



U.S. Assistance to Pakistan Economic Growth and Agriculture

USAID works with the Government of Pakistan to develop programs and industry that will help the country achieve a self-sustaining future. The activities supported by USAID create employment opportunities, support competitive enterprise, expand trade and investment, build irrigation infrastructure for farms, and create more lucrative business opportunities, especially for women. The end goal of these initiatives is to raise the household income of all Pakistanis.

USAID's Engagement

Economic growth projects in Pakistan focus on private sector development, especially in agriculture and related industries. The activities USAID is involved with boost agricultural productivity by increasing irrigation, managing water supplies, and introducing improved technologies and management practices. The assistance provided also helps agribusinesses and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access financing, establish linkages, and tap into more lucrative markets.

Programs directed towards women micro-entrepreneurs emphasize the development of sustainable home-based businesses, mainly in dairy, textiles, and horticulture. Training to build capacity and improve management is provided throughout the agriculture and finance sectors. USAID also partners with government and private-sector entities to improve the business-enabling environment and Pakistan's trade relationship with its neighbors.



Goal

Through these initiatives, USAID plans to increase employment and incomes for 550,000 farm households (representing 3.6 million Pakistanis) by irrigating one million acres of land, connecting small farmers to major agribusinesses, strengthening technological innovation, improving management practices, water use efficiency, and the legal and regulatory framework.

Key Results

Over the last five years, USAID has accomplished many of its objectives in the economic growth sector including::

- Incomes increased for more than 800,000 farm households
- Reduction in processing time at Karachi port from 43 to 23 days for Pakistan-Afghanistan transit trade
- Over 370,000 acres of land irrigated in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- Created over 12,800 jobs
- Generated \$45.4 million in domestic sales, \$28.3 million in export sales and leveraged over \$5 million in private sector investment
- Facilitated the introduction of new technologies and management practices for 49,000 farmers on 9,800 hectares



Current Projects

[Agribusiness \(November 2011 - November 2015\)](#)

Expands investment, revenues, and employment opportunities in the agribusiness sector. Removes constraints to production and marketing of agricultural goods; provides advice to improve productivity and product quality, and links businesses with markets.

[Pakistan Strategy Support Program \(July 2011 - July 2015\)](#)

Supports national and provincial policy reforms to improve agricultural production, water management and irrigation, macroeconomics, markets and trade, poverty alleviation, and social safety. Funds research, and sponsors a national rural household survey.

[Balochistan Agriculture \(January 2009 - December 2015\)](#)

Increases the incomes of communities and farmers along the Afghan border. Trains farmers to identify and access more profitable markets and increases employment opportunities for women.

[Dairy \(July 2011 - July 2014\)](#)

Increases milk yield and incomes for small dairy farmers, women extension workers, and artificial insemination technicians in Punjab by providing basic equipment and training in best practice dairy farming techniques.

[Entrepreneurs \(June 2009 - September 2014\)](#)

Expands market opportunities for micro-entrepreneurs, especially women. Works with local private sector entities, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations to train beneficiaries to develop better products and apply new skills.

[Firms \(May 2009 – December 2014\)](#)

Increase the profitability and international competitiveness of 3,000 small and medium enterprises throughout Pakistan. Project focuses on mangoes, dates, peaches, potatoes, hotels, fisheries, garments, and minerals to identify and remove constraints to private-sector development and job growth. It also develops a business-enabling environment to streamline regulations and procedures to attract private investment.

[Agricultural Innovation Program \(March 2013-March 2017\)](#)

Introduces new seed varieties, and innovative techniques in conservation agriculture; improves the value chains for cereals, livestock and horticulture; trains researchers, extension agents, and staff of provincial agriculture departments; and strengthens agricultural research and development.

[Pakistan Private Investment Initiative \(June 2013-December 2023\)](#)

Partners with the private sector by providing seed capital to launch investment fund to make financing available to promising Pakistani SMEs underserved by traditional financial institutions.

[Trade \(June 2009 – August 2014\)](#)

Supports trade reform and efforts to resolve challenges in bilateral and regional trade. Assistance implements trade and transit agreements, trade facilitation measures, as well as improves custom and border processes.

[Satpara Development \(March 2012 - March 2017\)](#)

Constructs farm irrigation canals on 15,500 acres of land near Satpara Dam in Gilgit Baltistan to increase agricultural productivity; Develops processing facilities to reduce losses by farmers; Links farmers and processors with national and international markets.