Challanges and Strategies of Dryland Agriculture in Pakistan. (A06-rashid120533-Oral)

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Abstract:

In Pakistan ~25% of the ~22 Mha cultivated area is dryland rainfed where major crops are wheat chickpea sorghum millet maize barley lentil peanut and rapeseed-mustard Most dryland soils are low in organic matter <0.86% and ~100% soils are deficient in nitrogen N >90% in phosphorus P and ~25% in potassium K Deficiencies of zinc boron and iron are also widespread Organic manure use is minimal and confined to village suburbs and or vegetables As most of the rainfall is monsoonal ~70% and highly erratic resource-poor farmers are shy of investing on fertilizers Inadequate fertilizer availability at peak demand periods and dubious quality are additional constraints Nitrogen use in minimal and P use is negligible Micronutrients though highly cost-effective in deficient situations rarely used in dryland agriculture Consequently macro- and micro-nutrient deficiencies are constraining potential yield realizations This poor fertilizer use situation can be rectified to a large extent by better moisture conservation balanced use of N and P banding of P fertilizer and breeding for micronutrient efficiency in dryland crops

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