

WTO COMPLIANCE

World Trade Organization regulates the inevitable and profitable global trade. Pakistan, like all other developing countries, is in the process of implementing the provisions of WTO. As a result, its trade, and industrial and agricultural sectors are undergoing radical changes in compliance with GATT/WTO rules and regulations. Where these rules give industries and business enterprises certain rights, they also place some obligations on them. Unfortunately there has not been enough development in Pakistan to raise awareness and understanding about WTO particularly in agriculture sector. PARC, therefore, has specifically focused itself in developing awareness particularly on food safety standards and intellectual property rights in agriculture.

WTO preparedness work was directed towards organizing awareness international workshop and assessing comparative advantage of Pakistan in production of field crops.

- Two international workshops were organized on the important topics of Food Safety Standards in Better Export of Fruits and Vegetable Products and Intellectual Property Rights in Agriculture to identify food safety, product quality and patenting of new products of agricultural research. Participants from Thirteen (13) APO member countries shared their experiences. The events hinted that massive efforts are needed to bring competitiveness and quality improvement in Pakistan's food sector. Institutional and legislative reforms are pre-requisite for promoting innovations and securing patent rights in agriculture.
- The textile market requires production of contamination free cotton. In a study on production of contamination free cotton, a 92 percent cotton traders reported improvement in the quality due to Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) adopted by the farmers.
- While assessing Pakistan's comparative advantage and competitiveness in production of field crops, studies revealed that cotton production has good economic efficiency in Punjab and Sindh. However, basmati rice competitiveness is low at farm level but has strong economic efficiency and comparative advantage at the national level.