

Balochistan Agriculture Policy

2021-2030



Implementation Review, 2025

Background on the Policy 2021-2030

- The “Farmers First” Conference on agriculture development in Balochistan was conducted on 6-7 August 2015 in Quetta, attended by over 130 farmers from across Balochistan’s
- Following the conference, the Agriculture Department together with the FAO, conducted Focus Group Discussions with farmers across 30 districts
- Subsequently, in 2017 and 2018, case studies were undertaken by the DAC and FAO
- Then in 2019, at the request of the Chief Minister, a team of agricultural and policy experts was tasked to compile and analyze Balochistan’s agricultural sector acts and regulations; as well as undertaking a review of agricultural policies from other Provinces.

Vision

The Policy envisages that the value of agricultural production will double over the next decade up until 2030, equivalent to an increase of 7% per annum over the duration of the polity and strategy period

Outcome 1: On-farm Water Productivity

Outcome 2: Production Innovation

Outcome 3: Market Innovation For High-value Crops

Outcome 4: Subsistence Food and Nutrition Security

Outcome 5: Quality Agri Business Services

Outcome 6: Enabling Environment & Reform of

Agriculture Department

OUTCOME 1: ON-FARM WATER PRODUCTIVITY

- All farming households are supported to innovatively reduce water wastage and improve on-farm water productivity.
 - Significantly reduce the incidence of uncontrolled flood irrigation practices.
 - Regulate ground-water extraction.
 - Enhance On-farm Water Management and water budgeting.
 - Invest in improved water policy and water productivity research.
 - Fundamentally change attitudes and behaviors around water conservation.

OUTCOME 2: PRODUCTION INNOVATION

- Commercial farming households and businesses are helped to innovatively and collaboratively improve their crop productivity, product quality and consistency in line with market demands.
 - Increasing the efficient delivery of extension services through farmer groups.
 - Linking applied research and development to the specific needs of farmer groups.
 - Linking Private Sector input and service suppliers to these groups.
 - Making agricultural information more relevant and accessible.
 - Currently, the Government of Balochistan's agricultural research and extension services, information products, and communication tools are

OUTCOME 3: MARKET INNOVATION FOR HIGH-VALUE CROPS

- Balochistan's farming families and businesses involved in high value crops innovate and collaborate to better tap sustainable market opportunity (handling, storage, transport, and processing).
 - Improving product aggregation and quality of high-value crops.
 - Improving packing, storage, and post-harvest handling of high-value crops.
 - Enhanced Market Information Systems.
 - Increased value-addition of high value crops.

OUTCOME 4: SUBSISTENCE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

- Subsistence farming households increase their food security and nutrition through higher production and income.
 - Emphasis given to Nutrition Sensitive Food and Agriculture Systems.
 - Promotion of Kitchen Gardens.
 - Behavior change communication on dietary diversity.

OUTCOME 5: QUALITY AGRI BUSINESS SERVICES

- Local agri-businesses are informed, motivated and supported to improve the access and affordability of key agricultural inputs, services and credit.
 - Public/Private Partnerships to improve remote input and service delivery.

OUTCOME 6: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND REFORM OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIVES

- Provincial government agricultural agencies dramatically review and reform their response to enabling environment and climate risks (e.g. improved sector governance, service delivery and collaboration).
 - A key role for the Government of Balochistan is to establish an enabling environment for the crop sector, the two priority elements of which are:
 - Legislative and regulatory reform.
 - Reformed roles and functions for the DAC.
 - The DAC will actively disseminate the Balochistan Agriculture Policy 2021-2030 to all stakeholders, organize a donor conference, and approach selected donors with customized proposals to support specific parts of the Policy. Once the Policy is confirmed, the DAC will work with all partners to specify the responsibilities and timeframes to deliver its outcomes. These will be detailed through a rolling five-year strategy and intervention plan.

Review

Agriculture Policy Results Framework

(Outcomes, Objectives, and Indicators of Success)

Outcomes	Objectives	Responsibility	Indicators of Success
<p data-bbox="96 78 361 121">Outcome I</p> <p data-bbox="38 157 420 257">On-farm water productivity</p> <p data-bbox="38 364 420 806">All farming households are supported to innovatively reduce water wastage and improve on-farm water productivity.</p>	<p data-bbox="420 78 1184 449">1. Significantly reduce the incidence of uncontrolled flood irrigation practices: Over the next decade the incidence of uncontrolled flood irrigation practices will reduce by sixty percent through the promotion of, and conversion to, water efficient and carefully monitored irrigation practices (e.g. furrow, raised beds, low volume micro-spray and trickle)</p>	<ul data-bbox="1184 78 1974 449" style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of Agricultural Engineering: The provision of DAC engineering services for land-levelling and spate water storage should be conditional on farmers upscaling their water management practices. • Directorate of OFWM. • Directorate of Agricultural Extension. 	<ul data-bbox="1974 78 2509 1406" style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased awareness of the need to conserve water • Increased adoption of on-farm water conservation practices • Reduction in the use of unregulated tube wells • Incidence of flood irrigation declines • Reduced groundwater extraction rates in major agricultural aquifers • On-farm water productivity improves • Total area of irrigated land increases as a result of water savings
	<p data-bbox="420 464 1184 949">2. Regulating groundwater extraction a. Government to review the unintended impact of electricity subsidies on groundwater. a. Feasibility study of alternative incentive mechanisms completed by 2022. a. Farmers supported to regulate flow from tube wells and introduce on-farm storage.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1184 464 1974 949" style="list-style-type: none"> • The DAC (Directorates of OFWM and Agricultural Engineering) and Department of Irrigation will collaborate on groundwater hydrology studies for agricultural aquifers. • The GoB will also consider registering tube wells and may consider limiting the volumes extracted. (Crop Reporting System) • GoB will review its policy on groundwater and reconsider the unintended consequences of electricity subsidy for tube wells. 	
	<p data-bbox="420 963 1184 1406">3. Water Management and Budgeting to improving on-farm water productivity particularly on large farms. a. 70 percent of large farms (greater than 5 ha) will schedule irrigation based on water budgets, crop requirements and soil moisture measurement.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1184 963 1974 1406" style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce and promote simple water budget technologies and decision-support tools for large farms. (Directorates of Research, Extension, and OFWM) • Large farmers understand and better monitor soil moisture levels and water budgets, thereby helping them to apply irrigation at appropriate times and in appropriate amounts. (Directorate of Extension, Agricultural Engineering, and OFWM) 	
	<p data-bbox="420 1413 1184 1428">4. Behavior Change: Significant</p>	<ul data-bbox="1184 1413 1974 1428" style="list-style-type: none"> • GoB ties any subsidies to improved 	

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<p>Outcome II</p> <p>Production innovation</p> <p>Commercial farming households and businesses are helped to innovatively and collaboratively improve crop productivity, product quality and consistency in line with market demands</p>	<p>1. 800 established and 400 new agriculture farmer groups operate as a focus for Government and Private Sector support including applied research, training, sharing, demonstration, and input/service supply.</p> <p>2. Group members (including women) increase their:</p> <p>a. production by half, b. total factor productivity (TFP) by 20%, and c. incomes by 20-30 percent through the adoption of improved germplasm, agronomic practices, IPM, processing, and grading technologies as well as new approaches to marketing (e.g. electronic marketing).</p> <p>3. Group member families and consumers improve their food security and nutrition through consistent access and consumption of diverse kitchen garden products.</p> <p>4. Improved and relevant information products readily accessible to smallholder farmers through their groups and electronic media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One extension officer/field assistant allocated to each group as a coordinator and facilitator (Directorate of Extension). • Development partners support existing groups and establish new groups as required, guided by the Balochistan Agriculture Policy 2021-2030. (Directorate of Extension, Registrar of Cooperative Societies). • The DAC keeps records of the groups, their allocated extension officer and their members (Directorate of Agricultural Extension). Farmer groups work together with Government to support the organizations aims and objectives (Directorate of Agricultural Extension and Women's Division) • Input and service supply businesses support these groups, deliver their services through these groups, and provide technical training and field support as required. (Directorate of Agricultural Extension and Agricultural Marketing) • Directorate of Agricultural Research and academia run a responsive adaptive research and technology program that delivers priority innovations through these groups related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varietal testing. • Improved irrigation management. • Improved agronomic practices. • Mechanization. • Integrated pest and weed management. • Post-harvest handling and packaging. (Directorates of Extension and Research) • The groups will make their needs known and the DAC scientists, technologists and engineers will work with the allocated extension officer and the group to undertake trials, testing, demonstrations, or workshops to address their concerns. (Directorates of Extension and Research) • Directorate of Agricultural Extension will establish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Farmer Training and capacity building (skills development) through Farmer Field Schools and Farmer Business Schools operated by Farmer Groups supported by Extension Officers. b. Extension staff empowered (knowledge and supplies) to support agriculture groups in the districts c. Farmers access services and inputs through their groups d. Productivity enhanced e. Nutritional outcomes enhanced for target families and provincial consumers. f. Incidence of food safety incidents due to farm supplied product declines. g. New technologies in production agronomy and crop health adopted through pilots and wide scale dissemination using agriculture groups h. Engagement of women across the sectors/ value chain (production, processing, marketing & business orientation. i. ICT and other smart solutions for disseminating new technologies and extension j. Farmers and other

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<p>Outcome III</p> <p>Market innovation for high-value crops</p> <p>Balochistan's farming families and businesses involved in high-value crops innovate and collaborate to better tap sustainable market opportunity (handling, storage, transport and processing).</p>	<p>1. Product aggregation and quality: Fifty percent of small to medium farmers are members of farmer marketing groups that aggregate and consistently market larger volumes of uniform quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC (including the Directorates of Extension, and Markets) and delivery partners support the formation and strengthening of these aggregation and marketing groups. • DAC field assistants and development partners support farmer groups to work with transporters and wholesalers to identify quality improvements for which consumers are willing to pay a premium. • DAC works with farmer groups to establish quality standards and quality assurance systems. • DAC, along with Provincial and National market authorities improve the quality and timeliness of market information and explore e-commerce opportunities 	<p>a. Number of small to medium farmers who are members of marketing organizations</p> <p>b. Increased market access and returns from aggregated quality assured product.</p>
	<p>1. Improving packing, storage and post-harvest handling: All marketing groups will introduce improvements to harvesting, handling, packing, grading lines, and cool storage to improve product quality and shelf life in line with consumer expectations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC works with farmer groups to establish quality standards and quality assurance systems to help focus product on standard and premium markets. (Directorate of Agricultural Extension and the Women's Division) 	<p>a. better understanding, relationship and information flow between farmer groups, wholesalers and retailers.</p> <p>b. Farmer returns and profit improve</p> <p>c. Balochistan recognized as a source of quality assured product</p>
	<p>1. Enhanced Market Information Systems: 80 percent of farmers producing high value crops can access accurate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC, along with Provincial and National market authorities improve the quality and timeliness of market information and explore e-commerce 	<p>a. Number of farmers with access to accurate and timely market information and prices.</p>

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<p data-bbox="104 97 415 586">Outcome IV. Subsistence food & nutrition security</p> <p data-bbox="40 691 443 1008">Subsistence farming households increase their food security and nutrition through higher production and income</p>	<p data-bbox="466 91 1077 458">1. Nutrition Sensitive Food and Agriculture Systems: Nutrient sensitive food and agriculture approaches mainstreamed across all provincial subsistence agricultural interventions.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1103 91 1811 408" style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC and development partners promote NSA approaches • DAC reviews all development proposals for subsistence farmers to ensure that NSA issues are appropriately addressed 	<p data-bbox="1837 91 2481 529">a. increased quantity, quality, diversity, availability and affordability of nutrient rich, culturally appropriate foods in both households and local markets</p> <p data-bbox="1837 415 2481 529">b. Benefit in the health and wellbeing of all of the people of Balochistan.</p>
	<p data-bbox="466 548 1077 722">1. Kitchen Gardens: Women managed kitchen gardens established in 80% of poor villages.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1103 548 1811 722" style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC and development partners assist villages to establish women lead communal kitchen gardens. (Women's Division) 	<p data-bbox="1837 548 2481 665">a. Improved availability and diversity of nutrient rich foods</p> <p data-bbox="1837 694 2481 893">b. Improved women's understanding of nutrition, production techniques, and how best to utilize these foods</p> <p data-bbox="1837 922 2481 1093">c. Increased women's empowerment through small amounts of supplemental income</p>
	<p data-bbox="466 1108 1077 1329">1. Behaviour change communication: Nutrition awareness of vulnerable households increased across all villages.</p>	<ul data-bbox="1103 1108 1811 1428" style="list-style-type: none"> • The GoB will work to widen the coverage and uptake of packages that promote and integrate the nutrition needs of all household members at all ages with good agricultural, health, 	<p data-bbox="1837 1108 2481 1272">a. Better nutritional outcomes for women of reproductive age and children under two years old.</p>

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<p>Outcome V.</p> <p>Quality agri-business services</p> <p>Local agri-businesses are informed, motivated and supported to improve the access and affordability of key agricultural inputs, services and credit</p>	<p>1. Public/Private Partnerships to improve remote input and service delivery: Reduce the risk, and increase investments of the private sector to meet the needs of remote producers for quality inputs and services. All input subsidies are restructured to ensure better beneficiary targeting as well as synergy with long-term private sector input services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC will review current policies and subsidies to identify areas where market distortion arises • The Government and its donor partners will co-invest with the private sector to establish innovative and sustainable approaches to inputs and service delivery. (Directorates of Extension, Research and Engineering) • DAC to consider introduction of a voucher system that better targets vulnerable households and complements the private sector to ensure sustainable input services delivery in the future. (Directorates of Extension, Research, Soil Fertility, Plant Protection and Engineering) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Input subsidies no longer distort the market and crowd out the private sector. b. Increased private sector investment in inputs and service delivery. c. Improved farmers access to inputs and services. d. Vulnerable households are better targeted e. Reduced hand-out dependency of vulnerable households
	<p>1. Improved regulation and establishment of Balochistan Fresh: Balochistan establishes a national reputation as a source of quality safe fruit and vegetables.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DAC and other Government agencies will collaborate to improve the standards and regulations relating to the use of agrichemicals and fertilizers by farmers and others involved in Balochistan's field crop and horticulture value chains. (Directorates of Marketing, Research, Soil Fertility, and Plant Protection) • This will involve partnerships with farmer groups and major packing facilities to instigate and deliver training that improves understanding and compliance. (Directorate of Agricultural Markets) • DAC will also work with farmer and private sector interests to establish an industry certification scheme, "Balochistan Fresh", this being a government accreditation process for farmer groups and businesses who adhere to industry standards that ensure minimal residues in and on food. (Directorates of Extension, Markets and Research). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Incidence of chemical residues breaching MRL levels is significantly reduced. b. On-farm chemical use is compliant with Government and label recommendations.
	<p>1. Improved financial services: Expansion of small and medium entrepreneurship through access to better financial products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development partners (and particularly NGOs) work with groups of agriculture farmers to develop community run savings and loan schemes (Directorates of Extension and Cooperatives). • The Balochistan Government works with the State Bank of Pakistan to consider and launch innovative credit products for agriculture families groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Agriculture farmers converted to entrepreneurs by linking them to financial institutions (FMCs, MMOs) b. Agriculture producers, processors and traders have access to legal, business support marketing and

Outcomes	Objectives	Responsibility	Indicators of Success
<p data-bbox="78 105 453 791">Outcome VI Enabling Environment and Reform of Department of Agriculture and Cooperatives</p> <p data-bbox="56 893 440 1405">Provincial government agricultural agencies dramatically review and reform their response to enabling environment and climate risks. (e.g. improved</p>	<p data-bbox="486 105 978 325">1. Investment and business confidence increase through enabling environment reform.</p>	<ul data-bbox="996 105 1921 802" style="list-style-type: none"> • DAC (in collaboration with its development partners and the business sector) will conduct a study on current provincial agricultural policy and regulations that assesses their effectiveness and unintended consequences. (Directorate of Research and academia). • Balochistan Government to amend policies that distort or constrain the market. (Directorates of Extension, Research and academia). • DAC will undertake an institutional review of its performance and services. 	<ul data-bbox="1939 105 2491 802" style="list-style-type: none"> a. Enabling business environment improved and made more conducive b. Restructure & reform laws, rules and procedures to support value chain actors c. Outdated Acts hindering development of sector repealed. d. Long term policies development for increasing the efficiency of sector