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## 21st Century Landscape Sustainability, Development and Transformations: Geographical Perceptions

Giovanni Messina, Bresena Kopliku (Eds)

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### 12. Infrastructural development under CPEC and its impact on Pakistan's agricultural landscape

*Muhammad Ammad Khan, Maryam Dogar, Mahreen Khalid<sup>1</sup>*

#### Abstract

The year 2023 marked a decade since the China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was formally launched in Pakistan as a part of the larger Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It focuses heavily on infrastructural development and aims to transform transportation linkages, build trade channels, generate energy, and enhance telecommunication. The project also promises to enlarge Pakistan's agriculture sector by increasing accessibility to remote agricultural areas, facilitating the access of agricultural goods to wider markets, improving the livelihoods of small farmers, and enhancing its contribution to the national economy. These ambitious goals hold the potential to attract foreign investment and offer diverse work possibilities in rural areas, thereby overcoming local challenges. Moreover, the agro-

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processing industries create export potential through the development of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) utilizing thousands of acres of agricultural land. This chapter delves into the multifaceted aspects of CPEC's impact on Pakistan's agriculture and farming communities. It explores the growing apprehension regarding the far-reaching consequences on the socio-economic and political aspects of communities that are engaged in agriculture and farming. The analysis in this chapter adopts the Triple-Bottom-Line (TBL) approach to sustainability. Drawing from the experiences of other economic corridors, the chapter emphasizes the importance of conducting thorough environmental impact assessments and implementing mitigation measures to ensure that CPEC's development is ecologically sustainable. By adhering to sustainability principles, CPEC can maximize the economic potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector, while also addressing pressing environmental and social concerns. It will also help it to remain relevant in the emerging landscape of corridors that strive to align themselves with sustainability goals. This chapter offers valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders involved in the CPEC project and similar initiatives worldwide.

**Keywords:** *CPEC; Special Economic Zones; Infrastructure; Agriculture; Energy; Climate Change*



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