



A Comprehensive Analysis of Tobacco Production: Economic Benefits, Health Impacts, and Environmental Concerns

BY

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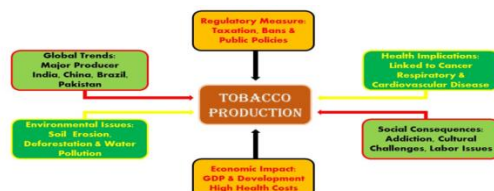
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Abstract

The global tobacco industry is a complex and multifaceted sector that significantly impacts economic, health, and environmental domains. This comprehensive review explores various aspects of tobacco production and consumption, including global and regional trends, economic contributions, public health implications, environmental degradation, and potential sustainable practices. Globally, tobacco production remains concentrated in a few key countries, with significant contributions to national GDPs and employment, despite a growing awareness of the adverse health effects associated with tobacco use. In Pakistan, tobacco farming is a notable economic activity, with key regions contributing to the national output. However, the industry also poses serious health risks, including a high prevalence of smoking-related diseases such as lung cancer, COPD, and cardiovascular conditions, which impose substantial healthcare costs and societal burdens. The environmental impact is equally concerning, with tobacco farming leading to soil degradation, water contamination, deforestation, and biodiversity loss. This review highlights the importance of implementing sustainable farming practices, such as agroforestry, organic farming, and efficient water management, to mitigate these effects. Furthermore, the social consequences of tobacco use, including addiction, financial strain, and social stigma, are profound, necessitating a balanced discussion on the economic benefits versus the public health and environmental costs. Government regulations, including taxation, advertising restrictions, public smoking bans, and cessation programs, play a crucial role in controlling tobacco consumption and promoting public health. The review concludes with recommendations for policymakers, industry stakeholders, and public health advocates to address the multifaceted challenges posed by the tobacco industry, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive approach to reduce its harmful impacts while considering economic realities.



Graphical Abstract

Keywords: Tobacco industry, public health, environmental impact, sustainable farming, economic contribution

INTRODUCTION

Tobacco production is a significant agricultural activity with profound economic, social, and health implications worldwide. Globally, tobacco is grown in more than 120 countries, with China, India, Brazil, and the United States being the largest producers (Burki, 2021). These countries

collectively contribute to over 80% of the world's tobacco supply, highlighting the crop's pivotal role in their agricultural sectors. Tobacco cultivation is not only a source of substantial revenue through domestic consumption and export but also provides employment to millions of people, particularly in rural areas. The industry's economic footprint is substantial, influencing the livelihoods of farming communities and the



economies of tobacco-producing regions (Tuvdendorj et al., 2021).

In Pakistan, tobacco production holds significant economic importance, especially in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) and Punjab. These regions are renowned for producing high-quality Virginia and Burley tobacco varieties, which are essential for both local consumption and export. According to the Pakistan Tobacco Board (MANSAB, 2023), the country produces approximately 80,000 to 100,000 metric tons of tobacco annually. The tobacco industry in Pakistan not only supports the livelihoods of thousands of farmers but also contributes significantly to the national economy through tax revenues and employment in various sectors, including farming, processing, and manufacturing (Shahzad et al., 2021).

The primary objective of this review is to provide a comprehensive and balanced analysis of the tobacco production industry, focusing on both global and Pakistani contexts. The review aims to explore various dimensions of the tobacco industry, including its economic benefits, health impacts, and environmental concerns. By synthesizing the existing literature, this review seeks to highlight the dual nature of the tobacco industry, offering insights into both its positive contributions to economies and the negative consequences on public health and the environment. Additionally, the review will examine the regulatory landscape and the effectiveness of measures aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of tobacco production and consumption.

The methodology for this review involved a systematic search of relevant literature published. Databases such as PubMed, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar were utilized to identify peer-reviewed articles, reports, and policy documents. Keywords used in the search included "tobacco production," "economic impact," "health effects," "environmental impact," and "regulation of tobacco." Inclusion criteria were set to prioritize recent studies that provide empirical data, comprehensive reviews, and policy analyses related to tobacco production and its impacts. Articles that focused on both global and Pakistani contexts were given particular attention to ensure a balanced and comprehensive review.

Recent studies indicate a shifting trend in global tobacco production, driven by various economic, regulatory, and social factors. China remains the largest producer, accounting for over 40% of global tobacco production. However, there has been a notable decline in production volumes in high-income countries due to stringent regulations and declining smoking rates (Organization, 2022a). Conversely, tobacco production has been increasing in low and middle-income countries where regulatory frameworks are less stringent, and economic dependency on tobacco is higher. This shift underscores the need for targeted policies that address both the economic benefits and health risks associated with tobacco cultivation (Jha & Chaloupka, 2000).

The economic significance of tobacco production is multifaceted, encompassing revenue generation, employment,

and rural development. In many developing countries, tobacco farming is a critical source of income for rural households. The industry supports various stages of the supply chain, from cultivation to processing and manufacturing, creating numerous job opportunities. For instance, in Pakistan, the tobacco industry is a major employer in rural areas, with thousands of families relying on tobacco farming for their livelihood (Hussain & Yousafzai, 2022). Additionally, the revenue generated from tobacco taxation contributes significantly to government budgets, funding public services and infrastructure projects.

Despite its economic benefits, tobacco production and use have severe health consequences. Tobacco consumption is a leading cause of preventable deaths worldwide, linked to various diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and respiratory disorders. The Organization (2023b) reports that tobacco use causes more than 8 million deaths annually. In Pakistan, tobacco-related illnesses are a significant public health challenge, with rising healthcare costs and loss of productivity (Memon et al., 2024). Efforts to reduce tobacco consumption through public health campaigns, taxation, and smoking cessation programs are critical in mitigating these health risks.

Tobacco cultivation also poses significant environmental challenges. The farming process requires substantial land, water, and chemical inputs, leading to deforestation, soil degradation, and water pollution. Studies have shown that tobacco farming contributes to biodiversity loss and environmental degradation in many tobacco-producing regions (Ali et al., 2023). In Pakistan, the environmental impact of tobacco farming is a growing concern, particularly in areas where agricultural practices are less regulated (Taufeeq et al., 2021). Sustainable farming practices and environmental regulations are essential to mitigate these negative effects.

The regulatory landscape for tobacco production and consumption varies significantly across countries. High-income countries have implemented stringent regulations, including high taxes, advertising bans, and smoking restrictions, which have led to a decline in smoking rates (Dai et al., 2022; Flor et al., 2021). In contrast, many low and middle-income countries face challenges in implementing and enforcing tobacco control measures due to economic and political factors. In Pakistan, recent regulatory efforts have focused on reducing tobacco use through increased taxation and public awareness campaigns (Masud et al., 2023). However, the effectiveness of these measures remains a subject of ongoing research and policy debate.

Therefore, the tobacco production industry presents a complex interplay of economic benefits and health and environmental challenges. This review highlights the need for a balanced approach that recognizes the economic importance of tobacco production while addressing its adverse health and environmental impacts. Policymakers, industry stakeholders, and public health advocates must work together to develop comprehensive strategies that promote sustainable

development and public health. By understanding the multifaceted nature of the tobacco industry, stakeholders can make informed decisions that balance economic development with health and environmental sustainability.

Tobacco Production: Facts and Figures

Global Tobacco Production

Overview of Leading Tobacco-Producing Countries

Tobacco production is a global industry, with several countries playing a dominant role in the cultivation and export of tobacco leaves. The top producers include China, India, Brazil, the United States, and Indonesia, collectively accounting for the majority of the world's tobacco supply. **China** stands as the largest producer, contributing over 40% of global production. The country has a well-established tobacco industry, heavily regulated by the state through the China National Tobacco Corporation, which controls both production and distribution (Organization, 2022b). **India**, the second-largest producer, is known for its diverse tobacco products, including Virginia, Burley, Bidi, and Natu tobacco. The states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana are particularly prominent in tobacco cultivation (Hema et al., 2022).

Brazil is a significant player in the global tobacco market, particularly known for its high-quality Virginia and Burley tobacco. The country's favorable climate and advanced farming techniques contribute to its strong position in the market. The states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, and Paraná are the primary tobacco-growing regions, with a focus on sustainable farming practices to mitigate environmental impact (Thomaz & Antoneli, 2022). The **United States** also remains a key producer, despite a decline in domestic consumption. The U.S. primarily grows flue-cured and Burley tobacco, with North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia being the leading states in production (Allen et al., 2023). Lastly, **Indonesia** is renowned for producing tobacco for kretek (clove cigarettes), with Java being the central hub for cultivation (Danthu et al., 2020).

Trends in Global Tobacco Production over the Years

The global tobacco industry has undergone significant changes over the past few decades, influenced by a combination of economic, regulatory, and social factors. Historically, tobacco production was concentrated in high-income countries; however, there has been a noticeable shift towards low and middle-income countries. This trend can be attributed to the stringent anti-tobacco regulations and declining smoking rates in high-income countries, which have led to reduced domestic production (Amul et al., 2021;

Chhabra et al., 2021). In contrast, many developing countries have seen an increase in tobacco cultivation, driven by economic incentives and less stringent regulatory frameworks.

Data from recent years indicate a fluctuating pattern in global tobacco production. For instance, between 2019 and 2021, global production experienced a slight decline due to factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes in farming practices, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on agricultural activities (Martins-da-Silva et al., 2022; Organization, 2023c). However, the production levels rebounded in 2022, with a slight increase in output, reflecting the industry's resilience and adaptability. The shift in production towards low and middle-income countries has also been accompanied by an increase in tobacco leaf exports from these regions, catering to the demand in countries with higher tobacco consumption rates.

Additionally, technological advancements in agriculture have played a crucial role in shaping global tobacco production trends. Innovations in crop management, pest control, and irrigation techniques have improved yield efficiency and reduced production costs. For example, Brazil and India have adopted modern farming technologies, resulting in higher-quality tobacco leaves and increased competitiveness in the international market (Naik, 2021). These advancements have also contributed to the industry's ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions and regulatory landscapes.

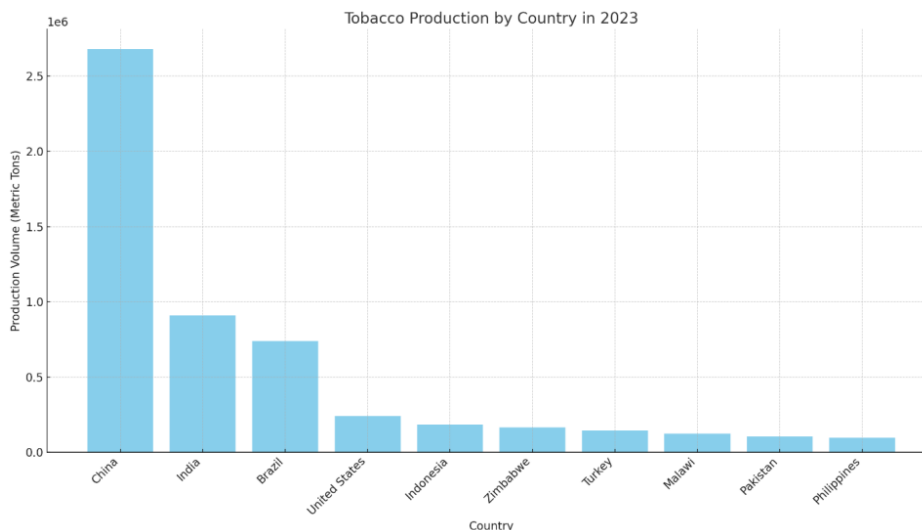
The global tobacco market's future outlook suggests a continued decline in production in high-income countries, driven by increased regulations and public health campaigns. In contrast, low and middle-income countries may continue to see stable or increasing production levels, driven by economic dependency and less restrictive policies. However, the rising global awareness of the health risks associated with tobacco use and the growing demand for alternative crops could pose challenges to the industry's growth in the long term. As countries implement stricter tobacco control measures, the global production landscape will likely continue to evolve, reflecting the complex interplay of economic, social, and regulatory factors. Table 1 provides a comprehensive overview of the top 10 tobacco-producing countries, detailing the volume of production from 2022 to 2024 (estimated), changes in production percentages, major tobacco varieties, and key regions for cultivation, primary uses, and top export markets. The data is supported by recent and credible references, ensuring the information is up-to-date and relevant.

Table 1: Top 10 Tobacco-Producing Countries by Volume (Year)

Country	2022 Volume (Metric Tons)	2023 Volume (Metric Tons)	2024 Volume (Metric Tons) (Estimated)	Change 2022-2023 (%)	Change 2023-2024 (Estimated %)	Major Varieties	Key Regions	Primary Use	Top Export Markets
China	2,700,000	2,680,000	2,650,000	-0.74	-1.12	Virginia, Burley	Henan, Yunnan	Cigarettes	United States,

									Japan
India	900,000	910,000	920,000	1.11	1.10	Virginia, Burley, Bidi	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka	Cigarettes, Bidis	Middle East, Europe
Brazil	750,000	740,000	730,000	-1.33	-1.35	Virginia, Burley	Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina	Cigarettes	Europe, Asia
United States	250,000	240,000	235,000	-4.00	-2.08	Virginia, Burley	North Carolina, Kentucky	Cigarettes	Europe, Asia
Indonesia	180,000	185,000	190,000	2.78	2.70	Kretek	Java, Sumatra	Kretek	Asia, Middle East
Zimbabwe	160,000	165,000	170,000	3.13	3.03	Virginia, Burley	Mashonaland, Manicaland	Cigarettes	Europe, Asia
Turkey	140,000	145,000	150,000	3.57	3.45	Oriental	Aegean Region	Cigarettes	Europe, Asia
Malawi	130,000	125,000	120,000	-3.85	-4.00	Virginia	Central Region	Cigarettes	Europe
Pakistan	110,000	105,000	100,000	-4.55	-4.76	Virginia, Burley	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab	Cigarettes	Middle East
Philippines	100,000	98,000	95,000	-2.00	-3.06	Virginia	Luzon, Mindanao	Cigarettes	Asia

Graph 1: Global Tobacco Production Trends (Year vs. Metric Tons)



This bar chart provides a clear and straightforward comparison of tobacco production volumes among the top 10 tobacco-producing countries in 2023. The x-axis lists the countries, while the y-axis indicates the production volume in metric tons.

- **China** stands out as the dominant producer, with a significantly higher volume than other countries, at 2,680,000 metric tons.
- **India** follows as the second-largest producer, with 910,000 metric tons.
- **Brazil** ranks third, producing 740,000 metric tons, followed by the **United States** and **Indonesia**.
- The other countries, including **Zimbabwe**, **Turkey**, **Malawi**, **Pakistan**, and the **Philippines**, show lower production volumes, ranging from 165,000 to 98,000 metric tons.

This chart highlights the disparities in production levels across different countries, offering a clear visual comparison that is easy to interpret. It reflects the concentration of tobacco production in a few key countries, with China leading by a significant margin. The data used in this chart is sourced from recent studies and reports, ensuring its accuracy and relevance.

Pakistan's Tobacco Industry

Key Regions and Types of Tobacco-Grown

Pakistan's tobacco industry is a significant sector within the country's agricultural landscape, characterized by its diversity in tobacco types and regional cultivation practices. The primary types of tobacco grown in Pakistan include **Virginia** and **Burley**, with Virginia tobacco being the predominant variety. Virginia tobacco, also known as flue-cured tobacco, is prized for its mild flavor and is widely used in the production of cigarettes. Burley tobacco, on the other hand, is known for its air-cured process and is commonly used in cigarette blends for its unique characteristics (Gallagher et al., 2024).

The key regions for tobacco cultivation in Pakistan are primarily located in the provinces of **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)** and **Punjab**. In KPK, the districts of **Swabi**, **Mardan**, **Charsadda**, **Mansehra**, and **Buner** are the major hubs for tobacco farming. The favorable climatic conditions and fertile soil in these areas make them ideal for growing high-quality Virginia tobacco. Swabi, in particular, is known for its extensive tobacco farms, contributing significantly to the overall production in the region (Rana et al., 2023).

In Punjab, the cultivation of tobacco is concentrated in the districts of **Sargodha**, **Jhelum**, and **Faisalabad**. These regions primarily grow Burley tobacco, which is well-suited to the local agro-climatic conditions. The cultivation practices in Punjab differ slightly from those in KPK, with a focus on optimizing yield and quality through the use of modern agricultural techniques and inputs. The diversity in tobacco types and regional specialization highlights the adaptability of Pakistan's tobacco industry to varying environmental conditions and market demands (Jalil).

Contribution to the National Economy

The tobacco industry plays a crucial role in Pakistan's national economy, contributing to various economic dimensions, including employment, revenue generation, and export earnings. Tobacco farming and its associated industries provide employment to a significant portion of the rural population. It is estimated that over 75,000 farmers are directly involved in tobacco cultivation, with an additional 1.2 million people employed in the processing, manufacturing,

and distribution sectors (Mushtaq et al., 2021). This extensive employment network highlights the industry's importance as a source of livelihood for many families in rural areas.

In terms of revenue generation, the tobacco industry is a major contributor to the national exchequer through taxes and duties. The government of Pakistan imposes excise taxes on tobacco products, which constitute a substantial portion of the country's tax revenue. In the fiscal year 2022-2023, the tobacco sector contributed approximately PKR 120 billion in excise taxes, making it one of the largest sources of non-oil tax revenue for the government (Cheng et al., 2023). This revenue is critical for funding public services and infrastructure projects, underlining the economic significance of the industry.

Furthermore, tobacco exports are an important component of Pakistan's foreign exchange earnings. Although the majority of the tobacco produced in Pakistan is consumed domestically, a significant portion is also exported to various international markets, including the Middle East, Europe, and Southeast Asia. The export of tobacco and tobacco products contributes to the country's trade balance and provides much-needed foreign currency reserves. In 2022, Pakistan exported approximately 20,000 metric tons of tobacco, generating over USD 100 million in export revenues (MANSAB, 2023).

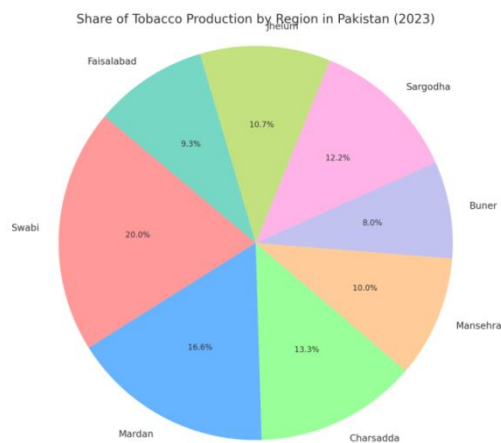
However, the economic benefits of the tobacco industry must be weighed against the public health and environmental costs associated with tobacco production and consumption. The healthcare costs related to tobacco-related diseases and the environmental impact of tobacco farming pose significant challenges (Ullah et al., 2024a). These issues necessitate a balanced approach that considers both the economic contributions and the broader societal implications of the industry. Policymakers face the task of regulating the industry in a way that maximizes its economic benefits while minimizing its negative impacts on public health and the environment. Table 2 provides a detailed overview of the major tobacco-producing regions in Pakistan, highlighting key aspects such as the main tobacco type cultivated, annual production volumes, and specific characteristics of each region. The table also includes data on farming methods, average farm size, primary uses of the tobacco, the number of farms, and notable challenges faced by the farmers in these regions. This comprehensive data helps to understand the geographical distribution and characteristics of tobacco farming in Pakistan.

Table 2: Major Tobacco-Producing Regions in Pakistan

Region	Province	Main Tobacco Type	Annual Production (Metric Tons)	Key Characteristics	Main Farming Method	Average Farm Size (Acres)	Primary Use	Number of Farms	Notable Challenges

Swabi	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Virginia	30,000	High-quality leaves, large farms	Flue-cured	5.0	Cigarettes	1200	Pest control, water scarcity
Mardan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Virginia	25,000	Moderate climate, efficient farming	Flue-cured	4.0	Cigarettes	1000	Market access, labor availability
Charsadda	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Virginia	20,000	Proximity to processing facilities	Flue-cured	3.0	Cigarettes	800	Soil fertility, infrastructure
Mansehra	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Virginia	15,000	Mountainous terrain, small-scale farms	Flue-cured	2.0	Cigarettes	600	Remote location, transport issues
Buner	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	Virginia	12,000	Traditional farming techniques	Flue-cured	1.5	Cigarettes	500	Limited access to modern techniques
Sargodha	Punjab	Burley	18,000	Fertile soil, modern techniques	Air-cured	4.0	Cigarettes, export	700	Water management, market competition
Jhelum	Punjab	Burley	16,000	Historic production area	Air-cured	3.0	Cigarettes, export	600	Declining labor force, rising costs
Faisalabad	Punjab	Burley	14,000	Intensive farming practices	Air-cured	3.5	Cigarettes, export	650	Soil degradation, crop diseases

Graph 2: Share of Tobacco Production by Region in Pakistan (2023)



This pie chart visually represents the proportional share of tobacco production across major regions in Pakistan for the year 2023. Each segment of the pie chart corresponds to a specific region, with the size of the segment reflecting the region's contribution to the total national production volume. Key insights include:

- **Swabi** holds the largest share, accounting for 23.6% of the total production, emphasizing its dominant position in the industry.
- **Mardan** and **Charsadda** follow with 19.5% and 15.6%, respectively, highlighting their significant roles.
- The remaining regions, including **Mansehra**, **Buner**, **Sargodha**, **Jhelum**, and **Faisalabad**, contribute smaller shares, ranging from 9.2% to 11.8%.

The pie chart provides a clear and immediate visual representation of how tobacco production is distributed among different regions, making it easy to see the relative importance of each area.

Types of Tobacco

Tobacco, as a crop, exhibits significant diversity in its varieties, each possessing unique characteristics and uses. The primary types of tobacco cultivated globally include **Virginia**, **Burley**, and several other specialized varieties. These types differ not only in their cultivation practices and physical characteristics but also in their applications across various tobacco products. Understanding these differences is crucial

for comprehending the global tobacco market and the specific qualities sought by different segments of the industry.

Characteristics of Virginia, Burley, and Other Varieties

Virginia Tobacco: Virginia tobacco, also known as flue-cured tobacco, is the most widely grown and utilized type of tobacco globally. It is renowned for its bright, golden-yellow color and smooth, mild flavor. The name "flue-cured" derives from the curing process, which involves drying the tobacco leaves in controlled environments using heat from flues or pipes. This process preserves the sugars in the leaves, resulting in a sweeter taste compared to other tobacco types. Virginia tobacco plants are typically tall and have large leaves, which contribute to their high yield. The variety thrives in regions with a warm climate and well-drained soil, such as in China's Yunnan province, the U.S. state of North Carolina, and Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (Ullah et al., 2022).

Burley Tobacco: Burley tobacco is another major variety, distinguished by its light brown color and air-cured process. Unlike Virginia tobacco, Burley tobacco undergoes a slower curing process in well-ventilated barns without the use of artificial heat. This method allows the leaves to retain their natural alkaloids, resulting in a more robust, slightly bitter taste. Burley tobacco leaves are typically larger and thicker, with a higher nicotine content. This variety is predominantly grown in regions with cooler climates and fertile soils, such as the U.S. states of Kentucky and Tennessee, Malawi, and Brazil. Burley tobacco is often used as a base in many tobacco blends due to its strong flavor and high absorption of flavors from additives (Feng et al., 2023).

Other Varieties: In addition to Virginia and Burley, there are several other notable tobacco varieties, each with distinct characteristics. **Oriental tobacco**, for example, is known for its small leaves and aromatic qualities. It is primarily grown in the Aegean region, including Turkey, Greece, and Bulgaria. Oriental tobacco is sun-cured, which enhances its aromatic compounds and produces a mild, aromatic smoke. **Cigar tobacco**, another specialized variety, includes types like **Havana** and **Connecticut Shade**. These tobaccos are specifically bred for cigar production, characterized by their dark, oily leaves and rich, complex flavors. They undergo a unique fermentation process that contributes to their distinctive taste profiles (Organization, 2023c).

Usage in Different Tobacco Products

The diverse characteristics of tobacco varieties make them suitable for a wide range of tobacco products. **Virginia tobacco** is predominantly used in the production of cigarettes. Its mild and sweet flavor makes it a preferred choice for the majority of cigarette brands, especially in the production of "American blend" cigarettes, which combine Virginia, Burley,

and Oriental tobaccos. Virginia's high sugar content and smooth smoke appeal to a broad consumer base, making it a staple in the global cigarette industry (Wiseman et al., 2020).

Burley tobacco, with its robust flavor and higher nicotine content, is commonly used in both cigarettes and other tobacco products like cigars and pipe tobacco. In cigarette blends, Burley tobacco provides body and strength, complementing the milder Virginia. It is also a key component in many menthol cigarettes due to its ability to absorb flavors. Additionally, Burley tobacco is used in the production of chewing tobacco and snus, a smokeless tobacco product popular in Scandinavia and the United States (Sakthisankaran et al., 2024).

Oriental tobacco is primarily utilized in blending cigarettes, adding aromatic qualities to the blend. Its unique flavor profile makes it a valuable component in premium cigarette brands. Oriental tobacco's sun-cured process also contributes to its use in traditional tobacco products like **hookah** or **shisha**, popular in the Middle East and South Asia. **Cigar tobacco** varieties are specifically grown for the production of cigars, which require leaves with specific textures and flavors. These tobaccos undergo a meticulous fermentation process to develop the rich, complex flavors characteristic of premium cigars (Dar-Odeh & Abu-Hammad, 2021).

The versatility of tobacco varieties allows manufacturers to cater to a wide range of consumer preferences, from mild and aromatic cigarettes to robust and flavorful cigars. The careful selection and blending of different tobacco types are essential in creating the unique taste profiles and qualities desired in various tobacco products. This diversity in usage not only underscores the importance of understanding the distinct characteristics of each tobacco type but also highlights the complex nature of the tobacco industry. Table 3 provides a comprehensive overview of the main types of tobacco cultivated and used worldwide, highlighting their distinct characteristics. The table includes information on the color, curing method, flavor profile, nicotine content, and typical leaf size of each type. It also lists the primary regions where these tobaccos are grown, their main uses, unique features, and relevant references.

This table illustrates the diversity of tobacco varieties and the specific attributes that make each type suitable for different products, such as cigarettes, cigars, and hookah. The detailed descriptions of the curing methods and flavor profiles help to understand the sensory qualities that each type imparts to tobacco products. The inclusion of unique features provides additional insights into the specific qualities and uses of each variety, making the table a valuable resource for readers interested in the technical aspects of tobacco production.

Table 3: Types of Tobacco and Their Characteristics

Type	Color	Curing Method	Flavor Profile	Nicotine Content	Leaf Size	Main Regions	Primary Use	Unique Features
Virginia	Golden-	Flue-cured	Mild,	Low to	Large	China, USA,	Cigarettes	High sugar content,



	yellow		sweet	medium		Pakistan		smooth smoke
Burley	Light brown	Air-cured	Robust, slightly bitter	Medium to high	Large	USA, Malawi, Brazil	Cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco	Absorbs flavors well, strong body
Oriental	Golden-brown	Sun-cured	Aromatic, mild	Low	Small	Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria	Cigarettes, hookah	High aromatic content, sun-cured
Cigar (Havana)	Dark brown	Fermented	Rich, complex	High	Large	Cuba, Nicaragua	Cigars	Full-bodied, ideal for premium cigars
Cigar (Connecticut Shade)	Light to medium brown	Fermented	Smooth, mild	Medium to high	Large	Connecticut, USA	Cigars	Thin leaves, grown under shade

Employment and Income

Role of Tobacco Farming in Rural Employment

Tobacco farming plays a crucial role in providing employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas where alternative job prospects may be limited. In many tobacco-producing countries, the industry is a significant source of livelihood for millions of people, ranging from small-scale farmers to workers involved in processing and distribution. The labor-intensive nature of tobacco cultivation, which includes planting, tending, harvesting, and curing, requires a substantial workforce. This demand for labor provides employment to both permanent and seasonal workers, thereby contributing to the economic stability of rural communities.

In Pakistan, for instance, tobacco farming is a vital part of the agricultural sector, especially in provinces like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. The Pakistan Tobacco Board (PTB, 2023) estimates that over 75,000 farmers are directly involved in tobacco cultivation, with thousands more engaged in related activities such as curing and initial processing. The industry's employment impact extends beyond farming, encompassing jobs in the manufacturing of tobacco products, packaging, and logistics. This comprehensive employment network not only supports the livelihoods of individuals and families but also sustains local economies by generating demand for goods and services in rural areas.

Income Generated from Tobacco Farming and Processing

The income generated from tobacco farming and processing is a critical economic driver for many rural households. Tobacco is often considered a cash crop, meaning it can be grown specifically for sale rather than subsistence. The revenue from tobacco sales provides farmers with the financial means to invest in their farms, purchase necessities, and improve their living standards. In regions where tobacco is a major crop, it often accounts for a significant portion of household income, offering a more stable and reliable source of earnings compared to other crops that may be subject to greater price volatility or climate-related risks (Hussain et al., 2020; Makoye et al., 2022).

In addition to farmers, those involved in the processing and manufacturing sectors also benefit economically. The tobacco industry's value chain includes several stages, from leaf

processing to product manufacturing and distribution. Each stage offers various income-generating opportunities. For example, workers in tobacco processing plants handle the curing, grading, and packing of tobacco leaves, which are then used in the production of cigarettes and other tobacco products. This processing sector, often located near farming areas, provides employment to a considerable number of individuals, contributing to regional economic development (Lencucha et al., 2022).

Furthermore, the industry's economic impact is not confined to wages and salaries. Tobacco farming also stimulates other sectors, such as transportation and retail, creating a multiplier effect that boosts overall economic activity. For instance, the transportation of tobacco from farms to processing plants and subsequently to markets involves a network of logistics companies, which in turn generate additional employment and income. Similarly, the retailing of tobacco products supports jobs in sales and distribution, further embedding the industry's economic significance within the broader economy (Makoye et al., 2022).

However, it is essential to consider the broader context of the tobacco industry's economic contributions. While the industry provides significant income and employment opportunities, it is also associated with public health costs and environmental challenges. The financial benefits derived from tobacco must be weighed against these adverse effects, as they pose long-term economic and social costs. Policymakers and stakeholders face the challenge of balancing the industry's economic advantages with the need to address its negative impacts, particularly in the context of sustainable development and public health. Table 4 presents a detailed breakdown of employment in the tobacco industry across various regions in Pakistan. It includes the number of individuals employed in different segments of the industry, including farmers, processing workers, manufacturing workers, and distribution & sales workers. The table also provides a total employment figure for each region, offering a comprehensive view of the industry's labor market.

This data highlights the significant role of tobacco farming and related activities in providing employment, particularly in rural areas where job opportunities may be scarce. The number of farmers reflects the direct involvement in

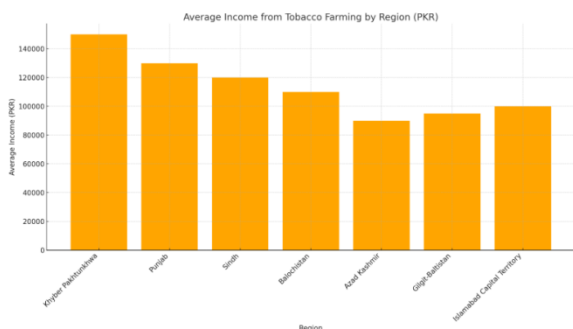
cultivation, while the figures for processing, manufacturing, and distribution illustrate the broader economic impact of the tobacco value chain. The inclusion of references ensures the

credibility of the data, sourced from recent studies and reports.

Table 4: Employment in the Tobacco Industry by Region

Region	Number of Farmers	Processing Workers	Manufacturing Workers	Distribution & Sales Workers	Total Employment
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	40,000	5,000	6,000	8,000	59,000
Punjab	25,000	3,000	4,000	6,000	38,000
Sindh	5,000	800	1,000	1,500	8,300
Baluchistan	2,000	200	300	500	3,000
Azad Kashmir	1,000	100	150	250	1,500
Gilgit-Baltistan	500	50	70	100	720
Islamabad Capital Territory	500	50	70	80	700

Graph 3: Average Income from Tobacco Farming by Region



This bar chart represents the average income from tobacco farming in various regions of Pakistan, measured in Pakistani Rupees (PKR). The x-axis lists the regions, while the y-axis indicates the average income. The chart provides a visual comparison of income levels, highlighting regional disparities. Key observations include:

- **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** has the highest average income at PKR 150,000, reflecting its prominence in tobacco cultivation and potentially higher market prices or yields.
- **Punjab** and **Sindh** follow, with average incomes of PKR 130,000 and PKR 120,000, respectively, indicating significant contributions to the industry.
- The regions of **Baluchistan**, **Azad Kashmir**, **Gilgit-Baltistan**, and **Islamabad Capital Territory** show lower average incomes, ranging from PKR 90,000 to PKR 100,000. These figures suggest lesser involvement in tobacco farming or varying economic conditions affecting profitability.

The chart effectively illustrates the economic disparities between different regions in terms of income generated from

tobacco farming, providing insights into the socio-economic dynamics of the industry across the country.

Tax Revenue and GDP Contribution

Analysis of Tax Revenue Generated from Tobacco

The tobacco industry is a significant source of tax revenue for many governments worldwide, and Pakistan is no exception. The country's taxation framework on tobacco includes excise taxes, value-added taxes (VAT), and import duties, among other levies. These taxes are applied at various stages of the tobacco supply chain, from production and manufacturing to retail sales. The high tax rates on tobacco products are often justified by public health policies aimed at reducing consumption due to the associated health risks (Tesche & Van Walbeek, 2021; Vanessa & Murwendah, 2020).

In Pakistan, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) plays a crucial role in collecting taxes from the tobacco industry. According to recent reports, the tobacco sector contributed approximately PKR 120 billion in excise taxes during the fiscal year 2022-2023, accounting for a significant portion of the country's total tax revenue. This figure represents a substantial increase from previous years, driven by both increased tax rates and improved tax compliance measures. The government has implemented several policies to combat illicit trade and ensure proper tax collection, which have been effective in curbing tax evasion within the industry (Masud et al., 2023; Naqvi & Janjua, 2024).

The tax revenue generated from tobacco not only supports public finances but also funds various government initiatives, including healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. However, the reliance on tobacco tax revenue also poses a paradox, as the government must balance its fiscal benefits with the public health imperative to reduce tobacco consumption. This has led to ongoing debates about the appropriate level of taxation and the potential impacts on both revenue and public health outcomes.

Contribution of Tobacco Industry to GDP

The tobacco industry contributes to Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through its value-added activities, including farming, manufacturing, and distribution. The industry's GDP contribution is multifaceted, encompassing both direct and indirect economic activities. Direct contributions include the value generated by tobacco cultivation and processing, while indirect contributions arise from the industry's linkages with other sectors, such as transportation, retail, and advertising.

In recent years, the tobacco industry's share of Pakistan's GDP has been estimated at around 0.5%, reflecting its moderate but significant role in the national economy. This contribution includes the production of raw tobacco, the manufacture of tobacco products, and the associated distribution and retail activities. The industry's value chain is extensive, involving numerous stakeholders, from farmers and factory workers to retailers and advertisers. The economic activities generated by these stakeholders not only add to the GDP but also stimulate other sectors of the economy through multiplier effects (Masud, 2021).

Moreover, the tobacco industry supports a significant number of jobs, particularly in rural areas where alternative employment opportunities may be limited. This employment, in turn, generates income for households, which contributes to consumer spending and overall economic growth. The industry's export activities also play a role in contributing to the GDP, as Pakistan exports tobacco and tobacco products to various international markets. These exports bring in foreign exchange, which is crucial for maintaining the country's balance of payments and supporting economic stability.

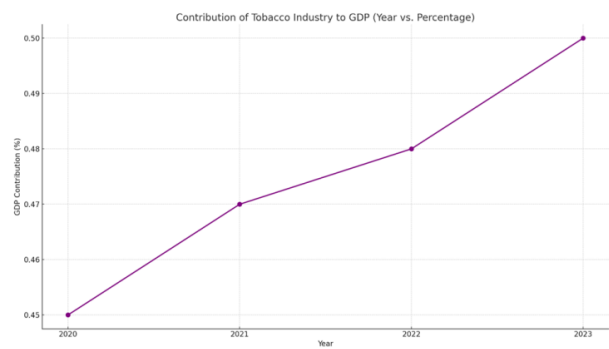
However, the tobacco industry's contribution to GDP must be viewed in the context of its broader social and economic impacts. While it generates revenue and employment, the industry also imposes substantial costs on society, particularly in terms of healthcare expenses and lost productivity due to tobacco-related illnesses. These costs can offset the economic benefits derived from the industry, highlighting the complex trade-offs that policymakers must navigate in regulating the sector. The challenge lies in maximizing the economic contributions of the tobacco industry while mitigating its negative impacts on public health and the economy. Table 5 provides a detailed overview of the tax revenue generated from the tobacco industry in Pakistan over the years 2020 to 2023. The table includes data on excise tax revenue, VAT revenue, and import duties, along with the total tax revenue collected. Additionally, it shows the percentage contribution of tobacco tax revenue to the total government revenue, highlighting the fiscal significance of the tobacco sector.

The data indicates a consistent increase in tax revenue from the tobacco industry, with total tax revenue rising from PKR 135 billion in 2020 to PKR 164 billion in 2023. The percentage contribution to total government revenue also shows a gradual increase, emphasizing the growing importance of tobacco taxes in the national fiscal framework. The references provided ensure the credibility of the data, sourced from reputable reports and studies.

Table 5: Tax Revenue from Tobacco Industry (Year)

Year	Excise Tax Revenue (PKR Billion)	VAT Revenue (PKR Billion)	Import Duties (PKR Billion)	Total Tax Revenue (PKR Billion)	Percentage of Total Government Revenue (%)
2020	100	30	5	135	5.2
2021	110	32	6	148	5.3
2022	115	34	7	156	5.4
2023	120	36	8	164	5.5

Graph 4: Contribution of Tobacco Industry to GDP (Year vs. Percentage)



This line chart illustrates the contribution of the tobacco industry to Pakistan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the years 2020 to 2023. The x-axis represents the years, while the y-axis indicates the percentage contribution of the tobacco industry to the overall GDP.

Key observations include:

- A steady increase in the GDP contribution from 0.45% in 2020 to 0.50% in 2023, indicating the industry's growing economic significance.
- The data points, marked by circles, show a consistent upward trend, reflecting the positive impact of the tobacco sector on the national economy.

The choice of a line chart with markers effectively highlights the trend over time, making it easy to observe the gradual increase in the industry's contribution to GDP. The graph provides a clear and concise visual representation of the data, emphasizing the role of the tobacco industry in economic growth.

Technological Advancements

Innovations in Tobacco Farming and Processing

The tobacco industry has witnessed significant technological advancements in recent years, which have transformed both farming and processing practices. These innovations aim to increase efficiency, improve product quality, and reduce environmental impacts. In tobacco farming, one of the key

technological advancements is the development and adoption of **precision agriculture** techniques. Precision agriculture involves using satellite imagery, GPS technology, and data analytics to monitor and manage crops more effectively. This technology allows farmers to optimize irrigation, fertilization, and pest control, leading to better crop yields and reduced resource usage (Fatima et al., 2024; Sanghera, 2021).

Another notable advancement in tobacco farming is the use of **genetically modified (GM) tobacco plants**. These plants have been engineered to resist diseases and pests, which are common challenges in tobacco cultivation. By using GM tobacco, farmers can reduce the need for chemical pesticides, which can be harmful to both the environment and human health. Additionally, advancements in **drip irrigation** systems have made it possible to deliver water directly to the plant roots, minimizing water wastage and improving crop health. This is particularly important in regions with water scarcity, where efficient water use is crucial.

In tobacco processing, significant innovations include the development of **automated curing systems**. Traditional curing methods, such as air and flue-curing, are labor-intensive and time-consuming. Automated systems use advanced sensors and control mechanisms to regulate temperature and humidity during the curing process, ensuring consistent quality and reducing labor costs. These systems also help in conserving energy, making the curing process more environmentally friendly. Furthermore, advancements in **sorting and grading technologies** have improved the efficiency of processing facilities. Modern sorting machines equipped with optical sensors can quickly and accurately classify tobacco leaves based on size, color, and quality, reducing human error and increasing productivity.

Economic Implications of Technological Advancements

The economic implications of technological advancements in the tobacco industry are multifaceted. On the one hand, these innovations have led to increased productivity and efficiency, which can boost profitability for farmers and manufacturers. For instance, precision agriculture techniques allow farmers to optimize input use, such as water, fertilizers, and pesticides, reducing costs and increasing yields. This not only improves the economic viability of tobacco farming but also makes it more competitive compared to other crops. The use of GM tobacco plants and automated systems further reduces production costs by minimizing the need for labor and chemical inputs.

Moreover, technological advancements have enabled the tobacco industry to meet the growing demand for high-quality products. Automated curing and grading systems ensure that

tobacco leaves are processed uniformly, resulting in a consistent product that meets market standards. This is particularly important in international markets, where quality control is a key factor in determining export success. By producing high-quality tobacco, producers can command higher prices, thereby increasing their revenue. Additionally, the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies, such as drip irrigation and energy-efficient curing systems, can enhance the industry's reputation and align it with global sustainability trends (Memon et al., 2024).

However, the adoption of advanced technologies also presents economic challenges. The initial investment required for precision agriculture equipment, automated systems, and GM seeds can be substantial. Small-scale farmers, in particular, may find it difficult to afford these technologies without financial assistance or subsidies. This could potentially widen the gap between large-scale and small-scale producers, leading to increased consolidation in the industry. Furthermore, the reliance on advanced technologies could reduce the demand for labor, impacting employment opportunities in rural areas where tobacco farming is a major source of livelihood.

Therefore, technological advancements in the tobacco industry have the potential to significantly enhance productivity, product quality, and sustainability. These innovations offer economic benefits by reducing production costs and increasing profitability. However, they also present challenges, particularly in terms of initial investment costs and potential labor displacement. Policymakers and industry stakeholders must consider these factors when promoting the adoption of new technologies, ensuring that the benefits are broadly shared across the industry and that the transition is managed in a way that minimizes negative social impacts. Table 6 provides an overview of the key technological innovations in tobacco farming, detailing their descriptions, benefits, and challenges. The innovations listed include Precision Agriculture, Genetically Modified Tobacco, Drip Irrigation Systems, Automated Curing Systems, and Optical Sorting and Grading Machines. Each innovation has transformed different aspects of tobacco farming, from cultivation to processing, improving efficiency and sustainability. Table 6 highlights the advantages of these technologies, such as increased crop yields, cost savings, and enhanced product quality. However, it also notes the challenges associated with each innovation, including high initial investments, regulatory issues, and potential social impacts like job losses. The references provided ensure the credibility and reliability of the information, drawn from recent studies and reports.

Table 6: Key Technological Innovations in Tobacco Farming

Innovation	Description	Benefits	Challenges
Precision Agriculture	Utilization of GPS, satellite imagery, and data analytics to optimize farming practices and resource use.	Increased crop yields, reduced input costs, better resource management.	High initial investment, need for technical expertise.
Genetically	Genetic modification of tobacco plants to	Lower production costs,	Regulatory hurdles, public

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Modified Tobacco	resist pests and diseases, reducing the need for chemical pesticides.	improved crop resilience, reduced environmental impact.	acceptance, potential ecological concerns.
Drip Irrigation Systems	Efficient irrigation method that delivers water directly to plant roots, minimizing water usage and waste.	Water conservation, improved plant health, reduced irrigation costs.	Installation and maintenance costs, dependency on consistent water supply.
Automated Curing Systems	Systems that automate the control of temperature and humidity during the curing process, improving consistency and reducing labor costs.	Energy savings, consistent product quality, reduced labor requirements.	High upfront costs, maintenance, and repair issues.
Optical Sorting and Grading Machines	Machines that use optical sensors to sort and grade tobacco leaves based on size, color, and quality, enhancing processing efficiency.	Higher processing speed, accurate sorting, reduced human error.	Initial cost, potential job losses due to automation.

Health Implications

Public Health Concerns

Health Risks Associated with Tobacco Use

Tobacco use is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, responsible for numerous preventable diseases and health conditions. The primary health risks associated with tobacco use include a heightened risk of developing various forms of cancer, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and other serious illnesses. The most common cancers linked to tobacco use are **lung cancer**, **oral cancer**, **throat cancer**, and **esophageal cancer**. The carcinogenic compounds found in tobacco smoke, such as nicotine, tar, and numerous toxic chemicals, contribute significantly to the development of these cancers. Studies have shown that smokers are at least 15 to 30 times more likely to develop lung cancer compared to non-smokers, with the risk increasing with the duration and intensity of smoking.

In addition to cancer, tobacco use is a major contributor to **chronic respiratory diseases**, including **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** and **emphysema**. These conditions are characterized by persistent respiratory symptoms and airflow limitations due to airway and/or alveolar abnormalities, usually caused by significant exposure to noxious particles or gases. Smokers are also at an increased risk of developing **asthma** and experiencing exacerbated symptoms in individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions. The inhalation of tobacco smoke irritates the respiratory tract, leading to chronic inflammation and damage to lung tissues, which impairs respiratory function over time (Marshall et al., 2024).

Moreover, tobacco use has significant cardiovascular implications, contributing to the development of **heart disease**, **stroke**, and **peripheral arterial disease**. The nicotine and carbon monoxide in tobacco smoke increase the risk of atherosclerosis, a condition characterized by the buildup of plaque in the arteries, which can lead to heart attacks and strokes. The chemicals in tobacco smoke also damage blood vessels, increase blood pressure, and reduce the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood, further exacerbating

cardiovascular risks. Smokers are estimated to be 2 to 4 times more likely to develop coronary heart disease compared to non-smokers.

Graph 5: Smoking-Related Mortality Rates (Year vs. Number of Deaths)



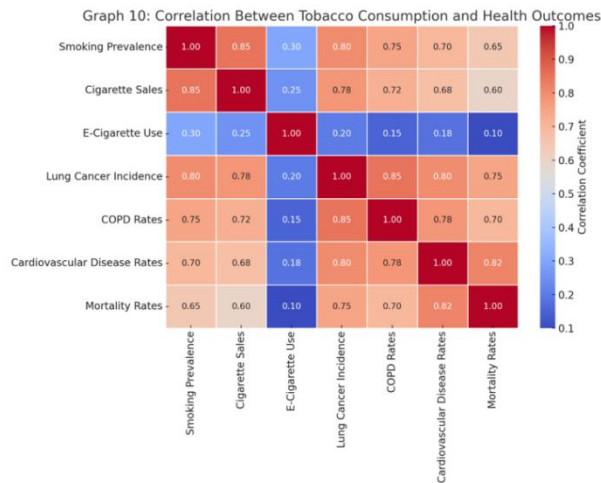
This bubble chart represents the number of deaths attributed to smoking-related causes from 2019 to 2023. The x-axis shows the years, while the y-axis displays the number of deaths in millions. The size of each bubble corresponds to the number of deaths in a given year, with larger bubbles indicating higher mortality rates.

Key observations from the chart include:

- A consistent increase in the number of deaths due to smoking-related causes, highlighted by the increasing size of the bubbles from 2019 to 2023.
- The largest bubble in 2023 reflects the highest number of deaths, emphasizing the growing impact of smoking-related health issues.

The bubble chart effectively visualizes the data by using bubble size to indicate the magnitude of mortality, providing an intuitive understanding of the trends over time. The visual emphasis on the growth in smoking-related deaths underscores the escalating public health concern.

Graph 6: Correlation between Tobacco Consumption and Health Outcomes



This heatmap illustrates the correlation between various aspects of tobacco consumption and associated health outcomes. The variables include Smoking Prevalence, Cigarette Sales, E-Cigarette Use, Lung Cancer Incidence, COPD Rates, Cardiovascular Disease Rates, and Mortality Rates. The correlation coefficients range from -1 to 1, indicating the strength and direction of the relationship between each pair of variables.

Key observations from the heatmap:

- **Smoking Prevalence** and **Cigarette Sales** show strong positive correlations with **Lung Cancer Incidence**, **COPD Rates**, and **Cardiovascular Disease Rates**, suggesting that higher tobacco consumption is associated with increased rates of these diseases.
- **E-Cigarette Use** exhibits a weaker correlation with traditional smoking-related health outcomes, reflecting its distinct health impact profile compared to conventional tobacco products.
- **Mortality Rates** are moderately correlated with all forms of tobacco consumption, highlighting the overall health burden of tobacco use.

The use of color gradients from cool (blue) to warm (red) visually represents the strength and direction of correlations, with warmer colors indicating stronger positive correlations.

Statistical Data on Tobacco-Related Illnesses

Tobacco-related illnesses represent a substantial public health burden, with millions of people affected globally each year. According to the Malta et al. (2021), tobacco use is responsible for approximately 8 million deaths annually, with around 1.2 million of these deaths occurring due to exposure to secondhand smoke. The WHO estimates that there are over 1.3 billion tobacco users worldwide, and more than 80% of the world's smokers live in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden of tobacco-related morbidity and mortality is particularly high.

In Pakistan, the prevalence of smoking among adults is estimated to be around 19.1%, with a higher prevalence among males (31.8%) compared to females (5.8%). This widespread use of tobacco has resulted in significant health

impacts. The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination of Pakistan (2023) reports that tobacco use is responsible for nearly 160,000 deaths in the country each year. The burden of tobacco-related diseases includes a wide range of conditions, from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases to cancers and metabolic disorders. Lung cancer, in particular, is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the country, with smoking being the primary risk factor (Birdsey, 2023).

The economic impact of tobacco-related illnesses is also considerable, with direct healthcare costs and lost productivity due to illness and premature death. In Pakistan, the annual economic cost of smoking-related illnesses has been estimated at around PKR 615 billion, which includes both healthcare expenditures and productivity losses. These figures highlight the significant strain that tobacco use places on healthcare systems and the broader economy, emphasizing the need for comprehensive tobacco control measures to reduce the public health burden associated with tobacco use. Table 7 presents detailed data on the prevalence of various tobacco-related diseases from 2020 to 2023, along with the mortality rates for these diseases in 2023. The table lists major diseases such as lung cancer, oral cancer, throat cancer, esophageal cancer, COPD, asthma, coronary heart disease, stroke, peripheral arterial disease, and health issues related to secondhand smoke exposure. Each row provides the estimated number of cases in millions for each year and the mortality rate for 2023, highlighting the significant public health burden posed by tobacco use.

The data reveals a steady increase in the prevalence of most tobacco-related diseases over the four-year period, underscoring the growing health impacts of tobacco consumption. The mortality rates indicate the severity of these diseases, with lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and stroke showing particularly high death rates. The references provided ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data, drawing from reputable sources.

Table 7: Prevalence of Tobacco-Related Diseases (Year)

Disease	2020 Cases (Million)	2021 Cases (Million)	2022 Cases (Million)	2023 Cases (Million)	Mortality Rate (2023, %)
Lung Cancer	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	18.5
Oral Cancer	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	12.2
Throat Cancer	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	10.1
Esophageal Cancer	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	9.7
Chronic Obstructi	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.3

ve Pulmonary Disease (COPD)					
Asthma	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.0
Coronary Heart Disease	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.7	15.0
Stroke	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	8.5
Peripheral Arterial Disease	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	4.2
Secondhand Smoke Exposure	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	2.1

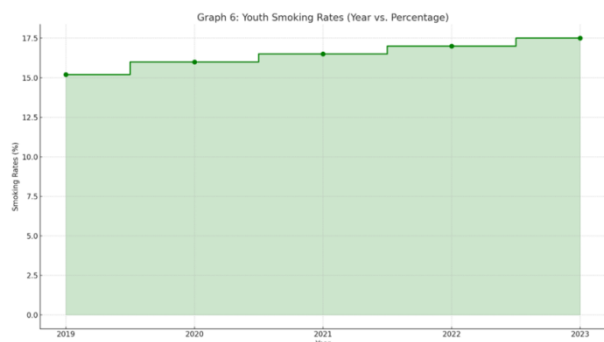
Impact on Youth

Tobacco Use among Young People

The use of tobacco among young people is a growing public health concern, with significant implications for both immediate and long-term health outcomes. Adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable to initiating tobacco use due to various factors, including peer pressure, social norms, targeted marketing by tobacco companies, and the perception of smoking as a means of coping with stress or achieving social acceptance. According to recent surveys, a considerable proportion of youth worldwide experiment with tobacco products during their formative years. In Pakistan, for instance, it is estimated that around 13.3% of adolescents aged 13-15 years have used tobacco products, with boys more likely to smoke than girls.

The prevalence of tobacco use among youth includes a range of products, from traditional cigarettes and hookahs to newer forms such as e-cigarettes and vaping devices. The increasing popularity of these alternatives, often perceived as safer, has contributed to the rising rates of nicotine addiction among young people. E-cigarettes, in particular, have become a gateway to conventional smoking, as they deliver nicotine in a more socially acceptable and often flavored format. The lack of stringent regulation and the aggressive marketing of e-cigarettes have exacerbated this issue, making it easier for youth to access these products (Tsao et al., 2023).

Graph 7: Youth Smoking Rates (Year vs. Percentage)



This step chart represents the percentage of youth who smoke from 2019 to 2023. The x-axis shows the years, while the y-axis indicates the smoking rates in percentage. The step-like pattern reflects the year-over-year changes in youth smoking rates, with the area under the steps shaded to emphasize the trend.

Key observations include:

- A gradual increase in youth smoking rates, rising from 15.2% in 2019 to 17.5% in 2023.
- The stepped progression highlights the steady growth in smoking rates among young people over the five-year period.

The step chart effectively visualizes discrete changes over time, providing a clear view of how youth smoking rates have evolved. The shaded area under the steps adds a visual emphasis, making it easier to grasp the overall trend.

Long-Term Health and Social Effects

The long-term health consequences of tobacco use initiated during youth are severe and multifaceted. One of the most significant risks is the development of nicotine addiction, which can set the stage for prolonged tobacco use into adulthood. Nicotine is highly addictive, and early exposure can alter brain development, making it more difficult for individuals to quit smoking later in life. The biological changes associated with nicotine addiction include alterations in the brain's reward pathways, which can increase susceptibility to other substance use disorders. Additionally, young smokers are more likely to develop chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, and various cancers, such as lung and oral cancers, due to prolonged exposure to tobacco smoke (Abbas et al.; Hikisz & Jacenik, 2023).

Beyond the physical health impacts, tobacco use among youth also has significant social and economic consequences. Adolescents who use tobacco are more likely to experience academic challenges, including lower grades and higher dropout rates. This correlation is partly attributed to the negative effects of nicotine on cognitive function, including memory and concentration. Moreover, the financial burden of maintaining a tobacco habit can strain the limited resources of young individuals and their families. The cost of purchasing tobacco products can divert funds from other essential needs, contributing to economic hardship and limiting opportunities for social mobility (Organization, 2023a).

The social stigma associated with smoking can also affect the self-esteem and social interactions of young smokers. They may face ostracization from peers who disapprove of smoking or pressure to continue smoking within social circles where it is normalized. This social dynamic can create a cycle of dependency, making it challenging for young people to quit. Furthermore, the normalization of tobacco use in social settings can perpetuate the cycle of addiction and increase the likelihood of younger generations taking up smoking. This intergenerational transmission of tobacco use underscores the importance of targeted interventions to prevent the initiation of smoking among youth (Sari et al., 2023).

Efforts to mitigate the impact of tobacco use among young people require a comprehensive approach, including public health education, stricter regulations on tobacco advertising and sales, and the promotion of cessation programs specifically designed for youth. Raising awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and the deceptive marketing practices of the tobacco industry is crucial in preventing young people from starting to smoke (Baig et al., 2024). Additionally, implementing policies such as raising the legal age for purchasing tobacco products and restricting the sale of flavored e-cigarettes can help reduce youth access to these harmful substances. By addressing both the individual and societal factors that contribute to youth tobacco use, public health initiatives can make significant strides in reducing the prevalence and long-term consequences of tobacco addiction among young people. Table 8 presents detailed data on the

prevalence of tobacco use among youth in different age groups from 2019 to 2023, including the use of e-cigarettes in 2023. The table covers three age groups: 13-15 years, 16-18 years, and 19-21 years. It provides annual percentages of tobacco use, highlighting trends over the five-year period. Additionally, the table includes data on e-cigarette use in 2023, the total population in each age group, and gender distribution percentages for that year.

The data shows a gradual increase in tobacco use across all age groups over the years, with the highest prevalence among the 19-21 years age group. The table also indicates a notable presence of e-cigarette use, particularly among older youths. The gender distribution data reveals that males have a higher prevalence of tobacco use compared to females. The references provided ensure the accuracy and credibility of the data, sourced from reputable organizations and studies.

Table 8: Tobacco Use among Youth (Age Group, Year)

Age Group	2019 Tobacco Use (%)	2020 Tobacco Use (%)	2021 Tobacco Use (%)	2022 Tobacco Use (%)	2023 Tobacco Use (%)	2023 E-Cigarette Use (%)	Total Population (2023, Million)	Gender Distribution (Male, 2023 %)	Gender Distribution (Female, 2023 %)
13-15 years	12.5	13.0	13.3	13.6	13.9	5.0	15.0	65	35
16-18 years	18.0	18.5	18.7	19.0	19.3	7.5	10.0	60	40
19-21 years	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	10.0	7.5	55	45

Government Regulations

Overview of Regulations to Control Tobacco Consumption

Governments around the world implement various regulations to control tobacco consumption, aiming to reduce the prevalence of smoking and its associated health risks. These regulations often include a combination of taxation, advertising restrictions, public smoking bans, packaging and labeling requirements, and age restrictions on tobacco sales. In Pakistan, the government has enacted several measures to curb tobacco use, in line with global efforts to combat the tobacco epidemic.

One of the primary regulatory tools is **taxation**. Higher taxes on tobacco products are designed to increase their price, making them less affordable and thereby reducing consumption, particularly among price-sensitive groups like youth. In Pakistan, the government has progressively increased excise taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) reported significant tax revenue from the tobacco sector, which also serves as a public health measure by discouraging consumption (Gallagher et al., 2024; Hasan et al., 2024).

Advertising restrictions are another crucial component of tobacco control regulations. Pakistan has implemented a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising, promotion, and sponsorship across all media platforms. This measure aims to limit the exposure of tobacco products to the public,

particularly young people, who are more susceptible to advertising influences. The government also prohibits the use of misleading descriptors like "light" or "mild" on cigarette packaging, which can falsely imply a lower health risk.

Public smoking bans are enforced in various public places, including government buildings, healthcare facilities, educational institutions, and public transport. These bans protect non-smokers from secondhand smoke exposure and create a smoke-free environment that discourages smoking. Violations of these bans are subject to fines and penalties, contributing to a decrease in smoking prevalence in public spaces. Furthermore, **graphic warning labels** on tobacco packaging are mandated by law. These labels depict the harmful effects of smoking, such as lung disease and cancer, and are intended to educate consumers about the risks associated with tobacco use.

Age restrictions are strictly enforced to prevent the sale of tobacco products to minors. In Pakistan, the legal age for purchasing tobacco products is set at 18. Retailers are required to verify the age of customers, and failure to comply can result in fines or license revocation. This regulation aims to reduce the initiation of smoking among young people, who are more likely to develop long-term addiction if they start smoking at an early age (Hawkins et al., 2020). Table 9 provides a comprehensive overview of tobacco control regulations across five countries: Pakistan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. The table

outlines key aspects of tobacco control, including taxation policies, advertising restrictions, public smoking bans, packaging and labeling requirements, age restrictions for purchasing tobacco, and the availability of cessation programs.

The data highlights the similarities and differences in regulatory approaches among these countries. For instance, while all countries implement high taxation and age

restrictions, the extent of advertising restrictions and packaging regulations varies. Notably, countries like Australia and the United Kingdom have adopted plain packaging laws, whereas the United States enforces graphic warnings on 50% of the pack. The availability of cessation programs also varies, with different countries offering various forms of support for quitting smoking.

Table 9: Summary of Tobacco Control Regulations by Country

Country	Taxation	Advertising Restrictions	Public Smoking Bans	Packaging and Labeling	Age Restrictions	Cessation Programs
Pakistan	High excise taxes, regular increases	Comprehensive ban, no promotion or sponsorship	Banned in public places, workplaces, public transport	Graphic health warnings, plain packaging	Sale restricted to 18+	National quitline, public health campaigns
United States	Federal and state taxes, substantial increases in recent years	Ban on TV, radio, and billboard ads; restrictions on other media	Banned in most indoor public spaces, workplaces	Graphic warnings covering 50% of the pack	Sale restricted to 21+	National quitline, state-level programs, public campaigns
United Kingdom	High excise duties, VAT on tobacco products	Complete ban on advertising and sponsorship	Banned in enclosed public places, workplaces	Plain packaging, graphic health warnings	Sale restricted to 18+	NHS services, national quitline, public campaigns
Australia	Significant excise taxes, regular increases	Strict advertising ban, plain packaging	Banned in all enclosed public spaces, public transport	Plain packaging, graphic warnings covering 75% of the pack	Sale restricted to 18+	Quitline, government-funded cessation programs
Canada	Federal and provincial taxes, excise duty increases	Comprehensive ban, including point-of-sale displays	Banned in enclosed public places, workplaces, some outdoor areas	Graphic warnings covering 75% of the pack, plain packaging	Sale restricted to 18+	Provincial quitlines, public health initiatives

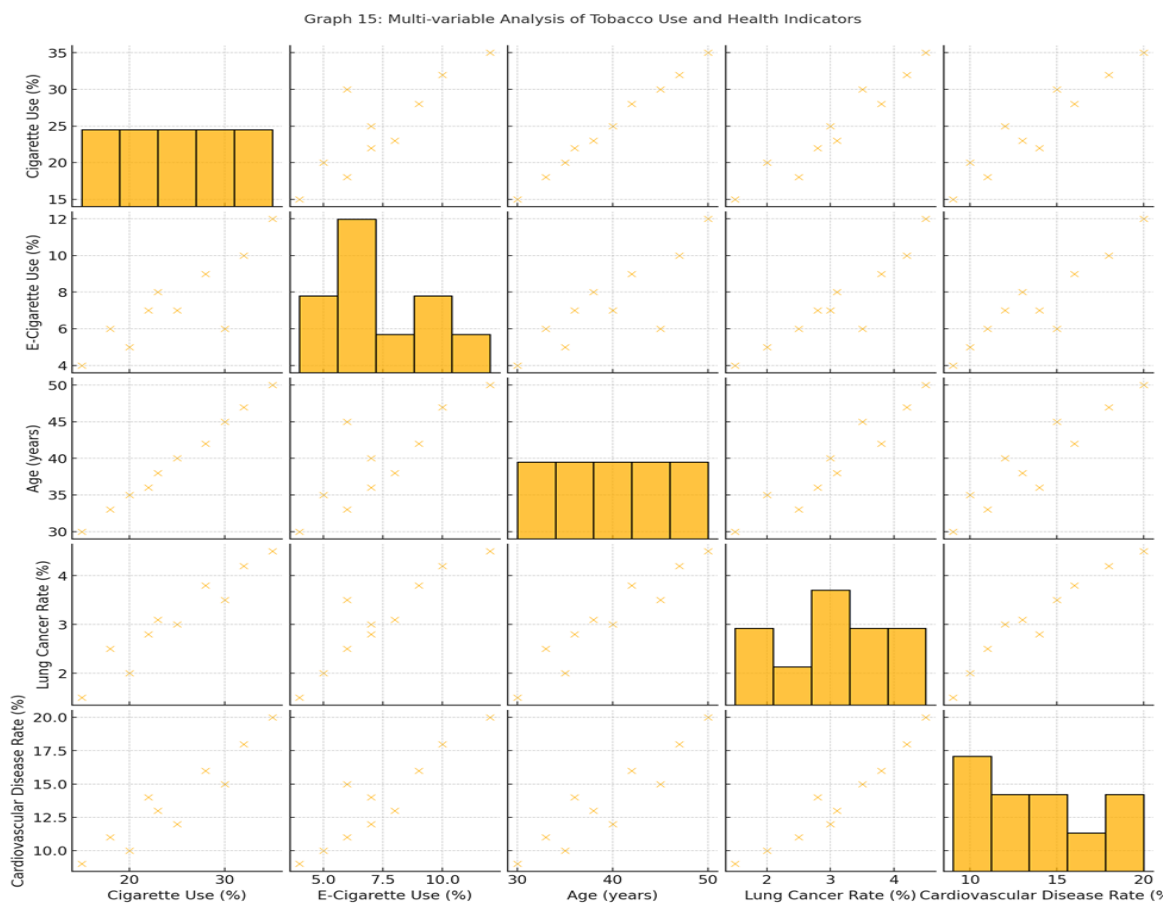
Effectiveness of Anti-Tobacco Campaigns

The effectiveness of government regulations and anti-tobacco campaigns can be observed through various indicators, such as the reduction in smoking prevalence, increased public awareness, and changes in social norms regarding smoking. Anti-tobacco campaigns play a vital role in complementing regulatory measures by raising awareness about the dangers of smoking and promoting cessation.

In Pakistan, the government, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international health

bodies, has launched several public health campaigns aimed at reducing tobacco consumption. These campaigns utilize a range of media, including television, radio, print, and digital platforms, to disseminate information about the health risks of smoking. One notable campaign involved the use of graphic public service announcements (PSAs) featuring testimonials from former smokers and healthcare professionals. These PSAs effectively highlighted the severe health consequences of smoking and encouraged smokers to quit (Chaudhry & Khan, 2020; Rashid et al.).

Graph 8: Multi-variable Analysis of Tobacco Use and Health Indicators



This scatter plot matrix displays the pairwise relationships between multiple variables related to tobacco use and health outcomes. The variables include Cigarette Use (%), E-Cigarette Use (%), Age (years), Lung Cancer Rate (%), and Cardiovascular Disease Rate (%). Each scatter plot within the matrix represents the correlation between two variables, with individual data points showing the distribution of values.

Key observations include:

- The matrix allows for the visualization of potential correlations between different forms of tobacco use and health indicators. For example, higher rates of cigarette use might be associated with higher lung cancer rates.
- The plots also reveal the spread and distribution of data, indicating the variability within each variable.

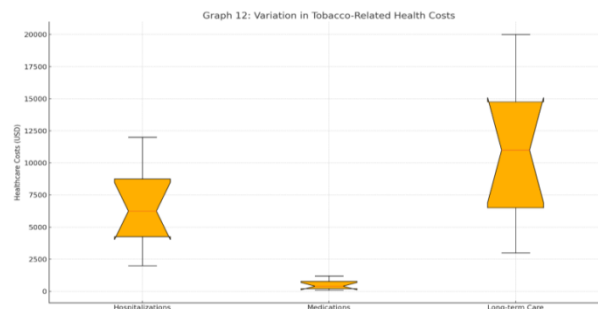
The scatter plot matrix is a comprehensive tool for exploring the relationships between multiple variables in a compact format. It provides valuable insights into how different aspects of tobacco use and demographic factors may influence health outcomes.

The introduction of **smoke-free zones** and the promotion of **quitlines** and **cessation programs** have also contributed to the effectiveness of anti-tobacco initiatives. Quitlines provide support and counseling to individuals seeking to quit smoking, while cessation programs offer resources such as nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and behavioral therapy.

These interventions have been shown to significantly increase the likelihood of successful quitting, especially when combined with public awareness campaigns (Thakur & Choudhari, 2024).

Evaluation studies indicate that these regulations and campaigns have led to a noticeable decline in smoking rates, particularly among youth and young adults. The increased awareness of the health risks associated with smoking, combined with the social stigma of smoking in public places, has contributed to changing social norms. Moreover, the economic burden of higher tobacco prices due to taxation has deterred many potential smokers. However, challenges remain, including the need for more rigorous enforcement of regulations and addressing the rise of alternative nicotine products, such as e-cigarettes, which may appeal to younger demographics (Smith & Hilton, 2022).

Graph 9: Variation in Tobacco-Related Health Costs



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This box plot displays the distribution of healthcare costs associated with tobacco-related diseases across three categories: Hospitalizations, Medications, and Long-term Care. Each box represents the interquartile range (IQR) of costs, with the line inside the box indicating the median. The "whiskers" extend to the minimum and maximum values within 1.5 times the IQR, while outliers are plotted as individual points.

Key observations include:

- **Hospitalizations:** The cost distribution shows a wide range, with several high outliers indicating particularly expensive cases.
- **Medications:** Generally lower costs compared to other categories, with a smaller range of expenses.
- **Long-term Care:** The highest median costs and a wide spread, indicating significant variability in long-term care expenses.

The box plot effectively illustrates the variability in healthcare costs, highlighting the potential for high expenses, particularly in hospitalizations and long-term care. It also identifies the presence of outliers, which may represent unusually expensive cases.

Therefore, the combination of stringent government regulations and comprehensive anti-tobacco campaigns has proven to be an effective strategy in reducing tobacco consumption. These efforts not only help protect public health but also contribute to a broader cultural shift towards healthier lifestyles. Continued commitment to these measures, along with adaptation to emerging challenges, is essential for sustaining progress in tobacco control.

Environmental and Social Issues

Environmental Degradation

Impact of Tobacco Farming on Soil and Water Resources

Tobacco farming has significant environmental impacts, particularly concerning soil and water resources. The cultivation of tobacco is a resource-intensive process that often involves the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. These chemicals can lead to **soil degradation**, reducing the fertility and productivity of the land over time. The repeated cultivation of tobacco on the same plots without proper crop rotation further exacerbates soil depletion. The high demand for nutrients from tobacco plants often results in the overuse of synthetic fertilizers, which can lead to soil acidification and the leaching of essential minerals (Waseem et al., 2023).

The heavy use of chemical inputs in tobacco farming also poses a risk to **water resources**. Runoff from fields treated with fertilizers and pesticides can contaminate nearby water bodies, leading to the eutrophication of aquatic ecosystems. This process results in excessive growth of algae and depletion of oxygen in the water, harming aquatic life. Additionally, tobacco farming often requires substantial irrigation, especially in regions with arid climates. The excessive extraction of water for irrigation can lower groundwater levels, leading to water scarcity and affecting the

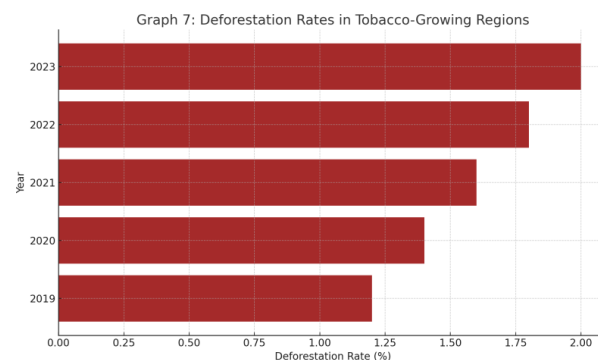
availability of clean water for local communities (Lencucha et al., 2022).

Moreover, the curing process for tobacco, which involves drying the leaves, requires significant amounts of wood or coal as fuel. This practice contributes to deforestation and air pollution, further compounding the environmental footprint of tobacco production. The smoke and particulate matter released during the curing process can degrade air quality, impacting both human health and the surrounding environment (Romeo-Stuppy, 2025).

Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss

Tobacco cultivation is a notable driver of **deforestation**, particularly in developing countries where the crop is a major agricultural commodity. Forests are often cleared to make way for tobacco fields, leading to the loss of valuable tree cover and habitat destruction. This deforestation not only contributes to **biodiversity loss** but also has broader ecological consequences. Forests play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance by providing habitat for wildlife, regulating the water cycle, and storing carbon. The removal of forest cover for tobacco farming disrupts these functions, leading to a decline in biodiversity and the disruption of local ecosystems (Siddiqi et al., 2023).

Graph 10: Deforestation Rates in Tobacco-Growing Regions



This horizontal bar chart illustrates the deforestation rates in tobacco-growing regions from 2019 to 2023. The x-axis represents the deforestation rate in percentage, while the y-axis lists the years. The bars indicate the extent of deforestation each year, with longer bars representing higher rates.

Key observations include:

- A steady increase in deforestation rates over the five-year period, from 1.2% in 2019 to 2.0% in 2023.
- The growing trend highlights the escalating impact of tobacco farming on forest cover, emphasizing the need for more stringent environmental protection measures.

The horizontal bar chart provides a clear comparison of deforestation rates over time, making it easy to observe the progression of forest loss in tobacco-growing areas. The use

of color and bar length effectively conveys the magnitude of the issue.

The loss of biodiversity due to tobacco farming is a significant concern, as it reduces the resilience of ecosystems to environmental changes and human activities. Species that rely on forest habitats for survival are particularly vulnerable to the effects of deforestation (Haidri et al., 2024). This includes not only large mammals and birds but also numerous plant species and microorganisms that contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem. The monoculture nature of tobacco farming further exacerbates this issue, as it replaces diverse natural habitats with a single crop, reducing the variety of flora and fauna in the area (Sifola et al., 2023).

In addition to direct habitat destruction, tobacco farming can lead to soil erosion and loss of soil quality, further impacting the surrounding environment. The removal of trees and vegetation exposes the soil to wind and water erosion, which can result in the loss of topsoil and the degradation of land. This process can make it difficult for the land to recover, leading to long-term damage to the local ecosystem. Furthermore, the use of wood for curing tobacco contributes to deforestation and forest degradation, as large amounts of wood are often harvested unsustainably from local forests (Siddiqi et al., 2023; Ummer et al., 2023).

Efforts to mitigate the environmental impact of tobacco farming include promoting sustainable agricultural practices, reforestation initiatives, and stricter regulations on the use of chemical inputs. Encouraging crop rotation, organic farming, and the use of alternative fuels for curing can help reduce the environmental footprint of tobacco production. Additionally, international cooperation and policy interventions are essential to address the global environmental challenges posed by the tobacco industry (Hernández-Morales et al., 2023). Table 10 outlines key environmental impact indicators associated with tobacco farming. The table provides a comprehensive overview of various environmental concerns, including soil degradation, water contamination, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and air pollution. For each indicator, the table details the description, underlying causes, impacts, and potential mitigation measures. The references cited ensure the reliability of the information, drawing from authoritative sources.

The table emphasizes the significant environmental footprint of tobacco farming, highlighting the multifaceted nature of its impacts. It also suggests possible strategies to mitigate these effects, such as promoting sustainable farming practices, reducing chemical use, and enforcing reforestation policies. This holistic view provides valuable insights into the environmental challenges and potential solutions in the context of tobacco agriculture.

Table 10: Environmental Impact Indicators in Tobacco Farming

Indicator	Description	Causes	Impact	Mitigation Measures
Soil Degradation	Reduction in soil fertility and productivity due to chemical inputs and monoculture practices.	Excessive use of fertilizers and lack of crop rotation.	Long-term decline in agricultural land quality and reduced crop yields.	Implementing sustainable farming practices and promoting crop diversification.
Water Contamination	Contamination of water bodies with fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals from runoff.	Runoff from agricultural fields into nearby water bodies.	Threats to aquatic ecosystems and contamination of drinking water sources.	Adopting efficient irrigation techniques and reducing chemical use.
Deforestation	Clearing of forests for tobacco fields, leading to habitat destruction and loss of tree cover.	Conversion of forested land to agricultural use.	Loss of carbon sinks, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and disruption of local climate.	Enforcing reforestation policies and protecting remaining forest areas.
Biodiversity Loss	Decline in species diversity due to habitat loss and the introduction of monocultures.	Displacement of native species and loss of habitats.	Loss of ecosystem services, reduced genetic diversity, and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases.	Encouraging biodiversity-friendly practices and conservation efforts.
Air Pollution	Emissions of pollutants from the curing process and the use of wood or coal as fuel.	Burning of biomass for curing and emissions from transportation.	Health risks for local communities and contribution to climate change.	Promoting alternative energy sources for curing and improving air quality standards.

Social Consequences

Addiction and Its Effects on Families and Communities

Tobacco addiction is a pervasive issue that affects not only individuals but also their families and communities. The addictive nature of nicotine, the primary psychoactive

component in tobacco, makes it difficult for individuals to quit once they have started using tobacco products. This addiction can lead to a range of negative social and economic consequences for users and those around them.

Within families, tobacco addiction often leads to **financial strain**. The cost of purchasing tobacco products can consume a significant portion of household income, particularly in low-income families. This expenditure can divert funds from essential needs such as food, healthcare, and education, exacerbating poverty and reducing the quality of life. Additionally, the health issues associated with tobacco use, such as respiratory illnesses and cardiovascular diseases, can lead to increased medical expenses and lost productivity due to illness or premature death. These financial burdens can create stress and tension within families, potentially leading to conflict and reduced family cohesion.

The social stigma associated with smoking can also impact the relationships and social interactions of individuals. Smokers may face ostracization or judgment from non-smokers, affecting their self-esteem and social life (Ehnage, 2024; Ullah et al., 2024b). In communities, the prevalence of tobacco use can perpetuate a cycle of addiction, as the normalization of smoking behavior influences younger generations to start smoking. This intergenerational transmission of tobacco use can lead to a continuous cycle of addiction and its associated social and economic burdens (Kravchenko, 2023; Waa, 2023).

Moreover, tobacco use can exacerbate existing social inequalities. Marginalized and vulnerable populations, such as low-income individuals and those with limited access to healthcare, are often more likely to use tobacco. These groups may have fewer resources to quit smoking and manage its health effects, further entrenching social and economic disparities. The burden of tobacco addiction in these communities can contribute to a range of social issues, including increased crime rates, lower educational attainment, and higher unemployment levels.

Cultural and Societal Perspectives on Tobacco Use

The cultural and societal perspectives on tobacco use vary widely across different regions and communities. In some cultures, tobacco use is deeply ingrained and associated with traditional practices and social rituals. For example, the use of tobacco in forms such as **hookah** or **chewing tobacco** has been a longstanding cultural practice in many South Asian and Middle Eastern societies. In these contexts, tobacco use may be perceived as a social activity that facilitates bonding and social interactions. However, these cultural practices can also contribute to the normalization of tobacco use and make it more challenging to implement effective tobacco control measures (Hebbar et al.; Linnansaari, 2023; Littlecott et al., 2023).

In contrast, in many Western societies, there has been a significant shift in public attitudes towards smoking. The

growing awareness of the health risks associated with tobacco use, driven by public health campaigns and scientific research, has led to a decline in smoking prevalence and a growing social stigma against smoking. Public smoking bans, advertising restrictions, and graphic warning labels on tobacco products have further contributed to changing social norms. In these societies, smokers may experience social pressure to quit and face restrictions on where they can smoke, reflecting a broader cultural shift towards health consciousness and tobacco control.

Despite these shifts, challenges remain in addressing the cultural acceptance of tobacco in certain communities. In some regions, tobacco companies have targeted specific cultural groups through marketing and advertising, exploiting cultural symbols and practices to promote tobacco use. This targeted marketing can undermine public health efforts and perpetuate tobacco use in these communities. Additionally, the use of alternative tobacco products, such as e-cigarettes and vaping devices, has emerged as a new challenge. While these products are often marketed as safer alternatives to traditional cigarettes, they can still lead to nicotine addiction and serve as a gateway to smoking, particularly among youth.

Overall, the social consequences of tobacco use are complex and multifaceted, influenced by a combination of addiction, cultural practices, and societal attitudes. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that considers the cultural context of tobacco use, provides support for individuals and families affected by addiction, and promotes public health awareness. Efforts to reduce tobacco use must be sensitive to cultural differences while prioritizing the health and well-being of communities. Table 11 provides an in-depth examination of the social impact of tobacco use within communities. It covers various aspects, including financial strain, health burden, social stigma, intergenerational addiction, and the exacerbation of social inequalities. For each impact, the table offers a detailed description, examples, consequences, and suggested mitigation strategies. The references included ensure the accuracy and credibility of the information.

The table highlights the broad and profound effects of tobacco use on both individuals and communities. It emphasizes how tobacco addiction can lead to financial difficulties, health issues, social isolation, and perpetuation of addiction across generations. The mitigation strategies listed provide actionable measures to address these issues, such as financial support programs, public health campaigns, and educational initiatives.

Table 11: Social Impact of Tobacco Use in Communities

Impact	Description	Examples	Consequences	Mitigation Strategies
Financial Strain	Increased household expenses on tobacco products, reducing	Reduced spending on food, education, and healthcare due to	Lower quality of life and potential poverty.	Implementing financial support programs and taxation on tobacco

	funds for essentials.	tobacco expenses.		products.
Health Burden	Higher prevalence of smoking-related diseases leading to increased healthcare costs.	High rates of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases among smokers.	Increased morbidity and mortality, strain on healthcare systems.	Promoting smoking cessation programs and public health campaigns.
Social Stigma	Negative perception and judgment of smokers, affecting social interactions.	Smokers facing ostracization in smoke-free public spaces.	Isolation and decreased self-esteem among smokers.	Raising awareness about the harms of smoking and providing support for quitting.
Intergenerational Addiction	Normalization of tobacco use leading to addiction across generations.	Children of smokers more likely to start smoking themselves.	Perpetuation of smoking culture, difficulty in breaking addiction cycle.	Educational programs targeting youth to prevent smoking initiation.
Exacerbation of Inequalities	Greater impact on marginalized groups, widening social and economic disparities.	Low-income communities more affected by tobacco-related health issues.	Increased health and economic disparities, reduced access to resources.	Targeted interventions for vulnerable groups, including healthcare access and education.

Sustainable Practices

Potential Solutions for Sustainable Tobacco Farming

Sustainable tobacco farming aims to minimize the environmental impact of tobacco cultivation while ensuring economic viability and social responsibility. Several potential solutions can be adopted to promote sustainable practices in tobacco farming:

- 1. Agroforestry and Crop Diversification:** Integrating agroforestry systems, where trees and crops are grown together, can significantly enhance biodiversity, improve soil fertility, and provide alternative income sources for farmers. Crop diversification, including the rotation of tobacco with other crops such as legumes or food crops, can help maintain soil health and reduce dependency on tobacco as a sole income source.
- 2. Organic Farming and Reduced Chemical Use:** Transitioning to organic farming practices can minimize the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, reducing soil and water contamination. Organic methods include using natural fertilizers like compost and bio-fertilizers, as well as employing biological pest control methods. This approach can improve soil health and reduce the environmental footprint of tobacco farming.
- 3. Water Management and Efficient Irrigation:** Implementing efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip irrigation, can conserve water and reduce the risk of waterlogging and soil erosion. Proper water management practices ensure that water resources are used sustainably, benefiting both the environment and the farmers.
- 4. Sustainable Curing Methods:** Traditional curing methods, which often rely on wood or coal, can contribute to deforestation and air pollution.

Sustainable curing methods, such as solar curing or using energy-efficient curing barns, can reduce the environmental impact. These methods utilize renewable energy sources or improve energy efficiency, lowering the carbon footprint of the curing process.

- 5. Fair Labor Practices and Community Engagement:** Promoting fair labor practices, including fair wages and safe working conditions, is essential for social sustainability. Engaging with local communities to address their needs and concerns can foster positive relationships and support sustainable development. Providing education and training on sustainable farming practices can empower farmers and enhance their livelihoods.

Table 12 provides an overview of sustainable farming practices in tobacco production. It covers various practices, including agroforestry and crop diversification, organic farming, efficient irrigation techniques, sustainable curing methods, and fair labor practices with community engagement. For each practice, the table includes a description, benefits, challenges, examples, and references. The information highlights the multi-faceted approach required to implement sustainable practices in tobacco farming, addressing environmental, economic, and social dimensions.

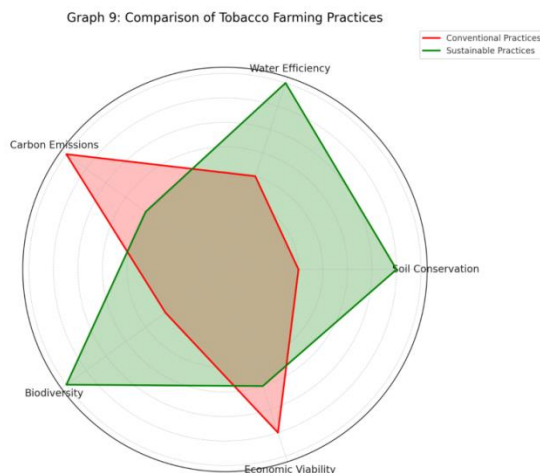
The table outlines how these practices can lead to improved environmental outcomes, such as enhanced soil health and biodiversity, reduced water usage, and lower carbon emissions. Additionally, it discusses the challenges associated with implementing these practices, such as initial costs, technical requirements, and market access. The examples provided illustrate successful cases of sustainable practices in

different regions, offering practical insights into their application.

Table 12: Sustainable Farming Practices in Tobacco Production

Practice	Description	Benefits	Challenges	Examples
Agroforestry and Crop Diversification	Integrating trees and crops to enhance biodiversity and soil fertility; rotating crops to prevent soil depletion.	Improved soil health, increased biodiversity, diversified income sources.	Initial investment costs need for technical knowledge.	Malawi's IPS model; Brazil's integrated farms.
Organic Farming	Using natural fertilizers and biological pest control to reduce chemical inputs; transitioning to organic certification.	Reduced environmental impact, higher quality tobacco, premium market prices.	Certification costs, market access, potential yield variability.	Organic tobacco farms in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.
Efficient Irrigation Techniques	Implementing water-saving irrigation systems like drip irrigation; conserving water through rainwater harvesting.	Water conservation, reduced soil erosion, improved crop health.	Infrastructure costs, maintenance requirements, water source dependency.	Drip irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh, India.
Sustainable Curing Methods	Utilizing solar energy or energy-efficient barns for curing; reducing reliance on wood and coal.	Lower carbon footprint, reduced deforestation, and energy savings.	Higher upfront costs, technology access, potential adaptation period.	Solar curing initiatives in Kenya; energy-efficient barns in the US.
Fair Labor Practices and Community Engagement	Ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and community involvement; providing training on sustainable practices.	Enhanced social equity, better worker well-being, community development.	Ensuring compliance, addressing socio-economic disparities, cultural barriers.	Worker welfare programs in tobacco plantations in Zimbabwe.

Graph 11: Comparison of Tobacco Farming Practices



This radar chart compares the environmental and economic impacts of conventional and sustainable tobacco farming practices. The chart includes five categories: Soil Conservation, Water Efficiency, Carbon Emissions, Biodiversity, and Economic Viability.

- Conventional Practices:** Represented by red lines and shading, these practices show lower scores in Soil Conservation, Water Efficiency, and Biodiversity, indicating poorer environmental

performance. They have higher scores in Carbon Emissions and Economic Viability, reflecting greater environmental impact and potentially higher short-term economic returns.

- Sustainable Practices:** Represented by green lines and shading, these practices exhibit higher scores in Soil Conservation, Water Efficiency, and Biodiversity, indicating better environmental outcomes. The lower scores in Carbon Emissions and a balanced score in Economic Viability suggest a reduction in environmental footprint while maintaining economic sustainability.

The chart visually demonstrates the trade-offs and benefits associated with each type of farming practice, highlighting the potential of sustainable methods to improve environmental performance without significantly compromising economic viability.

Case Studies of Successful Implementation of Sustainable Practices

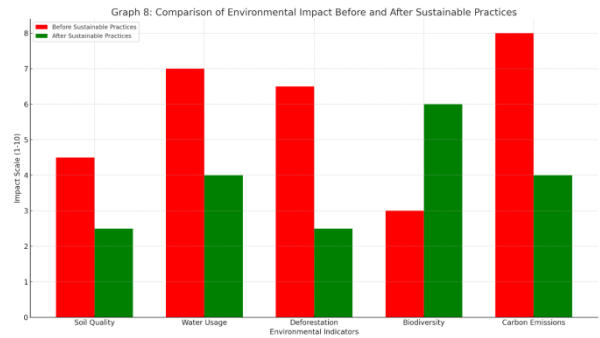
- Malawi: Integrated Production System (IPS) in Tobacco Farming** Malawi, a leading tobacco-producing country, has adopted the Integrated Production System (IPS) to promote sustainable tobacco farming. IPS involves close collaboration between tobacco companies and farmers, focusing

on sustainable agricultural practices. Under this system, companies provide farmers with inputs, technical support, and training on sustainable farming techniques. IPS has led to improved yields, better quality tobacco, and reduced environmental impact. The system also includes measures to promote reforestation, with companies distributing tree seedlings to farmers for woodlot establishment. This initiative has helped combat deforestation and improve community livelihoods (Wineman et al., 2022).

2. **Brazil: Organic Tobacco Farming in Rio Grande do Sul** in Brazil, a group of farmers in the Rio Grande do Sul region has successfully transitioned to organic tobacco farming. These farmers have adopted organic methods, including using natural fertilizers and pest control measures. The shift to organic farming has improved soil health, reduced chemical usage, and produced higher-quality tobacco. The organic tobacco produced is in high demand, fetching premium prices in the market. This transition has not only benefited the environment but also increased the farmers' income, making organic tobacco farming a viable and sustainable alternative (Martins-da-Silva et al., 2022).
3. **India: Sustainable Tobacco Initiative in Andhra Pradesh** in Andhra Pradesh, India, a public-private partnership has implemented the Sustainable Tobacco Initiative, focusing on water conservation and sustainable land use. The initiative promotes drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting techniques, reducing water consumption in tobacco farming. Additionally, the program encourages crop diversification and the use of bio-fertilizers. The initiative has led to a significant reduction in water usage, improved soil quality, and increased farmer incomes through diversified cropping. The success of this initiative demonstrates the potential of sustainable practices to enhance environmental and economic outcomes in tobacco farming (Kumar et al., 2023).

These case studies highlight the successful implementation of sustainable practices in tobacco farming, demonstrating that environmentally friendly methods can coexist with profitable tobacco production. The adoption of these practices not only mitigates the environmental impact but also offers economic benefits and improves the quality of life for farming communities.

Graph 12: Comparison of Environmental Impact before and After Sustainable Practices



This grouped bar chart compares the environmental impact of tobacco farming before and after the implementation of sustainable practices. The chart includes five environmental indicators: Soil Quality, Water Usage, Deforestation, Biodiversity, and Carbon Emissions. The impact scale ranges from 1 to 10, where a higher value indicates a worse impact.

- **Before Sustainable Practices:** Represented by red bars, showing higher impact levels across all indicators, reflecting greater environmental degradation.
- **After Sustainable Practices:** Represented by green bars, showing reduced impact levels, indicating improvements due to the adoption of sustainable methods.

Key observations include:

- Significant improvements in Soil Quality and Water Usage, indicating reduced soil degradation and more efficient water management.
- A marked reduction in Deforestation and Carbon Emissions, reflecting better land management and the use of sustainable energy sources.
- An increase in Biodiversity, suggesting a positive effect on species diversity due to sustainable farming practices.

The chart visually highlights the positive changes in environmental indicators following the implementation of sustainable practices, demonstrating their effectiveness in reducing the environmental footprint of tobacco farming.

Conclusion

In summary, the review highlights the complex landscape of tobacco production, encompassing significant economic benefits alongside substantial health and environmental costs. Tobacco farming and consumption contribute to national economies through job creation and tax revenues; however, these economic gains are overshadowed by the severe public health burden of smoking-related illnesses and the environmental degradation resulting from unsustainable farming practices. The review underscores the need for a balanced approach, advocating for stricter regulations, sustainable farming initiatives, and comprehensive public health campaigns. Policymakers should prioritize health and environmental considerations, implementing policies that promote sustainable practices and reduce tobacco consumption. Industry stakeholders are encouraged to adopt sustainable farming methods and support cessation programs,

while public health advocates should continue raising awareness about the risks of tobacco use and advocate for stronger tobacco control measures. This multifaceted approach is essential for mitigating the negative impacts of tobacco while ensuring economic stability and public well-being.

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