural productivity and resource management.

Scope of the Study

- Comprehensive analysis of legal, institutional, and infrastructural frameworks in Climate Smart Agriculture, Food Security, and Sustainable Land and Water Management in Pakistan.
- It will also be an endeavor to understand the implementation of strategies.
- Analyze the challenges and issues faced by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa specifically and Pakistan in general.
- The study will be an endeavor to recommend practical policy options for achieving the desired goals of Climate Smart Agriculture, Food Security, and Sustainable Land and Water Management in Pakistan.

Research Methodology

This research has used a qualitative method of analysis using secondary data available online. The concerned departments were consulted for data collection. Acts, policies, rules, and regulations were reviewed. Newspapers, articles, journals, etc., have been accessed for secondary data. SWOT, GAP, and PESTLE analyses are carried out as techniques for analysis.

Situational Analysis

The agriculture sector constitutes the largest sector of our economy in terms of involving not only more than 38 percent of our labor force but also contributing more than 20 percent, on average, to national GDP (Finance, n.d.). However, the

agricultural sector, despite the availability of substantial infrastructure and human resources, has failed to ensure food security in the country. The country ranks 4th in cotton production in the world, 5th in sugarcane, 9th in wheat, 5th largest producer of milk, and 3rd largest in buffalo hides/skins, etc. However, every year, the nation faces acute shortages, especially in wheat and sugarcane, impacting real-time food security in the country (FAO, 2024).

The reasons for this lag are many, including climate change and natural disasters, massive urbanization, but the most important factors are the lack of modern technology and climate-smart agriculture practices.

Situational Analysis Related to Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and Sustainable Land and Water Management

Pakistan's agricultural sector faces significant challenges, including rapid urbanization, inefficient land use, and poor water management, all of which threaten food security. Approximately 20% to 40% of agricultural land has been converted into residential areas due to the unchecked expansion of housing societies (Zahoor, 2023). This trend, driven by population growth and unplanned urbanization, has reduced the availability of fertile land for farming and strained agricultural productivity. Despite the country's agricultural potential, the lack of a holistic approach to land preservation has resulted in underutilized resources and a declining ability to meet food production demands. Compounding this issue is water mismanagement. Although Pakistan possesses abundant water resources through the Indus Basin Irrigation System, approximately 40 million acre-feet (MAF) of water is wasted annually (IRSA, 2024). The basin is crucial, contributing over 25% of Pakistan's GDP and supporting 90% of food production; yet inefficiencies in water use remain a major challenge.

The rapid conversion of agricultural land and inefficient water management highlight the urgent need for Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices. CSA focuses on optimizing the use of natural resources, such as land and water, through sustainable techniques. By incorporating practices like precision irrigation, climate-resilient crop varieties, and conservation agriculture, CSA can mitigate the impacts of urbanization and environmental degradation. A sound urban policy, combined with CSA strategies, could promote efficient land use, preserve agricultural productivity, and ensure better water management. This would not only improve food security but also help Pakistan adapt to the pressures of climate change and urban expansion.

The absence of proactive legislation on urban planning and agricultural management has exacerbated the food security crisis. Effective CSA approaches, such as sustainable land and water management, could address the growing demand for food production while reducing environmental degradation. In particular, CSA's focus on enhancing resource efficiency and resilience is vital for balancing the needs of urban development with sustainable agricultural production.

Legal and Institutional Framework

Sr.	Policies/Acts/Rules	Madates
#		
1	National Climate	Provides a framework to address the impacts of
	Change Policy 2012	climate change on key sectors, including agriculture,
		food security, and natural resource management
		(4.1,4.2,4.6.5,10)
2	National Climate	providing a legal framework for coordination and
	Change Act of 2017	implementation of climate policies, including
		Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), food security, and
		sustainable land and water
		management(4.1,4.2,4.6.5,10)
3	National	The strategy includes key provisions related to
	Agriculture and	Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), food security, and
	Food Security	sustainable land and water
	Strategy 2016-2025	management(6.1,6.1.3,6.2,6.4(chapter 6)
4	National	to promote sustainable agricultural practices, improve
	Sustainable	food security, and ensure the sustainable
	Agriculture Policy	management of land and water
		resources(1.2,1.6,2.3,2.6)
5	National Water	addressing water management challenges
	Policy 2018	chapter.4(4.2), chapter.6(6.2), chapter. (7,8,16,20)
6	Ministry of	Responsible for national agricultural policy.
	National Food	
	Security and	
	Research	
7	Indus River System	Manages water resources in the Indus basin
	Authority	
8	Ministry of climate	To steer Pakistan towards climate resilience
	change and	development
	environmental	
	coordination	

Provincial Policies and Institutions

Sr. #	Acts/rules	Mandates		
1	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Regulates the marketing of		
	Agricultural Produce	agricultural produce.		
	Markets Act			
2	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Aims to enhance agricultural productivity and		
	Agriculture Policy	promote sustainable practices.		
3	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Provides guidelines for land use planning and		
	Land Use Regulation	zoning.		

r		
4	Agriculture Department	Responsible for implementing agricultural
	of KP	policies and providing support to farmers.
5	Provincial Irrigation	Manages irrigation systems and water
	Department	distribution
6	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Addresses environmental issues related to
	Environmental Protection	agriculture and water resources
	Agency (KPEPA)	
7	The Khyber	Addresses the impact of climate change
	Pakhtunkhwa Water Act	regarding droughts on water resources
	2020	(chapter iv, v, viii)
8	The Integrated Water	Focusing on several aspects related to water
	Resource Management	management Chapter, Strategic frame work,
	(IWRM) Strategy for	(4.1,4.2)
	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (
9	The Canal and Drainage	Regulates irrigation, drainage and canal
	Act of 1873	construction and maintenances. (chapter, ii, iii
		,v)

Gaps in Provincial Polices/Acts and Institutions

S.No	Acts/rules	Gaps			
1.	Climate Change Policy KP 2022	 Non redressal of the specific needs of smallholder farmers, No risk insurance mechanisms for farmers to cope with climate-induced losses, such as droughts, floods, and crop failures. 			
2.	The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Water Act 2020	 Absence of framework for building resilience in water infrastructure or ecosystems Non emphasize on Strategies for adaptation, such as improving water storage systems or encouraging water-efficient technologies Poor engagement mechanism to engage communities in water conservation through education campaigns or incentives to encourage sustainable water use. 			
3.	The Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Strategy for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	 Poor managing and monitoring mechanism for ensuring Groundwater Depletion No Recharge Mechanisms strategy for replenishing groundwater sources (e.g., rainwater harvesting) Insensitive to rapid Urbanization Pressures Inadequate Attention to Watershed Management 			

4.	The Canal and Drainage Act of 1873		Lacks specific guidelines on water conservation and efficient water use No mention of technologies such as drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, or modern practices aimed at reducing water wastage More focus on surface water and poor integration of Groundwater Management Weak engagement of relevant Stakeholder in		
		•	water governance Absence of robust framework to deal with flood management & the rehabilitation of drainage systems		
5.	KP Irrigation	•	Rules and regulations of water under KP		
	Department		water Act 2020 are not framed yet		

Review of Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Supportive Aspects (Policies)

- **Policies Promoting Modern Techniques:** Existing agricultural policies at the federal and provincial levels encourage the adoption of modern farming techniques, including CSA practices.
- **Incentives for Innovation:** There are initiatives aimed at providing incentives for farmers who adopt sustainable practices.

Hindering Aspects

- **Outdated Regulations:** Some existing agricultural laws and regulations are outdated and may not support innovative CSA practices.
- Lack of Awareness: Farmers often lack knowledge about CSA techniques, and there is insufficient training provided by agricultural institutions.

Supportive Aspects (Water Resources)

- Water Conservation Policies: Policies exist to promote efficient water use and management, which aligns with CSA principles.
- **Irrigation Improvement Initiatives:** There are efforts to modernize irrigation systems, which can enhance water efficiency.

Hindering Aspects

- **Fragmented Management:** Poor coordination between various water management authorities leads to inefficiencies and hinders the implementation of integrated water resource management (IWRM) that supports CSA.
- **Regulatory Gaps:** Existing regulations may not adequately address the challenges posed by climate change, leading to a lack of frameworks for sustainable water management.

Supportive Aspects (Land Management)

• Land Use Regulations: The introduction of land use planning can support sustainable agricultural practices by promoting agroecological methods.

• **Tenure Security Initiatives:** Some policies aim to enhance land tenure security, encouraging farmers to invest in sustainable practices.

Hindering Aspects

- **Insecure Land Tenure:** Inadequate land tenure security can discourage farmers from adopting long-term CSA practices, as they may fear losing access to the land.
- **Bureaucratic Barriers:** Complicated land registration processes can deter investment in sustainable land use.

Specific Challenges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)

- **Historical Context:** KP's history of conflict has disrupted agricultural practices and institutional capacity, making it difficult to implement CSA initiatives effectively.
- **Limited Resources:** Many institutions in KP face budgetary constraints, hindering their ability to support CSA and sustainable resource management initiatives.
- Awareness and Capacity Issues: Farmers in KP may lack knowledge about CSA practices, and there is often insufficient training available through provincial institutions.

Comparative Analysis

India's Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiatives

India has been proactive in implementing climate-smart agriculture (CSA) strategies to address the vulnerabilities of its agricultural sector to climate change.

- 1. The National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) program, launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), is a flagship initiative that promotes the adoption of climate-resilient crops, water-saving technologies, and efficient soil management practices.
- 2. The Climate Resilient Agriculture Initiative in Andhra Pradesh focuses on sustainable agricultural practices such as zero-tillage, biofertilizers, and the use of drought- and flood-tolerant crops.
- 3. Watershed programs, particularly in drought-prone areas of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, enhance water management through rainwater harvesting and agroforestry. These programs reflect the country's commitment to increasing agricultural productivity while ensuring long-term environmental sustainability in the face of climate challenges.
- 4. The Bihar Climate Resilient Agriculture Initiative aims to reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers in Bihar through climate-smart practices.

Bangladesh's Climate-Smart Agriculture Initiatives

Bangladesh, being highly vulnerable to climate change, has integrated climatesmart agriculture to improve the resilience of its farming communities.

1. The Climate-Smart Agriculture and Water Management (CSAWM) program focuses on promoting climate-resilient rice varieties, better irrigation

techniques, and water conservation methods, particularly in flood-prone regions.

- 2. CARE Bangladesh's Climate Resilient Agriculture Project promotes the cultivation of saline-tolerant crops, innovative soil management techniques, and rainwater harvesting systems.
- 3. The Haor Basin initiative allows farmers to grow vegetables in waterlogged conditions, addressing the threat of flash floods.

Comparative Analysis of Best Practices in Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Food Security, and Sustainable Land and Water Management in India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, Specifically Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in

Category	India	Bangladesh	Pakistan
Climate Smart	Practices:	Practices:	Practices:
Agriculture (CSA)	- Organic Farming	- Floating	- High-Value Crop
	(National Program	Gardens	Cultivation
	for Organic	(flood-prone	- Water-Conserving
	Production)	areas)	Techniques (drip
	- Integrated Pest	- Rice-Fish	irrigation, rainwater
	Management (IPM)	Farming	harvesting)
	- Agroforestry	Systems	- Farmer Training
		- Community-	Programs
		Based	
		Adaptation	
	Effectiveness:	Effectiveness:	Effectiveness:
	- Improved soil	- Significant	- Limited uptake of
	health, yields, and	food security	CSA due to lack of
	resilience to climate	and resilience	awareness and
	change	improvement	resources
	Strengths:	Strengths:	Strengths:
	- Strong policy	- Innovative	- Potential for high-
	support for organic	local practices	value crops and
	farming and IPM	and	water-saving
		community	irrigation methods
		engagement	
	Weaknesses:	Weaknesses:	Weaknesses:
	- N/A	- N/A	- Slow CSA adoption
			and limited
			government support
Food Security	Practices:	Practices:	Practices:
	- Public Distribution	- Safety Net	- Provincial Food
	System (PDS)	Programs	Security Policy
	- National Food	(cash transfers,	- Community
	Security Act	food	

Table Form:

		assistance)	Engagement in food
		- National	0 0
			production
		Food Policy	
Effectiveness:		Effectiveness:	Effectiveness:
	- Reduced food	- Improved food security,	- High food
	insecurity but		insecurity due to
	implementation	with	economic challenges
	challenges	malnutrition	and natural disasters
		challenges	
	Strengths:	Strengths:	Strengths:
	- Robust food	- Targeted	- Community-driven
	distribution systems	safety nets and	approaches have
and legal		comprehensive	potential for greater
	frameworks	food policy	impact
	Weaknesses:	Weaknesses:	Weaknesses:
	- N/A	- Malnutrition	- Ineffective policy
		remains a	implementation and
		challenge	sectoral coordination
Sustainable Land	Practices:	Practices:	Practices:
and Water	- Integrated	- Integrated	- Watershed
Management	Watershed	Coastal Zone	Management
	Management	Management	Initiatives
	- Rainfed Farming	- Participatory	- Community-Led
	Technologies	Irrigation	Irrigation Projects
	(drought-resistant	Management	
	crops, conservation	-	
	agriculture)		

	Effectiveness:	Effectiveness:	Effectiveness:
	- Improved soil	- Significant	- Nascent initiatives,
	health, water	advancements	hindered by
	retention, and	in managing	funding,
	resilience to climate	water	coordination, and
	change	resources in	capacity challenges
		coastal areas	
	Strengths:	Strengths:	Strengths:
	- Strong focus on	- Innovative	- Opportunities for
	integrated	strategies in	community-led
	watershed	coastal areas	water management
	management and	and	initiatives
	community	community-	
	involvement	driven	
		irrigation	
	Weaknesses:	Weaknesses:	Weaknesses:
	- N/A	- N/A	- Limited
			implementation of
			comprehensive
			water and land
			management
			strategies
Recommendations	- Policy Reforms:		- Community
for KP	Update laws and		Engagement:
	policies to support		Encourage local
	CSA and		participation in
	sustainable resource		decision-making to
management			ensure context-
	- Capacity Building:		specific and effective
	Training and		interventions
	resources for		
	farmers		

PESTLE Analysis

PESTLE analysis of the federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) levels concerning climate smart agriculture (CSA), food security, and sustainable land and water management, covering the political, economic, social, technological, legal, and environmental factors.

Factor	Federal Level	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Level	
Political	- Federal policies are increasingly	- Local government structure can	
	focusing on food security and	support grassroots initiatives.	
	climate change.	- Political dynamics may affect	
	- Bureaucratic hurdles can slow	funding and prioritization of	
	down policy implementation.	agricultural projects.	
	- Political instability may hinder	- Inter-departmental coordination	
	long-term agricultural and water	can be challenging.	
	management strategies.		
Economic	- Agriculture remains a key sector	- KP's economy is largely	
	for economic development and	agrarian, heavily reliant on	
	employment.	agriculture.	
	- Limited budget allocations can	- Economic challenges such as	
	constrain agricultural and water	unemployment may affect	
	management initiatives.	farmers' ability to adopt new	
	- International funding and	practices.	
	partnerships are critical for	- Potential for local markets to	
	resource mobilization.	support sustainable agricultural	
		products.	
Social	- Increasing public awareness and	- Strong community ties can	
	concern about food security and	facilitate local engagement in	
	climate change.	agricultural initiatives.	
	- Cultural resistance to changing	- Limited access to education and	
	traditional farming practices may	awareness about CSA practices	
	hinder adoption of CSA.	among rural populations.	
	- Diverse population with	- Vulnerable populations are more	
	varying needs for food security	affected by food insecurity and	
	and agricultural practices.	climate impacts.	

Technological	- Growing emphasis on adopting	- Limited access to modern	
	modern agricultural technologies,	technology and innovation	
	including precision farming and	in rural areas.	
	irrigation systems.	- Training and capacity	
	- Lack of infrastructure for	building for farmers on new	
	technology transfer can hinder	technologies are often	
	progress.	insufficient.	
	- Opportunities for research	- Community-based	
	collaboration with universities	solutions leveraging local	
	and international organizations.	knowledge can enhance	
		technology adoption.	
Legal	- Frameworks for food security	- Local laws and regulations	
	and agricultural development are	may not always align with	
	present but need updating and	federal policies.	
	enforcement.	- Bureaucratic inefficiencies	
	- Regulatory hurdles can impede	may complicate the	
	the implementation of sustainable	execution of legal	
	practices.	frameworks.	
	- Land tenure issues can affect	- Community land rights	
investment in sustainable land		issues can deter investment	
	use.	in sustainable practices.	
Environmental	- Increasing focus on	- KP faces unique	
	environmental sustainability in	environmental challenges,	
	agricultural policies.	such as water scarcity and	
	- Climate change poses significant	land degradation.	
	threats to agriculture,	- Vulnerability to climate	
	necessitating urgent action.	change impacts on	
	- Federal programs for	agricultural productivity.	
	reforestation and sustainable land	- Local initiatives may focus	
	management are gaining traction.	on conservation but require	
		more support and	
		resources.	

Institutional SWOT Analysis

A SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis provides a framework for assessing Pakistan's agricultural institutions and their capacity to promote climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land and water management. *Strengths:*

- Established Institutions: Pakistan has several key agricultural institutions, such as the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR), which has a national mandate to develop agricultural policy. Provincial agricultural departments also have the capacity to adapt policies to meet local needs (Zaman & Shah, 2018).
- Diverse Agricultural Sector: Pakistan's diverse agricultural sector, which includes crops ranging from wheat to cotton and sugarcane, provides opportunities for experimenting with different climate-smart practices. For instance, water-saving irrigation techniques and agroforestry have the potential to be adopted across various regions, depending on local conditions (Saeed & Hussain, 2020).

Weaknesses:

- Fragmentation Between Federal and Provincial Governments: One of the main challenges facing Pakistan's agricultural institutions is the lack of coordination between federal and provincial governments. The devolution of powers under the 18th Amendment has led to inconsistencies in the implementation and enforcement of climate-smart practices across provinces (Rehman & Ali, 2021).
- Underfunded Extension Services: Agricultural extension services, which are responsible for providing farmers with information and training on climate-smart practices, are severely underfunded and understaffed. As a result, many farmers, particularly those in remote rural areas, do not have access to the knowledge and resources they need to adopt sustainable practices (Saeed & Hussain, 2020).

Opportunities:

- Emerging Technologies: Precision agriculture, drone-based monitoring, and other emerging technologies offer significant opportunities to improve the productivity and resilience of Pakistan's agricultural sector. By leveraging these technologies, Pakistan can improve resource efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of farming (Khan, 2019).
- Access to Global Climate Finance: Global climate finance mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, offer opportunities for Pakistan to access funding for large-scale climate adaptation projects. These funds could be used to support the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, such as no-till farming, agroforestry, and precision irrigation (Ahmad & Farooq, 2020).

Threats:

- Vulnerability to Climate Change: Pakistan's agricultural sector is highly vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and increasing incidents of floods and droughts threaten food security and rural livelihoods. Without significant investments in climate adaptation, the sector will struggle to cope with these growing risks (Rehman & Ali, 2021).
- **Political Instability:** Political instability and shifting government priorities pose a threat to the long-term sustainability of climate-smart agricultural policies. Frequent changes in leadership may delay the implementation of critical reforms and adaptation projects (Saeed & Hussain, 2020).

Issues and Challenges

Inadequate Legal Framework:

The absence of a national legislative framework on food security, its vision, objectives, and implementation strategies is the biggest challenge to achieving the goal of food self-sufficiency and security in the country. Although there are many laws in Pakistan that ensure various aspects of the food chain, their focus is mainly on food chain management and marketing. Due to a poorly developed legislative framework, various foodborne infectious diseases have prevailed in the Pakistani community (MoNFSR, 2024).

Rising Population:

Pakistan's high population growth is attributed to limited access to family planning services, lower literacy rates, and rapid urbanization. The rising population is already burdening food security by taxing resources and infrastructure, thereby increasing hunger and malnutrition. The demand for food products is rising alongside population growth, which saw a three-fold increase from 1972 to 2017, while agricultural production exhibited nominal growth patterns.

Rapid Urbanization:

Pakistan continues to urbanize rapidly, driven by increasing population and subsequent demand for housing and industrial development. This urban expansion into agricultural lands has caused many problems for the agricultural sector; however, no laws are in place to stop this practice. If measures are not taken to secure the future of the agricultural sector, Pakistan faces a threat to food security and a significant decline in exports (Imperial Institute of Policy Studies, 2021).

Land Utilization Practices:

Pakistan faces an acute dilemma not only regarding the efficient utilization of available land for increased productivity but also in managing urban sprawl and encroachment on agricultural spaces. There are no national or provincial land utilization plans or enforcement mechanisms in place to protect land against the ever-increasing number of housing societies.

Diversifying Diet Patterns:

Despite the increase in food availability and per capita income, the average calorie intake per adult equivalent in Pakistan is still less than the 2,350 Kcal benchmark. It is estimated that thirty percent of children under age 5 are underweight, forty-five percent are stunted, eleven percent are wasted, and thirty percent are underweight. This overall scenario may increase vulnerability to poverty, widespread disease burdens, and lower productivity (Haider, 2017).

Water Availability for Agriculture:

Pakistan is facing problems related to food security due to an irrigation water crisis for crop production. Food security encompasses not only the sufficiency of available food but also ensures people's full access to food sustainably. Although resources and natural geography for irrigation are available, the absence of onfarm irrigation infrastructure, excessive reliance on water-intensive crops, and lack of water conservation practices, along with flooding irrigation methods instead of drip or sprinkler systems, lead to resource wastage.

Unsustainable Agricultural Practices:

The incidence of food poverty is higher in rural areas (35%) than in urban areas (26%). In Pakistan, irrigated agriculture is vital for future food security because it produces more than 90% of total grain production (Qureshi, 2012). With decreasing amounts of available water, the challenge of sustaining irrigated agriculture is increasing daily.

Increased Soil Erosion:

Soil health, along with water supply, is the most valuable resource for humans, as human life depends on the soil's generosity. Soil degradation poses a threat to food security, as it reduces yield, forces farmers to use more inputs, and may eventually lead to soil abandonment. Unfortunately, the importance of preserving soil health appears to be overlooked by policymakers, especially in light of the everincreasing incidences of floods and climate change impacts.

Climate Change:

Increasing minimum and maximum temperatures and irregular rainfall patterns due to global warming are major climatic factors affecting food security in Pakistan by reducing wheat production. Floods have become a regular phenomenon in the country, severely impacting the agricultural landscape. However, respective institutions have failed to mitigate the impact on agricultural practices, leading to poverty and food insecurity.

Inefficient Food Distribution Systems:

The supply chain for food distribution in Pakistan is often fragmented and inefficient, involving multiple intermediaries, which increases costs and reduces the quality of food reaching consumers. Lack of coordination among stakeholders exacerbates these challenges. This inequitable food distribution system impedes food access and availability, reducing opportunities for the disadvantaged in society.

Limited Access to Credit:

Despite agriculture being a vital sector, a significant portion of farmers, especially small and marginal ones, struggle to access formal credit. Estimates suggest that only 10-15% of credit needs are met by formal sources. This limited access forces farmers to turn to informal lenders who charge exorbitant interest rates, trapping them in cycles of debt.

Lack of Storage Facilities:

Many farmers rely on traditional methods like on-farm storage in open sheds or pits, leading to significant post-harvest losses of up to 40% due to factors like pests, rodents, moisture damage, and spoilage.

Value Addition in Export Commodities:

The country has some of the best varieties of fruits and vegetables. However, their contribution to exports is minimal due to the absence of standard processing and storage facilities. Most of these export commodities get wasted during transportation and conveyance, even within the country.

Housing Societies and Agriculture:

The ever-increasing presence of housing societies encroaching on agricultural lands is detrimental to the food security regime in the country. In the absence of a regulatory framework, the growth and strength of these societies incentivize farmers to sell their lands for readily available cash instead of investing in agricultural production. **Technological Gaps:**

Unlike other advanced countries, where the availability of fertile land is limited by geography, they have achieved great feats through extensive use of technology for maximizing production, reducing water usage, and ensuring the conservation of soil and nature. Pakistan has failed to develop a special program for using technology in precision farming, water management, crop rotation, and consequently, productivity.

Conclusion

Pakistan faces significant challenges in addressing the impacts of climate change on its agricultural sector. However, by strengthening policy coherence, improving institutional capacity, and promoting technological innovation, the country can enhance its resilience to climate change and ensure sustainable agricultural development. The recommendations and action plan outlined in this report provide a roadmap for integrating climate-smart agriculture, food security, and sustainable land and water management into national and provincial frameworks, paving the way for long-term sustainability and resilience.

Urbanization, especially the construction of housing societies on urban agricultural lands, has disrupted existing food supply chains in urban areas, leading to food insecurity. The population bulge, massive pressure on cities to provide amenities to the public, and inefficient use of land available for agriculture impact the production cycle in the country. Ancient agricultural practices, the absence of modern farm machinery, a lack of capacity building for farmers, and impractical, non-consensus-based policy decisions impede progress toward achieving food security in the country.

A lack of coherence between federal and provincial structures, insufficient incentives for innovation, the absence of linkages between producers and agricultural industries, and capacity issues affecting farmers' social behavior for more productive crops point to systemic problems in the agricultural sector. Productivity is directly proportional to food security, and the state must prioritize the agricultural sector as a main area of investment to foster growth and development.

The future of Pakistan's agricultural sector hinges on its ability to adapt to the realities of climate change. While the country has taken some steps toward promoting sustainable practices through initiatives like the National Climate Change Policy, much more needs to be done to build resilience against climate risks. By strengthening its legal and institutional frameworks, investing in research and innovation, and learning from global best practices, Pakistan can create a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector that ensures long-term food security and economic growth.

Recommendations

Agriculture is the locomotive of rural development in Pakistan. The agricultural sector is the main source of foreign exchange earnings in the country. The export of cotton, cotton-based products, and rice accounts for about 65% of total export earnings. Despite its critical importance to growth, exports, and food security, the agricultural sector faces many challenges that lower its yield. These impediments include the use of obsolete farming technology, outdated infrastructure, a lack of irrigation facilities, and water salinity. The following policy measures must be implemented by the government to address the various challenges farmers face in Pakistan's agricultural sector.

Legislative Framework

A detailed study of some regional countries reveals that they have framed practical and need-based national legal frameworks. These frameworks aim to assign responsibilities to national and provincial governments for regulating agricultural markets in the truest sense, supporting research and innovation, and protecting farmers from exploitative market forces. The government must formulate a national food security act with a clear vision and enforcement mechanism, aligning the interests of all relevant stakeholders.

Urban Planning/Control Laws

The national and provincial governments should take immediate steps to control the two most important contributors to food insecurity in Pakistan: population explosion and massive urbanization. Population control must be the top priority for both federal and provincial structures, and programs such as family planning, EPI, and Nashunuma should be linked for lasting impact. National and provincial laws on land use, along with enforcement bodies, should be established immediately to curb the surge of illegal societies, prevent haphazard urban growth, and improve the performance of civic agencies responsible for providing amenities.

Provision of Microcredit to Farmers

Microcredit can significantly benefit farmers with small landholdings by providing necessary support to maximize productivity. However, the microcredit system faces fundamental issues, such as lengthy processing times for lending. Additionally, due to inflationary pressures, the standard amount of credit may fall short of farmers' requirements, which is discouraging. Higher interest rates also deter farmers. This can be addressed through regulations by the State Bank that provide micro-lending on a fast-track basis with minimal interest. Another important intervention could be a subsidy on loan interest to lower barriers for farmers seeking credit.

Climate-Smart Agriculture Practices

One of the most critical aspects of our policy intervention should be the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. Pakistan has experienced massive disruptions in agricultural production cycles due to floods and climate change impacts on crop patterns and water use. The government, through its engagement in COPs and domestic legislation, has prioritized climate response mechanisms, with a special focus on conserving cultivable soil and forest cover. The government can protect farming communities from potential devastation by using the Climate Investment Fund and resilience strategies to mitigate the consequences of climate change and floods.

Technology as a Revolutionary Tool for Transforming Agriculture

Technology can be a revolutionary tool in transforming agriculture in Pakistan and ensuring food security. It assists stakeholders at all levels – farmers, markets, government, and support organizations – in knowledge sharing, machinery use, crop patterns, and, most importantly, precision farming and sustainability. The government must invest in technology transfer and dissemination, along with attracting private sector investment through public-private partnerships. Agriculture IT wings should be established in farm services centers to create an interface between farmers and government agencies for troubleshooting issues. **Strengthening Policy Coherence**

There is an urgent need for a more coherent national strategy that aligns federal and provincial efforts. A central coordinating body should be established to ensure that provincial initiatives align with national climate goals. This body would also be responsible for ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and that climatesmart policies are consistently enforced across regions.

Building Institutional Capacity

Agricultural extension services should be strengthened to ensure that farmers have access to the information and resources they need to adopt climate-smart practices. This could include increasing funding for extension services, providing training programs for agricultural officers, and expanding the use of digital platforms to reach remote rural communities.

Introducing Financial Incentives

Financial incentives, such as subsidies for water-efficient irrigation systems or tax breaks for farmers who adopt drought-resistant crops, would encourage widespread adoption of sustainable practices. These incentives could be targeted at smallholder farmers, who are often the most vulnerable to climate risks but lack the capital to invest in new technologies.

Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

Collaboration between the government and the private sector can drive innovation in agriculture. Public-private partnerships could be used to introduce new technologies, such as precision agriculture tools, to farmers. The private sector could also play a role in providing training and technical support to farmers who adopt these technologies.

		Log frame for sh	ion termi	muuuves	1
S#	Initiatives/Actions	Institutions	Time	Fund Allocated	Objectives
1	Framing of Rules and Regulations under Water Act 2020	Irrigation Department KP	6 months	nil	Efficient utilization of water
2	Framing of Housing Schemes Regulation	Local Govt. and Rural Development Department	6 months	nil	Land sustainably would be ensured
4	Revision of KP Water Act 2020	Irrigation Department KP	2 months	nil	Water management
5	Revision of Integrated Water Resource Management Strategy KP	Irrigation Department Kp	6 months	nil	Water management
6	Revision of Canal and Drainage water Act 1873	Irrigation Department KP	6 months	nil	Water Management and Flood Control ensuring Food security and Health of Soil
7	Revision of Climate Change Policy KP 2022	Environment Protection Agency	1 months	nil	Climate smart agriculture
		Log frame for Lo	ong Term I	nitiatives	
S#	Initiatives/Actions	Institutions	Time	Fund Allocated	Objectives
1	District Land Use Plans and Master Plans Of all Districts in KP	Urban Planning Unit Working under Planning & Development Department	3 years	Rs.800 Million	Land sustainability And Urbanization Control
2	PrecisionIrrigation(Dripirrigation,Sprinklerirrigation,Centrepivotirrigation,soilmoisture sensors)	Irrigation Department Kp	5-6 years	Rs.1000 Million	Water management And Climate Smart Agriculture by enhancing crops productivity
3	Introduction of Climate Resilient Crops Verities for Farmers	Agriculture Department	6-7 years	Rs.500 Million	Climate Smart Agriculture

Logical Framework Matrix Log frame for short Term Initiatives

4	Strengthen Policy	MNFSR,	12		Conduct training
	Coherence	Provincial	months		programs for farmers
		Agriculture			and officials
		Departments			
5	Improve	MNFSR,	12		Pilot precision
	Institutional	MoCC,	months		agriculture projects
	Coordination	Provincial			
		Governments			
6	Enhance Capacity	MNFSR,	Ongoing	1000	Develop proposals for
	Building	Provincial		million	international climate
		Governments,		(50/50%	funds
		Research		sharing	
		Institutions		model)	

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