



Pir Mehr Ali Shah
Arid Agriculture
University, Rawalpindi

NEWSLETTER

Jul - Dec 2016



International Conference on "Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on Water, Energy and Food Security for Poverty Alleviation in Dry land Regions" (23-25 November, 2016)



Ground Breaking Ceremony at Attock Campus



Inauguration of PKCBC for Agriculture & Livestock Technology

Pir Mehr Ali Shah
Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

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Pak-Korea Capacity Building Center for Agriculture and Livestock inaugurated at PMAS-AAUR



Punjab Agricultural Minister Muhammad Naeem Akhtar Bhabha said that agriculture is the backbone of economy and Punjab Government has taken a number of steps for the development of the agriculture sector and welfare & prosperity of the farmers.

He stated this while addressing at the inaugural ceremony of the Pak-Korea Capacity Building Center for Agricultural and Livestock at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on December 21, 2016.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Dong gu, Parliamentary Secretary Ch. Sarfraz Afzal, MPA Malik Iftikhar, MPA Raja Muhammad Hanif, MPA Zaib-un-Nisa, MPA Tehseen Fawad, PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Deans, Directors and faculty members were also present on the event.

Minister said that the present government under the leadership of Mian Muhammad

Nawaz Shareef and Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Shareef is making all efforts for strengthening the agriculture sector and Kissan package is not only a revolutionary step taken by the government but will also be helpful for achieving the self reliance in the agriculture production and alleviating poverty. He stressed the need to improve agriculture production system on scientific lines to enhance sustainable food production and said that there is dire need to encourage farmers on the use of modern agricultural tools to get maximum production to meet present and future food demand of the country. Minister also appreciated the efforts and developments being made by the University for socio-economic Uplift of the forming community with special emphasis on rain-fed agriculture in the country.



The Ambassador of Korean Dr. Suh Dong gu, while addressing on the occasion said that the province of Punjab plays a vital role

in not only agriculture and livestock sectors but also in socioeconomic development of the country. He appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR and said that the University is playing a prominent role in up-lifting the deprived communities in the dry land regions through education, research and technology development. He hoped that the Center will build the capabilities of students, farmers, and rural communities by facilitating collaborative research, training and promoting agri-business development as well to enhance the rural economy and the minimization of the income gap between the rich and the poor, the irrigated and the arid. He said that this joint project will also



provide a precious momentum to the bilateral ties between two countries in general and the partnership between the Arid Agriculture University and KOICA in particular.



Parliamentary Secretary Punjab, Ch Sarfraz Afzal, while addressing, said that PMLN is a party which has always strived to protect the interests of farmers and the rural masses. He also said that prosperity of small farmers is a top priority of the government and government is spending hundreds of billions of rupees on promotion of agriculture. This will definitely raise living standards of farmers, he added.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, while addressing the gathering said that PMAS-AAUR is



playing an important role in improvement of country's agriculture. He informed the gathering that this capacity building center project having cost Rs. 374.5 million by Korean aid agency Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Rs. 21.0 million by PMAS-AAUR will significantly contribute to improve agricultural technology as well as educational infrastructure at University. It will improve human and institutional capacities of Pakistan in improving infrastructure and agricultural technology by transferring Korea's experience and know-how to the

Pakistani counterpart. It will also increase farm income through quality improvement and enrichment of projects. He said that Pakistan is an agricultural country and efforts made by the government are appreciable.



Punjab Agriculture Minister, Naeem Akhtar Bhabha, alongwith the Ambassador of Korea Dr. Suh Dong gu and PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad inaugurated the Pak-Korea Capacity Building Center for Agriculture and Livestock. Minister and Ambassador also planted a tree in University premises.



International Conference on “Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on Water, Energy and Food Security for Poverty Alleviation in Dry land Regions”

A three-day (November 23-25, 2016) international conference on 'Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on Water, Energy and Food Security for Poverty Alleviation in Dry land Regions,' held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The conference was organised by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with UNESCO with the support of Japan Funds-in-Trust and Malaysia Funds-in-Trust, with an aim to provide an opportunity to policy makers, scientists, academicians, other experts and stakeholders for exploring new dimensions to increase water, food security and alleviate poverty in the resource deficient dry land regions worldwide, in Asia and the Pacific region and particularly in Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmad was the chief guest at



the inaugural session of the conference while Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest on the second day of the conference and Parliamentary Secretary for National Food Security & Research Mr. Rajab Ali Khan Balouch was the chief guest at the concluding session. The conference was also attended by the Ambassador of Japan Mr. Takashi Kurai, The High Commissioner of Malaysia Dr. Hasrul Sani Bin Muhtabar, Minister Treasury, Planning & Development and Public Health AJK Dr. Muhammad Najeeb Naqi, UNESCO Jakarta, Director Dr. Shahbaz Khan, PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, UNESCO Islamabad Director Ms. Vibeke Jensen, Water Expert Dr. Sham-ul-Mulk, progressive farmer Mumtaz Khan Manais, more than 200 participants from



Pakistan & other countries including 50 delegates from Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, China, Philippine, Nepal, Korea, Afghanistan, Australia and faculty members & a large number of students were also present.



Federal Minister Sheikh Aftab Ahmad while addressing at the inaugural session said that government has put water, energy and food security sectors at the top of its development agenda in its vision 2025 because these sectors are considered to be life line of any economy and most vital instrument of socio-economic development of a country. He also said that government is paying special attention to incomplete hydro-electric projects like Diamir Basha Dam project and others to make country self sufficient in energy sector. He informed that changing climatic conditions, especially the natural disastrous, resource base degradation,

poverty, low education levels and high disparities in food access are major challenges for food security in Pakistan. He was of the view that universities are a hub of research and innovation of new technologies positively impacting livelihood of the masses, protecting environment and accelerating growth. He hoped that this conference will help in facilitating the integration of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans of Pakistan and other countries of Asia Pacific Region.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal said that the government's Vision 2025 also focuses on food, water and energy as these are the most important factors in a country's development. Previous government did not pay attention on bringing improvements in these areas, the consequences of which the country is facing now, he said, Mr Iqbal added that the government will be launching the Diamir Basha Dam next year and was also working on projects for the establishment of other dams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the northern areas in order to ensure the availability of water to



future generations. The minister said that various measures taken by the government including the drafting of economic policies has brought improvements in the economy.



The incumbent government is focusing on the energy sector, he said, and that hopefully, the energy crisis will be overcome by 2018. He said that after the completion of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the economy will improve, which will open a new era in the development of Pakistan. He expressed hope that the conference will provide a platform for researchers and scientists to share their researches and experiences and come up with recommendations for helping the government and policy makers in bringing

improvements in the water, food and energy sectors.

Rajab Ali Khan Balouch, said government has initiated several development projects in the country to reduce poverty in the region and to improve socio-economic condition of farming community. He said that keeping in view the future needs present government top priority is to overcome energy, water and food security. Highlighting the importance of water availability, he said development of water reservoirs and dams are the first priority of the government and in next year construction work on Diamir Basha will be started. He was of the view that academia has to play its due role by creating awareness among the new generation regarding importance of energy and water. He appreciated the efforts of organizers for arranging this conference and hoped that such event should also be held in future as well.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, said that the University is



dealing in diversified areas like agriculture, forestry, range management, veterinary & animal sciences, agricultural engineering, basic, applied and social sciences along with management sciences and information technology to achieve a stipulated target of UN Agenda 2030 and Pakistan Government vision 2025 to respond to the ever changing socio-economic conditions and attaining the goal of development. Prof Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, said the university had started a number of projects for developing practical work stations for students to learn about self-employment, thereby making a positive contribution towards national development. He said that there is dire need to improve water use efficiency and energy inputs on sustainable basis for substantial increase in food production. He hoped that participants in this dialogue will come up the such recommendations that will be effective to ensure water, energy and food security. The Ambassadors Malaysia appreciated efforts of UNESCO and PMAS-AAUR for

holding international conference on important issues. He said we have to play our role to create awareness regarding food security and other challenges so that future of new generation could be secure.

The Japan Ambassador said Japan has been providing assistance to Pakistan in various fields. We have been providing support in clean drinking water projects. He said, our priorities are for the implementation of the universal agenda, he said adding, Japan is putting its efforts for the quality growth, health system, education, disaster management and climate change problems. Water and proper sewerage system, food securities are the issues of priority to be addressed into Pakistan.

UNESCO Jakarta Director Dr. Shahbaz Khan, in his key note address highlighted the aims and objectives of the conference and informed the gathering about available solutions and policy directions for poverty alleviation and improved livelihood in dry land regions in Asia and the Pacific region.



Groundbreaking Ceremony of PMAS-AAUR Attock Campus

In his address on the occasion Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmad has said that this government under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is heading towards development. Education is on top priorities of the government and special efforts are being made to provide higher education facilities to the students near to their home.



He stated this on the Ground Breaking ceremony of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Attock Campus on Attock-Hattian Road. PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, DCO Attock Rana Akhbar Hayat, notables of Attock District along with the Deans, Directors, faculty, staff and students of the university of the campus were also present.

The campus will be built over an area of one thousand Kanal at the cost of Rs one billion. Federal Minister said that all those promises

made with the people of Attock are being fulfilled. He said that this university is need of the time and will prove a mile stone in the history of Attock in spreading higher education. He said that acquiring one thousand kanal land for this campus and allocating one billion rupees is an ample proof that govt wants to promote higher education as education can guarantee development and prosperity. He said that the construction of the building of this campus will be completed on priority. Sheikh Aftab said that the establishment of medical college in Attock is also under consideration. He emphasized upon the students to get benefit of these facilities. He said that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif have vowed to make Pakistan a developed and prosperous country. Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad lauded the efforts of the federal minister in getting approval for establishment of this campus and said that acquiring one thousand kanal land and allocation of one billion rupees for this campus is a miracle. He said this campus will play a vital role in promoting higher education especially in agriculture field.



Kissan Mela (Youth of Hope Festival) held at University



Federal Minister, National Food Security & Research Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan has said farmers are the backbone of the country and uplift of the agriculture sector could help strengthen the country's economy, he stated this while inaugurating the "Kissan Mela" held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, on October 25, 2016. The Mela was organized by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with Lok Sanjh Foundation, featured several programs including establishment of different stalls, youth session, tableau by students and a conference on Defending Agricultural & Cultural Diversity.

Federal Minister also visited different stalls of the Mela and inaugurated Bio Mass to Bio Energy Unit and Basketball & Long tennis Court in University premises. On the occasion, PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Senator Najma Hameed and other dignitaries, faculty members, students and farmers were also

present there.

While visiting the Bio Energy Unit Federal Minister appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR for establishing Bio Energy Unit by using solid waste and recommended that it should be promoted by increasing public awareness and integrating the informal



sector to make the current system sustainable and financially viable. Federal Minister said farmers are playing a vital role in improving economy of any country and present government has initiated several agricultural development projects in country



to uplift this sector and raise farmers' income. He assured that the present government's kissan package would surely help the small farmers and govt is committed to provide them with modern technology for making improvements in agricultural produce.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, highlighted the main objectives of Mela and informed the gathering that Arid University is playing important role in improvement of country's agriculture. He said there is dire need to promote cooperation between the government, farming community and industry to combat the challenges faced by agriculture sector. He stressed the need to improve agriculture production system on scientific lines to enhance sustainable food production and to

meet present and future demands for food in the country. Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad lauded the Kissan Package and said that it would bring revolutionary change in agriculture sector. The Vice Chancellor said that Pakistan is an agricultural country and efforts made by the government are appreciable. He said this kissan package will encourage farmers to adopt modern methods of cultivation which would boost yield.

In the presence of Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, PMAS-AAUR signed four MoU with different organizations including National University of Science & Technology, Mitchell's Fruit Farm Limited, Lok Sanjh Foundation and Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust Rawalpindi.



Khadim Punjab Agriculture Package Awareness Seminar held at PMAS-AAUR



Minister of State for Education and Training, Engineer Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman said that agriculture is a backbone of the national economy and Government Kissan Package is not only a revolutionary step for the farmers but will also helpful for the sustainable agriculture in the country, he stated this while chairing an awareness seminar on Khadim Punjab Agriculture Package at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on June 30, 2016. MNA Raja Javed Ikhlas, Senator Najma Hameed, MPA Tehseen Fawad, PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Agriculture Experts, scientists, faculty members, students and farmers were also present on the occasion.

Minister said that the present government under the leadership of Mian Muhammad Nawaz Shareef and Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Shareef is making all efforts for strengthening the agriculture sector and the progress of the farmers. He said that Kissan package will be helpful for achieving the self

reliance in the agriculture production, alleviating poverty and achieving food security in the county.

He said there is dire need to promote cooperation between the government, farming community and industry to combat the challenges faced by agriculture sector. He stressed the need to improve agriculture production system on scientific lines to enhance sustainable food production and to meet present and future demands for food in the country. He appreciated PMAS-AAUR for organizing the seminar on Kissan Package for raising awareness regarding its importance and effectiveness.

Minister of State said the law and order situation has been improved significantly across the country due to concrete steps of the government in this regard. He said National Action Plan (NAC) is being implemented in the country as we can see the incidents of terrorism have been controlled as compared to its ratio in the past.



Minister of State said that the government was making efforts to make "Quranic Education" compulsory in all public schools through out the country. He said that "Nazra Quran" will be taught from class 1 to 5th and proper "Quranic Education" with translation will be taught to the students of class 6th to 10th in all public schools. He said that government is also making efforts to create linkages between academia and industries. MNA Raja Javed Ikhlas, highlighted Punjab Kissan Package and the steps being taken by the Punjab government for the welfare and prosperity of the farmers. He said Punjab government is fully aware of the problems being faced by the farmers and has also taken effective steps for ensuring due return to them of their produce. He said that increase in per acre yield is not possible without transferring modern technology and results of agriculture to the farmers. He said that small farmers will have to be equipped with modern technology so that they could increase their production.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad lauded the Kissan Package and said that it would bring revolutionary change in agriculture sector. The Vice Chancellor

said that Pakistan is an agricultural country and efforts made by the government are appreciable. He said this kissan package will encourage farmers to adopt modern methods of cultivation which would boost yield. He also stressed on the use of modern agricultural tools to get maximum production.

Minister of State along Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR also inaugurated biometric system and installation of the CCTV cameras in the campus. While talking, Minister said that the biometric attendance system and installation of the CCTV cameras would ensure full attendance of the teachers and the activities of the students. The federal government is fully committed to provide quality education to the young generation so that they could be able to share the responsibility of progress and prosperity of the country. He said that introduction of biometric verification system will help in improving the educational standard and this system will not only ensure punctuality, but recognise efforts of those who have been working hard to bring change, he added. Minister also planted a tree in the University campus.



Italian Delegation Visited PMAS-AAUR

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) and Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) have agreed to initiate collaborative research projects in the field of agriculture, particularly for promotion of Olive cultivation in the country, it was decided in a meeting held between PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad and AICS delegation headed by Mr. Domenico Bruzzone, Director Technical office of AICS in Pakistan on August 11, 2016. On the Occasion, Secretary Agriculture Punjab Muhammad Mahmood, PMAS-AAUR Director External Linkages Dr. Atta-ul-Mohsin, Registrar Dr. Sarwat Naz Mirza and BARI Director Muhammad Tariq were also present.

They discussed the possibilities of collaboration in academic, research, training and value chain activities for the development olive cultivation. In a meeting it was decided that they will work together to create awareness among farming community for olive cultivation. Participants also decided to establish a state of the Art



Center of Excellence to cater the future needs in the area of olive research, capacity building, transfer of knowledge & technology to students and farmers. In this regard TORs for different stakeholders will be finalized as per their role in collaborative efforts.

They were of the view that a thorough situational analysis is needed regarding potential areas, prevailing situations and future initiatives related to olive production and allied activities in the country. Participants said that olive can be grown on marginal lands and we should maximize the area under olive cultivation for better use of natural resources.

Secretary Agriculture Punjab Muhammad Mahmood while sharing his views said that Punjab Government is making all efforts for strengthening the agriculture sector and the progress of the farmers.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad briefed the delegation about the varsity's educational, research and extension programmes, future plans, and role in the development of agriculture sector in Pakistan.



Waste Management Station Inaugurated and Second Meeting of the Olive Development Group Held at PMAS-AAUR

The first Integrated Waste Management Station inaugurated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) here on July 29, 2016.

The state-of-art, modern treatment facility is based on the mechanical and biological treatment process of solid waste with proper segregation, recovery of recyclables completed in two and a half months at a cost of Rs 0.5 million.

The station was formally inaugurated by Muhammad Mahmood Punjab Agriculture Secretary. Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, faculty members, staff and students were also present on the occasion.



This is the fully integrated waste management facility being not the only first one in the educational institutes but also in the country, designed and executed by PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad and Dr. Ghulam Jillani.



The key features of this recently developed station are to transform decomposable waste into compost for organic agriculture and bio-gas which can provide safe and healthy food to the community. This station also has the arrangement for food waste drying from poultry feed, and water heating through incineration of combustible waste. In future university is also planning to generate electricity through steam boiler to be installed here.

The Punjab Agriculture Secretary Muhammad Mahmood, while visiting the station said that solid waste if handled properly would maintain the natural balance



of essential elements and thereby promote more harvest from nature. He said that people must realize that the waste which they throw in the streets are not actually waste it is the raw material for some other products. He appreciated the efforts of

PMAS-AAUR for establishing Solid Waste Management Station and recommended that it should be promoted by increasing public awareness and integrating the informal sector to make the current system sustainable and financially viable.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad briefed the chief guest about the aims and objectives for the establishment of this station. He said that solid waste is collected from the campus and recycled into useful/beneficial products without any sort of pollution. He informed that this center will also act as a learning center to create awareness about the positive environment impact of the solid waste treatment facility in the country.

The Secretary Agriculture Department, Govt. of Punjab, Capt. (R) Muhammad Mahmood said, there is a lot of potential in olive cultivation and will help save precious foreign exchange being spent on the import

of edible oil. He said that Pakistan's progress and prosperity is linked with agriculture, so



as much as we promote this sector it would help boost overall economy of the country. The Punjab govt is also developing certified nurseries in the private sector and olive research center in different areas to facilitate the farmers. He said that there is dire to conduct awareness and training programmes to facilitate the people by creating awareness on olive cultivation techniques and producing value added products.



PMAS-AAUR and RWMC Signed MoU



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi and Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) signed MoU on October 3, 2016, with an aim to clean environment and obtain energy from solid waste/biomass on the lines of already developed model at PMAS-AAUR.

It may be recalled that PMAS-AAUR has established a state of the art integrated Waste Management Station where modern treatment facility is based on the mechanical and biological treatment process of solid waste with proper segregation and recovery of the recyclables. This facility being not only the first one in the educational institutes but also in the country, designed and executed by professor Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR. The key features of this recently developed station are to transform decomposable waste in to compost for organic agriculture and bio-gas which can provide safe and healthy food to

the community. Additionally, this solid waste if handled properly would maintain the natural balance of essential elements and thereby promote more harvest from nature. PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad and RWMC Managing Director, Irfan Ahmad Qureshi signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations. On the occasion, Chairman RWMC/MPA Raja Muhammad Hanif was also present and signed the MoU as witness. Under the MoU both parties will mutually cooperate and collaborate for benefit of society by providing clean environment, alternate energy resources and organic fertilizer, i.e. compost. In this regard, students will also participate and obtain experience through working with the RWMC. Both parties agreed to developed specific projects for seeking funds from donor's agencies to achieve objectives.



Laptop Distribution Ceremony Under Prime Minister's Youth Program Held at PMAS-AAUR



The Laptop distribution ceremony for the students under the Prime Minister's Youth Program held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on December 20, 2016.

Chairman Metro Bus Project Muhammad Hanif Abbasi was the chief guest while Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the guest of honor and distributed laptops among the more than 1900 talented students, who were selected on merit from various disciplines/ departments of PMAS-AAUR. Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, faculty members and large number of students were also present at the ceremony.

Chairman Metro Bus Project Muhammad Hanif Abbasi, said that youth can play key role to build a nation and laptop scheme is to facilitate the students to get benefit of information technology so that they can prepare themselves for confronting the challenges of upcoming era. He said that present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif has launched many projects to empower the youth for better bright future of Pakistan. China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is one of the biggest examples of it, he added. He said that government is working hard to provide



opportunities to the talented but needy students to fulfill their dreams and aspirations and become partner in the development and welfare of country. He urged the students to concentrate on their studies so that they could lead the nation. He lauded the efforts of PMAS-AAUR's Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad in bringing up the University at par with the



international standards and also admired the role of university in development of agriculture, livestock and the relevant zones. While distributing the laptops, he congratulated the students for receiving laptops which would enable them to compete with the world.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, spoke about the

academic, research, extension, training programs as well as the accomplished projects of the University. He also showed gratitude towards the prime minister and



government of Pakistan for providing laptops to the students of the varsity, which would leave a positive impact on the educational and practical life of students. He also hoped that such kind of project would continue in future as well. Vice Chancellor said that PMAS-AAUR is making efforts to provide the quality of education to youth to get the massive share of participation in the main streamline of productive mechanism. He stressed upon the students to utilize all their energies for acquiring knowledge and adopt reading habits as it is a key to success.



Conference and Concluding Ceremony of PMAS-UAAR Joint Project with UC Davis California

A Two days December 6-7, 2016 Conference on "ICT Use of Pakistani Girls in Rural Farming Households" under USAID funded project was held at PMAS-AAUR. The project was aimed at enhancing the role of Information and Communication Technology in Agricultural Technology Transfer and Agricultural Productivity Improvement. Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, VC PMAS UAAR, commended



efforts of the project team and underscored importance of harnessing contemporary technologies in agriculture extension services. Professor Dr Muhammad Azeem DG NARC encouraged young girls to play their role as technology ambassadors in Rural Farming household. Professor Dr mujeeb Sahari VC Sindh agriculture University graced the concluding ceremony as Chief Guest. He appreciated the project and stressed the importance of initiating such projects in other areas as well. Dr Aneela Afzal Assistant Professor of



sociology led the project from PMAS Arid Agriculture University while Professor Dr Mark Bell Director international learning led it from University of California Davis.



Telenor, E- Pakistan and CIT were proud partners of the project. Telenor has been technology partner throughout the project while E-Pakistan and CIT will utilise the skills of these girls by making them Master Trainers to further strengthen ICT Use in Rural Farming Households.



Northern Budgerigar and Cockatiel Show held at PMAS-AAUR

The PMAS-AAUR organized a Northern Budgerigar & Cockatiel Show, on November 20, 2016 with an aim to create awareness about the birds and remove misconceptions among students and general public. The event was organized by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with Northern Budgerigar



Cockatiel Club and Department of Wildlife PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the show in which budgerigar, cockatiel were put for the entertainment and awareness of public. A large number of people, including families, children, faculty members and students visited the show to watch the more than 1000 birds that were display at the Northern Budgerigar & Cockatiel Show.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, said that birds not only add the beauty of the environment but also have a positive impact on the moods of the people. He said that such activities also made the minds of students healthy and fresh. He further added that Pakistan is



suitable for producing birds but little attention had been paid to this sector so far. He also appreciated the efforts of organizers for organizing such a wonderful event to increase awareness among the people and students regarding the significance of birds. Earlier, chief guest along with others had a round of show and saw the Budgerigar & Cockatiel arrangements of different participants.

Participants of the show also provide the information to the visitors, who want to adopt this as a profession regarding the birds proper care, handling, nutrition, reproduction, diseases, selection of breed, maintenance and to establish standard birds. A panel comprising specialists from universities and other institutions headed by Mr. Kees Bink from Netherland performed the duty to judge the show in a fair manner. At the closing ceremony, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad also distributed prizes among the winners of the show.



An Interactive Session on Entrepreneurship Development



An interactive session on entrepreneurship development held at PMAS-AAUR, on November 17, 2016, with an aim to provide business management students and faculty an insight into practical entrepreneurial challenges, opportunities as these are developing in Pakistan.

The session was organized by PMAS-AAUR University Institute of Management Sciences (UIMS) in collaboration with Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Research and Development Department.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Chairman Standing Committee for Research and Development RCCI Waseem Riaz and Chairman Standing Committee on Fairs and Exhibitions RCCI Shahid Saleem were the guest speakers. Deans, Directors, Faculty members and students were also present.

The Vice Chancellor while sharing his views highlighted the agricultural entrepreneurship development and also briefed the participants' entrepreneurial projects within the university. He instructed

that the students should do more practical work and for this, they should get guidance from industry experts. He was of the view that Pakistan would only develop if youth become masters of their own destiny by becoming learners and earners and instead of looking outwards for help and approval, we must become self reliant.

Waseem Riaz and Shahid Saleem shared their personal successful journey. They reiterated that self belief, passion to do something extra ordinary and honesty were the main reasons behind a successful person. They encouraged the students to overcome their inhibitions in stating new ventures and assured the support of RCCI to anyone who had an idea and was keen to convert it into a business. They also advised the students never to become greedy but to take initiatives for uplifting the community.

Dr. Farida Faisal Director, University Institute of Management Sciences in her vote of thanks, recognized the need, for aligning class room knowledge with practical market know how, which is possible when students interact with local businessmen.



Seminar on Role of ICT's in Agricultural Development

A seminar titled Role of ICT's in Agricultural Development held at PMAS-AAUR on November 17, 2016, with the aim to promote 'Ba-Khabar Kissan' project, a ICT application for farmers which would be accessible over the telecom medium by every farmer of Pakistan.

The seminar was organized by the PMAS-AAUR Department of Agricultural Extension in collaboration with Switch Communication Pvt. Ltd. PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, was the chief guest while CEO Switch Communication Abrar Khan, PMAS-AAUR Deans, Directors, faculty members and large number of students were also present.



PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad stressed on the need for ICT access for farming community and said that adoption of ICT and telecom value added services by rural community can bring revolution in the agriculture production. CEO, Switch Communication Abrar Khan



said that the objective of this service is to create opportunities by the farmers from which the farmers would be able to learn ways to improve its yield.

An MoU was also signed between PMAS-AAUR and Switch Communication. Under this MoU, the signing parties will collaborate in terms of knowledge sharing regarding modern and practical agricultural practices and allied information.

This information provided by the University will be disseminated at mass scale among the farmers as a joint venture of both parties. It may be recalled that by the help of Ba-Khabar Kisan project/mobile APP farmers will have access to the latest farming techniques, cures of diseases, information regarding livestock to be used for a specific crop, Weather information, Soil testing, Crop insurance, Fertilizers & pesticides application, Horticultural practices and every information which is required by farmers to increase the yield and profitability.



Symposium on Step Forwards Zero Waste Showcasing Integrated Resource Recovery Center

A symposium on Step Forwards Zero Waste showcasing Integrated Resource Recovery Center (IRRC) held at PMAS-AAUR on November 15, 2016.

The event was organized in Collaboration with Akhtar Hameed Memorial Trust and PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest. MD, Rawalpindi Waste Management Company (RWMC) Irfan Ahmad Qureshi, Program Manager (AHMT), PMAS-AAUR Deans, Directors, faculty members and large numbers of students were also present to attend the symposium.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad said that the beneficial use of garbage can produce fertilizer & energy and this can also be a source of earning. We can also avoid countering the problems due to dirtiness this way and also the emerging diseases, he added. The Vice Chancellor said that the University is already working with RWMC and the Trust to make the beneficial usage of garbage. He said the University will also guide the other institutes, departments with reference to get benefit from the waste and to eliminate the problem of garbage.

He also informed the gathering that PMAS-AAUR has already established a Solid Waste Management Station and this station is producing fertilizer, gas and electricity. He said that PMAS-AAUR would cooperate its



maximum to implement it in Pakistan so that country can get rid of energy problem. He said that we have to come forward to solve our problems and there is no need to get help from other nations or countries.

Irfan Ahmad Qureshi, MD, RWMC said that it is true that we have not taken any step to eliminate the waste. We only could collect the garbage from the city and dump it outside the city. We are considering to utilize the garbage beneficially and soon will announce a plan of action in this regard, he added.

Sumera Gull, Program Manager, AHMT gave a briefing on their IRRC project about beneficial usage of the waste. She informed the gathering that about 80% waste, coming out of homes is useable which can produce fertilizer and energy. It can also avoid infectious and new emerging diseases. She also informed that soon AHMT establishing a department to make waste and garbage useable in collaboration with the PMAS-AAUR and RWMC.



Debate Competition held at PMAS-AAUR

A Debate Competition held at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on November 10, 2016. The competition was organized by Office of the Senior Tutor in collaboration with Human Rights Commission (HRC), with the objective to create awareness and educate the students about the importance of human rights education.

Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad presided over the competition, while Director General Human Rights Commission Abdul Hafeez, PMAS-AAUR Principals officers, Deans, Directors, faculty members and a large number of students were also present. In the debate contest more than 50 students from different departments of the University participated. The participants were fully enthusiastic and presented their speeches quite confidently and eloquently which the audience



appreciated.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, while addressing, highlighted the importance of debate topic & objectives of organizing such events and stressed to include human rights subject in the syllabus. Dr. Ahmad also thanked the Human Rights Commission for providing an opportunity to PMAS-AAUR for arranging the contest and appreciated the efforts of students who participated in the contest. He hoped that such activities would be continued at all level in future as well. He stressed the students to work passionately for our beloved country's progress and development by respecting the human rights in good manner. He also advised the students to make themselves a role model for others and respect and work for human rights with missionary zeal. In the end chief guest distributed prizes among the winners.



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 on July 23, 2016. A Walk and seminar were arranged at University to raise awareness about the dengue and its prevention from this disease.

The seminar was organized by the Department of Entomology, PMAS-AAUR and was attended by all academic heads, faculty members, staff and students of the university.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion, he said that awareness played a key role in fight against dengue because prevention is far better than cure. He stressed upon the need to promote awareness about the dengue fever in all segments of society especially among the students, enabling them to curb the menace of the dengue fever in the society. He said

that it is the responsibility of every citizen to play his role for controlling Dengue and protecting citizens from this dangerous disease by adopting all precautionary measures.

He directed the chairpersons to personally monitor cleanliness regarding dengue and



make necessary arrangements regarding disposal of waste material, condemned articles and debris of construction material which may cause storage of water and provide favorable breeding ground for



dengue mosquitoes. Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad also informed the attendees that the dengue eradication campaign is on top of the agenda by the University Administration. "No carelessness regarding the campaign is tolerated. Dengue prevention at University and around the city is a priority as the youth is the future of our country and their protection is of utmost importance," he said. Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif against the Dengue Fever and hoped that the steps taken by the Punjab government would continue to be implemented every year to save millions of people from this disease and urged the students and teachers to take active part in the dengue awareness campaign of Punjab government.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Atta-ul-Mohsin 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, led by PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad,



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 cleanness in and around their homes. The participants of walk reiterated their commitment to curb the disease. Participants also distributed awareness pamphlets among the public in front of the University.



Open House Held at PMAS-AAUR

The 9th Open House and Job Fair was held at PMAS-AAUR on July 20, 2016.

The Event was organized by University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT) with an aim to strengthen the linkage between industry & academia and to provide an opportunity to students to show their abilities as well as enable them to understand market trends.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Chief coordinator (Monitoring) Prime Minister's Youth Programme Makhdum Adeel-ur-Rehman was the guest of honor.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad while addressing lauded the projects presented by young students and emphasized on strengthening the relationship between industry and academia for rapid growth of information technology in the country. He said science and technology plays vital role in the progress of developing countries and urged



strong linkages between the academia and industry. He stressed upon the students to devote their selves for knowledge and assured them of every possible support from PMAS-AAUR in the regard of creative and unique projects. Vice Chancellor along with faculty members of the university visited the stalls arranged by the students and appreciated the efforts and creativity of the students. He hoped that PMAS-AAUR would keep providing such useful platforms to its talented students.

Chief coordinator (Monitoring) Prime Minister's Youth Programme Makhdum Adeel-ur-Rehman, in his address appreciated the talent of the young students who put in every effort to achieve success for their brainchild. He said that the Open House has proved that Pakistan has no deficit of talent while nation has a bright future as it has such bright, intelligent minds who have solutions of core problems.



Students get Internship at University Hydroponic Plant

Agriculture sector is a backbone of our economy. It is not only providing the food but also helping in the poverty alleviation. The food security and water scarcity are the major challenges facing the country and there is dire need to take initiatives to address these issues at national level, this



was stated by Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, Pir Mehr Ali Shah--Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) while addressing the students of Faculty of Agricultural Engineering who got internship at University's Hydroponic Plant on July 19, 2016.



Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad urged the agricultural engineers to develop the low cost machineries not only to increase the productivity but to help out the farming community. He also emphasised that there is dire need to train the farmers about the use of new technology/machinery to get maximum result.

Dr. Rai claimed that if the skilled engineers provide to the local farmer of Potohar region on hydroponics, the condition of Potohar region will be improved. He urged the researchers to understand the problems facing Pakistan and come up with new innovations and ideas. The vice chancellor advised the students that they have to work very hard with sincerity for the implementation of purposeful and effective goals.



Total 72 students got internship for the duration of two months and will work on the specific task like electrical, mechanical, structural and chemistry related works.

Training Seminar On Olive Cultivation in the Potohar Region



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi in collaboration with U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Punjab Enabling Environment Project (PEEP) organized a training seminar for olive farmers on olive cultivation in the Potohar Region, here on Wednesday, on July 27, 2016 with an aim to promote olive sector development by raising awareness among olive farmers on olive production technologies, harvesting practices, and irrigation schedule.

Dr. Ayesha Saeed, Project Director Program Management Unit (PMU)-Punjab Irrigated Agriculture Productivity Improvement Project (PIPIP) was the chief guest while Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR was the guest honor.

This training seminar was attended by 200 participants including olive farmers as well

as other relevant stakeholders from research and academic institutions, government departments, and private sector organizations. It included multiple sessions on various techniques and technologies for olive cultivation.

Representatives from USAID and Punjab Enabling Environment Project (PEEP) also gave an overview of project's Matching Grants program and other initiatives for olive sector development. In other presentations, participants were informed on the different phases of olive production, propagation, post-harvest handling, processing, and storage, and developing olive products.

Other participants at the event including chief of Party USAID PEEP Muhammad Junaid, Director General Ayub Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) Dr. Abid Mehmood and representatives from Barani



Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR).

Dr. Ayesha Saeed said that agriculture is one of the priority development sectors of Punjab Government and Government is fulfilling its commitments with all areas of Agriculture especially the interest of farmers. Olive sector has numerous potential in Punjab particular region of



Potohar. She added that Punjab Government is very much enthusiastic to promote olive sector development as it can help the country to produce a big amount of olive oil. She further said that Potohar area is suitable for olive cultivation and its plant does not much water, fertilizer and pesticide. "Moreover the product has very high price



and olive crop has certain distinctive advantages over other conventional horticulture crops," she added.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, in his welcome address said that the government is taking keen interest in the development of agriculture sector. He said that Potohar Region has been declared Olive Valley by the government and it possesses ideal climatic conditions and land for the commercial cultivation of olive orchards. He said this horticulture sector has been neglected for long time because the conventional crops are not yielding high return to the growers therefore we should shift our focuses to other crops like olive that give high yield. He hoped that this training will be beneficial not only for trainees but also for the whole olive sector. He also thanked and praised the USAID for promoting olive oil cultivation in Pakistan. It may be recalled that USAID's Punjab Enabling Environment Project is a five-year, \$15 million project to improve the business environment in the livestock, dairy and horticulture sectors of Punjab.



54th, 55th and 56th Academic Council Meetings

The 54th, 55th and 56th meetings of the academic council was held respectively on August 5th, 26th and September 26th, 2016 under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor at main Campus. Senior Faculty members, Teaching heads, Librarian, Registrar, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Institutes and Controller Examination attended the meetings.

In the 54th academic Council of the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi has approved establishment of the Institute of Geographic Information System (GIS) and also recommended special seats for the students of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

After thorough discussions, the academic council had given approval of PhD, MS and BS in Remote Sensing & GIS under the newly established Institute of GIS. Vice Chancellor also recommended that being future science remote sensing and GIS should be part of all agriculture discipline Under Prime Minister's directive, in a meeting it was also decided that one seat in each faculty will be reserved for Afghanistan's students.

Being an agricultural University, the council also approved one agriculture course be part in every degree program of the university specially management sciences and information technology.



In the 55th academic Council approved the establishment of Climate Change Department under the Institute of Geo-Information and Earth Observation. The Department will offer undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes in the field of climate change with a research focus on global warming, Locating water stress areas, Analyzing Carbon Sequestration by plant biomass, Climate Modeling, Developing regional validated gridded data for Pakistan, Drought Monitoring, Understanding and monitoring extreme weather events and Implementing international policies for mitigating climate change in Pakistan. The department would provide a broad foundation of science-based skills, particularly in areas relating to climate protection and management.

The 56th academic council in its meeting approved that students of each department especially management sciences & information technology not only have to study an agriculture course but also have to perform practical/entrepreneurial in their degree programs to solve the problem facing by agriculture sector. Participants were of the view that this decision will make a major contribution to the agricultural advancement across the country and will also helpful to create awareness among the farming community by sharing positive ideas and experiences.

Seminar on “Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in Pakistan”

A seminar on “Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in Pakistan” jointly organized by Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FV&AS) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on August 17, 2016.

Speakers at seminar stressed on the dire need to eradicate transboundary animal diseases prevailing in the country by devising and opting effective measures and creating awareness among the stakeholders.

PMAAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest, while Dr. Manzoor Hussain, National Director FAO, Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Coordinator of FAO Project, Dr. Muhammad Safdar Anjum, Dean FV&AS, Deans, Directors, livestock professionals, faculty members and large number of students also attended the seminar.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, in his address said that a large portion of the rural population is associated with the livestock sector and development of this sector can play a significant role to alleviate poverty, unemployment and food security in a country. He also highlighted the importance of transboundary diseases in livestock production and the responsibility of the



Universities & research organizations to make the people aware of the hazards to adopt good practices for protecting the consumers from such diseases.

He also thanked FAO officials for launching a project to control the transboundary animal diseases particularly Foot and Mouth disease and PPR to boost international trade and to bring relief to the rural families raising livestock for their livelihood. He also offered full support from the university administration and appreciated the efforts of FV&AS for holding the seminar and stressed the need of creating awareness in this regard.

Dr Manzoor Hussain and Dr Muhammad Afzal, while delivering talks, highlighted the various burning aspects concerned with the kinetics of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) & Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) along with diagnosis, outbreak handling and their remedial measures.



Training Workshop on Governance, Finance and Audit

The five-day (August 22-26, 2016) training workshop on "Governance, Finance and Audit" for the capacity building of principals/DDOs of various government colleges of Rawalpindi Division held at University.

The workshop was arranged in collaboration with Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) with an aim to enhance the management skills and capabilities of principals and equipped them with better skills about the governance for their institution.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Samina Amin Qadir was the guest of honor at the concluding session. Mr Khurram Jahanzeb, Chief Operating Officer of the PHEC, was also present on the occasion.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR stressed to become a good administrative manager by launching multidimensional programs and strategies.



He said that this training workshop would provide a unique opportunity for refreshing of principals/DDOs knowledge and capacity building. He hoped that the workshop will also address the issues identified in day-to-day administration and working of all departments. On the occasion Vice Chancellor shared his personal experience off governance and Audit and gave guidance how to handle matters like these.

He urged the participants to adapt best practices, equip themselves with the quality tools and play their roles as managers to take their institution to one of the best educational institutions of the world by achieving the target of quality education. He hoped that impact of this workshop will go far assuring the quality and promoting good governance at participants esteemed institution.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad appreciated the role of PHEC and appraised the efforts of Prof. Dr Nizam-ud-Deen Chairman PHEC and his dynamic role to enhance the quality of higher education in Punjab to meet the international standards.



National Seminar on Promoting the Research Attitude in Pakistan



A two days (August 26-27, 2016) National Seminar on "Promoting the Research Attitude in Pakistan" held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The seminar was organized by the PMAS-AAUR Institute of Management Sciences in collaboration with Creative Business and Social Research (CBSR) with an aim to provide an opportunity for research students, PhD. Scholars, and faculty members to get an insight of research papers writing and publishing techniques which will help them in their research endeavors.

Justice @ Mian Shakirullah Jan was the chief guest. He said that research is the essence of higher education and west is dominating the societies of the world only based on the

research. Justice @ Mian Shakirullah Jan further said that research has been vital factor for individual or any nation and is being given prime importance all over the world. He said Pakistan is far behind in research and up till now has not been successful in developing & inspiring research culture. Pakistan can compete with international community if it has got state of the art technological methods, he added. He coated the ibn-e-khaludoon concept of scientific method and proposed that history should be written in scientific method. He stressed universities should be incentivized, young scholars may be encouraged. Furthermore, he wished Pakistan to reach such destiny so that nation may get rid of all social maladies.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai



Niaz Ahmad, in his address stressed upon the importance of research and emphasized the need for carrying out in-depth research for the benefit of human being. The Vice Chancellor shared significant investments of the University towards development of institutional facilities and human resource including faculty, introduction of new disciplines, improvement in research



facilities and also shed light on provision of research facilities for students in University. At a two days seminar, resource persons including Prof. Dr. Kashif ur Rehman Director Iqra Research Centre, Prof. Dr. Khaliq Ahmed Director Mirpur University of Science & Technology AJ&K, Dr. Riaz Ahmed Assistant Professor Bahria University Islamabad, Dr. Rab Nawaz Lodhi



Assistant Professor University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Mr. Fayaz A. Soomro and Dr. Farida Faisal



Director UIMS delivered lectures and briefed the participants about the participants that how one should be clear about the origin of his/her research. i.e ontology. Before selection of topic local needs should be assessed so that mismatching is avoided and extensive preliminary search is the important pillar. They educate the participants about the importance of all the variable in research and emphasis should not be only on Mediating variables. They also talked about Importance of measuring tools. How different tools helps in analysis and interpretation.



World Egg Day Celebrated at PMAS-AAUR

The World Egg Day was celebrated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on October 14, 2016, with an aim to create public awareness about the nutritional value of eggs and its importance in human diet.

To mark the day, Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (FV&AS) of PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with SB Eggs & Pakistan Poultry Association Islamabad, Poultry Farmers Academy and Poultry Science Club organized different events including Egg Dish Cooking Competition, National Seminar on Importance of Egg and awareness walk.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Dr. Muhammad Sadiq Chairman SB Poultry was the guest of honor. Khalid Saleem Malik ex-Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association, Sohail Ahmad Marketing Manager SB Poultry, Dr. Safdar Ali, Dr. Irfan Yousaf and Dr. Nasir Mukhtar of FV&AS, also addressed the participants of the event.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad appreciated the organizers and participating students for organizing such a colorful event and said eggs have a vital role to play in feeding people around the world. He said that the eggs have excellent and affordable source of high quality protein and emphasized the need for understanding that



egg is a complete diet & replete with the best kinds of protein, vitamins and minerals. He also highlighted the real value of egg as an essential item of daily life. The Vice Chancellor further said that the University is forming close ties with the poultry industry and could resolve challenges and problems through research. He assured that the university could provide all-out technical support and services to farmers for the advancement of the poultry sector. Boiled eggs were also distributed throughout university.

Dr. Muhammad Sadiq Chairman SB Poultry, in his address, said that poultry sector is one of the most organized agro-based sectors of Pakistan and providing affordable poultry products to the masses to fulfill the requirements of protein. He stressed that efforts should be made to make people aware of the above facts to increase egg consumption to ensure the good health of people because only a healthy generation can take a country to the pinnacle of progress and prosperity.



World Food Day Celebrated

A seminar was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi to celebrate the World Food Day on October 20, 2016, with the theme of this year's "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too."

The World Food Day celebrated as an annual event at University to eradicate hunger, malnutrition, poverty and to increase public awareness about food security, climate change, healthy diet and



lifestyles.

PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with Indus Consortium and OXFAM organized the seminar and the University's Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest. Government officials, agri scientists, faculty members, students, representatives of non-governmental organizations, progressive male and female farmers across the country participated in the celebration.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR highlighted the importance of



food, food production, food security, nutrition and stressed on the initiating value addition of agriculture products to eradicate poverty and lead the country towards prosperity. He said there is so much potential in agriculture sector and our responsibility is to provide and create awareness about new agricultural technology and innovations at small farmer's doorsteps. He said that scientists and teachers should play their due role to create awareness regarding food and other challenges so that future of new generation could be secured. He said society should also play its due role in addressing food crisis in the country and there is dire need to utilizing scientific measures to produce healthy crops to meet the food requirements of the growing population.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad along with faculty members and students also inaugurated Grow Green campaign in University premises.



Orientation Ceremony for New Entrants held at Research Farm



An orientation ceremony for the newly admitted students of Agriculture Faculty was held at the PMAS-AAUR Research Farm Koont on October 22, 2016.

The ceremony is a regular activity of the University which is arranged for the newly-enrolled students to familiarize them with the University's environment, its rules and regulations, so that students can sail smoothly while earning their degree and harvest optimal benefits out of available facilities.

prosperity. He advised the students to take the opportunity that had been bestowed upon them and put all their efforts to achieve academic career.

Vice Chancellor said that University offers a range of scholarships to encourage students and help the meritorious and deserving students to overcome their financial hardships during their academic career. He also announced 10 scholarships for the topper of Agriculture faculty. Highlighting the University's efforts for quality education, he



The University's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad welcomed the new entrants and congratulated the students for becoming the part of this prestigious institution. He said that this University provides an environment that enables its students to develop their academic moral and spiritual excellence and this institution endeavored professionalism and demand a sense of responsibility from its students. Dr. Ahmad stressed the students to work hard and focus on research activities with an aim to lead the country towards progress and

said PMAS-AAUR has been striving to provide an access to quality literature by facilitating the students with modern technologies.

The University's Deans of the faculties, Registrar, Principal Officers Students Affairs/Public Relations & Publications also addressed the students and assured them of their full cooperation in their academic pursuits.

MNA Malik Abrar Ahmad Visited PMAS-AAUR

MNA Malik Abrar Ahmad visited Bio Energy Unit of PMAS-AAUR on October 25, 2016.

MNA Malik Abrar Ahmad said that energy plays an important role in socio-economic progress of a country and Biomass to Bio Energy Unit of PMAS-AAUR would help the country become self-sufficient in the energy sector. He appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR on establishment of this unit and hoped that it should be promoted by creating public awareness. He said that the present government has made a comprehensive development package to resolve the energy crisis being faced by the country and the energy crisis would be resolved till 2018.

Earlier, PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad briefed the functions, aims and objectives for the establishment of this Bio-energy unit. He said that solid waste



is collected from the campus and recycled into useful/beneficial products without any sort of pollution. He recommended that Pakistan is an appropriate country for the installation of Bio-mass and Bio-energy installations and there is a dire need to explore these resources in order to fulfill the current needs of the country. It will also be helpful to reduce the country's dependence on any single source, particularly imported fossil fuels, he added. He also informed that Pakistan does not process its domestic and industrial waste effectively, which means that a great opportunity to develop alternative fuel is wasted while the environment also suffers from untreated waste. The daily domestic waste should be used to fill the energy gap, he added.



Seminar on Poverty Alleviation

A seminar on Poverty Alleviation, organized by Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi in collaboration with Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal was held on October 31, 2016, with an aim to provide a platform to identify the problems and suggest viable remedies for poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Pakistan and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while faculty members, beneficiary students of Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal (PBM) scholarship Program were also present. It may be recalled that PMAS-AAUR and PBM signed MoU in 2013 regarding provision of Educational Assistance to the needy & deserving students and every year 50 students are availing PBM scholarships.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, addressing the participants, appreciated the topic of the seminar, and said that it is most important for us as Pakistan is confronted with problem of



Poverty. He said that the university is the right platform to discuss, identify issues and evolve an action plan, which can be followed by the society for poverty alleviation.

Vice Chancellor said that Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal scholarship Program is an excellent opportunity and a hope for the talented & deserving students. He further added that in fiscal year 2015-16, a total of 218 students got funding from Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal consisting of Rs. 05 million, which is a great contribution by the Pakistan Bait-ul-Maal for uplifting education standards.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad said that no nation can progress without education and advised students to work hard and contribute in economic development of Pakistan after completion of their studies. He also thanked the PBM for providing scholarships to deserving students of this University who are unable to continue their studies due to financial hardships.



Rickshaw Campaign Launching Ceremony held for Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls

To advocate for the elimination of violence against women and generate demands for the effective implementation of pro-women laws, a rickshaw campaign launching ceremony titled "Enough: Together We Can End Violence against Women and Girls" held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with Aurat Foundation and Oxfam Pakistan on November 29, 2016.

The campaign will include more than 3,000 rickshaws inscribed with slogans and art work and playing feminist folk songs across Punjab and Sindh. Rickshaw drivers will be advocates for women's rights.

Speaking at the launch of the event, Oxfam Country Director Mohammad Qazilbash said incidents of violence against women were emerging everyday from across the country despite the large amounts of pro-women legislation and policies being made. Retired Justice Nasira Iqbal said between 70 and 80% of women in Pakistan face violence despite serious legislative and political measures having been taken. She praised the approval of pro-women laws in the recent past but pointed out gaps in the implementation of these laws.

Australian High Commission First Secretary Tracey Graeney said violence against



women is a global issue. "One in four women experience violence in Australia," she said, adding that violence against women have massive impacts on families and society. "It restricts a woman's potential to contribute to the economic development of a country," she said.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad said people who do not respect women are unfortunate ones. He said that solution to eliminate violence against women is by making them financially independent.

National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Chairperson Khawar Mumtaz stressed for the collaborative efforts and engagement of men to eliminate violence from society. She suggested introduction of an app for speedy support for violence victims.

Senator Najma Hameed praised PMAS-AAUR for organizing an event on women rights at the campus. Members Punjab Assembly Zaib-un-Nisa and Tehseen Fawad also spoke on the occasion.



Flag Hoisting Ceremony

A Flag-hoisting ceremony was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi to mark the Independence Day with traditional zeal and enthusiasm on August 14, 2016. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad hoisted the national Flag on the main campus while deans of all faculties, administrative officers, faculty members, employees and a large number of students attended the ceremony.

The Independence Day of Pakistan was celebrated at University with the renewed pledge to make country strong, prosperous and invincible through own resources, solidarity, honesty and hard work. The campus was decorated tastefully with national flag, buntings, banners, posters and arches. The day dawned with special prayers in the Jamia masjid of the varsity for the progress, prosperity and security of the country.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad congratulated the university employees and students on celebrating the Independence Day and asked them to work hard with honesty and dedication for the progress of the PMAS-AAUR and the country.

He highlighted the importance of Independence Day and said that Pakistan is fortress of Islam & struggle for independent state was based on two nation theory which makes us historically and ideologically prominent among others. He also called for



remembering the services who sacrificed their lives for the achievement of our motherland.

The Vice Chancellor also informed the gathering that University's students have been arrived safely in Quetta to participate in Independence Day celebrations as a part of Youm-Yakjehti-Karwan to show the solidarity for the people of Baluchistan. He remarked that we could make country stronger, developed and progressive if we succeeded to gain updated knowledge according to the current day demands to compete in all fields to fulfill the dreams of Pakistan movement leaders and the founders of the country. He emphasized on the student to use their skills positively for the development of the country and advised the students to work hard in their studies to make country's defense impregnable.



PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor met Federal Minister Riaz Hussain Pirzada

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi will provide technical assistance to the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) in the area of water management, plantation and improving landscape of PSB complex.

This was decided in a meeting between Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Riaz Hussain Pirzada and PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad on August 3, 2016.

It was also decided in a meeting that PMAS-AAUR and Pakistan Sports Board will sign an MoU under which University experts will study sports Board area and give recommendation and guideline for the water management, plantation and landscaping of the PSB complex.



Federal Minister, while sharing his views with University Vice Chancellor, said government is committed to promote games and taking every possible step for the promotion of sports in the country. He said that sports complexes will be set up at the



university level to promote and strengthen sports culture in the country.

He also acknowledged the great services of the Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad regarding the advancement in the field of rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, water management which has given a good repute to the university on national and international level.



Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR assured the full cooperation from University and briefed the Federal Minister about the efforts of University in the field of on Farm Water Management, landscaping and plantation.

He also highlighted the importance of drip irrigation & rainwater harvesting. Vice Chancellor also recommended for the mass awareness campaigns to improve the agricultural sector and solve the problems regarding water management.

Seminar on "Role of Operational Governance for Quality Assurance in HEI"

A one day seminar on "Role of Operational Governance for Quality Assurance in Higher Educational Institutes (HEI)" for administrative and teaching staff organized by Quality Enhancement Cell of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on 30th of December, 2016 at PMAS-AAUR). It aimed at creating awareness about the role of Operational Governance at higher educational institutions for Quality Assurance.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of the university, while inaugurating the seminar said this is first time that a seminar being organized for the administrative and teaching staff of the university which will create awareness for Good Governance in Operational matter for which we are struggling hard in the institutions. He said that Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him set a role model of good governance for every field of life. We should follow the Quran and Sunnah to create culture of justice to have role model of good governance. He appreciated the efforts of



QEC and said such type of seminar will help a lot to improve the individual to achieve the good governance.

Prof. Dr Riaz Ahmad, Director QEC and Shahbaz Ahmad Khan Deputy Registrar QEC welcomed the Vice Chancellor. In his welcoming address, Dr Riaz applauded the effort and the support of the Vice Chancellor to promote the quality culture at the varsity. He also welcomed all the participants from the university administration and teaching staff in the seminar. They said change is desirable and we need to change the "I" and then "We" will be automatically changed.

Dr Abdul Saboor, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences in presentation gives comprehensive picture of governance. He also highlighted the importance of Operational Governance and Quality Assurance for the administration and academics in the higher educational institutions. He spoke on the Quality and Governance as a multi-dimensional concept embracing all its (HEI) functions and activities.



News in Pictures



Dignitaries visit of Bio-Gas Unit at PMAS-AAUR



Minister Agriculture (Punjab) and Korean Ambassador sapling a Plant in Olive Valley at PMAS-AAUR



Faculty and Students perform practical at Bio-Gas Unit (University Research Farm, Koont)



Practical Training of Nursery of Pakistan Bait ul Mal Scholarship Awardees

International Conference on "Asia-Pacific Policy Dialogue on Water, Energy and Food Security for Poverty Alleviation in Dry land Regions"





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