

3rd BRI Sino-Pakistan Agriculture Forum

Huazhong Agriculture University, Wuhan

14 December 2021

**Respected Vice Chancellors, Deans, Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen
Good Morning**

It is my great pleasure to participate at the third BRI Sino-Pakistan agricultural forum. I thank Huazhong Agriculture University who organized this event on a very important and critical area of Agriculture especially focusing on green and sustainable agriculture through innovation.

I'm glad to know that despite the challenges of the COVID pandemic, many vice-chancellors, Deans, experts and students from different universities of China and Pakistan are participating in this forum. Today my special thanks to the Huazhong Agriculture University and its leadership for its support to Pakistan all these years in the Agriculture sector.

Hundreds of Pakistani students had studied at this university and are currently studying as well. This is a great university which has marvellous achievements in developing new hybrid seeds, different plant varieties and animal vaccines so we would certainly like to deepen and strengthen our cooperation with this university by setting linkages with Pakistani universities like the University of Agriculture Faisalabad which I understand the university already had some arrangement, friendship and cooperation arrangement.

As you know that the dawn of age and innovation and technology has transformed the agriculture sector too. Agriculture has now moved from being a social sector of subsistence to a wealth creation enterprise. The digital mechanized agriculture is helping unprivileged farming communities for defeating poverty and bridging the income gap between the villages and cities. China has rapidly risen as a world leader in technical modernization. In the last 40 years of reform and opening up, it was able to bring the Green Revolution by creating more farmlands, increased productivity, thus ensuring the well-being of its countless farmers.

Chinese miracle is a good example for developing countries like Pakistan.

Difference;

Pakistan has been endowed with fertile land, good Water resources and Four Seasons, allowing us to grow a variety of crops all around the year.

Fertile lands of the Indus Valley of Pakistan practice agriculture since 10 thousand BC.

The crop producing regions of modern Pakistan are keep increasing. Pakistan holds the greenery of the entire subcontinent. Agriculture contributes 80% of Pakistan GDP, provides employment for 38% of total labor work force. Pakistan is the top producer of the world in wheat, cotton, rice, sugarcane and in the variety of fruits. We also have the world largest livestock, which offers great potential for future growth. So Agricultural development in Pakistan perspective is a road map to meet National Development goals, defeat poverty and ensure smooth and steady growth of our industrial sector, especially like Textile, and sugar Industry which is dependent on our agriculture sector.

So our Government has therefore made agricultural revitalization and preachment for its broad based efforts in social economic development in the country and as well as mitigation of climate change and contributing to overall national development. In order to achieve this, we look forward to our close win-win cooperation with China in recent years. Cooperation in the agricultural sector has been receiving support from the leadership of our two countries.

Therefore, we have established a special working Group on agriculture under China Pakistan Economic Corridor Framework. And there's an action plan which is being undergoing with the support of many Research institution and economic institutions of the two countries and focus, of course, is to learn from each other. Especially from Chinese best practices to see how we can learn from China in terms of developing of hybrid seeds, upgrading our education system, cold chain network in the country needs to upgrade, and bringing value addition to the farm produce.

So we are very grateful that this forum is going to focus on this important area of cooperation and also see that how we can use new technologies. A new techniques, a new innovative techniques to improve the crop yield in our two countries. So I'm very grateful to the organizers for doing this in a very important year. As part of the 70 year celebrations, This year we are celebrating our 70 years diplomatic relationship, so I'm grateful to all the Universities for holding this very important event this year and I wish it a great success. Thank you so much.

Long live China Pakistan friendship.