



GALLUP PAKISTAN ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2024

Farm Ownership and Tenancy



PRESS RELEASE

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of Agricultural Census 2024

89% of Farms Now Owner-Operated – Tenancy Shrinks to Just 6.6% in 2024 Census

Islamabad, September 9th, 2025

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is examining the irrigation methods and cropping patterns revealed in the *7th Agricultural Census 2024*, the country's first **Integrated Digital Count** of agriculture, conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: *"The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [Global Burden of Disease dataset](#), which provides a variety of health-related statistics. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan."*

What data points this current edition covers:

Gallup Pakistan Big Data Analytics, using the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics' Agricultural Census 2024, presents a comprehensive picture of land tenure patterns across Pakistan. The findings reveal a decisive shift away from tenancy-based farming arrangements toward ownership. This structural change has major implications for rural power structures, land access, and agricultural investment.

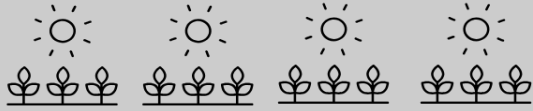
GALLUP PAKISTAN

ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL CENSUS 2024



Farm Ownership and Tenancy

89% of farms now owner operated, Tenancy shrinks to just **6.6%** in 2024 census. Owner-cum-tenant farms also fell slightly to **0.55 million (4.7%)**.



89%

**Owner
Operated**



6.6%

**Tenant
Operated**

Provincial Patterns:



Punjab

With **57%** of all farms, accounts for only 47% of tenant-only farms under-represented tenancy.



KP

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's farms surged from **1.34m** (2010) to **4.17m** (2024), overwhelmingly owner-operated.



Sindh

With **16%** of total farms, has **24%** of tenant-only farms over-represented tenancy.



Balochistan

With **5.4%** of farms, shows marginal tenancy and dominance of ownership.

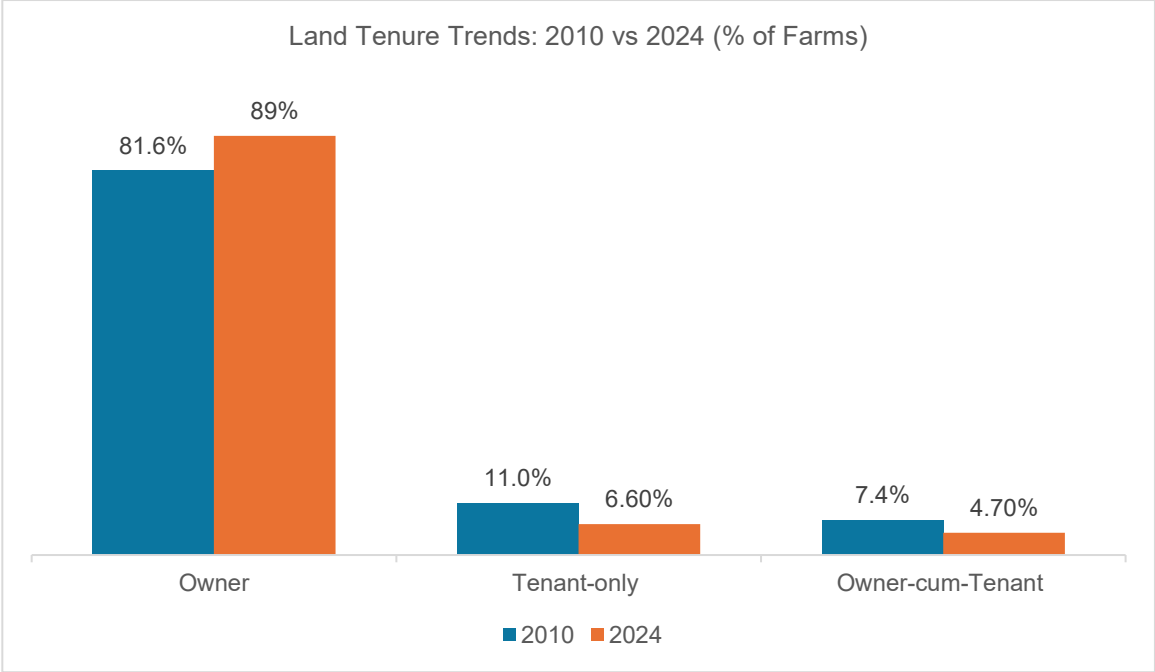


Key Findings:

1. Of 11.7 million farms in 2024, 10.38 million (89%) are owner-operated – a sharp rise from 2010.
2. Tenant-only farms declined to 0.77 million (6.6%), down from 0.91m (11%) in 2010.
3. Owner-cum-tenant farms also fell slightly to 0.55 million (4.7%).
4. Punjab, with 57% of all farms, accounts for only 47% of tenant-only farms – under-represented tenancy.
5. Sindh, with 16% of total farms, has 24% of tenant-only farms – over-represented tenancy.
6. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's farms surged from 1.34m (2010) to 4.17m (2024), overwhelmingly owner-operated.
7. Balochistan, with 5.4% of farms, shows marginal tenancy and dominance of ownership.

1. National Trends in Land Tenure

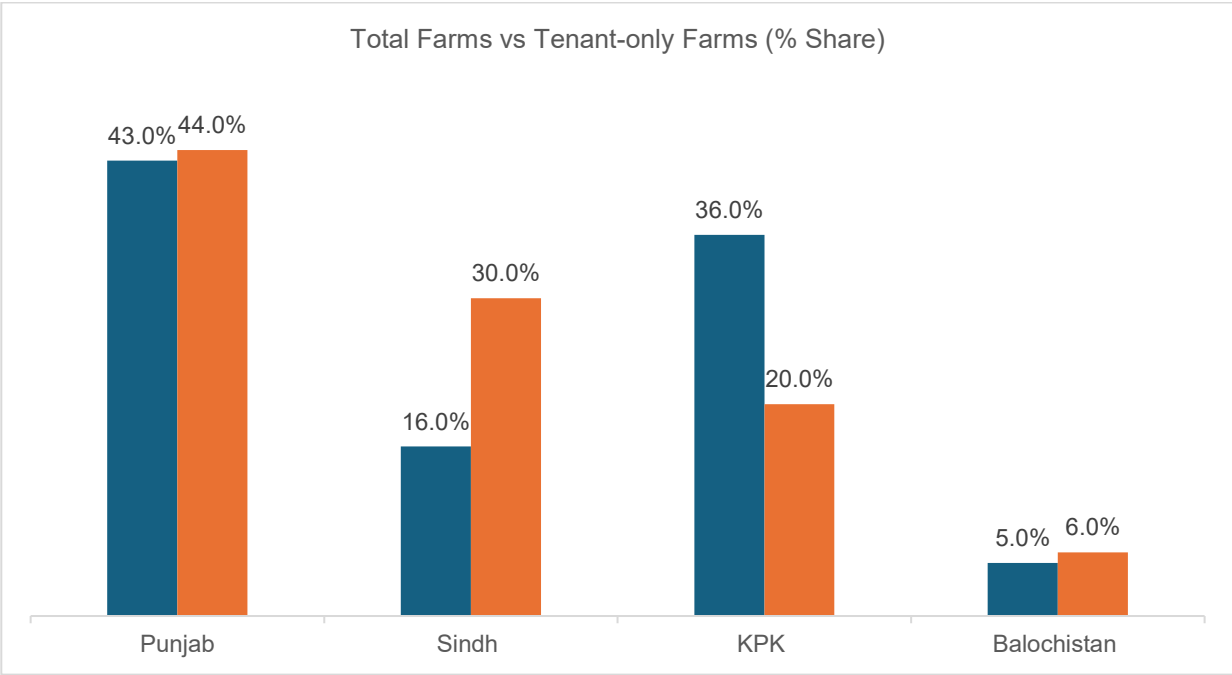
At the national level, the Census confirms that farming in Pakistan is increasingly based on ownership. Owner-operated farms now account for 89% of all holdings, compared with 81.6% in 2010. The share of tenant-only farms has shrunk from 11% to just 6.6%. This structural change points to reduced reliance on tenancy and sharecropping arrangements. It also suggests greater stability for farmers who directly own their land, potentially encouraging investment and long-term improvements in productivity.



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 & 2010 – Main Findings Report

2. Provincial Differences in Tenancy

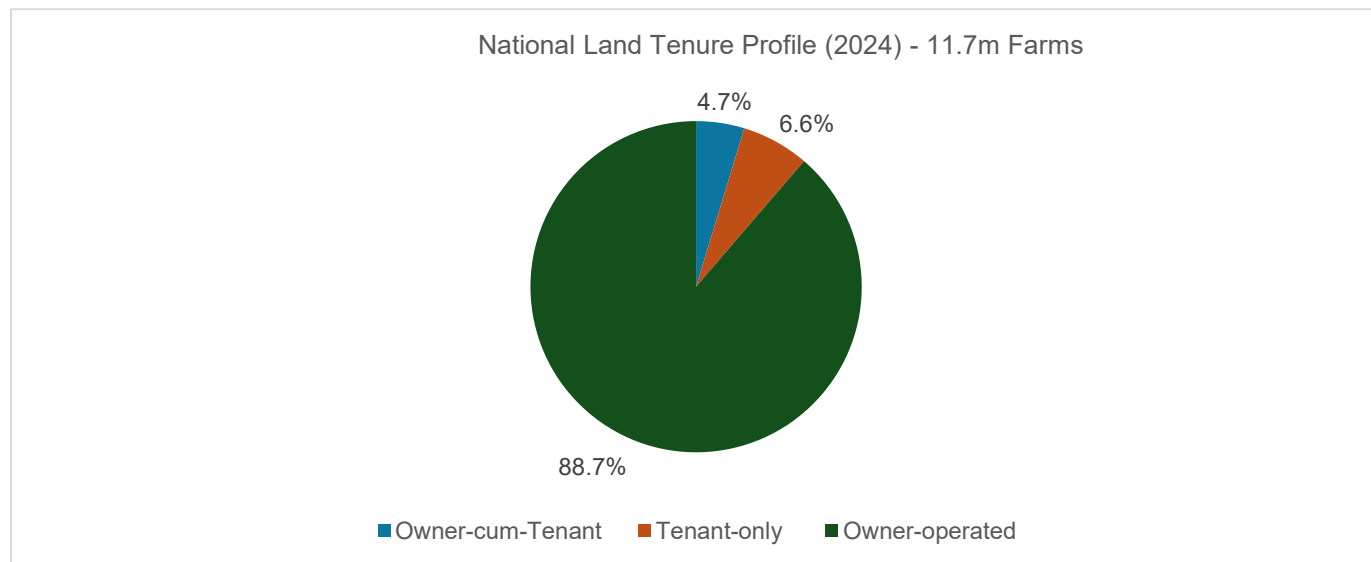
Provincial tenancy patterns reveal striking contrasts across Pakistan. Punjab, which accounts for 43% of the country’s total farms, contributes only 44% of tenant-only farms, showing tenancy is slightly under-represented compared to its dominant farm base. Sindh, on the other hand, makes up just 16% of total farms yet represents 30% of tenant-only farms, confirming that tenancy is disproportionately concentrated in this province. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa illustrates a different trend: while it holds 36% of all farms nationally, it contributes only 20% of tenant-only farms, suggesting a strong shift toward ownership-based farming. Balochistan remains largely ownership-driven, though its 5% share of total farms versus 6% share of tenant-only farms indicates that tenancy is still proportionally notable within the province.



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)

3. National Snapshot (2024)

A quick look at national land tenure in 2024 shows the overwhelming dominance of ownership. Of 11.7 million farms, 10.38 million are owner-operated, while tenancy (tenant-only plus owner-cum-tenant) accounts for just over 11% of holdings. This confirms the steady erosion of tenancy-based farming and reflects broader socio-economic changes across rural Pakistan.



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Agricultural Census 2024 (Main Findings Report)

4. Policy Implementations

The decline in tenancy suggests greater stability for farming households but also raises new policy challenges. Sindh's over-representation of tenant farms signals the need for tenancy reforms, fair contracts, and protection of vulnerable tenants. Punjab's shift toward ownership could spur investments in mechanization and technology, but may also widen inequality between large landowners and smallholders. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's transformation points to opportunities for further consolidation of ownership-based farming, while Balochistan's dominance of ownership raises questions about equitable access to land.

About the Agriculture Census

The Agriculture Census is Pakistan's most comprehensive and authoritative statistical exercise on farming, land use, and agricultural resources. Conducted by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), it provides policymakers, researchers, and the public with a detailed snapshot of the structure of agriculture across the country. The Census gathers information directly from farming households and institutions, covering critical aspects such as land ownership and tenancy, operational holdings, irrigation practices, cropping patterns, machinery use, livestock, and farm labor.

The 2024 Agriculture Census continues a series of national exercises carried out in earlier decades (including 1960, 1972, 1980, 1990, and 2010), which together create a unique long-term dataset for understanding the evolution of Pakistan's agriculture sector. The Census serves multiple purposes: it provides baseline data for agricultural planning and development; supports evidence-based policy interventions on food security, irrigation, and rural livelihoods; and enables monitoring of progress toward national and international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This latest round represents an important milestone, as it not only updates the figures after more than a decade but also incorporates methodological improvements. Advances in digital data collection, geographic information systems, and field validation have allowed for more reliable and timely results. The Census thus provides insights not only into how agriculture has changed since 2010 but also into the emerging challenges and opportunities facing farmers today — from climate adaptation to mechanization, diversification, and market access.

Ultimately, the Agriculture Census stands as the foundation for agricultural statistics in Pakistan. Its findings guide ministries and provincial departments in planning irrigation schemes, rural development projects, and farmer support programs. They also serve as a valuable reference for academics, investors, and development partners seeking to understand Pakistan's agrarian economy. By documenting both continuity and change in farm structures, irrigation methods, and cropping practices, the Census underscores the vital role of agriculture in the country's economy and society.



Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand the Big Data Analysis project. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

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