



Investment Potentials of Agriculture Sector in Gilgit-Baltistan

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is the northernmost region of Pakistan, covering an area of 72,496 km². This sparsely populated region of Gilgit Baltistan lies amidst the world's highest mountain ranges: Himalayas, the Karakoram, and Hindu Kush. The region holds significant geographical importance, as it is situated at the entry point of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a framework for regional connectivity that enters Pakistan via Gilgit Baltistan.

The majority of the population depends on agriculture. The agro-ecological diversity of GB enables the production of a wide range of high-value agricultural crops in a relatively pest and disease-free environment due to its dry climate. Irrigation water is unpolluted and clean. These factors contribute to grow crops in a more natural and organic way, offering healthy and high-value products.

In recent years, the Government of Pakistan is giving the utmost priority to the overall development of GB. Government of Pakistan increased allocation for PSDP projects and enhanced ADP budgets with special attention to road infrastructure, education, tourism and agriculture. These measures have led to improved connectivity leading to high influx of tourists and marketing of local agri-products to national and international markets, positively impacting the regional economy. This provides a great opportunity for investment and establishing businesses in the agricultural sector of the area.

The major fruits of great economic and commercial value in GB are; apricots, cherries, apples, and grapes. Walnuts, pine nuts and almonds are grown on a significant scale. These high-value fruits provide excellent opportunities for investors due to market demand and high production.

There are also ample investment opportunities in vegetables, such as potatoes, due to their seasonal advantage over the down country, which is the main cash crop of the region. GB, being located in highlands, is highly favorable for seed potato production in a relatively disease and pest-free environment. Other vegetables that can potentially provide high value include tomatoes, peas, and capsicum, which are also grown in the off seasons of the mainland.

Another avenue that offers great investment potential includes dairy farming and milk processing to cater the local demand. Trout farming is also a profitable sector for investment. In livestock, yak farming has gained immense importance in the region due to the high demand for yak meat.



Investment Avenues

Fruits:

Products	Production (MT)	Investment Opportunities	Potential Areas/Districts
Apricot	125,184.08	- Fresh Product - Dried Products - Establishment of processing facility for value added products such as Jams, candy, pulping, Juices. - Oil Extraction - Establishment of Commercial orchards and Nurseries.	- Gilgit - Hunza - Nagar - Ghizer - Skardu - Shigar - Kharmang - Ghanche
Cherry	60,85.14	- Marketing of Fresh Fruit in national and international markets - Establishment of processing facilities for value added products such as Jams, pulping, Juices. - Establishment of Commercial orchards and Nurseries.	- Gilgit - Hunza - Nagar - Ghizer - Skardu
Apple	23,331.98	- Fresh Market - Establishment of processing facilities for value added products such as Jams, pulping, Juices, vinegar. - Establishment of Commercial orchards and Nurseries.	- Hunza - Nagar - Ghizer - Skardu - Kharmang - Astore
Grapes	8,378.76	- Fresh Market - Dried - Establishment of processing facilities for value added products such as Juices, vinegar. - Establishment of vineyards of improved and exotic varieties	- Ghizer - Diamer - Skardu - Gilgit

Nuts:

Nuts	Production (Tonns)	Investment Opportunities	Potential Areas/Districts
Walnut	6,577	- Establishment of Commercial orchards of improved varieties - Establishment of processing facility	- Diamer - Nagar - Shigar - Ghanche - Ghizer
Almond	1,629	- Establishment of Commercial orchards of improved varieties - Establishment of processing facility	- Ghizer - Diamer - Astore

Vegetables:

Crops	Production (M.Tonns)	Investment Opportunities	Potential Area/Districts
Potato	134,000	Seed Potato production	Cultivable high lands of entire GB
Tomato	6,455	Fresh marketing during off-season	All districts of GB
Peas	2,121	Production for Fresh marketing in down country market, off season advantage	Diamer Baltistan Gilgit
Capsicum	977	Production for Fresh marketing in down country market	Diamer

Investment in Service Sector:

- Pack houses
- Storage facilities
- Cool chains system and swift transportation
- Input stores of quality seeds, fertilizers/biofertilizers

Investment Potential in Livestock and Fisheries

- Establishment of commercial dairy farms and milk processing units
- Yak meat value chain
- Trout fish farming

Agro and Eco Friendly Tourism

GILGIT: House No. 04,
River View Road, Chinar Bagh, Gilgit

05811 - 922550-4

www.etigb.com.pk

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BALTISTAN: Patwal Olding, near Agha Hadi
Chowk Skardu, Baltistan

05815 - 920152-3

DIAMER: Molana Baqi House Tawheedi
Colony, Chilas, Diamer

05812 - 920225-6

