

PAKISTAN HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BOUNCE BACK

RESILIENCE & RECOVERY

Syed Muhammad Shifaat Zaidi

Former President

Pakistan Society of Sugar Technologists

Abstract:

- ❖ **Pakistan** is a **GOD GIFTED COUNTRY**. In spite of many odds like **BAD GOVERNANCE & RAMPANT CORRUPTION ETC.** which need to be eliminated completely, this country has all the resources to defeat its misfortunes & bounce back.
- ❖ There is no dearth of talent & mineral resources. Combined with our green & blue economies, I mean agriculture & marine resources, our beloved country has the potential to overcome its vagaries of last 55 years that started after 1968.
- ❖ A country, progressing only next to **Japan** in the continent of Asia during first **21** years after its independence is now dependent on the mercy of loans from **IMF** & other resources & is under pressure to accept their disastrous conditions compromising the interest of its **240 million people**.
- ❖ We will have to work very hard to overcome all the difficulties & get rid of various types of unnecessary pressures.
- ❖ Question of interest is: ***Can we accept the challenge & succeed?*** The answer is **YES**.

Economic Scenario:

The enemies of Pakistan have created all possible hurdles to refrain Pakistan from becoming an economic powerhouse.

Every time, when our economy is on growth/ take off mode, something unusual happens and we suffer badly. Last year's political turmoil and devastating floods are an example of such unusual happenings. We can see many more unnecessary interventions in the last **50-60** years of history.

Last year's floods played havoc. Cotton crop was badly destroyed and rice harvest also fell significantly, however, sugarcane survived to a large extent. Of all the crops, sugarcane has the strength to face vagaries of nature.



Comparison of Key Economic Indicators of Last 2 Years:

(Based on Economic Survey 2023 issued by the Government of Pakistan)



Per capita income:

2022: \$1765

2023: \$1568

GDP growth:

2022: 6.1%

2023: 0.29%

Industrial growth:

2022: + 7.19%

2023: - 2.94% (negative)

Large scale manufacturing:

2022: +10.61%

2023: - 8.11%(negative)

Total GDP:

2022: \$383 billion

2023: \$341 billion

Exports:

2022: \$28.8 billion

2023: \$21.2 billion

Remittances:

2022: \$26.1 billion

2023: \$20.5 billion

FDI:

2022: \$1.4 billion

2023: \$1.0 billion

Foreign exchange reserves:

2022: \$8.4 billion

2023: \$4.2 billion

Service sector growth:

2022: 6.19%

2023: 0.86%

Agriculture growth:

2022: 4.40%

2023: 1.55%

CPI inflation:

2022: 11%

2023: 28.2%

Food inflation:

2022: 11.8%

2023: 37.9%

Perishable food inflation:

2022: 4.1%

2023: 47%

Non-perishable food inflation:

2022: 13.1%

2023: 36.4%

Key Diagnosis from Economic Survey of Pakistan 2023:

- Govt has **missed all key economic indicators** in financial year 2022-23, putting economy in a nosedive position.
- With only **0.3% economic growth & 38% inflation**, *economy has slipped into massive stagflation.*

Source:— Finance Division, Govt of Pakistan.



Countries With Major Mineral Resources:

S.No.	Country	Nomenclature	Estimated Value (US\$)
01	Russia	Natural gas, oil, coal, iron ore, gold, diamonds	75 Trillion
02	Pakistan	Natural gas, coal, copper, gold, diamonds, rock salt	50 Trillion
03	USA	Coal, natural gas, oil, copper, gold, silver	45 Trillion
04	Saudi Arabia	Oil, natural gas, gold, phosphate, bauxite	34 Trillion
05	Canada	Gold, oil, natural gas, nickel, copper, uranium, potash	33 Trillion
06	Iran	Oil, natural gas	27 Trillion
07	China	Coal, rare earth elements, tungsten, tin, zinc, gold	23 Trillion
08	Brazil	Iron ore, natural gas, bauxite, manganese, gold, niobium	22 Trillion
09	Australia	Iron ore, coal, bauxite, gold, copper, uranium	20 Trillion
10	Iraq	Oil, natural gas	16 Trillion
11	Venezuela	Oil, natural gas , iron	14 Trillion



Mineral Resources of Pakistan At a Glance:

S.No.	Mineral Resource	Location in Pakistan
01	Coal	Thar Desert (Sindh province)
02	Natural Gas	Sui (Balochistan), Qadirpur (Sindh), Mari (Balochistan)
03	Crude Oil	Potwar Plateau, Sindh, Balochistan
04	Minerals	Various regions
05	Limestone	Various regions
06	Gypsum	Various regions
07	Salt	Khewra region (Punjab)
08	Copper and Gold	Balochistan
09	Iron Ore	Kalabagh region (Punjab)
10	Gemstones	Swat Valley and other regions
11	Marble	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Swat Valley
12	Phosphate	Khaur area (Punjab)
13	Rare Earth Elements	Various regions
14	Chromite	Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
15	Bentonite	Balochistan, Punjab



Please note that the "Location in Pakistan" column indicates the primary regions where these mineral resources are found, but many of them are also present in various other parts of the country to varying degrees.

Major Crops of Pakistan:



Table 2.3: Area, Production & Yield of Important Crops (Area: 000 Hectare; Production: 000 Tonnes; Yield: Kg/Ha)						
Year		2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23(P)
Cotton	Area	2,373	2,517	2,079	1,937	2,144
	Change (%)	-	6.1	-17.4	-6.8	10.7
	Production*	9,861	9,148	7,064	8,329	4,910
	Change (%)	-	-7.2	-22.8	17.9	-41.0
	Yield	707	618	578	731	390
	Change (%)	-	-12.6	-6.5	26.5	-46.6
Sugarcane	Area	1,102	1,040	1,165	1,260	1,319
	Change (%)	-	-5.6	12.0	8.2	4.7
	Production	67,174	66,380	81,009	88,651	91,111
	Change (%)	-	-1.2	22.0	9.4	2.8
	Yield	60,956	63,841	69,534	70,341	69,085
	Change (%)	-	4.7	8.9	1.2	-1.8
Rice	Area	2,810	3,034	3,335	3,537	2,976
	Change (%)	-	8.0	9.9	6.1	-15.9
	Production	7,202	7,414	8,420	9,323	7,322
	Change (%)	-	2.9	13.6	10.7	-21.5
	Yield	2,563	2,444	2,525	2,635	2,460
	Change (%)	-	-4.6	3.3	4.4	-6.6
Maize	Area	1,374	1,404	1,418	1,653	1,720
	Change (%)	-	2.2	1.0	16.6	4.1
	Production	6,826	7,883	8,940	9,525	10,183
	Change (%)	-	15.5	13.4	6.5	6.9
	Yield	4,968	5,614	6,305	5,764	5,922
	Change (%)	-	13.0	12.3	-8.6	2.7
Wheat	Area	8,678	8,805	9,168	8,977	9,043
	Change (%)	-	1.5	4.1	-2.1	0.7
	Production	24,349	25,248	27,464	26,208	27,634
	Change (%)	-	3.7	8.8	-4.6	5.4
	Yield	2,806	2,868	2,996	2,920	3,056
	Change (%)	-	2.2	4.5	-2.5	4.7

P: Provisional * : Thousand bales

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

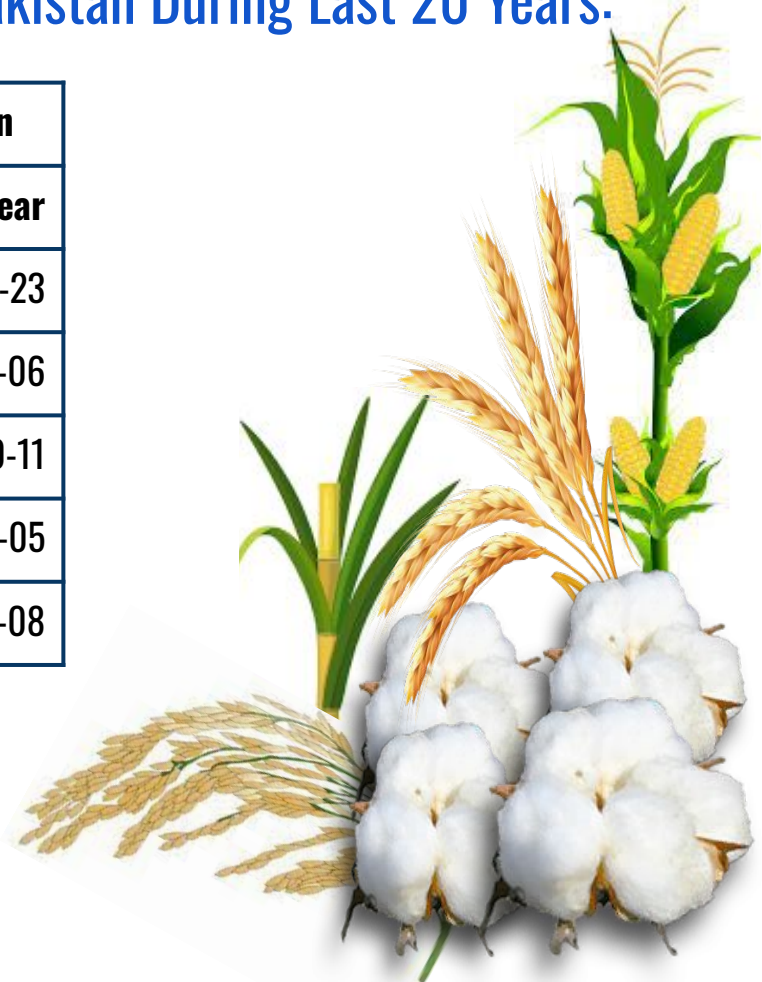
Highest & Lowest Production of 5 Major Crops in Pakistan During Last 20 Years:

Crops	Highest Production		Lowest Production	
	Output	Year	Output	Year
Cotton (Million Bales)	14.265	2004-05	4.910	2022-23
Sugar Cane (Million Tonnes)	91,111	2022-23	44.666	2005-06
Rice (Million Tonnes)	9.323	2021-22	4.823	2010-11
Maize (Million Tonnes)	10.183	2022-23	2.797	2004-05
Wheat (Million Tonnes)	27.634	2022-23	20.959	2007-08

P: Provisional *: Million bales

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Link: https://www.finance.gov.pk/survey/chapters_23/02_Agriculture.pdf



What Needs To Be Done:

- ❖ Pakistan is an independent sovereign state, therefore no foreign influence or pressure should be accepted.
- ❖ All decisions should only be taken keeping national interest supreme.
- ❖ Energy crisis should be addressed on top priority.
- ❖ At least 10% ethanol blending in petrol should be allowed to cut fuel import bill.
- ❖ Import substitution units should be installed to cut the import bill & create employment opportunities.
- ❖ We need to import natural gas from Iran which is waiting completion for over a decade to meet the energy requirements & run the wheel of our industry.
- ❖ All necessary measures must be taken to stop brain drain.
- ❖ All efforts should be made to increase yields of all major crops.
- ❖ We should explore all resources of blue economy.
- ❖ 50% of foreign remittances should be used to pay off the foreign loans
- ❖ Small dams should be built at suitable sites to store water, generate power & control floods.
- ❖ Balochistan can produce high staple cotton. This can revive our textile industry.
- ❖ Each & every individual will be required to work with full devotion.



Thank you.

Shifaatzaidi@gmail.com

+92 306 2349697