



Press Release **Government's Callousness Deepens Hunger!**



October 16, 2025

The Pakistan Kissan Mazdoor Tehreek (PKMT) and Roots for Equity, in collaboration with regional and international allies including the Asian Peasant Coalition (APC) and the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS), marked World Food Day as "World Hunger Day." A protest was organized by PKMT in front of the Peshawar Press Club, where farmers from Peshawar and Haripur participated in large numbers.

PKMT leaders strongly condemned the government's anti-farmer policies and its attack on food sovereignty. They stated that once again this year, the government has failed to announce a support price for wheat, pushing small and landless farmers into deep economic distress.

According to PKMT, wheat is central to Pakistan's food sovereignty. The government's inaction on setting a support price for wheat is an assault on farmers' livelihoods, and ignores their hard labour. Farmers are unable to cover their production costs, while soaring price of fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides have made survival even harder. Meanwhile, multinational agribusinesses continue to reap massive profits.

Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2020–24 shows that Pakistan's food security has further deteriorated. Around 42.1% of the population, that is more than 104 million people lack regular access to sufficient and adequate food. The Global Hunger Index 2025 ranks Pakistan 106 out of 123 countries, placing it among nations facing severe hunger.

PKMT representatives said that despite global food price shocks and the worsening climate crisis in the country, Pakistan's ruling elite have abandoned agriculture to the mercy of free market. On one hand, neoliberal policies promoting digitalization, imported livestock, and genetically modified seeds are being given prime attention which benefits only large landowners and agribusiness corporations. On the other hand, the absence of a fair wheat support price will further weaken local production and worsen food insecurity, which is already at crisis levels.

This crisis hits small and landless farmers, laborers, and rural communities the hardest. Many farmers are being forced to reduce wheat cultivation or sell their land. Decline in domestic production will increase dependence on food imports, threatening the country's sovereignty. Only rich industrial countries of Europe and United States benefit from this dependency, allowing them to increase their imports and secure higher profits. Farming is being made unaffordable and unsustainable forcing small farmers off their lands, paving the way for complete corporate and feudal control over agriculture.

For the protection of farmers' livelihood, food, and national sovereignty, PKMT demands:

1. Immediate announcement of minimum support price for wheat, ensuring at least a 25% profit margin over production costs;
2. A farmer-centered agricultural policy that encompasses climate justice with full meaningful participation of small and landless farmers;
3. Recognition of food as a basic human right, with pro-people agricultural and trade policies not governed by imperialist free market system;
4. Immediate price control on essential food items including flour, rice, and cooking oil;
5. Steps to control inflation by reducing electricity, gas, and transport prices for farmers and urban poor;
6. End corporate control over seeds to protect farmers' rights and sovereignty and promote local seed varieties, and food sovereignty;
7. Ensure just and equitable distribution of land.

PKMT warned that if the government fails to meet these legitimate demands, it will launch a nationwide protest movement. On World Hunger Day, PKMT called on the public, workers, students, civil society groups, and all concerned citizens to stand with farmers in defending the right to food, land, and life.

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