

Agriculture

The agriculture sector in Afghanistan contributes 53 percent of the GDP and employs an estimated 67.2 percent of labor, as stated in the GDP/Employment by Sector of Origin table. The primary food crops produced are barley, maize, potatoes, rice, sugar beets, sugar cane and wheat. The primary meat products are beef and veal, chicken, game, camel and lamb. The largest (in value terms) agricultural exports in 1998 were: skin-goats, raisins, grapes, cotton and organic materials. The total value of agricultural exports in 1998 was \$86.6 million, while the total value of agricultural imports in 1998 was \$190.8 million.

As of September, 1999, Pakistan was in communication with Afghanistan regarding the sale of wheat, which was finding its way across the border through illegal channels. Pakistan has sufficient wheat production not only to meet its own needs, but also is capable of supplying Afghanistan. Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed that Pakistan would provide over half a million tons of wheat to Afghanistan. To date Afghanistan has taken possession of and has paid for approximately 200,000 tons of wheat. However, further Afghanistan purchases have not been transacted. Following the cessation of deliveries it has been noted that illegal movements of the wheat across the border has increased.

U.N. assessment teams in northern Afghanistan have received reports in the summer of 1999 concerning the demolition of irrigation and other agricultural support facilities by Taliban forces in their efforts against opposition forces.

Afghanistan is reported to be the world's second-largest illicit opium producer after Burma (1,230 metric tons in 1996 - down 2% from 1995) and a major source of hashish.

Afghanistan
Key Sectors
Agriculture/Food: Production of Primary Crops
(Metric Tons)

Product	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
BANANAS	0	0	0	0	0
BARLEY	220,000	250,000	240,000	216,000	74,000
COCOA BEANS	0	0	0	0	0
COCONUTS	0	0	0	0	0
COFFEE, GREEN	0	0	0	0	0
MAIZE	360,000	300,000	330,000	240,000	115,000
POTATOES	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000	235,000
RICE, PADDY	350,000	400,000	450,000	420,000	232,800
SOYBEANS	0	0	0	0	0
SUGAR BEETS	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

SUGAR CANE	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000	38,000
WHEAT	1,700,000	2,711,000	2,834,000	2,499,000	1,469,000
TOTAL PRODUCTION	2,904,000	3,935,000	4,128,000	3,649,000	2,164,800
GROWTH RATE (%)	-	35.5%	4.9%	-11.6%	-40.7%

Sources: UN Food and Agricultural Organization

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