

Policy Makers and Researchers' Endorsements of *Agriculture and the Rural Economy in Pakistan: Issues, Outlooks, and Policy Priorities*

“The book *Agriculture and the Rural Economy in Pakistan: Issues, Outlooks, and Policy Priorities* successfully traces the historical evolution of public policy on food security, agriculture, and the rural economy in Pakistan and provides a detailed analysis of the factors underlying the multidimensional nature of the current situation.

“The analysis and results presented in this book are based on decades of technical and country-specific experience, coupled with wide-ranging discussion and feedback spread over a period of several years. The analyses are backed by very carefully collected rural household data. This is the hallmark work by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The research-based insights and recommendations contained in this book are invaluable for researchers and policy makers in Pakistan. This book is a fine example of IFPRI’s mission to support countries with relevant policy research for effective decision making.”

— Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the prime minister on foreign affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

“Since the foundation of Pakistan, the agricultural economy has occupied a central role in the country’s development. Although agriculture itself is no longer the largest sector of Pakistan’s economy, it remains critical to the improvement of Pakistan’s rural poor and an important driver of the rural nonfarm economy, where significant potential for pro-poor growth and reduced malnutrition is found. The recent experience of low international prices and a poor cotton harvest shows the continued importance of agriculture to Pakistan’s overall growth and poverty reduction. Additionally, the rural economy of Pakistan is evolving quickly, and the health of the overall economy is now more intricately linked with a fast-changing rural economy.

“This book has analyzed the challenges and evolution of the rural economy in impressive depth and breadth. The policy research reported in this book is relevant, actionable, practicable, tangible, and implementable and fully supports the vision of a prosperous Pakistan. This work presents the application of cutting-edge expertise that is focused on addressing multidimensional aspects of agriculture and rural development, food security, and poverty reduction, and has been refined by ongoing nation-wide discussion and debate during the past three years. It effectively examines the performance of agriculture and the rural economy in the face of frequent macroeconomic crises and weather-related shocks that have occurred in the past decade in Pakistan and provides lessons that are useful for not only Pakistan but also most other developing countries.

“IFPRI’s book will be an important part of the foundation that supports the Planning Commission’s work to encourage policy reform and provide effective public sector investments in line with its Vision 2025 roadmap, the Sustainable Development Goals and the new approaches needed to fully reflect the 18th Amendment. Researchers will undoubtedly also use the book as a reference guide to further explore the rural economy and its links with the other sectors of the economy. I congratulate IFPRI, its Pakistan team, and all the researchers involved for putting together a detailed analysis of the agriculture sector and its role in the economy of Pakistan.”

— Ahsan Iqbal, federal minister for planning, development, and reform and deputy chairman, Pakistan’s Planning Commission

“Food insecurity is one of the most alarming problems facing developing countries today. It is also one of the most complex. Evidence-based policy research that can positively influence decision making to address this issue is the need of the hour.

“Fortunately, *Agriculture and the Rural Economy in Pakistan: Issues, Outlooks, and Policy Priorities*, published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), meets this need by not only exposing the problem at hand but also

offering solutions. This book is invaluable for Pakistan as it provides fresh insights into how agriculture and rural development can lead to rapid economic growth, food security, and poverty reduction. The detailed expert analysis based on carefully collected data tackles the multiple concerns identified by my ministry and stakeholders across the country over a period of several years. This book places agriculture firmly in the center of rural development, growth, food security, and poverty reduction in Pakistan.

“While the analysis presented in this book represents only a small part of the large body of policy support and interaction of this team, it is a good example of the quality of their work. My heartiest congratulations to the editors, authors, and members of the IFPRI Pakistan team for producing such a vital resource which will definitely prove beneficial to policy makers and agriculture scientists and academics in Pakistan.”

— Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, federal minister for food security and research

“Pakistan’s Indus River basin is an extraordinary agricultural resource. This book documents how, when used properly with large investments and appropriate policies, agriculture brought rapid overall growth and poverty reduction. When national policy turned away from a central place for agriculture, growth slowed in all sectors and poverty ceased to decline.

“The wide-ranging, perceptive, quantitative, and qualitative analysis of this book has detailed, essential lessons, not only for Pakistan itself, but for all the stalled agricultural economies of much of Africa and select countries in Asia as well.”

— John W. Mellor, president, John Mellor Associates, and emeritus professor, Cornell University