بسم اللہ الرحمن الرحیم

Is ʿUshr Still Due If Nothing Remains After Deducting the Expenses Incurred in Crop Production?

Darulifta Ahlesunnat (Dawateislami)

(Translated Fatwa)

Question

What do the noble scholars and jurists of Islamic law say about the following: If all the expenses of producing a crop (such as seed, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, water, etc.) are so much that nothing remains for the landowner or farmer after the harvest, will ʿushr still be obligatory?

(Questioner: ʿAlī Raza, Faisalabad)

Answer

According to the rules of the sharīʿah, ʿushr (one tenth) or half-ʿushr (one twentieth) is obligatory on the total produce. The expenses incurred on it are not deducted, regardless of how much they may be. Therefore, in the inquired situation, even if the costs of seed, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals, etc., exceed the crop yield, leaving nothing for the landowner or farmer, ʿushr remains obligatory on the entire produce. Al-Hidāyah and Fatḥ al-Qadīr state:

(لا يحتسب فيه اجر العمال ونفقة البقر) وكرى الانهار واجرة الحارس وغير ذالک يعنى لا يقال بعدم وجوب العشر فى قدر الخارج الذى بمقابلة المئونة بل يجب العشر فى الكل

Translation: (The wages of laborers and the upkeep of oxen are not deducted) nor are the costs of digging canals, the wages of the guard, or other such expenses. This means, it cannot be said that ʿushr is not wājib on the portion of the produce corresponding to the expenses. Rather, ʿushr is wājib on its entirety. (Al-Hidāyah Maʿa Fatḥ al-Qadīr, Vol. 02, p. 194, Publ. Quetta)

ʿAllāmah ʿAlāʾuddīn Abū Bakr ibn Masʿūd al-Kāsānī al-Ḥanafī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالٰى عَلَيْهِ (d. 587 AH / 1191 CE) writes:

فما سقي بماء السماء، أو سقي سيحا ففيه عشر كامل، وما سقي بغرب، أو دالية، أو سانية ففيه نصف العشر، والأصل فيه ما روي عن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم أنه قال: ما سقته السماء ففيه العشر وما سقي بغرب، أو دالية، أو سانية ففيه نصف العشر

Translation: A full ʿushr (tenth) is due on what is irrigated by rainwater or freely flowing water. Half ʿushr is due on what is irrigated by a large bucket, a water-lifting device or a draught animal. The basis for this is the report from the Messenger of Allāh ﷺ who said, "ʿUshr is due on what the sky irrigates, and on what is irrigated by a large bucket, a water-lifting device or a draught animal, half ʿushr is due." (Badāʾiʿ al-Sanāʾiʿ, Vol. 02, p. 62, Publ. Dār al-Kutub al-ʿIlmiyah, Beirut)

Sadr al-Sharīʿah Muftī Muḥammad Amjad ʿAlī Aʿzamī رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالٰى عَلَيْهِ (d. 1367 AH / 1947 CE) writes:

جس چیز میں عشر یا نصف عشر واجب ہوا، اس میں کل پیداوار کا عشر یا نصف عشر لیا جائے گا، یہ نہیں ہوسکتا کہ مصارفِ زراعت، ہل بیل، حفاظت کرنے والے اور کام کرنے والوں کی اجرت یا بیج وغیرہ نکال کر باقی کا عشر یا نصف عشر دیا جائے۔

Translation: For any produce on which ʿushr or half-ʿushr is wājib, a tenth or a twentieth of the total produce will be taken. It is not permissible to deduct cultivation expenses, plough and oxen, the wages of guards and workers, seed or similar costs, and then pay a tenth or a twentieth of the remainder. (Bahār-e-Sharīʿat, Vol. 01, p. 918, Publ. Dār al-Kutub al-ʿIlmiyah, Beirut)

وَاللہُ اَعْلَمُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ وَرَسُوْلُہ اَعْلَم صَلَّی اللہُ تَعَالٰی عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم

(Allah Almighty knows best and His Messenger صَلَّی اللہُ عَلَیْہِ وَاٰلِہٖ وَسَلَّم knows best.)

Answered By: Mufti Muhammad Qasim Attari
Ref No: FSD-9890
Date: 11th Shawwāl al-Mukarram 1447 AH / 31st March 2026

Dar-ul-IftaAhlesunnat (Dawat-e-Islami)
www.fatwaqa.com
daruliftaahlesunnat
DaruliftaAhlesunnat
Dar-ul-ifta AhleSunnat
feedback@daruliftaahlesunnat.net