



Pir Mehr Ali Shah
Arid Agriculture University
Rawalpindi

NEWSLETTER

Apr - Jun 2017



18th Convocation 2017



Training Workshop for Journalists



Campaign launched to raise awareness about food waste



INDIGENOUS HYDROPONIC SYSTEM



NEWS LETTER

Apr - Jun, 2017

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18th Convocation of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University



43 gold, 8 silver, 8 bronze medals while 35 got PhD degrees. A total 2820 graduates were awarded degrees, while 59 decorated with medals which included in the 18th convocation of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) which was held on May 25, 2017.

43 graduates got gold medals, 8 silver medals, 8 bronze medals while 1785 postgraduate, 1000 undergraduate and 35 Ph.D graduates were awarded with degrees. Two students also achieved the Gold Medals sponsored by the Bank of Punjab while a student of Literacy Center also got Gold medal.

Federal Ministry for Parliamentary Affairs, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad, was the Chief Guest while PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Center (PARC) Dr Yousaf Zafar, faculty members and graduates were also present on the occasion.

Federal Minister, Sheikh Aftab Ahmad said the adoption of modern agriculture accompanied by trained manpower would not only help improve living standards but also produce quality commodities for the international market. He said there is a dire need to put in efforts in research related activities and it is highly encouraging to know that this university has been playing its due role in this regard. "We are living in the era of advance technologies where life has become sophisticated and survival of nations greatly depends upon education and learning only," he

said. He advised the students to take lead in the practical endeavors with full zeal and confidence as the nation is anxiously waiting for the fruit of their hard work and dedication in the form of improved livelihood of fellow countrymen.

While appreciating the efforts of the Vice Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR he said, "University not only engaged in conventional agriculture rather embarked upon highly sophisticated and advanced methods and chores of 21st Century's Agriculture. The efforts of the Vice Chancellor convinced me to have a Sub-campus of the university at Attock. Today, a good number of students have been enrolled in this campus and it would be hopefully flourishing even bigger in the days to come."

He lauded the idea of placing undergraduate degree programmes at sub-campus while postgraduate studies at main campus that would not only facilitate the better management of





students but also serve the students belonging to the underprivileged and marginalized segments of the society.

"It is an effort for provision of higher education facility at the doorstep of the community at large in the entire Potohar region. I extend my full cooperation and support for implementation of these visionary ideas and initiatives," he said. He also congratulated the parents for the success of their children who have brought them an honor and dignity in the form of prestigious degrees and medals.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad congratulated the graduates for achieving degrees and said them that technological advancement & globalization have led the mankind to complex living which adversely affected the docile cultural values. He advised that they must have to play a positive and constructive role for amicable resolution of food security, environmental degradation of agro-systems and worst of all extremism. He pointed out that in order to cater the needs and broaden the scope of agriculture and allied disciplines academic programmes have been enhanced from 67 to 81 degree programmes at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level.

At present, he said the student strength has reached to 12,000 as compared with 6,000 in the year 2012-13 and the academic structure of the university has been strengthened through establishment of two new faculties including Faculty of Agriculture Engineering and Technology and Faculty of Social Sciences.

He said three new institutes have also been

established comprising Institute of Hydroponic Agriculture, Institute of Food and Nutritional Sciences and Institute of Geo Information and Earth Observation. He said that the discipline of criminology has been set up to provide the students with proper understanding of nature and causes of crime and its evasion.

He said PMAS-AAUR is emphasizing on pragmatic research with advanced farming techniques and paying due attention to cope with food security issues, acute shortage of Energy and curb menace.

After the successful dissemination of Hydroponic Farming, Institute of Hydroponic Agriculture has been established by the gracious assistance of Govt. of Punjab, in order to assist our 95 percent small farmers for not only producing quality food for themselves but also exporting it to other parts of the world," he said.

He informed the gathering that the Varsity has also developed a state-of-the-art Biomass Energy Program at campus under Zero Solid Waste Campus, is most economical and simpler way of generating energy from any biogas waste,



adoption of this technology at domestic level will largely address our energy issue in Pakistan, also helpful in achieving the dream of our worthy Prime Minister "Green Pakistan."

The Vice Chancellor said the educational lot and especially those in the agriculture sector need to increase their efforts manifold for enhancing productivity levels of milk, meat, vegetables, fruits and other delicacies apart from grains. The efforts are also being made to introduce food processing and preservation technologies so that sustainability of food supplies can be achieved and assured around the year."

He lauded the contribution of the chief guest in establishment of the sub-campus of the university in Attock he said "Your contribution and keen interest in patronizing co-curricular activities for



the students are highly appreciated."

The following graduates were awarded PhD degrees, Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals on the 18th Convocation of PMAS-AAUR

Ph.D. Degrees Graduates

Mehmood ul Hassan (Agronomy), Syed Abdul Qadeem (Entomology), Umer Ayyaz Aslam Sheikh (Entomology), Muhammad Imran (Entomology), Bushra Siddique (Entomology), Shehla Sammi (Food Technology), Robina Shaheen (Horticulture), Taj Naseeb Khan (Plant Breeding and Genetics), Hasan Riaz (Plant Pathology), Muhammad Ibrahim Tahir (Plant Pathology), Shazia Shahzaman (Plant Pathology), Ummay Amara (Soil Science), Rizwan Ali Sheir Dil (Soil Science), Muhammad Imran (Soil Science), Tasawar Sultana (Biochemistry), Nadia Majeed (Biochemistry), Farah Deeba (Biochemistry),



Sobia Khadam (Biochemistry), Muhammad Fiaz (Biochemistry), Shagufta Jabeen (Biochemistry), Rizwana Abdul Ghani (Biochemistry), Nazima Batool (Botany), Shaista Akhund (Botany), Muhammad Irfan (Zoology), Syed Israr Shah (Zoology), Saima Qadeer (Zoology), Asima Azam (Zoology), Afzaal Ahmad Naseem (Zoology), Ghulam Sadiq (Agricultural Economics), Fouzia Jamshaid (Economics), Shumaila Sadiq (Economics), Mazhar Hussain (Education), Farzana Kausar (Environmental Science), Riaz Hussain (Wildlife Management), Misbah Sarwar (Wildlife Management)

The Gold Medalists:-

Zunaira Zulfiqar (B.Sc. Food Technology), Rubia Arshad (M.Sc. Agronomy), hadija Javed (M.Sc. Entomology), Ayesha Manzoor (M.Sc. Horticulture), Shahana Anwar (M.Sc. Plant Pathology), Misbah Naseem (M.Sc. Plant Breeding and Genetics), Muhammad Zeeshan (M.Sc. Soil Science), Saba Tariq (BS Biochemistry), Humaira (M.Sc. Biology), Kinza Tanveer (M.Sc. Botany), Tahreem Afzal (M.Sc. Mathematics), Memoona Islam (M.Phil Biochemistry), Saiba Idrees (M.Phil Botany), Salaha Urooj (M.Phil Zoology), Qurat ul Ain Haidry (M.Phil Statistics), Khansa Naeem (BS Economics), Sana Arshad (B.Ed.), Fariha Murtaza (M.Sc. Economics), Erum Yaqub (M.Sc. Education), Shahida Yousaf (M.Ed.),



Tabassum Noureen (M.Sc. Criminology), Rabia Shahid (M.Sc. Agricultural Economics), Tehseen Bano (M.Phil Education), Rizwan Abbas (M.Phil Sociology), Talal Asif (BS Forestry), Atif Ali (M.Phil Forestry and Range Management), Sumia Sahar (M.Phil Environmental Science), Muhammad Arslan (DVM), Muhammad Amin (MS RS&GIS), Ayesha Noor (BBA Honors), Sadia Zafar (MBA Agribusiness), Adnan Muzafar (MDM), Sidra Malik, (MS Management Science), Bushra Mushtaq (BSCS), Sidra Khudadad (BSIT), Saba Jamil (MS Computer Science), Muhammad Hamza Qamar (BSCS) / BIIT, Afrasiab Kaikobad (BSIT) / BIIT, Muhammad Imran Aziz (MSCS) / BIIT, Mian Muhammad Naeem Abid (MCS) / BIMS, Mariam Akhtar (M.Sc. Economics) / BIMS, Muhammad Shahzad Arshad (MCS) / BIS-Burewala, Salva Karamat (M.Sc. Economics) / BIS-Burewala

The Silver Medalists

Saba Yasin (B.Sc. Plant Breeding and Genetics), Sidra Kashif (BS Biochemistry), Sundas Iftikhar, (BS Economics), Hafiza Iqra Naz (BS Forestry), Ashiq Ali (BBA Honors), Anum Jahangir Kayani (BSCS), Muhammad Waqas Nadeem (BSCS) / BIIT, Muhammad Umar (BSIT) / BIIT

The Bronze Medalists

Nadia Niaz (B.Sc. Food Technology), Tehmina Aziz (BS Biochemistry), Hina Kanwal (BS Economics),



Ayesha Azad (DVM), Hadia Naeem (BBA Honors), Adnan Yousaf (BSCS), Shahida Anwar (BSCS) / BIIT, Hafiza Hina Kanwal (BSIT) / BIIT

The Sponsored Medals

Zunaira Zulfiqar (B.Sc. Food Technology), Bushra Mushtaq (BSCS) won The Bank of Punjab sponsored Gold Medals and Cash Prizes of Rs. 10,000/.

Literacy Centre

Rahul Nadeem a student of Class V of Literacy Center (a project of PMAS-AAUR) was also awarded a Gold medal.



Arid Varsity Launched Awareness Campaign about Food Waste



A new campaign to raise awareness about food waste has been launched at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with Oxfam in Pakistan and the Indus Consortium on June 15, 2017.

The Save Food Fight Hunger campaign aims to address the national problem through raising awareness, providing food saving tips, practicing moderation, encouraging residents, restaurants and hotels to prepare limited amounts of food and giving edible food to the needy through food drives and charities.

In Pakistan enough food is produced to feed the entire population but because of food waste an estimated 6 out of 10 people go to bed hungry. On the Global Hunger Index out of 118 developing countries, Pakistan is ranked at 107. To add to these alarming statistics, it is estimated that 40% of food is wasted in Pakistan.

Addressing the audience on the topic of food security the Shaikh Aftab Ahmed, Federal Minister

for Parliamentary Affairs, who was chief guest on the occasion said, "The Government of Pakistan is giving attention to food security of the most marginalised segments of society. This is one of the priority areas which the federal government has taken into account, however, the citizens, civil society and private sector should also play their part to make it possible." He added that food wastage is a national issue; and in our personal capacity we should save food which is being wasted on a daily basis.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi said, "Pakistan is a resourceful country and it is producing enough





food for its population, but the problem lies in the management and distribution of food. Most vegetables and fruit are wasted during the supply chain process. This should be addressed through the establishment of an infrastructure from land to market.”

Oxfam's Programme Director Ms. Javeria Afzal encouraged the students of Arid Agriculture University to join in the efforts to reduce food waste and discussed the need to develop better food habits and respect for the food production cycle.

Ms. Afzal said, “The problem of food wastage lies in socio-cultural sensitization and behavioral change. While many food products are biodegradable, their non-consumption means the resources such as energy, water and materials

used in their cultivation and production are wasted”.

Indus Consortium's National Coordinator Hussain Jarwar, requested the attending students, teachers and other civil society actors to sensitise their family members to not waste food either cooked or uncooked.

The food awareness campaign is part of Oxfam's GROW campaign, a global initiative since 2013, to build a better food system: one that sustainably



feeds a growing population and empowers poor people to earn a living, feed their families, and thrive. Oxfam in Pakistan's GROW campaign is about bringing people together to create solutions for food, fairness, and the future of our planet. Join us and together, we can win the fight against hunger.



4th Training Workshop on Hydroponic Agriculture



A 15-days training workshop on hydroponics agriculture (soilless farming) under the project titled, "Testing Indigenous Hydroponic Greenhouse for Vegetable Growing" funded by Agriculture Department, Punjab was started at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on May 9, 2017.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the workshop which was also attended by Deans, Directors, Faculty members and Farmers.

It was the forth training workshop out of total eight. More than 50 farmers including women from different locations of Pakistan got training on greenhouse erection, crop sowing, crop management and harvesting of fruit.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said that continuous struggle turned the impossible into possible. The hydroponics technology been introduced in

Pakistan was very much costly i.e.; up to Rs.120 million per acres, but our endless efforts reduced it by ten times. He said that hydroponics technology has widened the scope of agriculture and opened the door of inventions and new technologies. He hoped that this training session would be beneficial for the farmers in the terms of experience and income. Keeping in view the problems of agriculture sector he said, we must together put all efforts for the ultimate solutions. Agriculture reforms and renovations are the need of time, which would lead agriculture sector towards development and tends to rise in Gross Agriculture Produce of the country, he added. He focused on marketing strategies for the value addition of agriculture products.

The Vice Chancellor applauded the participation of women in training session and said that, women are the important factor in the agriculture sector, their essential contributions in the agricultural and rural economies play vital role in developing countries.

1st National Training on Commercial Ostrich Farming

A five-day (May 15-20, 2017) first National Training on Commercial Ostrich Farming was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The training was organized by Station for Ostrich Research and Development - Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences (FA&AS) with an aim to create awareness and promotion of ostrich farming in Pakistan.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the inaugural session while, deans, directors, faculty members and a large number of ostrich farmers from all over the country were also present on the occasion.



The participants got training on disease diagnosis, vaccination, laboratory, slaughtering and Nutrition (feed) for ostrich.

Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad highlighted the benefits of Ostrich farming and said that it is the only way out to overcome the shortage of meat in the country. He referred it to as the farms of future because of the high profit potential and vital source for foreign earnings. He said that



government has taken various measures to uplift this sector but still awareness and more efforts are needed to convert ostrich farming into a profitable business. He also informed the participants that in 2013, a hatchery was established at University aims at providing the farmers technical assistance, consultancy services and medication and encouraging to ensure safe investment in Ostrich farming. He urged faculty members to resolve problems regarding ostrich farming to enhance ostrich production in the country and assured full support from the PMAS-AAUR administration.

Professor Dr Arfan Yousaf, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Dr Nasir Mukhtar, in-charge Station for Ostrich Research and Development also address the participants at the inaugural session of the training.



University of UTAH, USA Delegation visited Arid Varsity

The University of UTAH, USA and Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) agreed to initiate collaboration in research projects & academic programs for resolution of water crises, through developing human resource, technologies and policy formulations.

It was decided in a meeting of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad and a delegation of UTAH University headed by Prof. Tariq Banuri, on May 4, 2017.

On the occasion, Prof. Patrick Shea of University of UTAH, Mr. Mark Halle Adviser for Sustainable Development US-Pak Center of Advanced Studies on Water, PMAS-AAUR Deans, Directors and senior faculty members were also present.

The visiting delegation exchanged views with PMAS-AAUR academic leadership and applauded its numerous steps to develop the institutional relations with leading institutions and corporate entities. Both parties shared views for joint efforts that are important for potential expansion of future academic collaborations.

Both universities agreed to cooperate in education, research & areas of mutual interest to establish mutual scientific, educational and cultural programmes in order to assert and consolidate relationships between the two universities and their countries. The cooperative activities covered, includes exchange of faculty members and students, joint research activities, sharing of academic material and other joint initiatives such as workshops, seminars, symposiums, etc.

On the occasion, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, briefed the guests about mandate, functions, programmes, achievements and future plans of the University, and he said that PMAS-AAUR is rapidly expanding its academic and research

avenues, while its research output has significantly increased in the international journals.

He informed the delegation that University has already converted its Research Farm at Chakwal road into a Model Farm by collecting rainwater into reservoirs and saved water amounting to 45 acre-feet, sufficient to irrigate its entire farm of 250 acres. He emphasized that our focus should be on rainwater harvesting, water resource development and value addition of farm produce.

He said that the University had very active research and academic collaboration agreements with other Universities and is looking forward for active foreign collaboration and funding for its faculty development programme and research projects. He was of the view that collaboration with University of UTAH shall open new directions of academic and research exchange. Students and faculty exchange programmes between the universities would strengthen educational ties as well as bond of friendship between the two countries' people, he added.

The delegation also visited Solid Waste Management Station and Rainwater harvesting pond at the campus. The delegation appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR in the development of higher education and research, especially in the field of arid agriculture, where the harvest-able resources are limited.



PMAS-AAUR and LANTIX Technology Signed MoU

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) and Lantix Technology (PVT.) Limited signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 26, 2017 for capacity building in development of learning tools in bigdata, block chain and data science for Education.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad and Lantix Technology Managing Director Dr Imran Chaudhary signed MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

Under the MoU, Both organizations agreed for the development of complete set of learning tools and conducting seminars/workshops on block chain, bigdata, machine learning and data science for education sector. Lantix Technology will provide internships to University students & knowledge about in-time data analysis, business intelligence technology and data science to the faculty & students. This MoU will be also helpful to develop liaison with industrial sector to develop data science capabilities in Pakistan. Lantix Technology will also provide assistance to the university students in project development related to in-time analytics, machine learning & data science.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor while sharing his views said that University is a quality focused higher education institution that provides excellent academic and research environment for producing researchers and scholars in the fields of Agriculture, IT, Management Sciences, Geo-informatics, Biotechnology, Education and Veterinary Sciences etc. He informed that university through its collaborative activity at national and international level is undertaking several educational, research and development initiatives to resolve local and regional issues related to information technology, business management, agricultural and livestock productivity. He hoped that this MoU not only for the capacity building of students & faculty but will also lead the country toward development and prosperity.

It may be recalled that Lantix is limited by shares and specialize in core Tech, Middleware solutions, bigdata analytics, campus management, e healthcare, SAAD, eLearning SAAS. It deals in-time analytical solutions based on its own customized open sources technology which has wide usability in various industries where real-time information is a key for success along with cloud based software as service solutions for healthcare and education industry.



Seminar on Career Counseling



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) organized a seminar on Career Counseling on May 3, 2017, with an aim to enhance the skills of the students in order to impart them market oriented skills and to cope with new challenges and demands.

The Seminar was organized by the Career Service Center (CSC) of PMAS-AAUR, which was attended by students, employees and internees of Prime Minister National Internship Program.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Corporate Trainer & Career Counselor Syed Hassan Abbas delivered key note address. Deans, Directors and faculty members were also present.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad urged the students to focus on hard work, innovation, collaboration and smart work. He said that students must focus on excellence instead of titles or status in the practical field. He emphasized that a student must know his capabilities, strengths and weaknesses.

He said that this seminar will provide comprehensive guidance to the students for planning their career and prospects of earning independently from competitive market after completing academics courses. He hoped that this seminar will also assist students in overcoming common challenges which hold them back from

realizing their true potentials and current market trends & requirements.

He appreciated the efforts of organizers for successful arrangement of this seminar. He desired to arrange more seminars/training programs for students which will help them to understand the future challenges in job market and to become entrepreneur with innovative ideas.

Syed Hassan Abbas, in his speech, presented a brief introduction of career planning, its needs and impacts of improper career planning on an individuals' life and on society. He guided the students on how to select a suitable field of career. He thoroughly described all the steps necessary to plan a career effectively, with visual support.

Dr Irfan Ashraf, Additional Director CSC, in his address, briefed the participants about aims and objectives of the seminar and said that CSC will work in order to encourage students towards Public Service Placements and to make them attain decision making positions.

The seminar was a great success as the students participated very actively; their interest level was high both in the career counseling session as well as in question answer session. Students, not only listened to the speakers very attentively, but also asked number of questions related to their educational and future planning.

Seminar on 'Two Nation Theory and its Relevance'

A seminar on 'Two Nation Theory and its Relevance' was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with Measac Research Centre (MRC), on May 11, 2017.



Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest, while M. Abdullah Gul, MRC DG, Brigadier (R) Abdul Rehman, Defense Analyst were the guest of honor. The seminar was attended by dean, directors and a large number of students.

The Vice Chancellor said that the world has turned into global village, there is dire need for revitalizing interaction between youth of the Muslim world as our ideological foundations are being affected through misinformation, confusion and false narration of history. He urged the youth to make continuous efforts according to Quaid-i-Azam famous slogan of 'Work, Work and only Work'. He stressed to address the contemporary issues and challenges to raise the flag of Pakistan as a peaceful and progressive country in the world. He said that youth with the strong qualities can transform the destiny of nation. He

emphasized to promote academic research for resolving the issues and challenges being faced by the Muslims. He stressed that it is the right time to awaken the spirit of Pakistan Movement in our youth to strong the foundations of our country.

Brigadier (R) Abdul Rehman said, the idea of two-nation theory was to preserve and protect the distinctive identity and advance the interests of Muslims, to order their lives in accordance with their ideals. Yet, twos (Muslims & Hindus) are incompatible and irrational to the systems for their cultural, religious, economic and social aspects. He emphasized that we must realize our customs and values being overwhelmed and identify the potentials to cope with the upcoming computational era of technology, power and energy.

M. Abdullah Gul said that Quaid-i- Azam worked for the Muslims of sub-continent and united them under Islam as a code of conduct. An Islamic state cares about the rights of minorities and their rights for selection of religion and this fact was the clear-cut mandate of Quaid-i-Azam.



Training Workshop of Journalists Held at PMAS-AAUR

A training workshop for Lahore based journalist held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on May 20, 2017.



The workshop was arranged by Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC), with an aim to improve reporting on education-related issues and the capacity strengthening of journalist. The workshop also provided a suitable forum for journalist to exchange experiences and discussed various approaches for increasing the news coverage.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest at the inaugural session along with Director General, PHEC Dr Shahid Sorya, while more than 20 journalists had attended the training.

Those who addressed the participants were included Anchorperson Matti-UllahJan, Umer Cheema and Ummul Baneen Mirza. They delivered lectures on media ethics, reporting accuracy, investigative reporting techniques, Digital Journalism and the safety of journalists.

They stressed the importance of neutrality and keeping credibility intact while reporting on sensitive issues. They also talked about how a journalist can use impartial data in their stories and the latest trend in reporting, data journalism,



tools and discuss to enhance their skills in finding data and getting information out of governments. They threw light on the ethical principles and stressed upon an unbiased approach towards reporting on any issue. Speakers shared how news



about education may be reported so that it becomes more capturing for the readers and audience. Participants also got training on producing informative short video reports. Speakers also discussed the experience of international journalism as a way of improving their own standards.



Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad welcomed the participants and briefed about the university research, development and academic activities. He appreciated the objectives and intensive efforts behind the training and said that journalists can play a pivotal role in development of the society. He was of the view that media should focus on the positive aspects of our society as well and emphasized on the quality work in journalism. He said that we are brave & peaceful nation and its journalist duty to present positive image of the country by responsible development reporting.



Earlier, in his welcome address, Dr Shahid Sorya briefed the aims and objectives of organizing this training workshop and hoped that PHEC will organize such kind of workshop in future as well.

Participants of the workshop along with PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor and DG PHEC also round the campus. Vice Chancellor briefed them about the Mehr Bio-gas Station, Mehr Mineral Water, Rain water harvesting projects initiated by the University. Journalist appreciated the efforts and developments been made by the University for socio-economic uplift of the farming community with special emphasis on rain-fed agriculture in the country.

Syed Sajjad Kazmi President, Lahore Education Reporter Association (LERA), thanked the PHEC & PMAS-AAUR for arranging this wonderful training session and said that such workshop should be organized in future as well.



Dr Sarwat N. Mirza Appointed as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Arid Varsity

Prof. Dr. Sarwat N. Mirza, has been appointed as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

The appointment has been made by Punjab Governor Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana in his capacity as the PMAS-AAUR Chancellor, according to a notification issued by the Punjab Agriculture Department on June 21, 2017.

Dr. Mirza, who is also a senior faculty member has been serving as Chairman Department of Forestry & Range Management and performing duties as Registrar of the University. Previously, he remained the Dean Faculty of Forestry, Range Management and Wildlife for two terms at PMAS-AAUR.

Dr Mirza completed his PhD from the Utah State University USA in 1992 and spent over 30 years in forestry research & education. He is actively involved in research and has supervised about 20

postgraduate students; and have more than 50 publications in national and international journals.

He has served as member of syndicate as well as remained an active member of its Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance & Planning Committee, Board of Advance studies and Research.

Meanwhile, in an Afftar party PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad & syndicate members along with deans/directors congratulated Prof. Dr Sarwat N. Mirza on his appointment as Pro-Vice Chancellor. Vice Chancellor hoped that Dr Mirza will continue his efforts as he did being as Chairman & Registrar to take university to ever new heights of academic excellence.

Dr Mirza assured for more struggle and efforts for the uplift of university both in academic and research.



Alumni Report



Department of Anthropology was established in 1999 and first batch was enrolled in upcoming year that was 2000, since then sixteen successive batches were passed. On Saturday, 29th April 2017 the department of anthropology PMAS AAUR celebrated its First Annual Get-Together of Anthropologists on university campus.

The aim of the event was to call upon all the batches and give them a platform to reunite with their parent department, also to share their success stories and how the graduates are rendering services in various social settings. It was also organized to take feedback from the graduates about the problems they faced and to get insight about their experiences after entering in the main stream. This initiative was also to reform the curriculum of this subject according to the issues raised by the graduates in order to better adjust it to the current market demand, this will further help our upcoming graduates. The event also provide the students of department and the alumni's of department a platform where they can interact with each other and the senior successful and experienced anthropologists.

This occasion was to bring the spotlight on the importance of Anthropology and its significance at social, cultural, economical, environmental, educational, political and individual level. Further

to show this subject as paramount in providing solutions to present issues faced by Pakistani society, as this subject can bring the solutions that are sustained in resolving dilemma faced by the world today. As Anthropology primarily focuses on ethnographic research and field work, Anthropologist's research put forth local, national and international sight that provides helpful insights for policy making, planning and evaluation of various developmental programmes.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed graced the event as Chief Guest. The Registrar PMAS AAUR Dr Sarwat Naz Mirza and Dean Social Sciences Dr. Abdul Saboor also joined the event along with other Deans/Directors and Chairman's of various departments of the





University. The prominent Social Scientists of Pakistan were also present in the event including experienced and successful anthropologists from various fields of life. A large number of Alumni participated in the event and enjoyed the event.

The event started with the recitation of Holy Quran and Naat-e-Rasool Maqbool. Ms Mehwish Zeeshan lecturer Anthropology Department welcomed the distinguished guests on behalf of



the department. Mr Shaheer Ellahi presented Ameer Khusroo's poetry in his melodious voice. The Chairman of Anthropology Department Dr. Abid Ghafoor Chaudhry shared the progress of the department since 1999 to date. He shared with guests the success stories of the ex-graduates. He also briefed about the running programs in the department and upcoming future academic programs to be launched by the department. He appreciated the Vice Chancellor's



proactive role in the promotion of the department.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed in his address pointed that our nation is facing issues at present that can be resolved through universities if their students are guided for solution oriented research especially under the discipline of social sciences put together by using their young brains and rigorous training. Also if Anthropologist works positively they can aid our country to get ahead in development by giving strategies and help in policy making. In his view the government and



society both are still lacking to understand the worth of this subject even at present and one should now recognize it. This subject gives in depth view to the cultural problems, environmental issues and even the developmental lag currently in our society. The Vice Chancellor encouraged the successful commencement of event; he supported the department and its endeavors. On this he announced respective seats in which two were for the Professors, two seats for Associate Professors and five for Assistant Professors. He gave directions to the Registrar PMAS AAUR, Dr Sarwat Naz Mirza that these recommendations should be on priority basis.

A musical performance and dinner was also arranged by the department. At the end a photo session was held to preserve the memories of this occasion along with Vice Chancellor, faculty and



Finance and Planning Committee approved PMAS-AAUR Budget



The Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) has approved the recurring budget of Rs. 2049.183 million the fiscal year 2017-18. The budget was approved in the Finance and Planning Committee meeting, at main Campus chaired by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad. The other committee members included representative members of University Syndicate as well the government departments representatives from Agriculture department and finance department were also present on the occasion.

The committee has estimated Rs. 2049.173 million expenditure while Rs.2049.183 million has been as marked as estimated income from various sources. The university expects Rs. 701.026 millions grant from the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and Rs. 78.423 million grant from the Punjab Government.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad thanked the participants for their valuable contribution and said it is the first time of the PMAS-AAUR that University own resources income is equal to the grants of HEC and Punjab Govt. He also added that the heads of the departments would be imparted with financial management trainings and budget allocation to them would be purely on performance basis.

Finally, the budget was recommended for onward presentation and approval of the University Syndicate. The Finance and Planning Committee appreciated financial measures taken by the university during the last fiscal year.

The committee hoped that the HEC and Govt. of the Punjab will provide required funds this year to encourage research and development at the PMAS-AAUR.

Seminar on Self Assessment Program Held at PMAS-AAUR

A seminar on "Self Assessment Program: Highlighting the Weaknesses in Self Assessment Reports" was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi on June 8, 2017 to highlight the weaknesses in the Self Assessment Reports in order to streamline the programs, enhance quality of education and research and student development.



The seminar was organized by the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) of the University. Professor Dr Riaz Ahmad, Director QEC and Ms. Ainee Zaffar, Assistant Director (QEC) were the resource persons. A large number of Program Team members from the various departments of the University attended the seminar.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of the university was the Chief Guest of the seminar. While inaugurating the seminar, he said that Self Assessment provides framework to evaluate and improve the academic programs and it also provides opportunity to cope with threats and convert



the weaknesses into strengths. He further emphasized the faculty to promote research at the varsity. "We must focus on valuable research that have direct impact on our society and tend the country towards prosperity and development", he said.

He lauded the efforts of Professor Riaz Ahmad, Director QEC for his leadership role in embedding the quality standards for uplift of the Arid Varsity at the international level. He also congratulated the Director QEC and its squad, and the faculty for the improvement of Arid Varsity's ranking from 220 to 204 out of 516 universities of the world in UI Green Metric World University Ranking 2016 and hoped for leading position in near future.



Annual Dinner Held at University's Model Research Farm Koont

Annual Dinner of the students of University Research Farm Koont was held on May 18, 2017. PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Deans, Directors, faculty members and a large number of students were also present.

Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad in his address, appreciated all the participants for their outstanding performance and also acknowledged the organizational skills of the management staff. He said that Pothwar area



has great potential for agriculture and development of country highly depends upon the development of agriculture sector. He stressed that there is dire need to adopt latest techniques on farm water management to make barren lands productive.

The students presented a galaxy of enchanting items-ranging from cultural show to tablos. At the end, Vice Chancellor also distributed shields and certificates among the students and management of the Koont Farm.



Syndicate Meeting

The 78th meeting of the university syndicate held under the chairmanship of PMAS- AAUR Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad on June 20, 2017.

Senior representatives of the finance, agriculture and livestock departments of the Punjab along with elected members of the syndicate, from the faculty also attended the meeting.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, briefed the members of the syndicate about the research and development activities presently going on at the university. He also informed the gathering that University is trying to enhance the outreach activities for educating the farmers in order to increase agricultural productivity of the country.

The members appreciated the University Administration for Research & Academic activities and development projects carrying on campus. At the end, Vice-Chancellor thanked all the members for their participation & valuable contribution in the meeting. The house also approved the minutes of Finance & Planning and Academic Council meeting.

Academic Council Meeting

The 58th Academic Council of the Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) was held on June 17, 2017 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 also attended the meeting.

The council discussed and took various decisions on the improvement of the academic programs at the campus. The academic council after thorough discussions had given approval of the up gradation of Department of Soil Science & SWC into Institute of Soil Science, initiation of BS Environmental Sciences, BS Anthropology, B.Ed (Hons.) Four Years degree programs, and One Year PGD in Social Entrepreneurship, Agri. Entrepreneurship & Rural Media Studies. The Council also approved the academic calendar of the university for the year 2017-2018.

Vice Chancellor thanked all the members for their participation and valuable contribution in the meeting. He hoped that soon Arid varsity will achieve prominent position not only in Pakistan but internationally in the horizon of world agriculture universities.

The Academic Council also approved amendments and additions to the courses of various academic programs and took various decisions on the improvement of the degree programs at the campus. The meeting also endorsed the minutes of last 57th meeting of the Academic Council.

Aridian Premier League

The University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT) won the 9th Annual Aridian Premier League (Cricket) by defeating University Research Farm Koont team in the final match, on May 17, 2017 at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).



As many as 65 teams took part in the tournament and matches were played on knockout basis. PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest at the final match, while Deans/Directors, Principal Officers, faculty

members and large number of students were also present.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, in his address, appreciated the efforts of organizing committee for the successful and timely completion of the tournament. He said that promotion and development of high performance sport is one of the major aim of PMAS-AAUR. He said that co-curricular activities promote sportsmanship and abolish the discrimination among the students and united them as a team which ultimately enhances their performance & dedication towards education and work. At the end chief guest distributed shields among the winners of the league and organizers.



PEEF

Scholarships Distribution Ceremony

A scholarships distribution ceremony under Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) Scholarships 2016-2017 was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi on May 19, 2017 with an aim to provide best educational opportunities for the deserving and talented students.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed was the chief guest of the ceremony while Deans, Directors, Faculty members and a large number of students were also present.



A total of 314 students were awarded of Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) and 76 were awarded Shahbaz Sharif Merit Scholarship having worth of Rs. 34.89 Million.

The programme was initiated by Chief Minister, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Shareef in 2009 with 2 Billion Rupees and now become the world's unique and Pakistan history's first ever largest educational endowment fund of 17 Billion Rupees. Two lac scholarships worth 11.5 Billion Rupees are already given under this programme. Shahbaz Sharif Merit Scholarship has also been launched by PEEF in 2016 for Master's Students. 106 Slots have been allocated and utilized by PMAS-AAUR which contributed Rs. 6 Million for deserving students.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad appreciated the role of PEEF and said that it is an excellent opportunity

and a hope for the talented & deserving student. Since 2010, a total of 1519 students got funding from Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) consisting of Rs. 190.55 Million; which is a great contribution by the PEEF for uplifting education standards.

He also informed the gathering that a total of 1737 different Scholarships like PEEF, Shahbaz Sharif Merit Scholarship, VC Talent, USAID Funded Merit and Need based Scholarship, HEC Need Based Scholarship, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal Scholarship, Prime Minister's Tution Fee Reimbursement Scholarship and many other been offered in year 2016-17.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad said that we have established, Students Resource Centre for the guidance of students to achieve excellence in pursuit of education and redressing several study related issues. SRC is also acting as a focal office for scholars of indigenous scholarships provided by HEC and helps students in finding appropriate employment and also serving as linkage between the Alumni and students, he added. Vice Chancellor advised students to mold their abilities, into well-rounded, compassionate and community-minded individuals to break the mind-set of poverty and utilizing energy in the right directions. He urged for challenging pathway to career by marketing the products of varsity and creating on-campus jobs and said, "Be job creators, rather than job-seekers."



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18th Convocation 2017



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“Mehr Biogas Model”



Training Workshop of Journalists



News in Pictures

Annual Function at University Research Farm Koont





UNIVERSITY MODEL RESEARCH FARM KOONT



UI GreenMetric World University Ranking 2016 declared
PMAS-AAUR the 2nd Best University of Pakistan



Pir Mehr Ali Shah

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