



NEWS LETTER

Jul - Dec, 2020

Minister of State for Climate Change Ms. Zartaj Gul visited PMAS-AAUR



Minister for Agriculture (Punjab) Syed H. Jahanian Gardezi visited PMAS-AAUR

Pir Mehr Ali Shah
Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

Directorate of Public Relations & Publications

NewsLetter

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Punjab Agriculture Minister Visited PMAS-AAUR



Punjab Agriculture Minister Syed Hussain Jahanian Gardezi has said that agriculture is an important sector of Pakistan that contributes 20 percent to GDP and it has the potential to increase by 40 percent with the use of modern agricultural technology and hard work. He stated this while addressing Kissan Mela organized by Pir Mehr Ali

acre of important crops by increasing the area under olives and grapes in rain-fed areas and will also improve the quality of farmer's life.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that farmers should use modern technology to reduce production costs and maximize profit, and in this regard, the university will extend its full cooperation to the farmers. The University will ensure to organize the farmer's fairs at the Tehsil level to provide new & innovative varieties of oilseeds, pulses, fruits, and vegetable seeds to the farmers with the addition of farmer's training.



Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on Research Farm Koont, on October 1, 2020.

The minister said that the land of the Potohar area is very fertile which can be made a fruit valley through rain harvesting and drip irrigation with the maximum yield of crops. Revolutionary measures in the agriculture sector are urgently needed to meet food needs which would also be helpful to improve the country's economy, he added. Highlighting the government's initiative, he said present projects will increase the yield per

Earlier, Provincial Minister for Agriculture (Punjab) Syed Hussain Jahanian Gardezi inaugurated the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology and Women Development Studies Center at the university campus. Minister also addressed the



participants of a one-day training workshop on food security held at the university in collaboration with FAO and said that food safety practices are needed in Pakistan to provide food to the rapidly growing population of the country. He appreciated the role of PMAS-AAUR, FAO, and



Punjab Food Authority towards educating the general public and all relevant stakeholders to adopt food hygiene practices along the entire food chain right from the farm to the fork. He also inaugurated the launching ceremony of the

e-Learning Course on Food Safety developed by PMAS-Arid Agriculture University and FAO.



Later, the Provincial Agriculture Minister visited the Hydroponic Plant of Arid Agricultural University in Rawat where the Vice-Chancellor of the University informed that this Research Farm is the first and ideal of its kind in Pakistan and farmers can get more agricultural production with the profit margins. He briefed the chief guest about the ongoing educational, research & development activities at the university in addition to the steps being taken for the welfare of farmers and food security.



Training on Opportunities in the Climate Change for Sustainable and Drought Resistant Agriculture

A gender-inclusive training was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi on "Opportunities in the Climate Change for Sustainable and Drought Resistant Agriculture" November 11, 2020. Minister for Climate change Zartaj Gull participated as a chief guest while the University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr. Qamar uz Zaman was a guest of honor.

The minister said that Pakistan is facing the worst effects due to climate change and falls in the top ten countries in the world. She said that climate change is not only increasing temperature but also

the rules and regulations being developed by the government for water pumping which are the first of their kind in Pakistan. Commenting on industry linkage with academia, she said that this part is being neglected in Pakistan, which should be strengthened to meet future needs. The minister appreciated the efforts of the vice-chancellor & his team and said that her ministry seeks technical assistance from the technical experts & university scholars.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that Arid University is



affecting our ecosystem which is resulting in insecurity of food. She said that climate change is one of the worst threats which Pakistan is facing. We prioritize the issue linked to the individuals or a small group, but climate change is an issue that is affecting the whole population, she said.

During her speech, she said that being an agricultural country, our 70% population depends upon it and it is an alarming situation that due to climate change and drought we are facing a food shortage. She said that it's a disgraceful situation for us that our children are dying due to drought in Sindh and Baluchistan. She said that climate change is one of the top priority agenda of this government and they are working on an emergency basis as one billion tree plantations would be completed this year. She also hinted at

working hard to make its progress, not in academics, but in the field also to strengthen the link between academia, industry, and grower. He said that many teams of Arid Agriculture University consisting of agriculture scientists, researchers, and students have been formulated who will visit different villages of different tehsils of pothohar to facilitate farmers. While appreciating the government's clean, green Pakistan initiative, he said that almost twenty thousand plants have been distributed amongst the community free of cost with thousands of plantation at Koont farm. He said that his university will stand side by side with the government with any initiatives towards agriculture. The session ended with the vote of the thanks of the chief guest and other participants.

Four days Hands-on Training Workshop on Variable Rate Spraying Technology Development

Four days hands-on training workshop was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi on "Variable Rate Spraying Technology Development". The Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman participated as a chief guest along with other faculty members from the agricultural engineering department.



In the training 25 trainees participated from other agriculture universities and engineering industries, which has the main objective to provide an opportunity to develop a consortium of academic, industry, research organizations, and farmers for commercialization of variable-rate spraying technology.

In the opening remarks, the Vice-chancellor welcomed all the participants and said that variable rate technology (VRT) offers an opportunity to improve production efficiency by

allowing input applications in amounts & locations where they are needed. He said that from this technology, we will be able to control the disease but increase the production capacity also. During his address, Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said, students have an excellent opportunity for this workshop to know the real issues of grower and processor. He further added that we have the support from the industries and universities from Canada & Australia to develop this technology in Pakistan. He said that conventional spray techniques are being discouraged internationally due to the wastage of pesticides and environmental pollution. Therefore, to reduce pollution during spray operations, interest in variable-rate spray technology is growing.

Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that the new intelligent variable-rate spray technology automatically controls spray outputs to match plant presence, canopy characteristics, and travel speeds, which can reduce pesticide use, off-target losses, and thus its use will benefit farmers, consumers & the environment, he said. At the end of the training, he thanked all the participants for their active participation and distributed certificates among them.



NAEAC Team visited PMAS-AAUR

National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC) team visited Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on 14,15th December 2020 to evaluate the BS degree programs of the Department of Food Science & Technology and Forestry & Range Management.

The team was headed by Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Chairperson NAEAC, including Dr. Abdul Ghaffar Secretary NAEAC, Prof. Dr. Tahir Zahoor Director-General NIFSAT, Prof. Dr. Alam Zeb University of Agriculture Peshawar, Prof. Dr. Tahir Siddique Former Chairman, Department of Forestry and Range Management, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Dr. Syed Mozzam Nizami Chairman, Department of Forestry, University of Haripur.

PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman welcomed the NAEAC team members and briefed them on the recent developments in the

University particularly in the department of Forestry and Food Sciences. The team members were briefed about the faculty profile, ongoing departmental activities, academic programs and opportunities available for students. The team visited the departments and closely observed the departmental activities, curricular, and infrastructure facilities available for the students.

The team members also conduct independent meetings with the students and teachers of each department. The team members also gave valuable guidelines to faculty members regarding the maintenance of course files and curriculum. The NAEAC team appreciated the coordination, arrangements, facilities, and conducive environment of the University.

They also advised the faculty of both departments to focus on market demanding skills to be taught to the students. In the end, the Vice-Chancellor thanked all the members of NAEAC for their visit.



Policy Dialogue in Public Perception and Criminal Justice in Pakistan

A seminar was held at PMAS-AAUR on "Policy Dialogue in Public Perception and Criminal Justice in Pakistan" on November 19, 2020. The seminar was organized by the Department of Criminology with the objective to aware the students and the faculty members of the hurdles faced by government departments to ensure criminal justice to the public and the importance of the public perception.



Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, Vice-Chancellor was the chief guest while Basharat Shehzad Additional DG FIA Headquarters Islamabad, Saqib Sultan Director National Public Safety, and Sultan Saleem Mirza DG Headquarters NAB Islamabad participated as guest speakers.

Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman in his address said that we the whole society should rethink our whole system because providing justice is not the only responsibility of the government departments but the society also. He said that our majority does not have efficient knowledge about the law and their rights. Academia can play a vital role in supporting the government in research, research-based planning & policymaking, he said. At the end of the session, he thanked all the participants and hoped for further more sessions on the topics alike in near future.

Focusing on the public interaction, Mr. Basharat Shahzad said that action taken in the public feedback should also be given importance because when actions taken on the public

feedback would automatically improve the perception. He said that there is no database in our country which caused the weak coordination between the police, investigation, prosecution, and judiciary departments who are responsible for justice.

Saqib Sultan said that justice is the most important act which protects the state and Pakistan is lacking behind in this, according to the World Justice Project 2020 Pakistan falls at the 98th position in world criminal justice. He said that there are faults in the system which changed the public perception negatively of government security and justice departments. He said that police stations should be for police and criminals not for the common public but for the digital interaction only.

During his address, Mr. Sultan Saleem Mirza said that our legislators should look into the whole system and laws which are affecting our justice system because many of them were inducted from the British rule which is outdated. We only talk about justice, not about the laws or policies for the convicted, and his contribution to the society, he said. All the speakers focused on the digitalization of the system which would not only help to improve the working of the government departments but also the community interaction.



National Seminar on Status of Forestry in Pakistan



A National Seminar was held at PMAS-AAUR on “Status of Forestry in Pakistan” on October 27, 2020. The seminar was organized by the Department of Forestry including a poster exhibition with the themes of World Habitat Day, International Migratory Birds Day, and Disaster Risk Reduction Day. Mr. Hameed Marwat from Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP) participated as the chief guest while Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad as a guest of honor while Dean, Director, and the faculty members of the Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife were also present.

Dr. Mushtaq said that forestry is a very important subject in environmental sciences and Pakistan is not to be considered an important country in the world only due to its geography but its forestry & biodiversity also. He said that Pakistan's forests have a bigger threat from the timber mafia so it is our responsibility to protect our forests from them. Pakistan has diverse Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) in the world which could be largely used to meet different kinds of needs in our daily lives, he said. He highlighted the importance of forests as they do not only support normalizing the ecosystem but commercial use of NTFPs and security for health, food & energy also.

Mr. Hameed said that forestry is the oldest profession than agriculture of mankind which is not providing food but medical use to the humans. He said that Pakistan achieved SGD's goals for the forests in 2012 as it has 27 National Parks but we are still lagging far behind regarding the quality. He appreciated the government's initiative towards tree plantation which will not help to combat the climate change threat but will ensure food security to our increasing population.

Prizes were distributed amongst the winners of the poster exhibition and at the end of the seminar Prof. Dr. Maqsood Ahmed the dean of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife Faculty thanked all the participants and distributed shield amongst the speakers & organizers of the seminar.



Session on "Scientific writing-A guide to getting published in high impact Journal"

An awareness session was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on "Scientific writing: A guide to getting published in high impact Journal" on October 14, 2020, to give a brief note to the students about the research and its publication.

In the session, the vice-chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman participated as a chief guest and other faculty members as a guest. The main purpose of this session was PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that research publication is also as important as its

responsibility to create an environment where the research atmosphere could prosper he said. Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that being agriculture scientists it is our prime responsibility to conduct good researches with their publications because the whole nation is depending upon us. He said that if we want Pakistan to progress in the agriculture field then we have to change the behavior of our students towards research.

The Director ORIC PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Khalid Saifullah, Dr. Yasir Waheed from Foundation University, Rawalpindi, and Dr. Azeem Khalid from



conduction without publication research would be no use for any development. He said, Pakistan is not only far behind in the research field but its publications like other issues guidance for the research conduction, writing, and publication in a quality journal is also a missing component in our institutions. We the teachers have the prime

PMAS-AAUR also addressed the students and guided them about the research writing and the ways to publish them in the best journals in the world. At the end of the session, the vice-chancellor of the university thanked the participants with shields distribution amongst guests.

Finance & Planning Committee Meeting (08-07-2020)



Orientation Ceremony for Newly Admitted Students



An orientation ceremony for the newly admitted students was held at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), October 14, 2020, to familiarize them with the University's environment, its rules, and regulations. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, was the chief guest while welcoming the new entrants; he congratulated them and highlighted the University's efforts for quality education. Vice-Chancellor stressed the post-graduate students to work hard and focus on research activities to lead the country towards progress with innovative ideas. On the occasion, the Director Advanced Studies Dr. Muhammad Azam, Director Quality Enhancement Cell Dr. Riaz Amad, Dean Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, Dr. Fayyaz ul Hassan Sahi, Dean Social Sciences Dr. Abdul Saboor, Deans/ Directors of the Institutes / Divisions, Controller of Examination were also present. Dr. Muhammad Azam and Dr. Riaz Ahmad informed the students about rules and regulations and provided guidelines. They also covered important academic, administrative rules, scholarships, and the introduction of various facilities available at the campus.

Computer Laboratories Inaugurated

PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman inaugurated the up-gradation of Computer laboratories at the University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT), August 31, 2020. The Vice-Chancellor said that research work is considered as the identity of any University. He said UIIT has made commendable progress and students are engaged in their research day and night. He hoped that the up-gradation of laboratories will be beneficial for students and these labs would produce an able force which would help them in getting jobs easily. UIIT Director Dr. Yasir Hafeez, Registrar Mr. Aqeel Sultan, Deputy Registrar Ghulam Mustafa, faculty members, and Deans/Directors of institutes were also present on the occasion.



Foundation Stone Laid for New Undergraduate Block

PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman laid the foundation stone of an Undergraduate Students block at University main Campus, July 2, 2020. The building's total covered area is 83510 sq feet, costing Rs 278 million, and would be completed within a short period of 18 months from the university's resources. The building will be equipped with the latest and advanced facilities and technology available for the teachers and students



including a lecture hall, theaters, laboratories, and conference hall. Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman while addressing said that the University administration is making all efforts to provide modern facilities to the students to ensure quality education and research work to compete with the rest of the world. He said PMAS-AAUR is playing a vital role in imparting agricultural education and carrying on research for the farmers' community. University has always encouraged innovative and applied research and would provide all facilities to its students and faculty for this purpose, he added. He hoped that these facilities would provide an enabling environment for research activities and maximum researchers can draw benefit out of these. He also said that the key to success depends on research and for that, we should focus on concentrated research in the Agriculture sector especially in relevance to the arid areas, for bringing a green revolution in the country.



First Aid Training of Emergency Response Unit

Two days (October 21-22, 2020) First Aid training of Emergency Response Unit (ERU) was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The training was organized by Dr. Aamir Saleem, Incharge Emergency Response Unit (ERU) in collaboration with Punjab Emergency Services Rescue 1122 to enable University's staff to be self-sufficient in the hour of need during any disaster, tragedy, accident, and proper way of delivering information of any disaster.



Mr. Mubeen ul Rasheed and Ali Shair (Master Trainers from Rescue 1122) provided hands-on practice to handle emergencies, including emergency response, lifesaving skills, first aid & rescue in case of emergency, and fire & work safety. They illustrated the working of Rescue 1122 and how they respond to calls on helpline 1122 for any kind of emergency.

The trainers demonstrated how to provide first aid, basic life support (CPR), fracture treatment, a

bite of insects like snakes, burn treatment, and safe transportation of any affected person.

The participants were also imparted critical skills like placing an unconscious casualty into the recovery position, stopping bleeding and elevation bandaging injuries and preventing the worsening of the patient's condition, and promoting recovery PMAS-AAUR Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, while addressing the participants, said that such kinds of training are necessary because many of us are unaware of first aid. He said that every person of the society should get first aid training so that human lives could be saved by providing timely aid to the affected persons in case of emergency.

He urged all participants to disseminate learned information to other volunteers and community members for saving lives. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers and thanked the team of Rescue 1122 for facilitating the training.



World Food Day Celebrated



Speakers at the seminar have said that one in two Pakistanis is at risk of under-nutrition with an estimation of 36% lives below the poverty line and stressed on the proper policy-making for healthy & nutrient foods which should be cheaper than the mal-nutrient ones.

They stated this while addressing a seminar held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) to celebrate World Food Day 2020 with a theme of "Grow, Nourish, and Sustain Together", on October 16, 2020.

Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi, Vice-Chancellor, Women University Sawabi participated as a chief guest while Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman Vice-Chancellor PMAS-AAUR was a guest of honor. Prof. Dr. Khalid Saifullah Director ORIC, Prof. Dr. Asif, Mr. Munawar Hussain, Prof. Dr. Hajra Ahmed, and Dr. Saeed delivered lectures on the occasion.

Government officials, Agriculture scientists, faculty members, students, representatives of non-governmental organizations, progressive male and female farmers across the country participated in the celebration.

Speakers also highlighted the importance of food, food production, food security, nutrition and stressed the initiating value addition of agriculture products to eradicate poverty and lead the country towards prosperity. He Prof. Dr. Shahana Urooj Kazmi highlighted the emerging issue of

obesity which is causing many non-communicable diseases and responsible for 58% of deaths in the country. She said that a healthy body leads to a strong immune system which makes our body fight against diseases. She also stressed that being food & agriculture scientists it's our core responsibility to secure food for every individual of the country.

Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said there is so much potential in the 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 society, scientists, and teachers should play their due role to create awareness regarding food and other challenges and there is a dire need to utilizing scientific measures to produce healthy crops to meet the food requirements of the growing population.



HEC approved 54 MS/MSC/MSC-Hons/ M.Phil and Ph.D. Degrees of PMAS-AAUR



The Quality Assurance Agency (CAA) of Higher Education Commission Pakistan (HEC) has approved 54 degrees including 3 MS, 1 MSC, 9 MSC (Hons), 18 MPhil, and 23 Ph.D. degrees of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The decision has been taken in light of the extensive review of the PMAS-AAUR Post Graduate Program conducted on 17-19 February 2020, during which the University submitted a series of compliance reports. The HEC committee reviewed the files of students, faculty along with allied documents & files of MS/MSc/MPhil/MSC (Hons) and Ph.D. programs.

The approved degrees fall under the programs of Agri Economics (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Agri Engineering (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Agri Extension (MSc-Hons), Agronomy (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Animal Breeding & Genetics (MPhil & Ph.D.), Animal Nutrition (MPhil), Biochemistry (MPhil), Biotechnology (MPhil), Biology (MPhil), Botany (MPhil & Ph.D.), Computer Sciences (MS & Ph.D.), Economics (MPhil & Ph.D.), Education (MPhil & Ph.D.), Entomology (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Environmental Sciences (MPhil & Ph.D.), Food Technology (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Forestry (MPhil & Ph.D.), Horticulture (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Management Sciences (MBA-1.5 Year, MS, Ph.D.), Plant Breeding & Genetics (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Plant Pathology (MSc-Hons & Ph.D.), Remote Sensing & GIS (MS, Ph.D.), Sociology (MPhil), Soil Sciences (MS, Ph.D.), Statistics (MPhil), Veterinary Medicine & Surgery (MPhil & Ph.D.), Veterinary

Microbiology (MPhil & Ph.D.), Veterinary Pathology (MPhil & Ph.D.), Wildlife (MPhil & Ph.D.) and Zoology (MPhil & Ph.D.).

The Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that the university is working hard towards quality research work and being the head of the institute, it is his prime responsibility to provide an atmosphere where quality education & research can prosper. He has further stated that being agriculture scientists, it is our prime responsibility to conduct quality research because the whole nation depends upon us and if we want Pakistan to progress in the agriculture field, we have to change the behavior of our students towards research drastically.

He informed that the University has been awarded four Research Projects including the National Center of Industrial Biotechnology, Center for Agriculture Strategy Development, pilot project for Data-Driven Smart Decision Platform for increased Agriculture Productivity, and National Center for Livestock Breeding, Genetics & Genomics, which will be established at PMAS-AAUR. These projects have great potential and will revolutionize the agriculture sector of Pakistan and that will ultimately contribute to national development, he added.

He further said that these projects will play an important role in developing systems that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and easily adopted by the farming community of Pakistan and the manufacturers.

Seminar on Global Trends for Food Professionals

Institute of Food and Nutritional Sciences (IF&NS) organized a seminar on "Global Trends for Food Professionals" at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on October 8, 2020.



Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman Vice-chancellor of the university participated as a chief guest while Nasir Hameed, Senior Corporate Director, Acadian Seaplants Ltd (ASL) Canada as a guest speaker.

All Dean, Directors, Faculty Members, Ph.D. and MPhil students, researchers, and professionals from the industries were also present at the event. While talking to the participants Mr. Nasir Hameed said that there is a large gap between our education and professional field if we want to

prosper we have to relate our education with the field. He said that professionals should change according to the field requirement. The world is moving fast towards advanced food technology replacing the conventional and traditional methods with advanced non-conventional methods like commercialization, food safety, pet food technical services, the sustainability of food safety, brand management, and aquaculture.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said in his concluding remarks that Covid-19 has changed the trends of the world and we have to change accordingly. He said that in Pakistan, commercialization, and advancements are being ignored in all fields.



Seminar on Dengue Prevention and Control

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) organized an awareness seminar on Dengue Prevention and Control, on September 24, 2020, to raise awareness about dengue and its prevention from this disease. The seminar was organized by the Department of Entomology, PMAS-AAUR, and was attended by academic



heads, faculty members, staff, and students of the university. PMAS-AAUR, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman was the chief guest, in his address appreciated the efforts of the organizers and stressed the need to promote awareness about dengue fever in all segments of society especially among the students. He said that awareness played a key role in fighting dengue because prevention is far better than cure. He said that it is the responsibility of every citizen to play his role in controlling Dengue and protecting citizens from this dangerous disease by adopting all precautionary measures. He also informed the participants that the dengue eradication campaign is on top of the agenda by the University Administration and urged the students and teachers to take an active part in the dengue awareness campaign. Prof. Dr. Mazhar Qayyum Dean Faculty of Sciences and Dr. Muhammad Tariq of the Department of Entomology gave lectures on various aspects of dengue fever, its stages, 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 collective preventive measures against the dengue menace.

Christmas Day Celebrations



Training Workshop on "Experimental Design, Data Analysis and Report Writing"

Two days (22-23 September 2020) training workshop on "Experimental Design, Data Analysis and Report Writing" for MSC students organized by the Directorate of Advanced Studies (DAS) held



at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR). The main objective of the training workshop was to aware and train the students about the research topic selection, methods used for its conduction, data analysis of the research results, and report writing. In the workshop, the vice-chancellor of the PMAS AAUR Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman participated as the chief guest while the dean, directors, and faculty members were also present.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that Pakistan is far behind in the field of research work as the researchers which our universities are producing are not capable to compete with the foreign researchers. Research is one of the major

components of any country's prosperity which is missing in every field from universities to the industries that's why our products are being beaten by those who are focusing on the research, he said. Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that research needs time & hard work and students have ample time for it. While talking to the participants Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that he has an aim to promote the culture of research in the university and for this, he has directed all the dean, directors & faculty staff to support and coordinate with students when they need it.

Dr. Zammurad Iqbal Ahmed Professor of the Agronomy Department and Dr. Muhamad Azam Director of Advanced Studies delivered a lecture on Experimental Design, Data Analysis, and Report Writing.



Tree Plantation Campaign Started at University Research Farm Koont

A tree plantation campaign and a project on "Evaluation and Introduction of some Exotic Kiwi Cultivars" were inaugurated by the vice-chancellor of the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR). Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman on its Koont Research Farm, On August 20th 2020, which is being funded by the Punjab Agriculture Research Board under the vision of Prime Minister Clean Green Pakistan. The main purpose of this project is to climatize the Kiwi plants according to the Pothohar region which can be highly valuable and profitable for the locals. All Dean, Directors, and other faculty members were also present at the occasion.



While talking to the participants the vice-chancellor of the university said that plantation a tree is a perpetual charity and the fruit plants are the above in this which considers as a sunnah. Due to urbanization, deforestation was at its peak which caused Pakistan to fall in the most affected countries for climate change in the world but 1st time in Pakistan any Government has taken initiative towards plantation at the national level he said which is also appreciated at the international level.

He said that in Pakistan we have a bigger issue than plantation and that is overlooking & caring of that plant till its grooming. Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that by planting fruit trees Pakistan can deal with its two new emerging threats climate change and hunger. He asked all participants to work hard for the success of the government's Clean Green Pakistan campaign by mobilizing people towards tree plantation. Earlier, Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman planted a kiwi plant and also appreciated the ongoing research work at the University Research Farm and said that with the hard work of all university's staff this research farm would be converted into a smart farm.

Tree Plantation by Faculty of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife



Flag Hoisting Ceremony

A ceremony was held at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on August 19, 2020, to commemorate the country's Independence Day especially with the Solidarity of Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran and flag hoisting ceremony with the tune of the national anthem of Pakistan. In the flag hoisting ceremony, the vice-chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, Registrar Mr. Aqeel Sultan, Dean & Directors of all faculties, administrative officers, and employees attended the ceremony.



While addressing the participants after hoisting the national flag, the Vice-Chancellor of the university stated that freedom is a great blessing and its value could be gauged from the miserable plight of Muslims living in India, Kashmir, and Palestine. He further said that Quaid-e-Azam diverted the powers of the Muslim nation towards

the way of freedom but unfortunately after the independence this spirit declined, resulting in individual development instead of the nation's upbringing.



The Vice-Chancellor said that it is our prime responsibility to transform the dreams of our founder into reality, to make Pakistan a prosperous and developed country. He urged all participants to work hard with the commitment and dedication to make the university a model institution in the country in line with contemporary global standards.

All the staff was carrying miniature Pakistani flags which they warmly waved during proceedings of the function and presented national songs. A special prayer was also offered for the prosperity & solidarity of the country, especially for Kashmir. Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman Vice-Chancellor PMAS-AAUR also inaugurated a tree plantation campaign by planting a sapling at University main Campus, to plant trees to celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan.



Annual Performance Review Sessions of PMAS-AAUR Employees



An annual performance review session of the employees of the university was conducted at the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi to discuss the achievements and further planning for quality education under the chair of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Qamar Uz Zaman on November 5, 2020.

During the review sessions the Vice Chancellor said that due to COVID-19 staff remained under stress which disturbed the target achievement. He said that due to COVID-19 the education means have been changed around the globe. As in person lectures are still the best learning method, but keeping in view the virus threat the university has successfully conducted its online lectures, he said.

While discussing the performance, he said that the university has successfully achieved the HEC review as many degree programs have been approved in the meeting. During the virus circulation the university has attained three mega & many other projects worth billions which shows the credibility and the hard work of the staff.

He exclaimed his satisfaction over the increased publications & projects as compared to the previous year with the initiation of new diplomas in Khushab which would provide an opportunity

to the students for new jobs in the industry. He also showed his satisfaction with the encouraging results of performance appraisal of the staff which initiated the university.

In the review he also discussed the challenges industry & farmer linkages and the quality education which should be the main focus in this year. To improve the industry & farmer's linkage he said that he has formulated different teams consisting of faculty & research students who will visit different villages to assist farmers and industry personals.

He said that the student evaluation system should be reviewed and everyone should come up with the new ideas. He further said that for the outcome we should not only work hard, but to facilitate each other and training culture should prevail, which is neglected in the whole country especially in Government departments. COVID-19 not only has given us challenges, but new opportunities also especially in the agriculture sector so we have to work hard to meet the expectations and needs.

At the end, he appreciated the whole staff of the University on their Hard Work with the direction to submit the plans for next year.

Evaluation and Introduction of Some Exotic KIWI Cultivars

Kiwi is a high value crop giving 0.2 to 0.25 million rupees returns per acre. In pothwar region of Pakistan land holdings are small and most of the farmers possess landholding less than 5 acres. Under such conditions the traditional crops like wheat and maize do not give good returns. So the introduction of high value crop like kiwi can provide the opportunity to such farmers to get good returns from small land holdings. Secondly it creates economic activity within Pothwar Region providing employment to maximum number of people.

PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi has started a 5-years project for evaluation and introduction of some exotic kiwi cultivars with the budget of Rs. 9.934462 million.

Social Benefits of the Project

The project may be expected to benefits socially by following ways

- ❖ Creating economic activity within Pothwar region of Punjab Pakistan.

- ❖ Providing employment during the 60 month of project phase.
- ❖ Providing direct permanent employment to approximately 6 individuals
- ❖ Successful completion of the project will provide the huge agri business opportunities not only for the region but for the whole country.
- ❖ Creating a better quality of life for the community by ensuring food and nutritional security
- ❖ Stopping migration of people from rural to urban areas.

Project Objective

- ◆ Introduction and evaluation of exotic kiwi cultivars at URF Koont
- ◆ Multiplication and adaptation of exotic kiwi cultivars at different location in pothwar.
- ◆ Postharvest performance of exotic kiwi cultivars planted at different locations in Pothwar



Webinar on Artificial Intelligence for Precision Agriculture



An international webinar on “Artificial Intelligence for Precision Agriculture” was organized by the PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR), Pakistan in collaboration with Dalhousie University, Canada and University of Prince Edward Island, Canada on 17 December 2020. The seminar was organized under the aegis of the NCIB and DDSDP Projects.

Prof. Dr. Arnold Schumann from Soil and Water Science Department, University of Florida was the Guest Keynote Speaker. Worthy Vice Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR 'Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman' also participated in the webinar. The main aim of the webinar was to review applications of artificial intelligence (AI) for improving the profitability of farmers in developing countries such as Pakistan. There were more than 150 attendees from the national and international communities that included researchers, progressive farmers, engineers, agronomists, IT professionals, academicians, and students.

Dr. Muhammad Jehanzeb Masud Cheema, Focal Person for the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, opened the webinar by providing an overview of the NCIB and DDSPD projects. Then the keynote speaker 'Dr. Schumann' discussed the concepts of artificial intelligence (AI) and presents several examples to demonstrate the application of AI in precision agriculture. According to him, AI is evolving exponentially and recent advances in artificial intelligence have enabled the development and implementation of machine learning technologies for plant, weed, pest, and disease identification and management.

In the concluding remarks, the worthy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman, thanks the participants from different organizations. He concluded that AI has the potential to promote more productive agricultural practices. He also added that the innovative technologies that use artificial intelligence could be beneficial to smallholder farmers in developing counties.

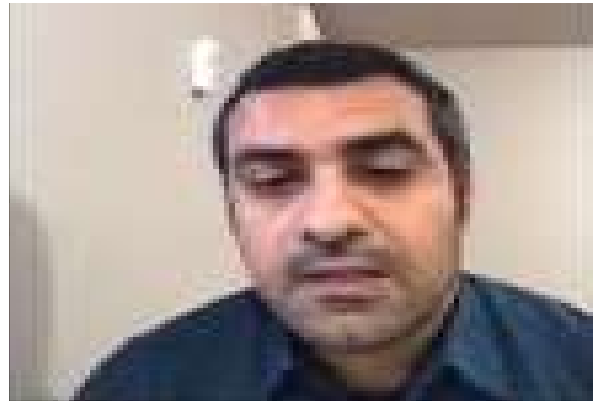


Webinar on Role of Sensors in Digital Agriculture



On 18th December 2020, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, ORIC and CAS-D, PMAS-AAUR jointly organized an International Webinar on 'Role of Sensors in Digital Agriculture'. Dr. Ahmad Al-Mallahi, Industry Research Chair from Dalhousie University, participated in the Webinar as a keynote speaker.

The worthy Vice Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR “Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman” was the Chief Guest. The purpose of the Webinar was to review the role of sensors in digital agriculture and to gain insight as to how to select important sensors for variable rate technology (VRT). The Webinar brought together the local community and stakeholders interested in precision agriculture. It provided them a platform to discuss how to select appropriate cameras/sensors for VRT and how to improve the efficacy of the variable rate sprayer.



In the webinar, Al-Mallahi unraveled the importance of sensors in digital agriculture and he shared his working experience in industrial projects related to autonomous agricultural implements and field sensing systems. He elaborated the image-based pattern recognition system for the smart (precision) sprayer and how can we successfully use this system in Pakistan.

He unveiled that the smart sprayer utilizes a vision-based system and artificial intelligence to detect and identify individual plants (such as potato) and weeds and spray only on the weeds.

In the end, Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman also shared his experience in the development of smart sprayer. He concluded that the selection of appropriate sensors is very important in the development of VRT.



PMAS-AAUR Organized Outreach Programs for Farming Community



Under the direction of PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, to enhance the direct interaction of PMAS-AAUR faculty, researchers and farmers Outreach programs were arranged for the farming community. These field days provided excellent opportunity to local farmers to share their farm related problems and get hands-on solutions from the experts.

The objectives of organizing Outreach programs were to promote adoption of modern agricultural technologies, address farming community problems based on farmers' feedback and to strengthen the University-Government-Industry linkages Program.

These outreach programs were organized at Chakwal (Oct 07, 2020), Attock (Oct 08, 2020), Jhelum (Oct 10, 2020), Rawalpindi (Oct 08, 2020), Khushab (Oct 12, 2020) and progressive farmers of adjacent villages and local farmers also participated in these events.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman said that the Outreach program will play a key role to bridge the gap between University, agriculture research, agriculture extension and farming community. It will also be helpful for effective transfer of advanced production technology to boost agricultural productivity and improve the livelihood of rural farming communities.

Faculty members from the disciplines of Agronomy, Agri. Engineering, Agri. Ext., Farm Machinery & Precision, Entomology, Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Plant Breeding & Genetics, Soil Science, GIS and Livestock Management were participated in the Outreach programs.

Field clinics (animal and plant clinics) were also organized and farmers shared their animal and plant related problems and received prescriptions and advice from the experts.

Pamphlet of fruits, crops, vegetables, pulses and free provision of certified seed of approved varieties crops (one acre) wheat (fakhar-e-bhakar), chickpea (bittal 2016), lentil (chakwal masoor), brassica (chakwal sarson) and vegetables were also distributed among the participants.

During field visits, experts also emphasized on the modern management practices including insect pest, pruning, plant protection and increase in cultivation of crops like garlic, chickpea, citrus plantation, lentil.

They also suggested sites for development of mini dams. During technical sessions, question and answer sessions were also conducted and each speaker responded to queries of the farmers related to livestock and crops.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Visited Sub-Campus Khushab



Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR visited Sub Campus Khushab on September 15, 2020. The Registrar, Deans, Directors, Principal Officers were also accompanied during this visit.

On the occasion, the Vice Chancellor was briefed about the campus, courses offered and curriculum at Khushab Campus. The Vice Chancellor visited the Classrooms, Library and Laboratories and also interacted with the students and faculty members. He emphasized on the research and practical skills to be delivered to the students for their practical knowledge.

Keeping in view the local needs, Vice Chancellor Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman said that new academic programs along with short-skill training courses will be introduced at Khushab Sub-Campuses. Apart from Khushab, students from adjoining areas are getting benefit from this campus with quality and low-fee higher education

opportunities. All possible steps would be taken for facilitating the students and teachers and students would have the opportunity to solve local problems which is undoubtedly a great service to the area, he added.

Under the Prime Minister's Pakistan Clean and Green Program, the Vice Chancellor has also launched a tree plantation campaign at sub campus by planting saplings. He said that the university had introduced green campus program for saving the environment.

He said that we must make efforts to defend our environment because the future of our next generations is linked with a clean environment.

The Vice Chancellor lauded the measures being taken under the PM's Clean and Green Pakistan scheme to address the climate changes and environmental issues.



News in Pictures

Advance Studies & Research Board Meeting (Sep 29, 2020)



Vice Chancellor Presenting Shield to Retired Employees



Global Entrepreneurship Week (24-11-2020)



Awareness Session on Research Grant (16-09-2020)



Awareness Session on University Research Endowment Fund Initiatives (13-11-2020)



Session about On-Campus Coronavirus SOPs (15-09-2020)



NBP Delegation Visited PMAS-AAUR (12-11-2020)



Reference for Dr. Sadiq (Late) (12-11-2020)



PEC Team Visited Faculty of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, PMAS-AAUR (11-12-2020)



Training Session on How to Prepare Synopsis & Thesis (25-09-2020)



Meeting of Vice Chancellor Regarding Research Quality Improvements (29-09-2020)



PMAS-AAUR Organized Outreach Programs for Farming Community

Attock (09-10-2020)



Khushab (12-10-2020)



Talagang (07-10-2020)



Koont (08-10-2020)



Pind Dadan Khan (10-10-2020)



Tree Plantation Campaign





Under Construction



Pir Mehr Ali Shah

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