

NEWS LETTER



Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad
Vice Chancellor



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Care Center Inaugurated**



**1st Indigenous Hydroponic / Soil Less System of
Pakistan**



International Workshop on "Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in a Changing Environment"



**PMAS-AAUR and Kastamonu University
Turkey Signed MoU**



**PMAS-AAUR and Selcuk University Konia
Turkey Signed MoU**

International Workshop on “Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in a Changing Environment”

Three days (September 30, to October 2, 2015) international workshop on “Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in a Changing Environment- A special Focus on Olive Tree” held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The workshop was organized by the PMAS-AAUR, Department of Environmental Sciences in

Speakers at the workshop suggested olive industry of Pakistan should be sustainable as well as profitable in order to compete in the international market. Moreover, selection of suitable regions, appropriate olive varieties, selection of suitable cultivars, pest and disease management, ensuring quality control, preparing human capital and capacity building of farmers are some of the utmost factors for growing olive in Pakistan. They also pointed at that the present system of water management lacks to address the water challenges of Pakistan and suggested that effective improvement of water management in Pakistan is possible through the research, institutional partnership, and improved decision making mechanism.



collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC), Trees and Timber Institute- National Research Council (CNR) of Italy and Institute of European Studies "Alcide De Gasperi", with an aimed to demonstrate technologies for sustainable water use and promote olive cultivation in Pakistan in addition to provision of technical expertise to the local researchers, academia representatives and olive cultivars.



Federal Minister for Planning and Development Dr Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the inaugural session while Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad was the chief guest at the concluding session of the workshop.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development Dr Ahsan Iqbal said that agriculture is the backbone of Pakistan economy. It is need of the time to shift agriculture on modern trends to make Pakistan a food sufficient country and to enhance water storage capacity in order to meet water related issues. Federal Minister emphasized the significance of olive cultivation and said that Potohar area has great potential for it. He further said that new initiative to promote olive cultivation in Pakistan would help to generate better income for farmers in the country. Olive is a high-value agricultural product, which could also bring in the much-needed foreign exchange, if exported to other markets, he added. He stressed the need for focusing on value addition, as the country has still commodity-based economy and no attention has been given towards value addition. He said that high value agricultural products would help to generate better income for farmers in the country.

He appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR for producing highly educated, trained and inspired manpower, and said that university is playing a pivotal role in modernizing agriculture and enlightenment of rural communities in Pakistan and abroad.

Federal Minister said that present government is also focusing on education sector which is reflecting from the increase in budget from Rs 48 billion to Rs. 78 billion for higher education in last two years. He further said that government is also trying to establish universities or their sub campus in all districts of Pakistan to give access of higher education to the youth of the country in next two to three years. He said ten thousands of PhDs will also be pass out in next ten years.

Federal minister Dr Ahsan Iqbal also planted a tree and performed the groundbreaking ceremony regarding construction of Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology (AE&T) at the University campus. The establishment of AE&T faculty project having total cost Rs.751 million and would significantly contribute to improve agricultural technology as well as educational infrastructure at PMAS-AAUR. The duration of the project is three years.



Chairman Higher Education Commission, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, stressed the need to implement the olive research into the fields in order to meet the olive oil needs and getting maximum yields in changing climate. He said that Pakistan is blessed with tremendous natural resources but facing a shortage of food, energy and water. He stressed the need to transform new techniques & technologies to the farmers to increase the per capita production of country. "The adoption of the latest agricultural development & technology will help decrease food insecurity. Water use should be rationalized as well," he said. Earlier, Chairman HEC, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad also planted at tree and inaugurated Aquarium-cum- Aviary in University premises.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, emphasized the significance of Olive cultivation for the economy of Pakistan and said

that high value agricultural products will help to generate better income for farmers in the country. He urged the scientists should play their role to create awareness in farming community about the latest techniques in the agriculture and insisted that the farmers should adopt the latest techniques of production and value addition in their product, so that they can earn more and export as well. He assured the institutional support of PMAS-AAUR for the developmental initiatives of olive and its cultivation. He stressed for holding such events on regular basis for the socio economic development of the region.



Dr Azeem Khalid, organizing secretary of the training workshop thanked the participants and speakers for sharing their research experiences with local farmers and academia.



This international workshop brought together experts from Italy, Greece, Tunisia and Pakistan, who are highly qualified and selected for their wide experience in the olive industry. Farmers from various areas of Pakistan also shared their olive farming experience in the workshop. More than 200 researchers, farmers and academia people attended the training workshop.

Seminar on Women Empowerment & Day Care Center Inaugurated

A seminar on Women Empowerment Package 2014 held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on July 15, 2015. Minister for Women Development Punjab, Hameeda Waheed-ud-Din was the chief guest while Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Director Women Development Syed Sajjad Tirmazi, MPA Tehseen Fawad, MPA Lubna Rehan, Director Civil Defense Ms. Sanjeeda Khanum, Deans/Directors, faculty members and students were also present on the occasion.



Minister for Women Development Punjab, Hameeda Waheed-ud-Din, said that Islam has also laid great emphasis on the rights of women and no society can progress without granting due rights to women. She said that the Punjab government has taken revolutionary measures for the protection of the rights of women and is providing them with equal opportunities of progress. She stated that the government has taken several steps to safeguard women from violence and enhance their empowerment at all levels. Appreciating the Women Empowerment Package announced by CM Punjab

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, she said that the women's deprivations would be eliminated by these steps and women would they could play their important role in national development with confidence. She also highlighted the salient features of Women Empowerment Package and added that the Punjab govt has introduced policies for the welfare and betterment of women which has no match in the past. She further stated that Punjab government has allocated huge funds for the rights of women in the budget which will be spent on education, social development and other fields. She also said that the Punjab government is also striving to empower women by providing equal opportunities, promoting female education, fixation of quota for women in services and establishment of women hostels, Day care centers other social welfare institutions.

Minister for Women Development Punjab, Hameeda Waheed-ud-Din, also inaugurated Day Care Center in University's premises. While speaking the gathering, she said that day care center is essential for the staff working in the educational institutes and such daycare centers are being set up throughout the province. The day-care center would provide a major relief to the working mothers, she said.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, highlighted the features, aims and objectives of the seminar. He said that no other society or religion provides equal rights to women as Islam does. He also appreciated the steps being taken by the government for the empowerment of women. He appreciated the Punjab govt on setting up state of the art day-care center in the campus. He said the establishment of the center was badly needed in the University and this facility will be helpful in enhancing the concentration of female staff on their work, he added. Vice Chancellor said that day care center will have all possible facilities.



PMAS-AAUR and Selcuk University Konia Turkey Signed MoU

A delegation from Selcuk University Konia, Turkey visited Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on November 18, 2015 and also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral collaboration in Research & Educational areas covering various disciplines.



The PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad and Pro Vice Chancellor of Selcuk University, Turkey Prof. Dr Mehmet Musa ÖZCAN signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institutions. Dr Mithat DIREK, Department of Agricultural Economics, Selcuk University and Deans/Directors from PMAS-AAUR also participated in the ceremony.



Under the MoU, both universities agreed to develop academic cooperation in various fields and decided to initiate collaborative activities in academic areas of mutual interest such as exchange of faculty, students & expertise, conducting collaborative research & research projects as well as sharing of academic information and materials.

Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on on-going activities and new initiatives of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University. He also highlighted the possible areas of collaboration and future perspectives in research and educational programs.



Prof. Dr Mehmet Musa ÖZCAN expressed his optimism in establishing strong relations between both countries and emphasized that he is keen to build Turkey's positive image in Pakistan. He expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent work of Arid University and concluded that both of institutes will continue working on this collaboration for the betterment of our students and teachers and both of the universities will get benefit from this joint program.



This ceremony ended with this promise by both of the partners that with strenuous efforts we will materialize this agreement for the betterment of people of both brotherly countries.

1st Indigenous Hydroponic System (Replica) of Pakistan

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) is striving hard to combine the best of nature and advance technology to grow quality, flavor-filled produce, in a manner with respect to provide a simplified hydroponics model for Pothwar farming community looking towards joining hands with innovative agriculture of 21st century in a manner with respect to environment and also provides boost to the economic growth of the country through technology transfer, export promotion and import substitution.

First South Asia hydroponics facility was set up by a Dutch company as Farmers Market (Pvt.) Limited located on G.T. road 7 km from Mandra and 10 km from Rawat, Islamabad. Farmers Market Pakistan's first and leading grower of hydroponics tomatoes (Cherry, Sahil, Grandy), Bell Pepper (red, yellow, orange, green). Hydroponics is latest technique to produce safe, nutritious, delicious and high quality vegetables. Hydroponics products have enormous nutritional value and taste fresh because they are grown in healthy environment. Farmer's Market Pakistan is ISO 9001:2008 certified company and its products are ISO 22000:2005 HACCP certified, from Global American Standards. Here vegetables are cultivated in a greenhouse without using soil, sand or clay. The construction of this system started in 2001 and completed in 2006. It covers an area of 13.5 acres in total and having the green houses facilities for crop production on 5 acres. It was registered as Private limited company under the company's ordinance 1984. This is the only and biggest Hydroponics farm producing vegetables on commercial scale in Pakistan. Vegetables are cultivated in greenhouse without using soil, sand or clay (hydroponically). Inert growing media like coco, rock wool, stone crush and sand could be used for vegetables production.

Although the facility was set up by a foreign company, they could not run it successfully and decided to leave Pakistan. It remained idle for a couple of years while they tried to sell it. Since they could not find takers, they finally decided to donate it to the Arid University. In 2009 Farmers Market (Pvt.) Limited was handover to Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. University



experts worked hard to revive the project and brought it in a working condition.

Now the system is being managed by Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed along their professional team on hydroponics but its initial cost, running cost, is quit high beyond the affordability of farmers. During construction most of material like tempered glass, components of different operation systems like cooling system, heating system, ventilation system automation and computer control system was imported from Europe. This high tech system was not adopted under Pakistani conditions due to its complex operations, lack of capacity building of students/farmers high initial and operation cost.

However the biggest challenge was to reverse engineer/Indigenize this facility, economize its construction cost, increase its affordability, Share this skills and knowledge for free and spread it across the country.

Under the supervision/guidance of Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR dream to Indigenize Hydroponics System come true. During year 2014-2015 first indigenous hydroponics system was developed and tested. Indigenous Hydroponics Replicas was constructed with different cladding systems, different growing Medias and media carriers. Now this Indigenous hydroponics System is also serving as capacity building centre, to facilitate student activities in the field of hydroponics agriculture. Worthy Vice Chancellor also engaged two PhD students for research proposes on 1st Indigenous Hydroponics System of Pakistan which is being funded by PSF. Chairman PSF visited the set up and promised to promote the technology throughout the country.

The plants are being grown in local coconut, rice husks zero gravels grade and where their roots are blasted by water mixed with nutrients and micro nutrients. The water wets the coconut husk which balances water flows towards the end to the pump for re-blasting. The temperature and humidity is computer-controlled. Inlet air is filtered minutely so as to ensure no insect or fly gets inside. This filtered air is then cooled by passing it over running water bank. To change temperature and humidity inside, dozens of fans are operated.



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said that this Indigenous hydroponics system giving the same yield as European hydroponics system; however its cost is 100 times lows as European hydroponics system. In traditional system farmer is gaining 5-7 ton in tunnel and in this system we are gaining production up to 300 ton/hect and its potential yield is 500 ton/hect, he added. He said our indigenous hydroponics system is ready for farmer's fields. However we wants its pilots project for training of man power and testing the system at various locations of Punjab. For it's testing in various climatic conditions, capacity building of farmers and extension to door step of farmers. We can stop importing tomatoes of cost 10 billion/year from India.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said our mission is to become the leading Pakistani organization conducting research and development activities on commercial viability of production and marketing of premium quality green house grown fresh produce through hydroponics technology in Pakistan. We are driven to supply a quality product that will be on accepted standard of all fresh vegetable produce in Pakistan. We are committed to transfer this technology to Pakistani growers through development of cost effective indigenous hydroponics model.



Workshop on “ICT Use of Pakistani Girls in Rural Farming Households”

A workshop on “ICT Use of Pakistani Girls in Rural Farming Households” at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on August 20, 2015, with an aim to train girls through young trainers about the appropriate use of ICT and maximum utilization of ICT in the field of agriculture. The workshop was organized PMAS-AAUR Department of Sociology in collaboration with University of California Davis USA, USAID, CIMMYT and PARC.



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad appreciated and encouraged the step taken forward by the eminent scholars towards in the field of merging ICT and agriculture. He further asked other guests and participants to work with full interest and zeal as it is and will be very progressive in the field of research and development. He emphasized on the use of ICT in agriculture sector and stressed young people to adopt farming profession for agriculture development to enhance per acre yield. Vice Chancellor urged faculty to launch such programs of community participation and skill development which can ultimately transform into tangible benefits to the society.

Dr Mark Bell, Director International Learning UC Davis USA, highlighted the ICT as a tool for improving rural farming households. He stressed the importance of need-based and relevant information in the context of ICT extension. He urged the participants to implement the ICT for the dissemination of information based on easy to access and implement. He said that if the message is not interesting, it will fail to bear result. At the end he certificates distributed among the participants of the workshop.

Project Coordinator, Dr Aneela Afzal, Asst. Prof. Department of sociology, in her welcome address elaborated the aims and objective of the workshop. She said that the project was designed to access the use of information and communication technology by the young school going girls and its use in the rural farming. At the same time the project tends to train those girls through young trainers about the appropriate use of ICT and maximum utilization of ICT in the field of agriculture, she added.

The event was attended by representatives from agriculture organizations, international experts,



consultants, farmers, young girls, faculty members, students and donor agencies working in the agriculture sector.



Speakers at a workshop stressed that there is a dire need to adopt Information Communication technology (ICT) for effective farming to enhance agricultural production. They urged to equip young rural girls with ICT skills and emphasized the need of changing mindset which limits women recognition and acceptance in the society.

UIIT Organized 8th Annual Open House

University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT) of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) organized its 8th annual Open House on August 25, 2015, with the objectives to enable the students to show their creativity, innovation, hard work as well as enable them to understand market trends and to strengthen the linkage between industry & academia.



More than 100 students of UIIT, including BSCS, MCS, MIT, and MS (CS) displayed their variety of unique and innovative projects related to various fields of information technology and applications of IT in agriculture. In a day-long Open House, which was attended by the sixty industry professionals from 25 different software development companies.

the universities to bridge the industry-academia gap. He lauded the projects presented by students and urged strong linkages between the academia and industry.



Vice Chancellor along with faculty members of the university also visited the stalls arranged by the students and appreciated the efforts and creativity of the students. He said that active participation of the students with unique and innovative ideas in the university open house is a proof of the fact the students of the institute have a lot of potential.

Dr Mubashir Riaz Khan, Director, UIIT, also gave a detailed briefing to the chief guest about the projects of the students. He elaborated the significance of Open House for the students and industry both. He highlighted the achievements of



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz congratulated the students on organizing successful Open House and said that science & technology plays vital role in the progress of developing countries. He advised the students to work hard with high level of motivation and dedication as there is no shortcut for success. He stressed upon the students to devote their selves for knowledge and assured them every possible support from PMAS-AAUR regarding innovative and unique projects. He emphasized that corporate sector should play even more active role in helping

students and appreciated highly qualified and devoted faculty of the institution.

Students not only displayed their projects but also availed the opportunity to meet experts from Industry and Academia. The event also provide a great opportunity for all the industry professionals and students alike to take maximum benefit from this "Open House". On the occasion, these companies took on spot interviews for jobs and hired multiple students. At the end Shields were presented to the students having projects on first three positions.

World Food Day Observed

The Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) observed World Food Day on October 22, 2015 with an aim to raise public awareness about hunger challenges and to ensure food security.

This year, the theme of the World Food Day is "Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty," which aims to sensitize the people about eradicating rural poverty and ensuring food protection for all. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) celebrates World Food Day on 16 October, the day on which the Organization was founded in 1945.



The day was marked by day long activities including debate, poster, essay writing and food cooking competitions, organized by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with GROW and Indus Consortium. PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion.

Vice-Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad stressed the need for focusing on value addition of agricultural produce and said that there is dire need to enhance the efforts in this regard to

ensure the food security and alleviate the hunger. He said that a lot of work has been done in production side but it is a need of time to address other co-related issues like crop management and post harvest losses. He stressed the need for improving the per acre crop out-put by utilizing innovative technologies as well as addressing the farm management issues.



He said that main purpose to celebrate World Food Day is to make efforts for a healthy and energetic society. He further said that this day also provided an opportunity for academia and industry to come together and find sustainable solutions to the situation of food insecurity, safety, hunger and malnutrition. He urged the scientists of the university to play their role to create awareness in farming community about the latest techniques in the agriculture to make Pakistan a food sufficient country.

Vice-Chancellor visited different stalls of food cooking competition, and lauded the performance of the students and highlighted the importance of pure and nutritious food. He called upon the students to adopt agri-sector as career for making the country a food safe and secure country and rapid economic development for the country.



Training Workshop for the Facilitators of "Active Citizens Program (ACP)"

A five Days (August 31 to September 04, 2015) training workshop for the facilitators of "Active Citizens Program (ACP)" was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR). The workshop was organized in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC) and British Council, with an aim to build the capacity of the trainees, and raise the engagement of aspirants together with community & society to a great extent.



In this training workshop 24 Teachers from three universities viz., PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad and Fatima Jinnah University Rawalpindi participated. Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the concluding session.

This training offered an opportunity to faculty members to build their capacity as facilitator of Active Citizens Program by enhancing their understanding on Global Citizenship and participatory methodologies. Indirectly, this training course will also impact the university students by offering a comprehensive package that cover training on citizenship, opportunities for community engagement, and a chance to participate in Youth Exchanges Programs.

Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said that universities working with British Council & HEC in this program will get build their capacity, and will develop linkages with other

national and international institutions. He said through this program students will also undergo Self-Exploration, Personality Grooming and skills learning initiatives. Whereas, our faculty members will improve their teaching methodology and enhance their Exposure and Linkage Development. As an end product of this program, as a whole the society will become more connected and responsible citizens, he added. He also thanked British Council team for their endeavors in this regard. At the end Vice Chancellor also distributed certificates among the participants of the training.



Prof. Dr Sarvat Naz Mirza, Registrar PMAS-AAUR and Prof. Dr Safdar Anjum Dean Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences also participated the session. The session ended with a vote of thanks from Dr. Ata ul Mohsin Director External Linkages PAMS-AAUR.



The workshop was jointly organized and facilitated by Ms. Sabuhi Ali, Consultant Capacity Building, British Council, Dr Ata ul Mohsin, Director External Linkages from PMAS-AAUR, and Malik Waseem from British Council.

International Day for GIS Celebrated

International Day for Geographic Information Systems (GIS) was celebrated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on November 18, 2015, with an aim to create awareness about GIS and provide a platform to students to present their specialties and expertise.

A seminar was also organized by PMAS-AAUR Department of Geo-Informatics and University Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was chief guest on the occasion. More than 25 organizations/institutes displayed their stalls carrying GIS information and its practical benefits.



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, highlighted the importance of GIS and said that "The GIS is a location based information system useful for almost all fields of life. He was of the view that Pakistan can effectively manage its resources, reduce duplication of facilities, good governance with the use of GIS and Pakistan which already suffers from a lack of resources and good allocation systems can immensely benefit from this. He further stated that GIS would not only help the country but can play pivotal role in natural resource management and its efficient utilization to get the country on the track of prosperity and development.

Participants from various Government and private organizations from all over the country including Prof. Dr Yaseen Incharge-Dean FAE&T, Dr Moubshir Riaz Khan of PMAS-AAUR, Dr Syed Ammer Mahmood Chairman Space Science Department Punjab University, Mr. Asmat Ali Survey of Pakistan attended the seminar and addressed the participants. They informed the gathering about the application of GIS remote

sensing and global positioning system in their relevant fields. They delivered lectures on, mapping of earthquake area with the help of GIS, Dilemma of GIS & SDI in Pakistan, and Applications of GIS with special focus on teaching and research and importance of GIS in human life. They also discussed the importance of GIS and Remote Sensing in the field of agriculture, forest, wildlife and fisheries, etc. Muhammad Amin Lecturer Geo-informatics was the coordinator of the event.

Inter-Faculty Girls Badminton Championship

Three-day (November 2-4, 2015) inter-faculty girls Badminton Championship, organized by the Directorate of Sports at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) gymnasium.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the final match and in the championship over 30 students participated in women's singles, and doubles category. Eight teams of different faculties/Directorates including Basic Sciences, Managements Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Agriculture, Information Technology, Economics, Forestry and Education.



In women's singles final, management sciences team defeated agriculture faculty team by 21-19, 21-16 while in women's doubles; Management team beat agriculture faculty team by 21-17, 19-21, 21-18.

PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor, Dr Rai Niaz appreciated the efforts of organizers. He said that these activities help in grooming physical, intellectual and social attributes among the students and hoped that such kind of event will be organized in future as well. At the end, he distributed prizes and certificates among the winners.

PMAS-AAUR and Kastamonu University Turkey Signed MoU

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) and Kastamonu University, Turkey inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), on November 4, 2015 to have a close academic collaboration, mutual Exchange in Educational, Research areas covering various Disciplines and Mevlana Exchange Program Protocol.



The MOU was signed by the PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad and Prof. Dr Seyit AYDIN represented as Rector of Kastamonu University, Turkey on behalf of their respective institutes.

Under the MoU, both universities were declared as sister universities and decided to work together in various programs like Forestry, Management Sciences, Irrigation studies, Environmental Studies and Biological sciences. Both institutes would also work for research, exchange of faculty, students, joint development of research projects, exchange of information & educational resources and publications.



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad gave a detailed presentation on new initiatives of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University and expressed his gratitude for this visit by the delegation of Kastamonu University Turkey. Vice Chancellor said that collaboration between two universities will provide an opportunity to assist each other in the field of academics, research and learning which ultimately leads towards economic and social betterment.



Prof. Dr Sayit AYDIN expressed his deep appreciation for the excellent work of Arid University and concluded that we are brother countries and brother nations and we will continue working on this collaboration for the betterment of our students and teachers and both of the universities will get benefit from this joint program. Prof. Dr Omer Kucuk (Coordinator Mevlana Exchange Program Turkey) described the details about the Program for students and Teachers Exposure and training.



The ceremony was also attended by Director External linkages Dr Ata ul Mohsin, Dean faculty of Sciences Prof. Dr Muhammad Arshad, Dean faculty of Agriculture Prof. Dr Nadeem Abbasi, Director Information Technology Institute Dr Mubashir Riaz, Director Management Sciences Institute Dr Farida Faisal, Dean Faculty of Forestry Dr. Maqsood Anwar, Registrar, Dr Sarwat Naz Mirza and Treasurer Syeda Iram Umer and others officers.

Iqbal Day Celebrated

Two days (November 11 to 12, 2015) celebration on the birth anniversary of poet-philosopher Dr Allama Muhammad Iqbal held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), to pay homage & highlight Allama Iqbal's life with the objective to idealize him as a role model for national prosperity.



Different competitions including Essay Writing, Poster, Bilingual Declamation, Mushaira, Arfaana Kalaam were held under the Office of Senior Tutor. PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest.



A conference titled "Iqbal and present Pakistan" was also organized in connection with the second and last day of the celebration of Iqbal Day. Prominent among the speakers included Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Aftab Ahmad of Islamic International University and Mr. Ayub Sabir Famous Scholar of Iqbaliat. The seminar was largely attended by faculty members and students.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said that our survival and prosperity lied in Iqbal's ideology, which was derived from Quran and the life of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). He highlighted the vision of Allama Muhammad Iqbal who laid the foundation stone of the Pakistan



Movement and how he provided Muslims of the Sub-Continent a guidance towards the development of a democratic state. He said the universal message of Allama Iqbal teaches people the lessons of empathy, social sensitivity and concern for all human beings. He urged that Iqbal's ideology of freedom was the foundation of the



ideology of Pakistan and it is the need of hour to change and amend ourselves as per Iqbal's message. He asserted that the role of universities and teachers is highly important in the efforts of putting the country on right track and road to progress. He advised the students that they should seek direction from Allama Iqbal's message and follow it to achieve goals for which the country was created.

Inauguration of Animal Breeding & Genetics Laboratories and Workshop on Goat Breeding

Two state-of-the-art genetics laboratories have been established to carry out research in animal breeding and genetics at Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (FV&AS) of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University having modern facilities including cell culture gadgets, high speed centrifuge, PCR, q-PCR, Gel-Doc and ultra-low (-80 °C) freezer.

He hoped that the laboratories would not only provide training to the postgraduate students but also open up new avenues of research in animal breeding and genetics.

It is pertinent to mention here that a research group under the leadership of Dr Muhammad Moeen-ud-Din has also succeeded in winning huge funding worth Rs. 70 million for four research projects of extreme national significance.

The team includes Dr Muhammad Moeen-ud-Din,



The laboratories were jointly inaugurated on December 17, 2015 by Executive Director of Higher Education Commission (HEC) Prof. Dr G. Raza Bhatti and PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, HEC DG (P&D) Dr M. Mazhar Saeed and representatives of the US Embassy Katherine Matheson (NAS, USA) and Gul-e-Afshan (Program Coordinator S & T Program).

PMAS-AUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad warmly welcomed the distinguished guests on the occasion and said that the University administration is making all out efforts to improve standard of research and teaching in the institution.

Prof. Dr G. Raza Bhatti admired the efforts of Dr Muhammad Moeen-ud-Din in achieving this milestone in his career. He also congratulated the university administration for this achievement and assured full support of HEC to further raise standard of research and education.

Group Leader/Associate Professor (PhD and Postdoc, China; Molecular Geneticists), Dr Ghulam Bilal (PhD, Canada; Quantitative Geneticist), Five Research Associates (One DVM and four M. Phil), four field/livestock assistant, and one office boy.

Following the vision of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad the team is actively working to resolve the national issues of livestock production related to genetics and breeding.

National collaborators of the group include Prof. Dr Muhammad Sajjad Khan (Tenured Professor of Genetics) at University of Agriculture Faisalabad and Prof. Dr Sohail Ahmed (Professor of Genetics) at the University of Agriculture, Peshawar, whereas international collaborator includes Prof. Dr James M. Reecy from Iowa State University, USA.

Fish from Rain Harvested Water Reservoir on the Main Campus – PMAS-AAUR

Keeping in view the immense importance of fisheries and its role in national economy, fishery research facility was established by rain water harvesting in the main campus of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi.



The main objective was the training in raising fisheries and career development in entrepreneurship of young graduates in the field of aquaculture and fisheries in Pothwar region. Stocking of major and Chinese carp were done by the department of Zoology and Biology for research purpose e.g. "Field Evaluation of Formulated and Natural Feed on the Growth Performance of Fresh Water Fish".



The fish stocked to indigenous and Chinese carp i.e. Rohu (*Labeorohita*) & Mori (*Cirrhinusmrigala*) taken as Major carps and Grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodonidella*), Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*) & Common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) were taken as Chinese carp. After the completion of research work the fish was harvested.

Overall in the last few months, a total of 240 kg fish belonging to different species was harvested and sold at the University Research Product Display Centre. The maximum weight gain was recorded in Silver carp i.e. 4.25 kg followed by Grass carp which was 3.8 kg. Survival rate was almost 100%.



This facility has the potential of not only generating new knowledge in the field of fisheries for graduate and post graduate students but also to help in capacity building for fish farmers of the area.



It may be recalled that this Fish Farm is established at University main campus Rain Water Harvesting models of rooftops with a view to equip the graduates for self-employment thereby making a positive contribution in national development in addition to providing livelihood for themselves and the poor farming community of the country, particularly those who are deriving their livelihood from Barani agriculture. The water stored is enough to irrigate experiments being conducted on acreage at the campus. This effort presents a model for kitchen gardening through rainwater harvesting in urban areas besides minimizing street flooding and resulting discomforts in civic life during rainy season.



Inter-faculty Basketball Championship

The Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences (FCFS) won the Inter-faculty Basketball Championship by beating University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT) by the score of 54-41 in the final match of the championship, at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The three days (November 17-19, 2015) championship was organized by Directorate of Sports and PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest. A total of seven teams took part in the event including faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, faculty of Sciences, faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, University Institute of Information Technology, University Institute of Management Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Faculty of forestry & Wildlife Management.

Muhammad Hammad player of FCFS team was the backbone and best scorer of his team's triumph contributing 27 points. He was ably supported by Shahnawaz 13. Mr. Wahaj of University Institute of Information Technology team played very well and was the top contributor with 21 baskets.

Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad congratulated the winners of the championship and distributed prizes/certificates among the players. He said that sports activities not only play an important role in physical fitness and mind sharpness but also build the confidence and self-esteem. He appreciated the discipline and behavior of the players and the efforts of organizers for organizing this healthy event. He advised students to continue this spirit in their future practical lives.

Inter-Faculty Football Championship

The Inter-Faculty Football Championship (December 15 to 17, 2015) held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest who formally inaugurated the inter-faculty championship. Addressing the ceremony, he said that games taught of the lesson of winning & losing and created team spirits amongst players and kept them healthy and active. He appreciated the discipline and behavior of the players and advised them to continue this spirit in their practical lives. He lauded the efforts of the Directorate of Sports for promoting the sports on the campus and said that physical activities along with academic should be encouraged in educational institutions.

As many as nine teams participated from different faculties. Teams were divided into two pools and the matches were played on knockout basis. A large number of students and faculty members witnessed the matches.



Training workshop on Good Governance

A three-day (December 15 to 17, 2015) indigenous on-campus training (IOT) workshop for administrative/non-teaching staff held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).



The workshop titled "Good Governance" was organized by PMAS-AAUR office of Research, Innovations and Commercialization (ORIC) in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission under Modern University Governance Program, with an aim to promote good governance on campus and to bridge the distance between all stakeholders of the University.



At the concluding session PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest and more than 30 participants from the administrative staff of the University attended the workshop. The deans/Directors and administrative heads of University also attended the concluding ceremony of the workshop.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad stressed to become a good administrative manager by launching multidimensional programs and strategies. He also laid a particular stress on inter-departmental harmony and hoped that the workshop would address the issues identified in day-to-day administration and working of all departments. He said such exercise would increase



effectiveness and lessen the communication gap among different stakeholders within and outside the University. He hoped that this training will be helpful for knowledge enhancement and capacity building of the participants. He expressed gratitude to the Higher Education Commission for providing funds for the training and expressed his commitment of providing learning environment to the staff members. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yaseen convenor IOT programme and Mr. Shahid Ali Khan Central coordinator IOT thanked the participants.



During three days of the workshop seven sessions including presentations, lectures, activities and interactive sessions on Quality Assurance was conducted. Mr. Yunas Khan, Deputy Director, National Accountability Bureau, Mr. Toaha Hussain, Senior Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law and justice and from PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Dr. Abdul Saboor, Dr. Farida Faisal & Dr. Mazhar H. Bhutta, were the resource persons.

Seminar on Statistical Methods for Business & Economics Research

A seminar on Statistical Methods for Business & Economics Research held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on December 23, 2015.

The seminar was organized by University Institute of Management Sciences (UIMS) with the objective to provide an opportunity for research students and faculty members to get an insight of fundamentals of statistics and advance analytical techniques which would help them in their research endeavors.

management scholars must conduct research on how to ameliorate condition of poor farmers".

Prof. Dr Asad Zaman's lecture was about the quest of truth and knowledge being the ultimate aim of a researcher's endeavors. He gave several references of Holy Quran and Sunnah to prove that human beings have an innate capacity to apply logic. However, he warned against manipulation of mathematical equations to prove a western theory, if such a theory bears no significance towards how human beings can better themselves and lead more peaceful lives.

Prof. Dr Eatzaz Ahmed also spoke about the importance of framing research questions with



Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, The Vice chancellor of PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest on the occasion. Keynote speakers were Prof. Dr Asad Zaman (Vice chancellor Pakistan Institute of Development Economics) and Prof. Dr Eatzaz Ahmed (Ex. Vice chancellor, QAU & currently Prof of Economics, International Institute of Islamic Economics).

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed highlighted the importance of conducting research on relevant issues. He emphasized that "Agriculture sector is backbone of Pakistan's economy therefore

care. He discussed at length the mistake of interpreting equation parameters without understanding the implicit assumptions of the mathematical technique being applied.

Summing up the lectures of keynote speakers, Dr Farida Faisal, Director, UIMS reminded students that learning correct application of statistical tools and aligning analytical techniques with carefully chosen topics would ensure meaningful research in field of economics and business.



World Soil Day

In spirit with the UN declaration of year 2015 as International year of soils, two days celebration of World Soil Day ended at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on December 9, 2015 with an aim to create awareness on values of healthy soils on their critical importance in our lives.



The theme for this year is "Soils a solid ground for life". Different events including Poster, Quiz & Documentary competitions were held in two days celebration while a seminar on "Healthy soils for Sustainable Agriculture" was also organized by the PMAS-AAUR, Department of Soil Science and Soil & Water Conservation (SS & SWC). Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest. University Deans, Directors, Faculty members and large number of students attended the seminar.

Addressing as chief guest, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR highlighted the importance of soil as a critical component of the natural system. He stressed on increasing the public awareness of soil and its contribution to humanity and the environment. He also suggested the soil scientists to have analyzed the soil of whole country for its nature and properties. The maintenance or enhancement of global soil resources is essential if humanity's need for food, water, and energy security is to be met, Vice Chancellor said. He further said that we failed to connect soil with our food, water, climate, biodiversity and life. We must invert this tendency and take up some preserving and restoring actions, he added. He also shared the latest developments taking place in the developed countries for sustainable management of soils to grow healthy foods.

Poster, Quiz and documentary competitions were also held in which students participated and highlighted the present situation of soil degradation which is a result of deforestation, unsustainable land use, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. They also highlighted the importance of soil and the need to use it sustainably. They stressed to connect peoples with soils and raise awareness about the soil and food productivity.

Cheques distributed under Prime Minister's Fee Reimbursement Scheme

A ceremony under the Prime Minister's Fee Reimbursement Scheme was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on November 25, 2015 to distribute cheques among students.

The purpose of the scheme is to help the talented students of underdeveloped areas to get admission in higher classes of Master's, M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. The educational expenses of such students will be paid under this scheme.

On the occasion, cheques worth Rs1.540 million were distributed among 26 Ph.D students of different department and PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest, who gave away fee reimbursement cheques to the students.



PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said country could not progress without education and only an educated youth can help to bring socio-economic changes in society. He praised the Fee Reimbursement Scheme of PM and said that this program would bring many poor students to the doors of universities to enable them to continue their studies. Vice Chancellor urged the youth to seek higher education and do some productive work to benefit the society. He hoped that these scholarships will help students in pursuing their higher education.

Student who availed PM Fee Reimbursement Programme, highly hailed the Prime Minister for providing an opportunity to the students of less developed areas of the country to get higher education free of cost. They said that without the Reimbursement Programme many students could not have imagined to get enrolled in universities.

Seminar on Pakistan's Strategic Environment and Its Defense Policy

A one day seminar on "Pakistan's Strategic Environment and its Defense Policy: an Analysis of Current Challenges and Prospects" was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), September 16, 2015.



Defence Analyst Lt-Gen (Rtd.) Masood Aslam was the chief guest, while Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Director, School of Political and International Relations, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR and a large number of faculty members, intellectuals and students attended the seminar.



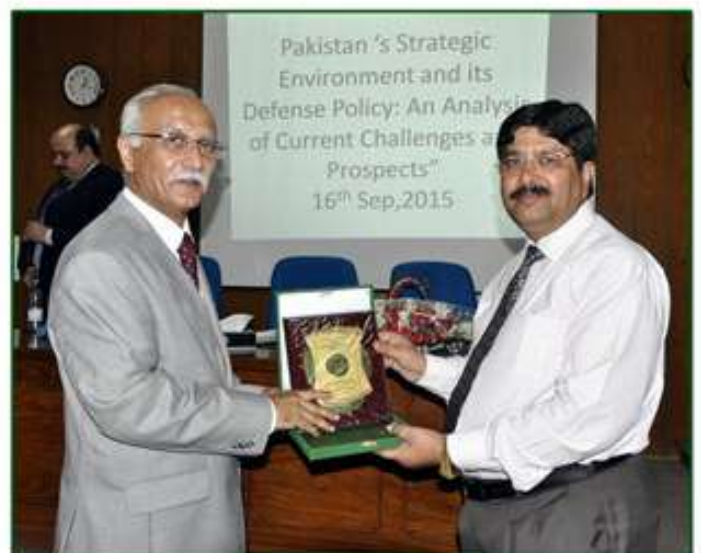
Lt-Gen (Rtd.) Masood Aslam threw some light on historic background of Pakistan defense and strategic challenges and maintained that Pakistan has been facing challenges from neighboring India due to its important geo political and geographical locations.

He underlined the fact that national harmony can only embark Pakistan on the path of progress and prosperity, adding "Both the students and teachers should put in their best efforts for progress of the country.

Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Director, School of Political and International Relations, said Pakistan has been bearing the burden of four million Afghan refugees for last thirty five years and due to which it has been compelled to face terrorism, drug smuggling and economic setbacks.



"The Pakistani nation is the most resilient one in the world that has suffered three big wars but is still moving ahead in the right direction and rising day by day," he said. He further said Pakistan is the sixth largest country of the world by population and seventh nuclear power but still the international community is not giving it its due importance at the global level.



Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, in his concluding remarks said that he has visited many countries of the world but not seen the country like Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor told the audience that lack of education are the root cause of all the problems faced by the country in the current situation. He urged the students to concentrate on their studies and work hard with commitment & dedication so that they could lead the nation.

Seminar on “Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in Pakistan”

The Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FV&AS) of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations organized a seminar on “Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in Pakistan” on September 9, 2015.



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the inaugural session, while Dr Muhammad Safdar Anjum, Dean FV&AS, Dr Muhammad Afzal, Coordinator & Dr Manzoor

market-oriented and the commercial livestock farming to meet the domestic demand and the surplus for the export. He said that it is need of the hour to use livestock sector as an engine for economic growth and food security leading to rural population empowerment and socio-economic development. Vice Chancellor said that there is dire need not only to produce high quality professionals in every discipline but also to adopt modern methodologies and techniques to keep pace with the scientific developments. Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of FV&AS for holding the seminar and stressed the need of creating awareness in this regard. He also offered full support from the University administration in this regard and asked the media persons to give proper coverage to the core issues being faced by the farmers.

Dr Manzoor Hussain and Dr Muhammad Afzal, highlighted the various topics relating to Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) & Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) diagnosis, outbreak handling and control. They said that these diseases are not only a constant threat to the livelihoods and food security of the farmers and the general public of the region but also a potential threat of banning the exports of animals. They also briefed the financial supports



Hussain, National Director of FAO Project, Deans, Directors, livestock professionals, faculty members and large number of students also attended the seminar.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, said that livestock sector is playing an important role in the Pakistan economy and called for adoption of formal policy framework on treatment, control, prevention and eradication of these diseases. He stressed on improving per unit animal productivity and moving from subsistence to

and technical cooperation rendered by the World Organizations and pace of eradication of transboundary diseases in Pakistan.

Veterinary experts at the seminar appreciated efforts of the Food and Agriculture Organization over the adoption of measures against the transboundary diseases spreading in the country. They stressed the need for adopting effective measures recommended by the veterinary experts for the creation awareness among the stakeholders to eradicate these diseases.

51st meeting of the Academic Council

The 51st meeting of the Academic Council of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University was held on September, 11, 2015 in the University Seminar room. Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR presided over the meeting.

Senior faculty members, teaching heads, Librarian, Registrar, and Deans of Faculties, Directors of institutes and Controller Examinations attended the meeting.



The council discussed and took various decisions on the improvement of the academic programs at the campus.

At the end, Vice-Chancellor thanked all the members for their participation & valuable contribution made by them in the meeting.

Student Honor

Sidra Bibi, student of M.Phil Biochemistry, is among the 36 students who have been declared the winners of the Essay Writing Competition. The competition on the topic "Extremism" was organized by the Higher Education Commission in connection with Independence Day celebration and total 379 students all over the Pakistan participated. PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad congratulated the incumbent and also awarded a certificate on her success.



Anti-Dengue Day observed

On the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif the Anti-Dengue Day was observed at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on July 30, 2015. A walk and seminar were arranged at the university to raise awareness among the masses against dengue and to observe all precautionary measures for the protection from this disease.

The seminar was organized by the Department of Entomology, PMAS-AAUR and was attended by faculty members, staff and students of the University. Dean, Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, Prof. Dr Safdar Ali was the chief guest on the occasion. In his address, he said that awareness played a key role in fight against dengue because prevention was far better than cure. He said that it was the responsibility of every citizen to play his role for controlling Dengue and protecting citizens from this dangerous disease by adopting all precautionary measures.



Prof. Dr Muhammad Naeem and Dr Muhammad Tariq of Department of Entomology gave presentations on various aspects of dengue fever, its various stages and prevention and control. They also highlighted the control of various developmental stages of dengue from its eggs to larva and full grown mosquitoes. Speakers recommended various preventive measures against the dengue mosquitoes and stressed on collective preventive measures against the dengue menace. They urged the university employees and students to ensure cleanliness of the campus and homes.

An awareness walk was also arranged to create awareness against dengue fever. The participants of the walk were carrying banners and posters bearing precautionary measures against Dengue and urging the citizens to maintain cleanliness in and around their homes. Participants also distributed awareness pamphlets among the public in front of the University.