

A Geospatial Evaluation of Climate Change and Agricultural Sustainability in Pakistan

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ABSTRACT

This research aims largely to evaluate the relationship between climate change and its impact on agricultural cover in Pakistan. It seeks to evaluate the impact of climate-induced challenges on crop production, income disparities, and food security in the country. In addition to this, the research will inspect the existing and potential adaptation strategies, progressive agricultural practices, and policy recommendations to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and water scarcity on Pakistan's agriculture. This study will also investigate the intricate relationship between changing climate and agricultural sustainability in Pakistan over a period in the past 20 years or two decades, from 2000 to 2020. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6, 13 and 15 are the prime focus of our research. We performed a thorough examination of climatic data, agricultural practices, and land use land cover patterns using the Effective Incorporation of Remote Sensing (RS) and Geographic Information System (GIS) approaches to discover spatiotemporal changes and their implications. Our result/findings reveal compelling evidence of changing temperature and precipitation patterns in Pakistan during the study period as a result of climate change. The RS and GIS-generated maps vividly demonstrate these changes and their spatial distribution across the country. Concurrently, we examined changes in crop selection, land usage, and farming techniques to assess the danger to Pakistan's agricultural sustainability. To promote resilience in the face of changing environmental conditions, policy recommendations are made at the end to adapt to and reduce the effects of climate change on agriculture. Decision-makers, planners, economists, environmentalists, and government organizations will find this study useful in determining their next course of action.

KEYWORDS: Climate Change Resilience, Remote Sensing (RS), Agricultural Sustainability, Temporal Change

1. INTRODUCTION

The climate of the world has changed significantly in this 21st century, as seen by rising temperatures, changing patterns of macroclimatic factors, and an increase in the rate of extreme weather events (IPCC, IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Assessment Report (for IPCC), World Bank Report (for World Bank), World Resources Institute Report (for World Resources Institute), 2014). These changes are not theoretical but are physically can be seen in Pakistan, they represent an urgent reality with significant ramifications for agriculture. Pakistan's economy is mainly

relayed upon agriculture, which employs more than 40% of the labor force and makes a substantial GDP (Gross Domestic Product) contribution. (World Bank, 2021). Nevertheless, the sector facing a growing peril - the insidious grip of water scarcity. Pakistan lies among the most water-stressed countries globally (World Resources Institute, 2021), a crisis stemming from a combination of factors including population growth, outdated irrigation infrastructure, and erratic rainfall patterns exacerbated by climate change. Over the last 20 years, Pakistan has become highly susceptible to climate change events like floods, droughts, torrid temperature events and unreliable rainfalls (IUCN, 2009). Serious predictions of such extreme weather events can be more unpredictable and serious in Pakistan as a result of climate change. As the temperature constantly rises, and precipitation continues to change, freshwater will lead to an increasingly scarce resource for farmers, which may cause food insecurity and livelihoods of farmers in the Indus basin, as well as general food security in Pakistan (Javed & Chauhdry, 57-70). The development of the agriculture sector is vitally important in any country, especially in Pakistan because it plays a vital role in the socio-economic stability of the country. However, global heating is the most important, vulnerable, and essential factor for the agriculture sector (Ali, et al., 2020). The agricultural zone, which is one of the primary sources of livelihood for more than half of the population in Pakistan, has particularly been largely affected sector by climate change due to a lack of precautionary measures (IPCC, Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation, 2011). Farms also suffer losses due to climate-changing events, the size of these losses is large and difficult to assess, and the consequences can be worsened. (Stoeffler, Carter, Guirking, & Gelade, 2022). The agrarian zone of Pakistan plays a vital pillar of Pakistan's economy, contributing a large part to its GDP and providing livelihoods for a substantial portion of the population. In navigating the complexities of this sector, understanding the historical production trends of major crops becomes imperative. This research will give details of a spanned period of 2001 to 2020 and offers a comprehensive overview of the production dynamics of key crops, which include wheat, rice, maize, cotton, and sugarcane. The trends will be noticed in these crops unveil a nuanced narrative shaped by various factors such as climatic conditions, technological advancements, market forces, and government policies. This introduction sets the stage for a detailed exploration of the intricate patterns within Pakistan's agricultural landscape, laying the groundwork for a more profound analysis of the factors influencing crop production and the implications for the nation's food security and economic stability.

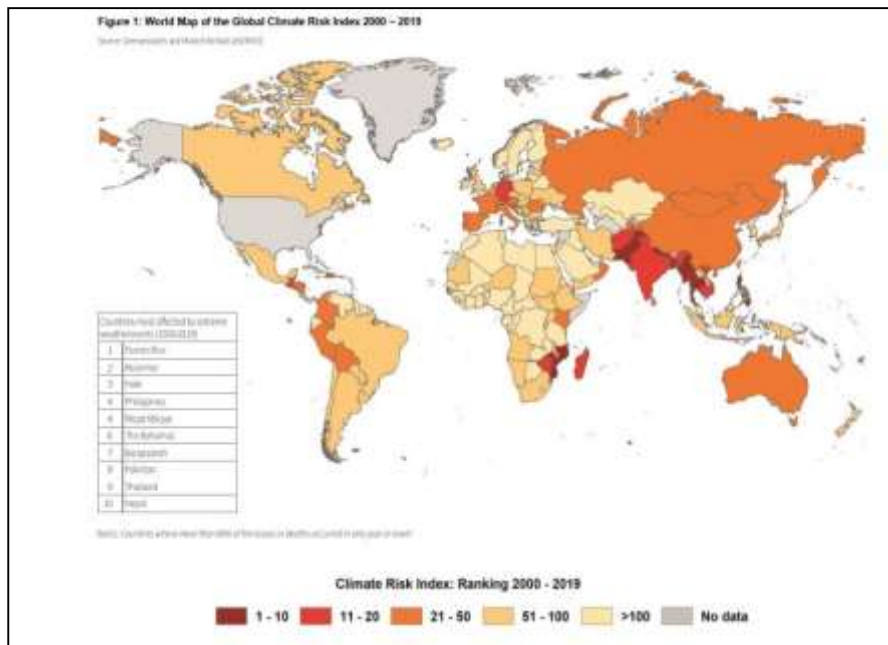


Fig. 1. Global Climate Risk Index, 2019

In the context of the Global Climate Index, 2019, Pakistan stands in 8th position. The consequences of climate change in Pakistan are not conjectural but rather borne out in observable data. Rising temperatures with time are accelerating glacial melt in the country's mountainous regions, threatening the reliable supply of freshwater downstream (Hussain, 2022). Rising temperatures also provide a higher frequency of heat waves and prolonged droughts, leading to reduced agricultural productivity (Iqbal et al., 2020). Furthermore, changing precipitation results in uneven water distribution, with some areas experiencing floods while others grapple with prolonged dry spells (Shahid, 2010). The water scarcity challenge in Pakistan is multifaceted. The large Indus River, which is the only survival package of Pakistan's agriculture, is at risk of reduced flows due to the dwindling Himalayan glaciers (Giese, 2022). Concurrently, excessive groundwater pumping has led to falling water tables and the intrusion of saltwater into freshwater aquifers (Shah, 2009). Inadequate water storage facilities worsen this problem by causing rainwater to be wasted during the monsoon and limiting the amount of water available during the dry season. Due to their low resources and limited ability to adapt, smallholder farmers, who make up a sizable component of the agricultural workforce, are especially sensitive to these changes. Pakistan's agricultural economy is on the verge which can be affected by climate change and water scarcity, endangering the country's food security and economic stability. (Zubair, 2021). Increased temperatures, prolonged

droughts, and uneven water distribution patterns disrupt traditional farming practices, leading to reduced crop yields and economic losses (Mahmood, 2017). The agricultural sector of Pakistan is having the consequences of irrigation facilities. Develop a comprehensive assessment framework to investigate the impact of climate change on Pakistan's agricultural landscape, identify and evaluate effective adaptation strategies for fostering resilient agriculture, and analyze the effectiveness of existing policies in addressing climate-induced agricultural challenges.

1.1. LITERATURE REVIEW

Climate change and its ramifications on agriculture and water resources have emerged as critical areas of inquiry in the scientific community, particularly within the Pakistani context. This comprehensive literature review delves into key research studies, offering nuanced perspectives on adaptive strategies, climatic assessments, and water scarcity issues. (Ali, et al., 2020) Conducted an exhaustive exploration of the determinants influencing farmers' adaptive strategies in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. Their research not only identified key factors shaping farmers' choices but also underscored the need for region-specific adaptation plans. The study serves as a foundational piece in understanding the intricate dynamics of climate adaptation at the grassroots level. In a parallel vein, (Arshad, et al., 2022) employed geospatial tools to assess early summer heat waves and droughts in Southern Punjab. The study intricately examined the relationships between climatic variables, vegetation patterns, and soil moisture. By utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing technologies, the research provided a spatially explicit analysis, contributing to a deeper comprehension of climate-induced agricultural challenges. Urban transformations and their impact on agricultural land have been a subject of interest, exemplified by (Gazal, Kazmi, & Zubair, 2015) present a noteworthy contribution to the understanding of urban green spaces and agricultural land transformation in Karachi, Pakistan. Employing geoinformatics, the study involves the meticulous monitoring and mapping of spatio-periodic dynamics in vegetation cover. By combining remote sensing technology with field surveys, the research sheds light on the changing landscapes of Karachi, offering a case study approach to assess land use alterations. This study's significance lies in its ability to inform urban planning strategies and environmental management practices, especially in rapidly urbanizing areas. (Hanjra & Qureshi, 2010)) delved into the global water crisis and its future implications for food security. The study undertook a comprehensive analysis of the challenges posed by climate change to global food production. By emphasizing the nexus between water scarcity and food security, the research laid the groundwork for understanding the broader

implications of climate change on agriculture. Shifting focus to Karachi, (Kausar, Mahmood, & Ahmed, 2014) conducted a spatio-temporal analysis of agricultural land-use patterns. Their study, utilizing geospatial techniques, scrutinized changes along the West Bank of the Malir River. The findings contribute not only to the understanding of urban agriculture but also to potential strategies for sustainable land use in rapidly urbanizing regions. (Sabah & Afsar, 2020) Investigation in research spatio-temporal changes of soil moisture in Karachi further elucidated the impact of urbanization on soil conditions. Employing remote sensing techniques, the study explored the intricate dynamics of urban expansion and its repercussions on soil quality, providing valuable insights for sustainable urban development. In Northeast Iran, (Sabzevar, Rezaei, & Khaleghi,, 2021)) addressed the specific challenges of water scarcity. The study presented incremental adaptation strategies for agricultural water management, considering the complex interplay of geographical and climatic factors. By emphasizing location-specific approaches, the research contributes significantly to the discourse on sustainable water use in arid regions. A parallel theme in the literature revolves around drought monitoring, as exemplified by (Tabassum & Khan, 2023) comparison of drought indices for Pakistan's agricultural areas using the Google Earth Engine platform. This research presents a state-of-the-art approach to drought assessment, utilizing advanced technologies to identify the most effective indices for monitoring agricultural drought conditions. (Vallino, Ridolfi, & Laio, 2020) Shifted the focus to economic water scarcity, conducting a cross-country empirical investigation. Their study provides critical insights into the economic implications of water scarcity in agriculture, laying the groundwork for understanding the economic dimensions of water management. (Giese, 2022) Conducts a detailed examination of glacier melt within the Indus River Basin, adopting a subbasin-scale approach. Published in *Frontiers in Earth Science*, this research contributes to our understanding of hydrological changes in the region by focusing on the intricate dynamics of glacier melt. By utilizing advanced methods and spatial analyses, the study provides essential insights into the implications of glacier melt at a finer spatial scale. The findings are crucial for water resource management in the Indus River Basin, especially considering the significance of glaciers as a primary water source in the region. In this recent study, (Arshad, et al., 2022) undertake a geospatial assessment focusing on the arid region of Southern Punjab, Pakistan. The research investigates early summer heatwaves and droughts, examining their intricate relationship with vegetation dynamics and soil moisture. By employing advanced geospatial techniques, the study offers valuable insights into the complex interplay between climatic factors and environmental conditions in a region susceptible to aridity. The findings

contribute to a deeper understanding of the localized impacts of climate change, particularly in arid landscapes, providing essential information for targeted adaptation and mitigation strategies. The research conducted by (Perveen, et al., 2013) is a pivotal contribution to agricultural studies, specifically focusing on the suitability of land for cotton crops in Sindh Province, Pakistan. Employing a Geographical Information System (GIS) and a multi-criteria decision-making methodology, the study incorporates a comprehensive set of factors. These factors include soil composition, groundwater availability, irrigation methods, climatic conditions, existing land use, cropping patterns, and agroecological zoning. By integrating these diverse criteria, the researchers develop a sophisticated model for assessing the suitability of land for cotton cultivation. This model serves as a valuable tool for policymakers, agriculturists, and researchers involved in optimizing land use for cotton production, ensuring a sustainable and efficient approach to agriculture in Sindh Province. ((FAO), 2013), stands as a comprehensive compilation of practices in climate-smart agriculture. This sourcebook serves as a key reference for understanding and implementing sustainable agricultural practices in the face of climate change. Drawing on a wealth of global knowledge, the FAO provides insights into innovative approaches and technologies that enhance resilience and productivity in agriculture while mitigating the impacts of climate change. This seminal work acts as a guiding resource for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers involved in shaping sustainable agricultural strategies worldwide. The collaborative research led by Mubarak and his team in 2018 focuses on the critical issue of water scarcity for agriculture in future climate scenarios specific to Punjab, Pakistan. Through a detailed climate scenario assessment, the study evaluates the potential risks associated with water scarcity and explores adaptive strategies for mitigating these challenges. This research provides invaluable insights for policymakers and stakeholders involved in water resource management and agriculture planning in Punjab. By anticipating future scenarios and proposing adaptive measures, the study contributes to the formulation of sustainable strategies to address the growing water challenges in agricultural practices in the region. (Mubarak, 2018)

In conclusion, the synthesized literature paints a comprehensive picture of the intricate challenges posed by climate change and water scarcity in Pakistan. By exploring adaptive strategies, climatic assessments, and water management techniques, these studies collectively contribute to a holistic understanding of the multifaceted issues at the intersection of agriculture and climate change

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1. Study Area

The study area for research on water shortages, climate change, and the role of agriculture in Pakistan includes the major areas of the nation that are most impacted by these problems. Potential focus areas include Punjab Province, known for its agricultural significance and water management challenges; Sindh Province, with its coastal and agricultural importance; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Province in the north, prone to climate variability; Balochistan Province, characterized by arid conditions; and the Karachi Metropolitan Region, a major urban centre facing water supply and urban agriculture challenges. The precise study region selected will rely on the goals and data available; a combination of these areas may offer a thorough grasp of the intricate dynamics at work in Pakistan's agricultural environment as a result of climate change.



Fig. 2. Shows the study area map of Pakistan

2.2. Qualitative & Quantitative Method

Qualitative research is a methodological perspective employed to gain a deep apprehension of social phenomena, often within their natural contexts. Focused on exploring the intricacies of common man reviews, attitudes, and experiences, qualitative research embraces diverse data collection methods, such as interviews, focus groups, observations, and

case studies. These techniques facilitate the collection of rich, non-numerical data that captures the complexity and depth of the studied phenomena. Our research methodology involved gathering non-numerical data on the Analyzing Climate Change and Agricultural Sustainability in Pakistan through Google Earth Pro, unable to collect data through interviews, focus groups, and observations this all resulted in our limitation to the geographic extent and cultural disparities.

Unlike qualitative data, a quantitative analysis related to the collection of calculable data approach to assess various adopt a quantitative approach, below we discuss the quantitative approaches.

2.2.1. Literature Review

A comprehensive review of existing literature of different researchers around the world is undertaken to identify gaps and build on current knowledge regarding how can we build a relationship between climate change and agriculture in the context of Pakistan. This step helps in framing research questions and provides a theoretical foundation for the study.

2.2.2. Study Area Selection

The subject of our research clearly defined our study area, focusing on Pakistan. The selection of the study area is justified based on regional variations in climate and agricultural practices. Specific attention is given to some of the provinces due to their agricultural importance and also the unique challenges and opportunities present in different regions.

2.2.3. Data Collection

Climate data, encompassing temperature records, precipitation data, and information on extreme weather events, is collected through the data source CRU, NASA POWER & CHSR. On the other hand, Raster Analytical Data was collected through Sentinel Hub & NASA (LAADS) which examine different spatio-temporal trends. Agricultural data includes crop yield records, land use and land cover information, and details about farming practices.

2.2.4. Data Processing & Analysis

Acquired data undergoes various processing and cleaning procedures. GIS tools are employed such as extraction by mask, raster calculator, project raster & local function for spatial analysis to identify patterns, trends, and potential hotspots related to climate change impacts on agriculture. Statistical analyses are performed to quantify relationships between microclimatic variables.

2.2.5. Modelling

Geospatial models, including remote sensing-based models and climate change simulation models of vegetation change detection, are applied to simulate various climate scenarios. The impact of these scenarios on agriculture is being assessed, considering factors such as crop suitability and yield variations.

2.2.6. Integration

Results from climate and agricultural analyses are integrated to understand the spatial correlations between climate variables and crop performance. This step involves synthesizing information from diverse datasets to derive meaningful insights.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the subsequent sections, we outline the findings of our study, which encompasses an analysis of climatic trends, agricultural production, and water resource management in Pakistan over the past two decades. Through a multidisciplinary approach incorporating satellite imagery, climate data, and agricultural statistics, our research provides insights into the dynamic interplay between environmental factors and socio-economic dynamics in the region.

In Fig. 3, we analyze the Climatic Trends in Pakistan from 2001 to 2020 offering a thorough visual depiction of the dynamics of temperature and precipitation in the nation. Shades of blue are used to represent changes in precipitation levels using a colour-coded scheme, where darker hues represent higher rainfall. Simultaneously, temperature trends are represented in red hues; higher temperatures are indicated by darker tones. The direction of these trends is cleverly represented by arrows and symbols, making it possible to quickly determine if a certain location has had rising, falling, or constant temperatures.

The map includes data dots to draw attention to significant events, such as instances of extreme weather, and it offers a regional breakdown that makes it possible to analyze changes in Pakistan in detail. A timeline that follows the progression of climate patterns over the designated years runs along the edge of the map. In addition to providing a quick overview of the weather, this graphic aid is a useful resource for comprehending the trends and outliers that defined Pakistan's climate throughout the specified period. In this period of 20 years high temperature is mostly incorporated in Sindh and Baluchistan while low-temperature trends can be seen in the mountainous North of Pakistan, simultaneously precipitation trends are higher in northern Pakistan.

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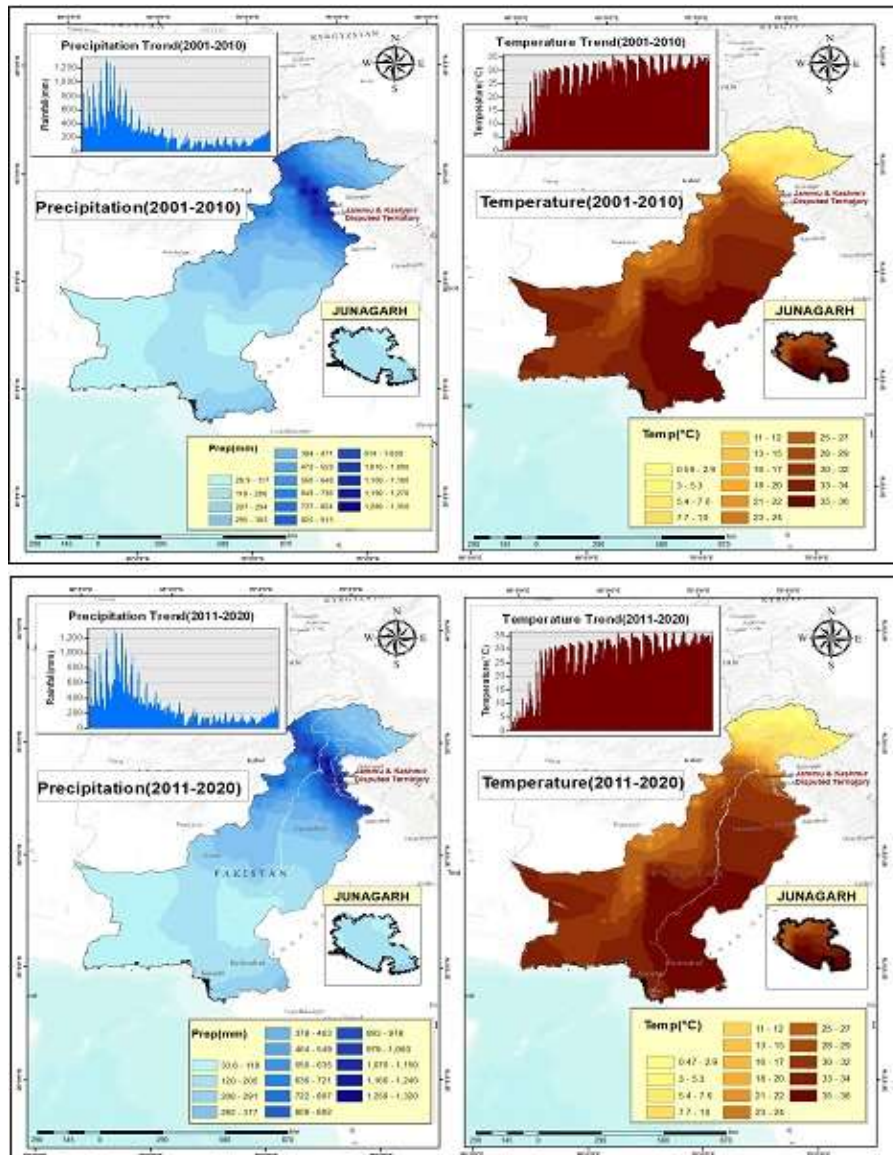


Fig. 3. Shows the comparison of annual precipitation and temperature trends in Pakistan
Source: CRU Data

The Graph demonstrates the variation in annual rainfall that occurred through the period of 2000 to 2020 and provides deep insights into the fluctuating nature of precipitation patterns over time. These bars illustrate that July and December are the prime months for rainfall, highlighting the impact of climate variability and change. The observed variations in annual rainfall reflect the complex interplay of atmospheric dynamics, oceanic patterns, and regional climate systems. Some regions may exhibit notable shifts in rainfall patterns, experiencing periods of drought or increased

rainfall, while others may demonstrate relative stability or more gradual changes.

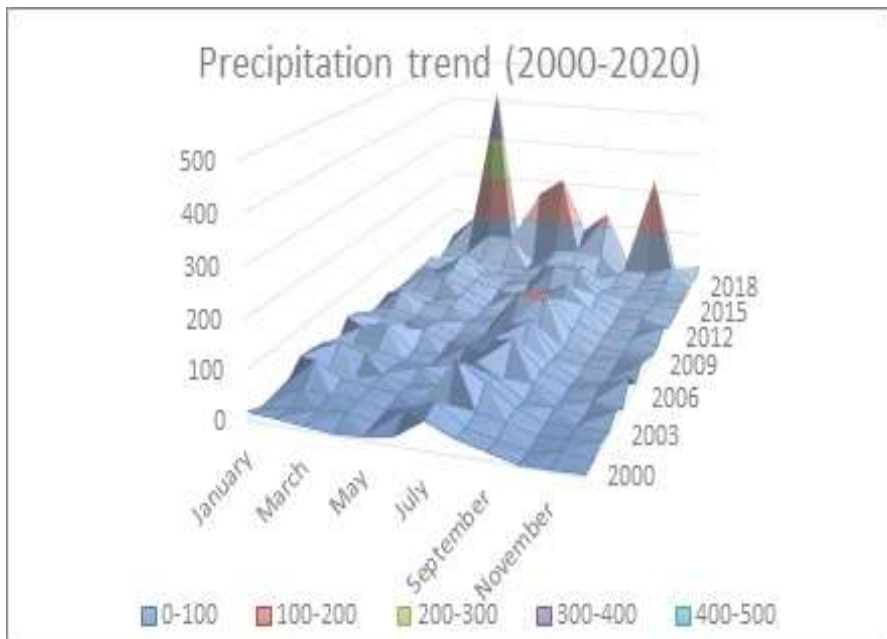


Fig 4. Shows variation in Annual Precipitation Trend

Source: World Bank open data

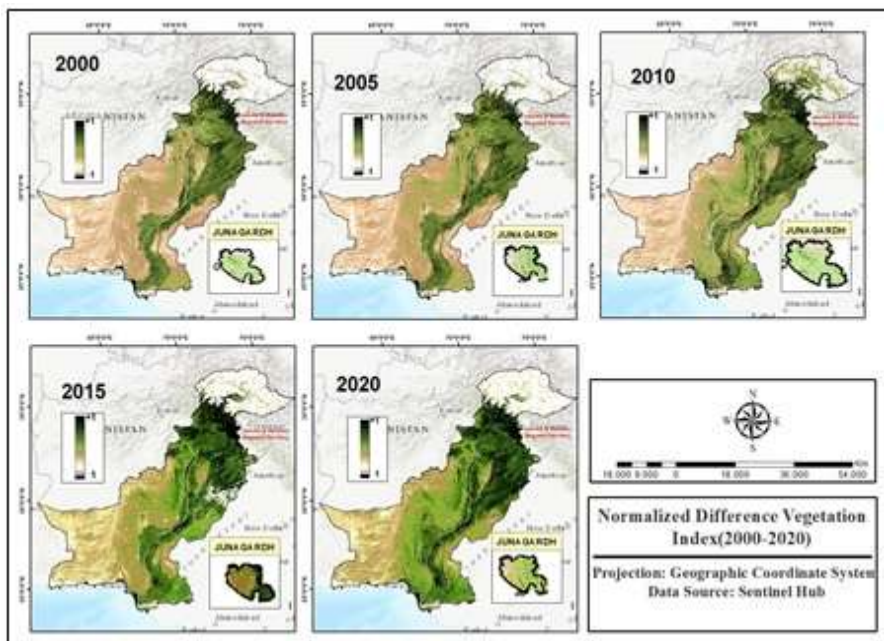


Fig. 5. Shows Pakistan's Agricultural Change by NDVI (2000-2020)

In Fig. 5, we analyse the temporal changes of the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) in Pakistan over 20 years from 2001-2020 with 5 years of temporal gap. The NDVI is a widely used Remote Sensing indicator for regulating and monitoring vegetation health and density. It is calculated using satellite imagery and measures the difference between near-infrared (which vegetation strongly reflects) and red light (which vegetation absorbs). Here are some general observations that the study makes regarding the NDVI patterns in Pakistan:

Northern Mountainous Regions: The Pakistan mountainous north, including the Northeastern and Northwestern ranges that include the Karakoram, Himalayas, and Hindu Kush ranges, generally display lower NDVI values due to the presence of rugged terrain, high elevations, and sparse flora cover at higher altitudes.

Indus River Basin: The Indus River Basin, spanning across Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, often shows higher NDVI values. This is all due to the frequent presence of the Indus River's fertile alluvial soils, irrigation infrastructure, and agricultural activities. **Coastal Areas:** The coastal areas of Pakistan, including the Indus Delta region, show mostly moderate NDVI values depending on the presence of mangroves(salt marshes), and other coastal vegetation.

Arid and Desert Regions: Pakistan's arid and desert regions, such as the Thar Desert and Cholistan Desert, typically display lower NDVI values due to sparse vegetation cover and limited moisture availability.

The above maps also identify regions where vegetation has shown significant growth or decline over the five years. Areas with increased NDVI values may indicate improved vegetation conditions, such as greening due to favourable climatic conditions or reforestation efforts. Conversely, regions with decreased NDVI values may indicate vegetation stress such as drought, land degradation, or land use changes leading to reduced vegetation cover.

There is a noticeable difference in the patterns of temperature when comparing the Land Surface Temperature (LST) map of Pakistan for the years 2002 and 2022. Pakistan's highest LST value ever recorded was 47.37 in 2002. This denotes a region in that particular area that had extreme heat or significant thermal energy absorption that year. It implies a concentrated region of high temperatures, which may have consequences for the climate, the land surface, and possible heat stress (Fig. 6).

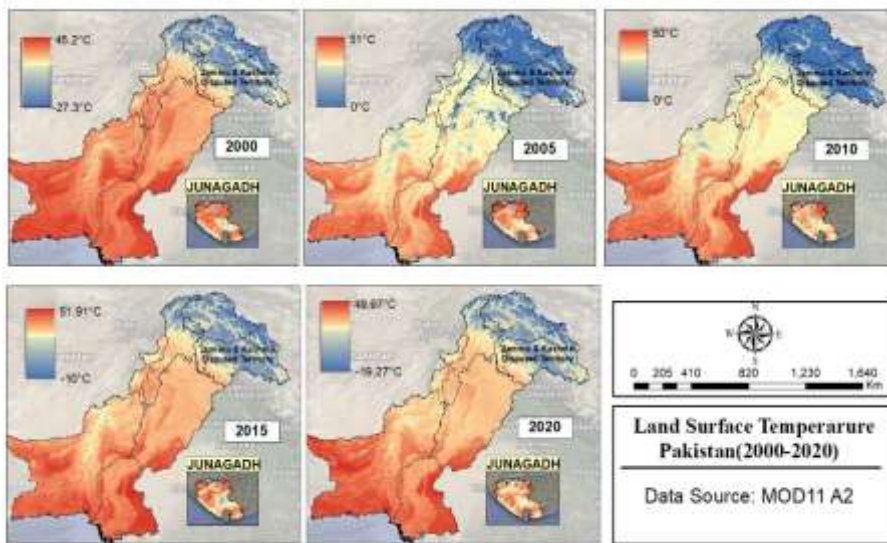


Fig. 6. Shows the LST (Land Surface Temperature)

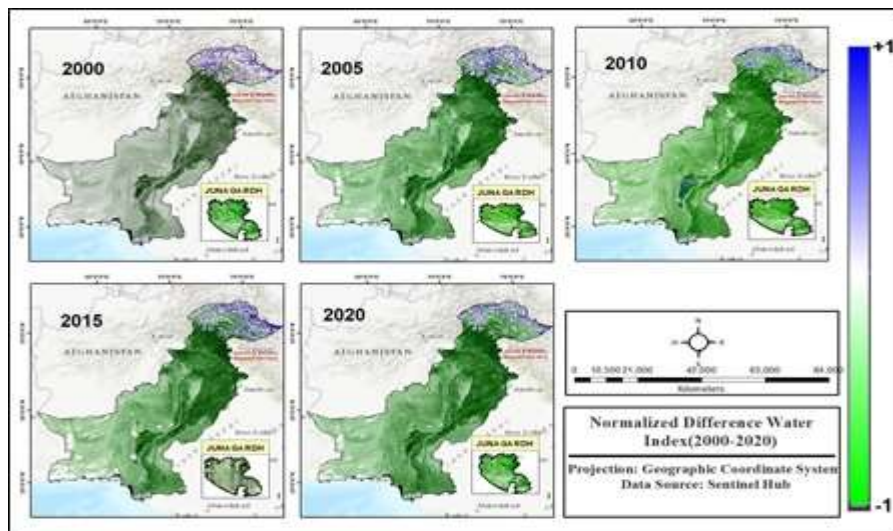


Fig. 7. Analyze the temporal changes of the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI)

In Pakistan over 20 years (2001, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020). The NDWI is a remote sensing index commonly used to detect and monitor the presence of water bodies, such as lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. It is calculated using satellite imagery and measures the difference between the near-infrared (NIR) and shortwave infrared (SWIR) spectral bands. The availability of water bodies or resources in Pakistan can be influenced by flooding or drought years. The study suggests that 2000 is a drought year and the index also shows the lower water availability here. When we

compare 2000 to 2020 we saw a major difference in 2 years due to flood in 2020 (Fig. 7).

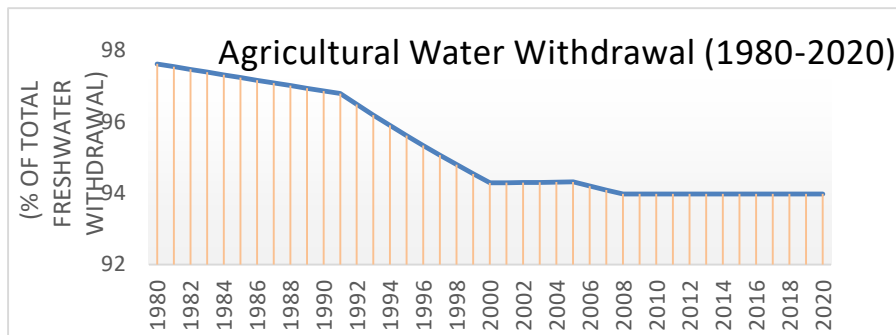


Fig. 8. Shows the Agricultural Water withdrawal of Pakistan
Source: World Bank open source data

A general downward trend may be seen in the graph of agricultural water withdrawal from 1980 to 2020. After the year 2000, a declining tendency is noticeable. Pakistan has been gradually reducing its use of water for agriculture since 2000. Beginning in 2008, this fall became more noticeable, suggesting a considerable decrease in the quantity of water utilized for agriculture. Rivers, canals, and reservoirs are the main sources of surface water used for agriculture in Pakistan. A vital source of water for irrigation is the Indus River and its tributaries. Millions of hectares of agricultural land are supplied with water via the vast network of canals and irrigation systems throughout the nation, notably the Indus Basin Irrigation System.

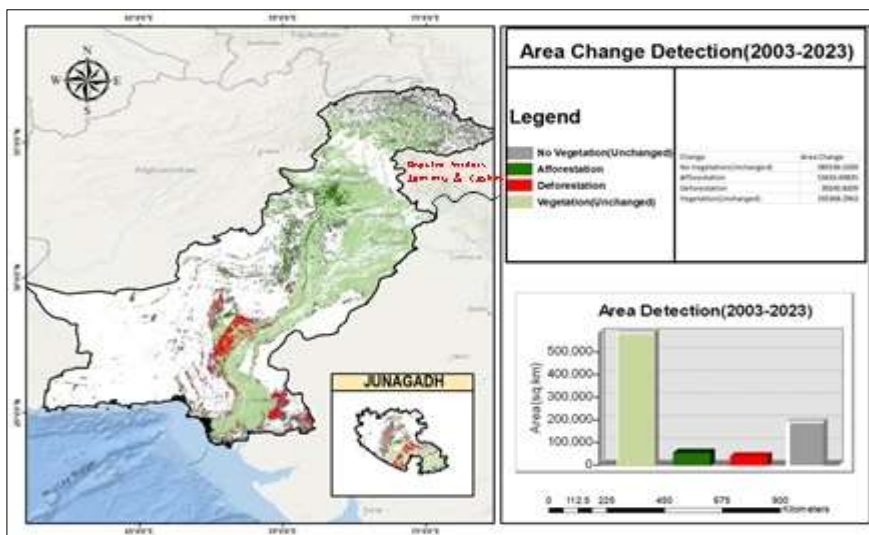


Fig. 9. Pakistan's Agricultural Land Utilization (2000-2020)

Analysis of the Change Detection map from 2003 to 2023, a substantial and alarming trend of vegetation loss in the Sindh region. Our change detection map highlights areas that have been heavily affected by deforestation over the study period. This degradation could be attributed to various factors, including urbanization, agricultural expansion, and climate change impacts.

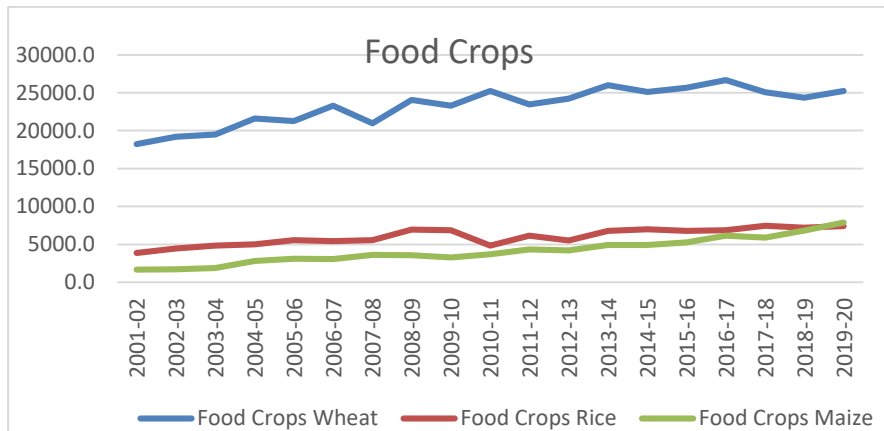


Fig. 10. Shows the major crop production in Pakistan

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

The graph depicts the production trends of Food crops in Pakistan from 2001 to 2020. Wheat production consistently increased, reaching a peak in 2016-17. Rice production showed varied patterns with notable peaks in 2013-14 and 2017-18. Maize production displayed an overall upward trend, particularly surging in 2016-17.

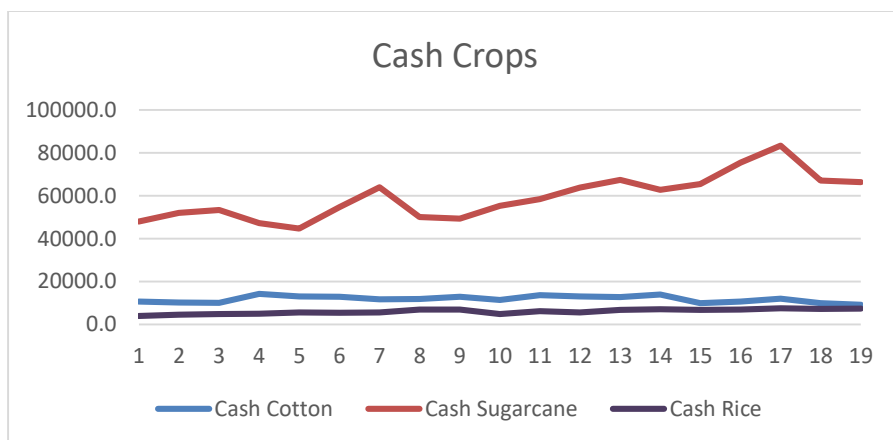


Fig. 11. Shows the Cash crop production in Pakistan

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

The graph depicts the production trends of Food crops in Pakistan from 2001 to 2020. Cotton production experienced fluctuations, witnessing a decline in 2019-20. Sugarcane production steadily increased until 2017-18 but sharply declined in 2018-19. These trends suggest diverse factors influencing crop production, such as climatic conditions, technological advancements, market dynamics, and government policies. The insights derived from this graph underscore the complexity of Pakistan's agricultural landscape, emphasizing the importance of further analyses to comprehend and address challenges within the sector.

4. CONCLUSION

The analysis spanning two decades of climatic trends, agricultural dynamics, and water resource management in Pakistan reveals significant patterns and challenges. High temperatures, concentrated mainly in Sindh and Baluchistan, contrast with lower temperatures in the mountainous north, while precipitation trends highlight higher rainfall in northern regions, particularly in July and December. Variations in the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) depict regional disparities in vegetation health, with coastal and river basin areas showing higher values. Agricultural production, notably of wheat, rice, maize, cotton, and sugarcane, fluctuates over the years, reflecting diverse factors such as climatic conditions and market dynamics. Concurrently, a declining trend in agricultural water withdrawal since 2000 suggests shifts in water management strategies. Analysis of the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) underscores temporal changes in water availability, influenced by droughts and floods. Satellite imagery further reveals alterations in land surface temperature (LST) and vegetation cover, indicative of evolving land use patterns and climatic impacts. Overall, these findings emphasize the intricate relationship between climate variability, agricultural productivity, and water resource management, necessitating holistic strategies for adaptation and resilience-building in Pakistan's socio-environmental landscape.

5. RECOMMENDATION

1. Constructing more reservoirs or dams: Reservoirs and dams are effective ways to store large amounts of fresh or precipitated water. Building new dams and reservoirs or expanding existing ones can help to capture and store water during wet periods for use during dry periods.
2. Promoting rainwater harvesting: Rainwater collected from rooftops, roadways, and other surfaces can be stored and used as a vital supply of fresh water for home and agricultural applications. This can be

accomplished with more sophisticated systems that store water in subterranean tanks or cisterns, or with more basic methods like rain barrels.

3. **Implementation of water recycling and reuse:** Water recycling and reuse can reduce the demand for fresh water and provide an additional source of water for non-potable uses such as irrigation, industrial processes, and toilet flushing. Water can be treated and reused for many uses by using technologies like desalination, blackwater treatment, and greywater recycling.
4. **Improve Water Governance:** Enhance water governance frameworks at local, regional, and national levels. Adopt integrated approaches to managing water resources that take into account the environmental, social, and economic aspects of water scarcity. This includes promoting stakeholder engagement, participatory decision-making processes, and transparent water allocation mechanisms.
5. **Enhance Water Efficiency:** Encourage water-efficient practices in agriculture, industry, and domestic sectors. Encourage the use of cutting-edge irrigation technologies, including precision farming, drip irrigation, and water-saving methods. Inform farmers, businesses, and people in general on the value of water conservation and effective water use.
6. **Promote Water Conservation:** Launch public awareness programs to promote water conservation practices at the household level. Encourage behaviours such as reducing water consumption or usage, fixing leakages, and using water-saving appliances. Implement water pricing mechanisms that reflect the true value of water to encourage responsible use.
7. **Implement Climate Change Adaptation Measures:** Acknowledge how climate change affects the supply of water and create appropriate adaptation plans. This could entail encouraging resilient water infrastructure design, supporting water-sensitive urban planning techniques, and factoring climate change projections into plans for water management.
8. **Strengthen International Cooperation:** Collaborate with neighbouring countries and international organizations to address Transboundary Freshwater management challenges. Foster dialogue, information sharing, and joint initiatives for sustainable water allocation, river basin management, and conflict resolution.

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