

## **Impact Of CPEC On Pakistan's Agriculture**

China Pakistan Economic Corridor, widely known as CPEC, has been under a lot of debate since years. Critics, analysts, economists, general people and experts from all walks of life have been discussing the applications and implications of CPEC on Pakistan's economy. It is being said that CPEC will have a lot of positive and negative impact on agriculture sector of Pakistan. Let us talk about both sides of the coin here:

### **Positive impacts of CPEC on Pakistan's agriculture:**

CPEC will bring economic stability to the country. Overall economic betterment will facilitate the agriculture too. As Pakistan will build business ties with countries over the globe, her agriculture will also get a wider market.

For their own benefit, Chinese enterprises and government will build a vast net of latest infrastructure. The farmers will benefit from better infrastructure as they will be able to export their products to wider market.

The power plants and energy projects set up on Pakistan's land will make 24/7 energy available to local people as well. This will help them overcome the troubles that are caused by power outages.

Chinese investment in the region under One Belt One Road initiative will also bring new employment opportunities to Pakistani population. This will also stabilize the falling economy of the country. This will also open doors for Pakistani raw products and agricultural produce to have an easy access to Chinese markets.

### **Negative impacts of CPEC on Pakistan's agriculture:**

Critics are also talking about some downsides of Chinese investment in Pakistan's agriculture. China is planning to experiment with new agriculture techniques on Pakistani land. These experiments are not being taken up well by people.

Also Pakistani government has agreed to lease land to Chinese enterprises for agriculture. This is being viewed as a disadvantage for local farmers as Chinese enterprises will sow crops on mass scale and export them. It will damage the opportunities for local people. They will also have to suffer in terms of lesser land available for them to grow crops. Pakistan has a very fertile soil which is feasible for growing a variety of crops. So, leasing out this land will be a disadvantage for agriculture of Pakistan.

It is going to take number of years before impact of CPEC can be witnessed on the ground. However, it is being welcomed by the fragile economy of Pakistan and people are hoping that they get to reap the benefits of this mega plan in near future.