



**“INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN  
AGRICULTURE SECTOR”**

**AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF SINDH**

Agriculture in this region now called Sindh is continuing from ancient times. Remains excavated at Mohen-jo-Daro in Larkana district date back to 3000 BC. Main crops at that time as revealed through excavation were barley, wheat, pea and sesame. It is inferred from the relics of cloth that cotton was also grown there. Therefore, it is believed that the advancement of agriculture has existed here since prehistoric times.

Agriculture is the main stay of Pakistan economy. Its economic development is therefore directly linked to the progress of agriculture sector. It contributes about 25% in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country.

Sindh is the second largest province of Pakistan on the basis of population and also on the basis of its contribution to agricultural progress of the country. With population of 32 million, it represents 23% of the total population of the country. It ranks third in area covering 140935 square kilometers (14.09 million hectares) or 18% of the country's geographical area. About 40% of the area of the Sindh is arable land and 5% is rangeland. Total cultivated area of Sindh is 5.88 million hectares and net area sown is 2.39 million hectares. The total cropped area is 3.10 million hectares of which 0.71 million hectares are sown more than once (Agriculture Statistics, 2000-01).

Sindh is situated along the lower banks of the river Indus, forming a major portion of the Great Indus Plain. The length of Sindh from south to north is about 580 km, and breadth is 275-440 km from east to west, narrow in north and broad at the base. It lies between 23-29 north latitude and 67-70 parallel east longitudes. It is surrounded by land on upper side, coastal strips of about 240 km, in the southwest along the Arabian Sea. In the south, it borders with the Rann of Katchh and the Katchh state of India, the eastern boundary extends towards Rajasthan, India, while the Punjab and Balochistan lie to its north and west respectively.

Agricultural progress of Sindh province is linked with the supply of irrigation water from the river Indus. It comprises of three barrages viz. Sukkur, Guddu and Kotri with gross command area of about 6.0 million hectares.

Arid zones of Sindh include Thar region (Tharparkar & Umerkot) and Nara region (Sanghar, Khairpur, Ghotki and Sukkur) in the east, and Katchho and Kohistan regions (Dadu and Thatta) in the west.


The overall climate of the province is arid with scarce monsoon rains in the rotation of every 4-5 years, leaving canal irrigation as the only source of irrigation for the province. May to July are the hottest months (above 40 Celsius) with occasional frost.

The soil in the Indus flood plain area is alluvial being predominantly permeable sand and silt loam particularly near to the river with increasing clay fraction away from the river.

Sindh grows a variety of field and horticultural crops. Wheat, cotton, rice and sugarcane are the major field crops, which constitute 68% of the total cropped area, while mango, banana and chilies are the major horticultural crops. Sindh produces 35% rice, 28% of the sugarcane, 20% cotton, and 12% of the wheat in the country. Among the horticultural crops, Sindh produces 73% banana, 34% mangoes, and 88% of the chilies grown in the country. Of the total cropped area of 3.1 million hectares in the year 2000-01, almost 50% of the area was under food crops (wheat, rice, maize, sorghum, millet and barley), 25% under cash crops (cotton, sugarcane etc), and the remaining area was under fodder (9.1%), pulses (4.7%), condiments (4.1%), oilseeds (3.8), fruits (3.3%) and vegetables (1.4%).

Major crops like cotton and rice with value addition are main foreign earners of Pakistan, which are responsible for moving the economic wheel.

In view of this, the present Government has identified agriculture as one of the four major drivers of national growth; others are energy, information technology and SMEs.



Sindh Agriculture Department is key player in development of agriculture in the province. Besides policy and planning work, it has been guiding farmers, attending to their problems and providing improved farm technologies. Its main wings viz. Agriculture Research, Agriculture Extension, Agriculture Engineering and Water Management, Sindh Seed Corporation and Cane Commissioner Organization deal with various matters related to cropping activities in the province.

The Agriculture Department is also pursuing special initiatives like development of watercourses, introduction of IPM technology, production of contamination-free cotton, improvement of agriculture marketing system, awareness of growers through electronic and print media, provision of more agriculture machinery, improvement of agriculture research system, prevention of adulteration in pesticides and fertilizers, strengthening of foundation seed production cell etc.

In view of the large agricultural base, Sindh province has tremendous potential for investment particularly in value addition and foreign trade.

### ***SOME POTENTIAL AREAS FOR INVESTMENT***

- Corporate Farming
- Seed Production & Processing Industry
- Agriculture Export Processing Zone
- Dates Processing Industry
- Vegetable Processing and Canning Industry
- Fresh Mango Processing
- Essential Oil Extraction Industry
- Food Processing Industry
- Fruits Processing & Canning Industry
- Compartmentalized Cold Storages.
- Green House Farming of Cut Roses
- Certified Plant Nurseries
- Viscous Fibre from cotton waste



## ***CORPORATE FARMING***

Sindh Province is bestowed with variety of climate and land, suitable for production of any agricultural crop.

High-tech mechanized agriculture can give higher yields and quality production of high value crops from even limited blocks of land.

Sindh Province offers 28554 acres of land at 10 Government Farms at different locations for corporate farming under terms and conditions lay down by the Government.

This land can be profitably utilized for high value exportable crops, livestock farming or seed production farming.

Special policy for corporate farming includes zero custom duty on imported machinery and equipment, 6% foreign equity, relief in stamp duty and other incentives.

Land will be provided on 50 years lease basis, extendable to another 49 years.

## ***SEED PRODUCTION & PROCESSING***

Sindh produces variety of crops in food, fiber, sugar, vegetable, fruits, and condiment groups. Quality seed is essential for growing quality and high yielding crops.

Quality Seed is essential for growing quality crops, which ultimately results in better quality of life.

There is substantial shortage of certified processed seed of almost all crops grown in the country in general and in Sindh in particular.

There is great potential for vegetable seed production for not only to meet the local requirement, but also for export.



## ***AGRI EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE***

Sindh province produces, variety of fruits, vegetables and flowers in great quantity, which have tremendous export potential besides local commercial market of big cities.

Citrus, Mango, Banana, Dates, and Guava are main fruits available for export.

20 to 40 percent post harvest losses observed due to non-availability of processing & preservation facilities.

Proper processing and storage can multiply the returns from trading of these agro products.

Sindh government has planned an Agro-Export Processing Zone on 100 acres on Super Highway near new largest wholesale fruit and vegetable market.

Agro Processing Units and cold storages can be established in the zone area for profitability.

Compartmentalized cold storages can also be set up in major fruits and vegetable growing areas, with refrigerated transportation system.

The zone is being developed with all required infrastructure facilities.

The zone has direct access to the international airport at a distance of about 20 kilometers.

## ***DATES PROCESSING INDUSTRY***

Sindh province produces dates up to 250,000 tons annually.

The dates growing area is concentrated in two adjoining districts of Khairpur and Sukkur.

Due to lack of proper processing facility, major portion of the production is sold in under quality position.

There is great potential of export processed dates and its bye-products.

Vast lands are available at accessible sites for setting up the dates processing industry.

Sukkur has a large airport with daily flights, including boeing aircraft.

## ***MANGO***

Sindh province produces 371,000 tons of mangoes, with the potential of enhancing dates production up to 450,000 tons annually.

Sindh mangoes, specially Sindhri variety is in higher demand in the international market specially Dubai, UK, USA, Singapore, etc.

There is a great potential of export of Mango, if the infrastructure for cooling, grading, vapour heat treatment and grading, vapour heat treatment and packing are developed.

Mango processing, grading and packing plant at Hyderabad.

Produce is easily available from 20th May to 15 July.

Easy access by Super Highway to Karachi ports. Land, Water and Electricity is available.

## **CHILIES**

Sindh produces 10 thousands tons of red chilies with extra hot ratings.

Dry Chilies are being exported to Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Canada, USA, UK and other countries.

Out of 726 tons export 6100 is exported to Middle East, followed by 2400 to USA and remaining to other countries.

Chilly powder can be considered as value added product earned \$ 1.217 million for Pakistan in 2000.

Chilies could also be processed as whole and packed. The best possible location could be Mirpurkhas where the entire infrastructure is available.

## ***ESSENTIAL OILS EXTRACTION INDUSTRY***

Essential oils are used as flavours and fragrances for food, soap, detergents, perfumes, lotions and other industrial products.

Essential oils are obtained from blossoms, seeds, fruit peels, stems, barks, wood roots, plant secretions.

A good number of plants from which essential oils can be commercially extracted, like basil, corn mint desi roses and other flowers and other such plants and herbs are grown in Sindh, where potential for further enhancing their production is tremendous.

There is great export potential and local industrial use for these essential oils.

These oils are extracted through four methods of distillation, namely steam distillation, cold press or cold compression, solvent extraction and carbon dioxide extraction .