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## Pakistan Bets on Castor to Transform Agriculture

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Pakistan is launching a strategic push into castor cultivation, targeting barren lands to boost exports and farmer incomes. The Federal Ministry of National Food Security has partnered with private firms and a Chinese NGO to pilot high-yield hybrid seeds that could double current production to 100 maunds per acre. With castor fetching Rs7,000 per

40kg outpacing traditional crops, the initiative promises to revitalize arid zones.

The International Multi-Group of Companies will guarantee purchase agreements, eliminating market risks for farmers. Castor's drought-resistant qualities make it ideal for Pakistan's water-scarce regions, while its oil serves pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and biofuel industries globally. Provincial agriculture departments will lead awareness campaigns and seed distribution to fast-track adoption.

This public-private model mirrors successful agro-export strategies in India and Brazil, where castor generates \$1.4 billion annually. Pakistan aims to capture 5% of the global castor oil market within five years, leveraging competitive labor costs and existing trade routes. The Chinese partner's seed technology could reduce input costs by 30%, making smallholder farms viable.



As pilot projects begin, Pakistan's castor gamble could redefine marginal agriculture. By converting wastelands into export hubs, the program may deliver a triple win: farmer prosperity, industrial growth, and foreign exchange earnings, proving that smart crop choices can harvest economic resilience.