

## Former Adviser to the PM on Foreign Affairs: Drawing lessons from China's Agricultural Development Policy to expand the Export of Agricultural products

On August 17, Sartaj Aziz, Former Adviser to the PM on Foreign Affairs, pointed out at the webinar "A Review of Agriculture Policy in Pakistan" that agriculture is an important area of cooperation between the two countries under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Pakistan can learn from China's agricultural development policies in cooperation, promote the improvement and improvement of its own policies, and expand Pakistan's agricultural exports.

The webinar was co-organized by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Pakistan Institute for Development Economics and the Center for Agricultural Strategy and Development at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, with China Economic Net as the official media partner. Sartaj Aziz further mentioned that agricultural policy should be viewed in a macro context. Pakistan's institutions are relatively weak and corresponding measures should be taken to encourage researchers to play a greater role. "We are very good at identifying what needs to be done, but putting specific plans and decisions into practice is the direction of our efforts."

Professor Akmal Hussain, Dean and Professor of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Information Technology University, attended the webinar and pointed out that a growth strategy for small and medium-sized farmers based on equality was necessary for agriculture in Pakistan. "our agricultural growth strategy for the past 70 years has focused on wealthy farmers, but their production has been stagnant in the past few years. The huge potential for increasing production of small and medium-sized farmers has not yet been developed, and we need to move towards a growth strategy based on the process at the middle and low end of the agricultural sector, using institutions to play a role in promoting cooperation among small farmers."

Asif Kamran, an agricultural economist at the Nuclear Institute for Agriculture and Biology, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, reviewed past agricultural policies and introduced current policies and economic planning. He referred to the strengthening of links between sectors including food water climate change and disaster management. "through the plague of locusts and the COVID-19 epidemic, we can see the importance of strengthening inter-departmental ties."

M Ejaz Qureshi, Honorary Associate Professor of Australian National University, stressed that Pakistan needs to move from self-sufficiency to a more profitable agricultural system. He mentioned that China has successfully carried out market-oriented reforms and achieved rapid economic development. "China's infrastructure has been fully developed, and we need to improve our marketing infrastructure and give full play to the important role of the market. The experience of China's economic reform has provided us with important enlightenment. "

Mubarak Ali, former member of Planning Commission of Pakistan, believes that

they should persuade policy makers to adopt the recommendations on trade, technology and markets that have been agreed upon by experts and scholars. He also mentioned the development of the agricultural value chain. "even if crop production is increased by technical means, farmers will gradually lose enthusiasm if they are not processed properly, the price advantage is not obvious, and the export is disadvantageous."

Pervaiz Amir, Director of Pakistan Water Partnership, highlighted the major opportunities that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor brings to Pakistan. "We need to be clear about Pakistan's role in it. Pakistan must produce products according to the needs of the Chinese and specific quality levels in order to increase exports to China."

Nadeem Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute for Development Economics, suggested that in addition to the government, institutions and stakeholders should also take responsibility for agricultural reform. He compared Pakistani agriculture to a "spoiled child" and mentioned the importance of developing land market.