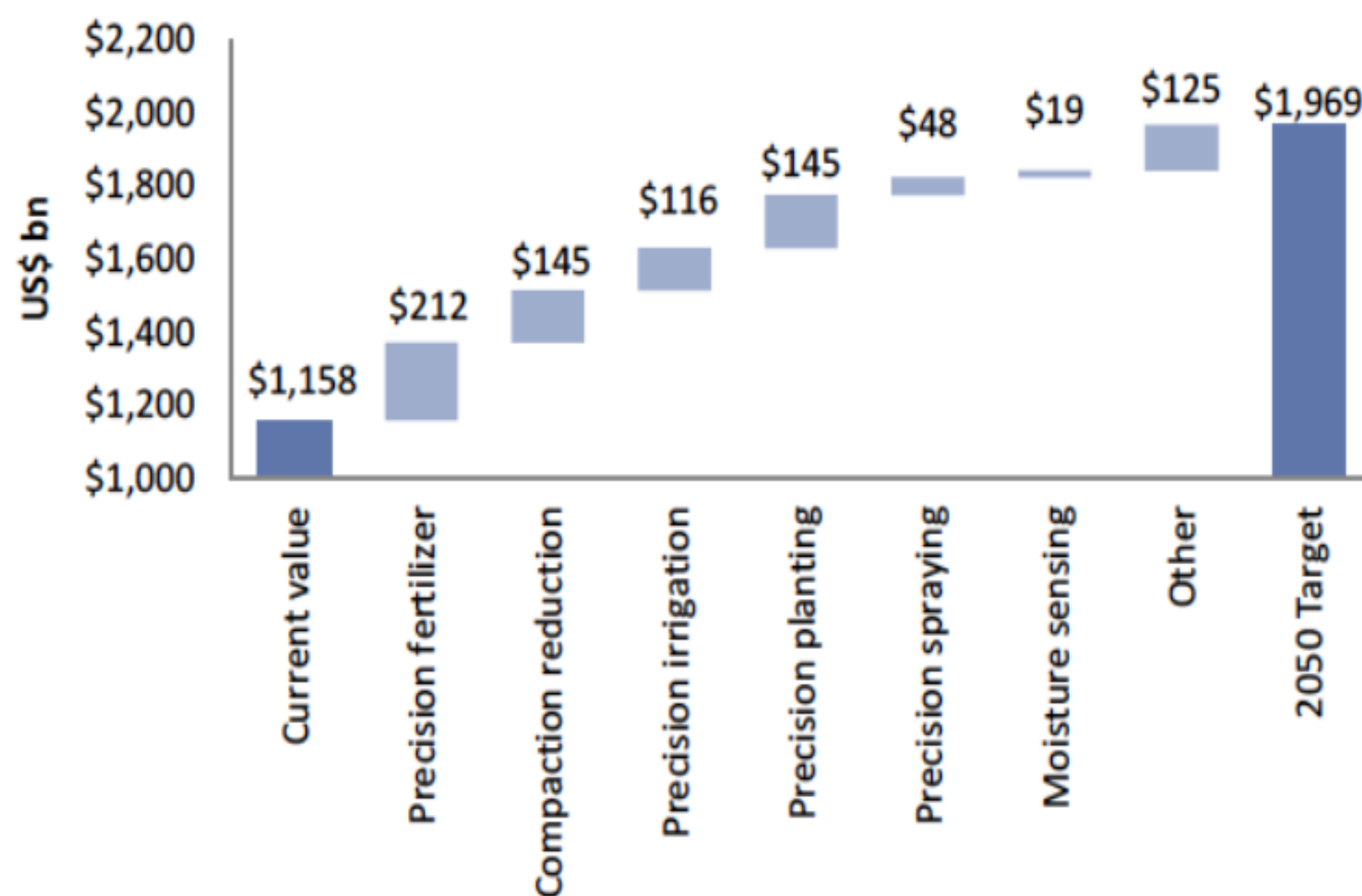




Drip Irrigation: A Highly Impacting Initiative for Precision Agriculture

**PIPIP
Feature Story**

A report published by Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research Company highlights that significant increase in expected yields can be achieved with technological improvements/ introduction of precision agriculture. This report indicates that adoption of new technologies can bring 70% higher crop yields on the same agricultural land. The research data shows the estimated impact of different technologies on the global crop value (US billion) as given below.



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research, Company Data.

Although, majority of the farmers are growing conventional crops using traditional methods of irrigation in the Punjab, but agricultural producers/ innovative farmers are adopting precision agriculture technologies in recent years to grow high value crops for getting better economic returns. In the agricultural industry, there are many technologies that fall under the category of "precision agriculture". Precision agriculture technologies are changing the farming practices for better crops management and use of precious agricultural inputs in an efficient manner.

One of the most efficient precision irrigation technologies is drip irrigation which ensures precise application of precious agricultural inputs especially water & fertilizer. Mr. M. Shakeel, a native of Chak 91/ G.B., tehsil & district Faisalabad, is an innovative farmer, who adopted drip irrigation method for the cultivation of vegetables to overcome water shortage problem. He shared his pleasant experience as "vegetables cultivation under drip irrigation has a lot of benefits which include water, fertilizer & time saving, less insect pest/disease attack, yield enhancement etc. I am growing different vegetables using drip irrigation on three (3) acres. Water and fertilizer use at my farm have come down by almost fifty (50) percent and crop yields have increased more than thirty (30) percent".



Mr. M. Shakeel
Ph #: +92-343-7157084
Chak 91/ G.B.,
Tehsil & District Faisalabad
Punjab Pakistan

While describing social development through use of modern irrigation practices, he told that vegetable cultivation using drip irrigation has created livelihood opportunities for local people particularly females of the nearby villages as labor force for sowing, harvesting and other farm operations. Presently, four (4) men and twelve (12) women are working as permanent workers earning ten thousand rupees (Rs. 10,000) per month at a small farm of only three acres".

As the government is providing subsidy for installation of drip irrigation to promote precision agriculture, the farmers have started growing high value crops including vegetables and orchards using less agricultural inputs to get higher economic returns. Summing it up, Drip irrigation is helping the progressive growers to use agricultural inputs precisely and it's a highly impacting initiative in the agriculture sector.

