



# Drip Irrigation Technology

## The Future of Pakistan's Agriculture

**C**itrus is a major fruit of Pakistan whose main edible types include Mandarin, Oranges, Grapefruit, Lemon and Limes. It is mostly grown in unique alluvial soils of Sargodha, Toba Tek Singh, Mandi Bahauddin, Sahiwal, Vehari, Kahnewal, Bahawalpur, Multan, Okara and Layyah districts in the Punjab. Although, the farmers of these areas used to grow citrus for decades but successful adoption of drip irrigation technology under the World Bank assisted "Punjab Irrigated-Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (PIPIP)" has geared up citrus cultivation in these areas. Under this project, drip irrigation systems are being provided to the farmers at subsidized cost all over the Punjab. Drip irrigation is one of those radical technologies which have brought the Punjab's irrigated agriculture to a new level of crop diversification.

**M**r. Aslam, a progressive farmer of Toba Tek Singh district, is one of those beneficiaries who got drip irrigation system installed on five (5) acres during 2013-14 under the PIPIP for cultivation of citrus. He excitedly shared his experience about successful citrus cultivation with drip irrigation "**it is the best technology for dense orchards due to high efficiency of agricultural inputs especially water and fertilizer**. Before installation of drip irrigation, I was very upset owing to shortage of canal water and brackish groundwater. Actually, my land was located at tail of the water channel and I had very little canal water, hardly to irrigate 1 acre on my turn out of 6 acres land. At that time, I found this technology best rescue option for resolution of water shortage problem".

**R**egarding production, Mr. Aslam shared that "this year, **I have sold fruit of my 5 acres citrus orchard to a contractor fetching net profit of Rs. 130,000 (US\$ 933) per acre**. Whereas, income from the citrus orchard grown with traditional method is about Rs. 70,000 (US\$ 501) per acre. Actually, **Citrus orchard cultivated with drip irrigation is very healthy and has vigorous stand, uniform fruit size, and more fruit on strong & resilient branches leading to higher yield per plant**".

**M**r. Ghulam Shabir, Deputy Director Agriculture (OFWM), T.T. Singh pointed out that "like Mr. Aslam, there are many farmers who are getting benefits from this highly efficient technology and changing their fates. Drip irrigation is need of the hour especially for the Toba Tek Singh district because farmers have very limited canal water while groundwater is brackish. This precious canal water can be used drop by drop through drip irrigation to get higher yields per acre".

**W**hile discussing the success of drip irrigation technology, Mr. Aslam shared that "**I am highly satisfied with this technology** and suggest other farmers to adopt it not only to save the precious water but also to get higher yields with less agricultural inputs. He considers drip irrigation technology as the future of Pakistan's agriculture due to projected severe water shortage in coming years".

## PIPIP Feature Story



**Net Profit**  
**PKR 130,000 (US\$ 933)**  
**per acre**



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