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Title of Entry	: R&D Investment on Basmati Rice in Pakistan
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Abstract : Basmati rice is Pakistan's celebrated export commodity. After years of growth, its production and export have slipped and are on a downward trend. The absence of a strong R&D investment makes it difficult for the sector to prepare for new challenges. The status of Basmati rice as a major export commodity hides the fact that its contribution is suboptimal. Without a policy commitment to elevate Basmati rice as a strategic product, it will continue to be impacted by changing economic and environmental conditions. Extra funding for the commodity can be easily channelled through existing resources including cess collected from its export. The bigger challenge is to change the embedded mind-set of R&D that restricts its connectivity to production and commercialization. Overall funding for agriculture research in Pakistan is at par with peers but its allocation to the biggest export commodity is low, which may explain falling competitiveness and export volumes. Misaligned reward and compensation incentives make the current public sector R&D system unsuitable for sustained development and international competitiveness. While the private sector has been filling some gaps, these are motivated by own commercial interests as opposed to sector-wide development. Successful models of Agricultural R&D exist around the world but the challenge is to reform the large incumbent research bureaucracy in Pakistan. Focusing on Pakistan's main food export may be a better way to demonstrate the rapid benefits that can accrue from proper alignment of research incentives. The issue is not of level of resources but their efficient allocation and usage. A strategic R&D plan for the commodity is a prerequisite for achieving growth in the sector. This is something that has been missing at an institutional level in Pakistan till now.

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