

Pakistan's Shared Water Resources: Time for Solutions

'Pakistan's water economy is highly dependent on the Indus river system comprising the Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej rivers' (Briscoe and Qamar 2005). Agriculture contribution to Pakistan's economy 'accounts for 19.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employing 42.3 percent of the labour force and providing raw material for several value-added sectors' (GoP 2017). Though Pakistan's industrial and urban economy continues to grow, agriculture is still the mainstay of the economy (Briscoe and Qamar 2005). Moreover, areas outside the immediate Indus Basin such as Balochistan are heavily dependent on groundwater for sustenance of livelihoods and the economy. While Pakistan's water resources are increasingly under stress, the issue at hand is not of low water availability but of reduced efficiency. It is in this context that this panel will analyse Pakistan's water concerns from the perspective of four key areas:

1. Enhancing agricultural efficiency
2. Corporate water governance
3. Groundwater management
4. Industrial and municipal wastewater management

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