

*Original Research*

# **Farmers’ Awareness about Impacts of Reusing Wastewater, Risk Perception and Adaptation to Climate Change in Faisalabad District, Pakistan**

**Muhammad Tayyab Sohail<sup>1\*</sup>, Xuan Lin<sup>2\*\*</sup>, Liang Lizhi<sup>1\*\*\*</sup>,  
Muhammad Rizwanullah<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Nasrullah<sup>1</sup>, Yu Xiuyuan<sup>1</sup>,  
Zaira Manzoor<sup>3</sup>, Randriamihanta Jery Elis<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>School of Public Administration, Xiangtan University, Hunan Xiangtan, 411105 P.R. China

<sup>2</sup>School of Public Administration, China University of Geosciences Wuhan, 430000 P.R. China

<sup>3</sup>School of Economics, Shandong University Jinan, 250000 P.R. China

<sup>4</sup>Department of Law, Central South University, Changsha, 410000 P.R. China

*Received: 7 February 2021*

*Accepted: 15 March 2021*

## **Abstract**

Water scarceness is the most critical problem for numerous arid and semi-arid areas. It leads to the use of wastewater in many countries. This study was aimed to determine the farmer’s awareness about reusing wastewater in their risk perception and adaptation to climate change in district Faisalabad, Pakistan. Faisalabad has become an industrial hub and industrial discharge is becoming problematic for local community and environment. Usually, farmers depend on wastewater for agriculture purposes in many aspects. The present study was divided into two phases, in the first phase a questionnaire-based study was conducted in urban and peri-urban areas while in the second phase, wastewater quality parameters were determined (pH, SS, TDS, BOD, COD, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, nickel and zinc) and compared with Pakistan Environmental Quality Standards. Results indicated that farmers had a strong awareness (96.8%) about fertility value of wastewater for many aspects, but they were unaware (71.6%) about health hazard of untreated wastewater used for crop irrigation. In the current study correlation of Determining of Climate Change (DCC) with age and farming experience was highly significant with correlation values 0.48 and 0.40 respectively. Adaption Measures (AM) correlation values with age and farming experience were 0.49 and 0.75 respectively. Other variables livelihood Assets (LA) was also correlated with Determining of Climate Change (DCC) and Adaption Measures (AM) and all variables were found significant weak to moderate correlation among all selected variables. Farmers (>70%) used different techniques to adapt to climate change like irrigation, seeds,

\*e-mail: tayyabsohail@yahoo.com

\*\*e-mail: xuanlin19930522@163.com

\*\*\*e-mail: 188793258@qq.com





individual circumstances and farming practices which additionally define as individual farmer's response and adaption capacity, as described by Bryan et al., [25]. Table 1 explained demographic information of all respondents too, most of the interviewed farmers in Chak Jhumra was 93% male and 7% female, Faisalabad Sadar 90% male and 10% female, Jaranwala 95% male

and 5% female, Sumundri 92% male and 8% female, while in Tandlianwala 87% male and 13% female. In all tehsils of district Faisalabad, age of farmers was between 25-35 years, which showed most of them were young and energetic. In Tehsils Chak Jhumra 71% and Tiandianwala 72% had primary level education while Faisalabad Sadar, Jaranwala and Sumundri maximum

Table 1. Demographic information of participants.

Characteristics	Categories	Tehsils of district Faisalabad					Total (N)
		Chak Jhumra %	Faisalabad Sadar %	Jaranwala %	Samundri %	Tandlianwala %	
<b>Survey Participants (N)</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>900</b>
Gender	Male	93	90	95	92	87	
	Female	7	10	5	8	13	
Age (Years)	18-25	10	12	8	7	17	
	25-35	40	39	42	49	50	
	35-45	25	18	19	22	19	
	45-above	25	31	31	22	14	
Education (Years)	0	10	8	5	4	3	
	1-5	71	24	45	30	72	
	6-more	19	68	50	66	25	
Family Size (Numbers)	1-2	16	7	4	6	5	
	3-4	27	28	30	38	36	
	5-6	32	44	46	35	43	
	7-above	25	24	19	21	16	
Farming present land (Years)	1-10	30	28	35	20	17	
	11-20	46	60	63	75	83	
	21-above	26	12	2	5	0	
Land Preparation (use)	Tractor	80	100	84	100	82	
	Bullocks	16	0	6	0	10	
	Both	4	0	10	0	8	
Plowing per year	One	9	0	0	3	4	
	Twice	80	86	89	79	90	
	Three-more	11	14	11	18	6	
Frequency of Irrigation	Nil	0	0	1	0	1	
	Weekly	7	13	4	12	8	
	After 2 weeks	56	52	52	56	51	
	Monthly	37	35	42	32	40	
Information Sources	Media	22	16	29	14	13	
	Other farmers	60	70	72	80	82	
	Own view	10	11	20	6	4	
	Do not know	8	3	0	0	0	

Source: Field Survey

people had more than 6 years education level. Deressa et al. [54] described that the awareness of the farmer is positively related to farming experience and education. The family size in tehsils was a little high almost all families have more than 2 children while some tehsils have more than five as well that was also providing labor force in farming. The majority of farmers (Chak Jhumra was 46%, Faisalabad Sadar 60%, Jaranwala 63%, Sumundri 75% and in Tandlianwala 83%) had more than ten years' experience. In all five tehsils, majority of the respondents used tractors for plowing land. The ratios in all tehsils Chak Jhumra, Faisalabad Sadar, Jaranwala, Sumundri and in Tandlianwala were 80%, 100%, 84%, 100%, and 82 respectively. More than 70% farmers in all five tehsils plowed their land twice per year. The majority of the respondents irrigated their lands after two weeks. It's very important from where farmers get information for daily life of farming, most of the people said that they got information from their co-farmers and especially old farmers in the same area. It is also approved in literature that farmers' perception to climate change and their impacts accentuate that perception to climatic risks is mediated by farmland characteristics and farmers' demographic assets, for example irrigation availability, amount of cropland, age, farming experience, literacy, and associated factors [54,55]. Communication and information sharing are always useful for farmers in decision making and it helps them to adapt better measures for climate change [56]. Earlier studies have broadly covered the significance of demographic characteristics and socioeconomic of farmers concerning climate change

adaptation techniques and vulnerability farmers are using at their farmhouses [24, 27].

Table 2 describes situation of water and wastewater used for irrigation purposes. Results showed that most people used to drain and freshwater (Chak Jhumra was 70%, Faisalabad Sadar 70%, Jaranwala 65%, Sumundri 69% and in Tandlianwala 62%) for irrigation. Many researchers explained that usage of low-quality water for agriculture can have impacts on soils, groundwater quality and consequently on human health [57-59]. As many people were using drains water, we asked another question "Is wastewater cheaper fertilizer than conventional fertilizer?", most people (Chak Jhumra was 100%, Faisalabad Sadar 94%, Jaranwala 100%, Sumundri 97% and in Tandlianwala 93%) were in favor of "yes". Farmers mostly preferred wastewater due to i) lower water price ii) lower the cost of fertilizer and iii) increase crop production [50]. Farmers were found unaware of possible hazards for wastewater usage, the percentage was as: Chak Jhumra 67%, Jaranwala 75%, Sumundri 82% and in Tandlianwala 89% while in Faisalabad saddar 55% were aware of hazards by using drains water, same question was asked by Carr, G., et al. [60] in his study. Many farmers said no family was suffering from many diseases but at the same time there were some farmers having few family members with common problems. Economic consideration is of huge importance when evaluating the water reuse potential [61]. A researcher determined the potential of wastewater use to cope with water scarcity in Mekong Delta, Vietnam. They determined that wastewater can reuse on 16% paddy rice field on 3 crops/years.

Table 2. Use of wastewater for irrigation purposes.

Characteristics	Categories	Tehsils of district Faisalabad				
		Chak Jhumra %	Faisalabad Sadar %	Jaranwala %	Samundri %	Tandlianwala %
Irrigation (water use)	Fresh	12	8	16	16	18
	Drains water	70	70	65	69	62
	Both	18	22	19	15	20
Waste water cheaper fertilizer than conventional fertilizer	Yes	100	94	100	97	93
	No	0	6	0	3	7
Reasons for farmers to wastewater for irrigation?	Lower water price	8	1	3	10	9
	Lower the cost of fertilizer	4	1	4	10	4
	Increase crop production	5	2	6	4	6
	All above	83	96	87	76	81
Do you know potential hazards caused by wastewater?	Yes	33	55	25	18	11
	No	67	45	75	82	89
Is your any family member suffering from any disease?	Yes	11	18	3	2	15
	No	89	82	97	98	85

Source: Field Survey

The fertilizer property (22% Nitrogen, 14% phosphorus) eradicates the demand for artificial fertilizers. He analyzed that such program contributes to pollution control [62].

Table 3 describes farmers' assets for supporting their livelihood. It presented the assets owned by the farmers such as motorbike, bicycle, tractor/plow, spraying device, tube well, children go to school, electric generator, gas generator, air conditioner, car and pets (dog, horse, etc). In these five tehsils of district Faisalabad of Pakistan, many farmers owned these all above mentioned assets related to their farming life. Almost half of farmers owned their personal tractor for land preparation. Many of other luxuries like air conditioners, car, generators, tube wells and tubes in the study area were not available to farmers as it approved their bad economic conditions [54, 63]. It is assumed that access to latest technology for farming stimulates growth in agriculture and help in poverty reduction [38]. Farmers having enough resources were more

willing to reduce risk and had more capacity to adapt [54]. It can be described as farmers with more capital regarded themselves safer and have more capacity to bear negative impacts of change in climatic conditions while poor economic conditions forced the farmers to sacrifice consumer health [64]. Another author explained that small farmers are always at risk due to natural disasters like droughts, heavy precipitation and floods etc. [40].

Fig. 2 describes the perception of farmers to climate change in District Faisalabad. The effects of climatic have become progressively apparent over the past few decades [65]. The main indicators that were included to check perception were flood, irrigation, agriculture, droughts, soils Issues, drinking water in agriculture area, communication, transportation to agriculture land, animal diseases and crop pests as described by Fahad and Wang (2018a) [38]. As per response from farmers flood rate in Tiandianwala and Chuk Jumra is high while rest of tehsils put it in moderate or low rate in

Table 3. Farmer's livelihood assets.

Characteristics		Tehsils of district Faisalabad				
		Chak Jhumra %	Faisalabad Sadar %	Jaranwala %	Samundri %	Tandlianwala %
Motorbike	No	8	14	10	2	17
	Yes	92	87	90	98	83
Bicycle	No	12	25	16	7	19
	Yes	88	75	84	93	81
Tractor/Plow	No	45	35	33	47	55
	Yes	55	65	77	53	45
Spraying Device	No	95	0	30	0	35
	Yes	5	100	70	100	65
Tube Well	No	85	90	88	45	14
	Yes	15	10	12	55	86
Children go to School	No	0	0	0	1	2
	Yes	100	100	100	99	98
Electric Generator	No	100	98	96	99	96
	Yes	0	2	4	1	4
Gas Generator	No	100	96	100	98	100
	Yes	0	4	0	2	0
Air conditioner	No	100	95	99	96	100
	Yes	0	5	1	4	0
Car	No	99	91	96	92	99
	Yes	2	9	4	8	1
Pets (Dog, Horse, etc)	No	0	10	0	7	0
	Yes	100	90	100	93	100

Source: Field Survey



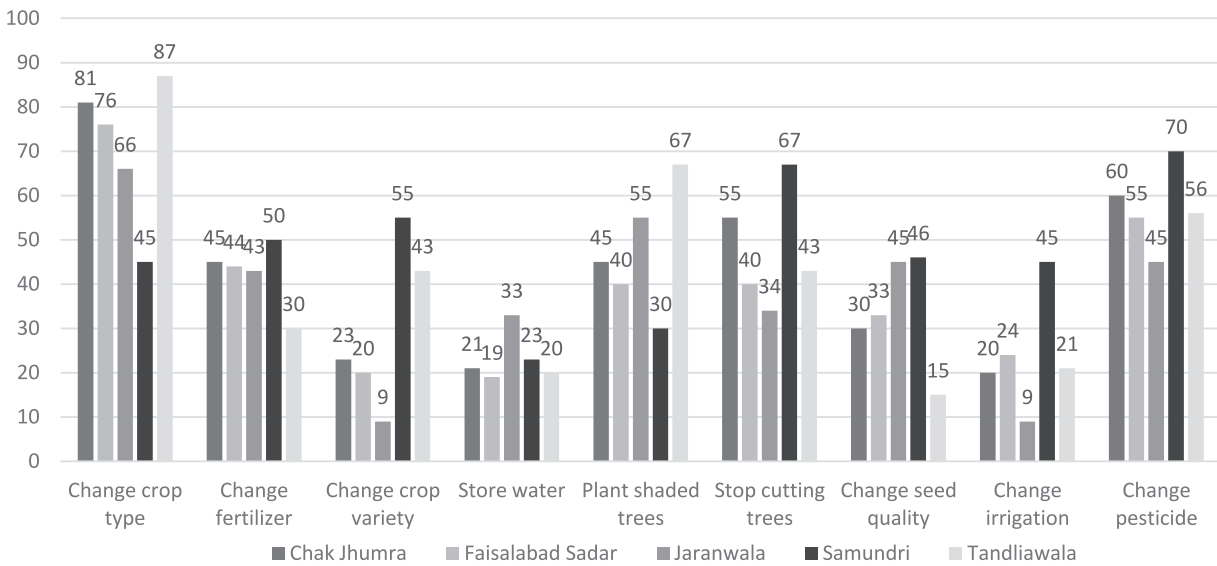


Fig. 3. Adaption strategies/measures by farmers in District Faisalabad (Data Source: Field Survey).

livelihood assets (LA), determining of climate change (DCC), Adaption Measures (AM)). It is a tool to check the relation between two or more variables. The values of correlation are between +1.00 to -1.00. The strength of correlation is determined by the magnitude of the number with 1 being maximum. The current study correlation of Determining of Climate Change (DCC) with age and farming experience is highly significant with correlation values 0.48 and 0.42 respectively. Adaption Measures (AM) correlation values with age and farming experience were 0.49 and 0.75 respectively. Other variables livelihood Assets (LA) were also correlated with Determining of Climate Change (DCC) and Adaption Measures (AM). All variables were found significant with weak to moderate correlation among all selected variables (Table 5).

### Analysis of Wastewater Parameters

Industrial effluents and sewage water samples, including Madhuana drain and Pharang drain were analyzed for physicochemical and metal analysis.

Table 5 showed the concentrations of all parameters in sewage and industrial effluent comparing with PEQs. The average concentration of parameters including pH (10.2±1.51 and 8.11±0.57), suspended solids (314.7±86.4 and 179.9±33.07), TDS (5045.35±1597 and 2969±874), COD (3247.3±3124.8 and 383.8±126.1), BOD (955.8±920.3 and 122.06±42.2) in sewage and industrial water respectively were higher than their acceptable limit. Increased value of pH in water can be reason for decreasing metal toxicity. Industrial and Municipal wastewater effluent discharge caused increased TDS in water [76,77]. This increased TDS can be reason of increase COD and BOD in water which ultimately influence on DO indicated and reduction the presence of increased inorganic and organic matter [78-80]. BOD/COD ratio at all sampling stations shows a lower level which implies poor biodegradability. TDS concentration at all sampling stations shows a very high level exceeding permissible limit for irrigation unless an expensive desalination process is applied. All the metals including As (4.00±2.7 and 1.50±1.31), Cd (1.1±0.8 and 0.80±0.84), Cr (1.42±1.72 and 1.95±0.59), Cu (8.67±5.13

Table 4. Correlation coefficient of selected variables .

Variables	Standard Deviation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Gender	0.72	1						
Age	0.56	-0.08	1.00					
Education	0.66	-0.06	<b>0.79**</b>	1.00				
Farming Experience	0.78	0.24	<b>0.35*</b>	<b>0.73**</b>	1.00			
Livelihood assets (LA)	0.74	-0.12	<b>0.45*</b>	<b>0.64**</b>	0.36*	1.00		
Determining of Climate Change (DCC)	0.67	-0.07	<b>0.48**</b>	<b>0.40**</b>	<b>0.42**</b>	<b>0.40*</b>	1.00	
Adaption Measures (AM)	0.71	0.44*	<b>0.49**</b>	<b>0.75**</b>	<b>0.63**</b>	<b>0.57**</b>	<b>0.55**</b>	1.00

Notes: \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.05 (two-tailed test). N = 900







- the Water Quality Index (WQI), the Synthetic Pollution Index (SPI) and Geospatial Tools in Lianhuashan District, China. *Polish Journal of Environmental Studies*, **30** (1), **2020**.
2. SOHAIL M.T., MAHFOOZ Y., AZAM K., YEN Y., GENFU L., FAHAD S. Impacts of urbanization and land cover dynamics on underground water in Islamabad, Pakistan. *Desalination and Water Treatment*, **159**, 402, **2019**.
  3. LI RAN, YI-MING KUO Effects of Shallow Water Table Depth on Vegetative Filter Strips Retarding Transport of Nonpoint Source Pollution in Controlled Flume Experiments. *International Journal of Environmental Research*, **1**, **2021**.
  4. BATOOL S., IDREES M., AL-WABEL M. I., AHMAD M., HINA K., ULLAH H., CUI L., HUSSAIN Q. Sorption of Cr (III) from aqueous media via naturally functionalized microporous biochar: Mechanistic study, *Microchemical Journal*, **144**, 242, **2019**.
  5. IDREES M., BATOOL S., ULLAH H., HUSSAIN Q., AL-WABEL M.I, AHMAD M., HUSSAIN A., RIAZ M., OK Y.S., KONG J. Adsorption and thermodynamic mechanisms of manganese removal from aqueous media by biowaste-derived biochars, *Journal of Molecular Liquids*, **266**, 373, **2018a**.
  6. SRINIVASAN J.T., REDDY V.R. Impact of irrigation water quality on human health: A case study in India. *Ecological Economics*, **68** (11), 2800, **2009**.
  7. DRECHSEL P., SCOTT C.A., RASCHID-SALLY L., REDWOOD M., BAHRI A. *Wastewater Irrigation and Health: Assessing and Mitigating Risk in Low-Income Countries*. London, UK: Earthscan, **2010**.
  8. HANJRA M.A., BLACKWELL J., CARR G., ZHANG F., JACKSON T.M. Wastewater irrigation and environmental health: implications for water governance and public policy. *International Journal Of Hygiene and Environmental Health*, **215** (3), 255, **2012**.
  9. SCOTT A.C., J.A. ZARAZ A, LEVINE G. Urban-wastewater reuse for crop production in the watershort Guanajuato river basin, Mexico. *IWMI Research report 43*. Colombo, Sri-Lanka: International Water Management Institute, **2010**.
  10. YAMIN M., NASIR A., SULTAN M., ISMAIL W.I. W., SHAMSHIRI R., AKBAR F.N. Impact of sewage and industrial effluents on water quality in Faisalabad, Pakistan. *Advances in Environmental Biology*, **9** (18), 53, **2015**.
  11. RASCHID-SALLY L. JAYAKODY P. Drivers and characteristics of wastewater agriculture in developing countries - results from a global assessment. *International Water Management Institute*, **2008**.
  12. SOHAIL M.T., MAHFOOZB Y., AFTABC R., YEND Y., TALIBE M.A., RASOOLF A. Water quality and health risk of public drinking water sources: a study of filtration plants installed in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, Pakistan. *Desalination and Water Treatment*, **181**, 239, **2020**.
  13. KURUKULASURIYA P., ROSENTHAL S. Climate Change and Agriculture: A Review Of Impacts and Adaptations. Paper No. 91 in *Climate Change Series*. The World Bank, Washington D.C. **2003**.
  14. SKOUFIAS E., RABASSA M., OLIVIERI S. The poverty impacts of climate change. *Economic Premise*, vol. **5622** Worldbank, **2001**.
  15. ALI A., ERENSTEIN O. Assessing farmer use of climate change adaptation practices and impacts on food security and poverty in Pakistan. *Climate Risk Management*, **16**, 183, **2017**.
  16. MENIKE L.M.C.S., ARACHCHI K.K. Adaptation to climate change by smallholder farmers in rural communities: Evidence from Sri Lanka. *Procedia Food Science*, **6**, 288, **2016**.
  17. IPCC. *Climate change 2014: impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability*. 360 Part a: global and sectoral aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change **2014**.
  18. SHINBROT X.A., JONES K.W., RIVERA-CASTAÑEDA A., LÓPEZ-BÁEZ W., OJIMA D.S. Smallholder Farmer Adoption of Climate-Related Adaptation Strategies: The Importance of Vulnerability Context, Livelihood Assets, and Climate Perceptions. *Environmental management*, **1**, **2019**.
  19. ALAM U., SAHOTA P. JEFFREY P. Irrigation in the Indus basin: A history of unsustainability? *Water Science and Technology* **7**, 211, **2007**.
  20. SOHAIL M.T., ULLAH S., MAJEED M.T. Pakistan management of green transportation and environmental pollution: a nonlinear ARDL analysis. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, **1**, **2021**.
  21. LOBELL D.B., GOURDJI S.M. The influence of climate change on global crop productivity. *Plant Physiol.* **160**, 1686, **2012**.
  22. ADGER W.N., KELLY P.M. Social vulnerability to climate change and the architecture of entitlements. *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*, **4** (3-4), 253, **1999**.
  23. GREENOUGH G., MCGEEHIN M., BERNARD S.M., TRTANJ J., RIAD J., ENGELBERG D. The potential impacts of climate variability and change on health impacts of extreme weather events in the United States. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, **109** (suppl 2), 191, **2001**.
  24. BRYAN E., DERESSA T.T., GBETIBOUO G.A., RINGLER C. Adaptation to limate change in Ethiopia and South Africa: options and constraints. *Environmental Science Policy*, **12**, 413, **2009**.
  25. BRYAN E., RINGLER C., OKOBA B. Adapting agriculture to climate change in Kenya: household strategies and determinants. *Journal of environmental management*, **114**, 26, **2013**.
  26. RAFIAT OGUNPAIMO O., OYETUNDE-USMAN Z., SURAJUDEEN J. Impact of Climate Change Adaptation on Household Food Security in Nigeria-a Difference-in-Difference Approach. *Sustainability*, **13** (3), 1444, **2021**.
  27. ABID M., SCHEFFRAN J., SCHNEIDER U.A., ASHFAQ M. Climate change vulnerability, adaptation and risk perceptions at farm level in Punjab, Pakistan. *Science of the Total Environment*, **547**, 447, **2016**.
  28. SOHAIL M.T., DELIN H., TALIB M.A., XIAOQING X., AKHTAR M.M. An Analysis of Environmental Law in Pakistan-policy and Conditions of Implementation. *Research Journal of Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology*, **8** (5), 644, **2014a**.
  29. MUGHAL M.A. Rural urbanization, land, and agriculture in Pakistan. *Asian Geographer*, **36** (1), 81, **2019**.
  30. SOHAIL M.T., DELIN H., SIDDIQ A. Indus Basin Waters A Main Resource of Water in Pakistan: An Analytical Approach. *Current World Environment*, **9** (3), 670, **2014b**.
  31. FIAZ S., MOBEEN N., NOOR M.A., MUDDASSIR M., MUBUSHAR M. Implications of Irrigation Water Crisis



