



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

NEWS LETTER



Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad
Vice Chancellor



Exclusive Meeting of Vice Chancellor with Governor Punjab/Chancellor of the University



Laptops Distribution Ceremony under Prime Minister Laptop Scheme



PMAS-AAUR Model Research Farm



Inauguration of U - Cafe



Inauguration of University Research Product Display Center

Patron - in - Chief
Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad

Editor - in - Chief
Nadeem Malik

Editor
Musa Kaleem

Online Edition
Hameed Ullah Khan

Students' get laptops and PEEF Scholarships

A ceremony was organized for laptop distribution under the Prime Minister Laptop Scheme and Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) Scholarship card at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on July 4, 2015.



In the ceremony, a total of 341 laptops along with internet devices, provided by Higher Education Commission (HEC) and 172 fully funded PEEF Scholarship card were distributed among undergraduates and postgraduates students of different degree programs.



Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq said that it was the vision of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, who wanted to provide all required facilities to the students so that they could devote themselves fully to education and become proud Pakistanis. He said that "the government is working hard to provide opportunities to the talented but needy students to fulfill their dreams and aspirations and become partner in the development and welfare of country". He urged the students to concentrate on their studies so that they could lead the nation. He lauded the efforts of PMAS-AAUR's Vice Chancellor

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad in bringing up the University at par with the international standards. He also appreciated the measures being taken for the elevation of the University with the hope that it would go a long way in context of teaching, learning and research programs.



Senator Raja Zafar-ul-Haq also inaugurated, Forest Nursery and Horticultural Engineering Work Station in the University premises. At the end he also planted a tree in University premises.



Earlier the Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad welcomed the guests and extended congratulations to Laptops & PEEF scholarship holders. He appreciated the laptop & scholarships initiatives by the government and hoped that these kinds of project would continue in future. He said that it is the moral responsibility of laptops & PEEF scholarships holders to become change agent in the society and bring the country to the new heights. He said that not a single Laptop & PEEF scholarship had been awarded out of merit. He stressed upon the students to utilize all their energies for acquiring knowledge and adopt reading habits as it is a key to success.

He, while talking about the HEC ranking list regarding universities, said that it was based on performance of year 2012 and the era of my predecessors.

Seminar on Role IT in Education

Federal Minister for Defense Production & Science and Technology, Rana Tanveer Hussain, said that information technology is playing a vital role in today's world and if a nation wished to develop at a fast pace, it had to opt for latest technologies. The Government of Pakistan is committed to exploiting potential of various technologies, especially those related to information technology.



He stated this while addressing at a seminar on "Role of Information Technology in Education", organized by University Institute of Information Technology of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on April 30, 2015.



Federal Minister said that familiarity with technology was necessary to enable person to live and to cope with challenges of the modern world. He highlighted the importance of IT in national development and called for more cooperation among the institutes to achieve the desired development goals. He encouraged students to find new avenues for advancement by revolutionizing their through information technology. He asserted that the countries that lagged behind in adopting new technologies were left behind in the march towards economic progress. Federal Minister also planted a tree in the University premises

Earlier, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, in his address, termed the present age as the age of information technology and said that information technology had not only revolutionized world but also left its impact on every sphere of human activity. He was of the view that educational institutions should promote IT services to reach more and more students especially in the rural areas to reduce the cost of education and enhance the quality of education. The Vice Chancellor suggested that curriculum on all levels of education should be reformed for students aspiring to take up IT professions, so that they are able to meet the needs of the global as well as the local markets. At the end, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad presented souvenir to the chief guest.



Dr Mubashir Riaz Khan, Director University Institute of Information Technology, Dr Qamar Zaman, Associate Professor Dalhousie University Canada and Mr. Nouman Ijaz while delivering their lectures highlighted the importance of IT for modern skills acquisition, E-education, IT for effective education, IT system for precision agriculture, agriculture research and crop production.



University Research Product Display Center Inaugurated

Chairman, Metro Bus Project, Muhammad Hanif Abbaasi said revolutionary steps are being taken for provision of modern facilities of education to the people by Federal and Punjab government under the leadership of Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Chief Minister Punjab Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif.



He stated this at inauguration ceremony of University research products Display Center (URPDC) on June 18, 2015 at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR). Which was also attended by PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, faculty members and a large number of students.



The Store will hold the University Research Product including fresh fruit, vegetables, meat (chicken, beef, mutton & fish) based products and bakery delights at economical and affordable prices to the University's community and people of surrounding areas.

Muhammad Hanif Abbaasi said that the promotion of education has always been the priority agenda of the government, adding that ample resources are provided every year to the education department to achieve targets. In order to promote educational quality as well as to make it commensurate with the needs/requirements of the 21st century, Punjab government has provided 2.75 billion to the schools & colleges of Rawalpindi city and 760 million to the technical training institutes as well.



Earlier Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, in his welcome address informed the gathering about the research and development projects of the University. While highlighting the aims and objectives of establishment of University Research Product Display Center, he said that all the food items present in this place will be highly nutritious, totally safe and prepared under total hygienic conditions to ensure the food safety standards. Moreover the prices of the products will be unbeatable comparing to those in the local market. Vice Chancellor said,



the employees and students of university come & have delicious food items, especially prepared flavored energy cocktails will be the specialty of this store and will catch the youngster consumers of the university.

Pothwar Art and Literature Festival

The 1st Pothwar Art and Literature festival was held at PMAS-AAUR with an aim to provide ample opportunities to the students for extra-curricular activities.

Different competitions included qirat, naat, posters, painting, mushaira, photography, debates, punjabi takra, singing, documentaries, bait bazi, dress Carnival, Solo performance, drama, boys sports, musical night and seminars on different issues were held during four days (April 27, 2015 to April 30, 2015) festival.



On the first day of the festival qirat & naat competitions, in which Hanif Abbasi, Chairman Metro Bus Project, was the chief guest while Chairman Milaad Committee Zia Ulla Shah was the guest of honor. Mr. Abbasi, in his address, said that qirat and naat is part of our religion and culture. He said that the life of our Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is a role model for humanity. "We should forget our differences and unite together for a problem-free society, where tolerance should be the key goal, he said". He appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR administration for organizing such a colorful event and hoped that such type of competitions will be held in future as well.



On the second day of the festival regional dance, Debates, punjabi takra, singing,

documentaries competitions were held and Shiekh Aftab Ahmad, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs was the chief guest where as Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh, MD, Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal was the guest of honor. While addressing, the minister said that said students should be the embodiment of honesty, integrity, hard-work, commitment and they should gear up for assuming the responsibility of making Pakistan a progressive and prosperous



country. He assured students that the current problems will be solved soon and the country would emerge as a developed country. Barrister Abid Waheed Sheikh, in his address applauded the organizers as well as the students for arranging such a lively activities that are requisite for promoting healthy society.

On the third day of the event, drama, flowers arrangement, documentary competitions and



regional dress show were held. Mr. Rajab Ali Khan Baloch, Parliamentary Secretary National Food Security & Resources, was the chief guest where as Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Mr. Zahid Saeed, was the guest of honor. They praised the efforts of PMAS-AAUR to organize such festival to provide a unique opportunity to unleash their talents in extracurricular activities. They also commended the brilliant performance

They also commended the brilliant performance of the students in dramatics and documentary competitions. In the end certificates and shields distributed among the winner.



On the 4th day of the festival, bait bazi (poetry), solo performance competitions and food festival were held and Mr. Rai Haider Ali Khan, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Punjab was the chief guest. He highlighted the significance of such competitions for the promotion of healthy activities among the students. He said that these competitions provide a platform for students where they could demonstrate their skills. He encouraged the participants to move forward with the same enthusiasm and confidence in their professional lives. He also planted a tree in the University premises.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad in his address, said that healthy activities could promote the sense of competition and boldness. He stated that the active participation of the students in different extra-curricular activities is essential for inculcating a sense of responsibility, discipline, obedience and

punctuality in them. The Vice Chancellor said, "He was enthused with the spirit shown by the students. These competitions provide a platform for students where they could demonstrate their skills" he added. He hoped that such activities would be continued at all level in future as well.

Stevia Kissan Mela

At Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) The Department of Horticulture organized "Stevia Kissan Mela" in collaboration with Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad & Punjab Agriculture Department on May 27, 2015 with the aim to promote stevia & (sugar plant) cultivation.



PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest while Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali, Dean Faculty of Agriculture PMAS-AAUR, Plant Physiologist AARI & Stevia Project Director Hafiz Muhammad Akram, Chairman Agronomy Department KPK Agriculture University Dr. Muhammad Bashir Ahmad, & Prof. Dr. Nadeem Akhtar Abbasi, Chairman Department of Horticulture PMAS-AAUR, faculty members and large number of students were also present.



PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, said "Stevia is a complete substitute for sugar and especially important for diabetic patients". He further said that farmers should cultivate stevia and they can earn a net profit of Rs 470,000 per acre annually from stevia cultivation at the commercial level. He assured the participants that PMAS-AAUR will support promoting stevia cultivation, processing, research, marketing extraction & its use at large scale.

Laptops Distribution Ceremony under Prime Minister Laptop Scheme

The laptop distribution ceremony under the Prime Minister Laptop Scheme was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on May 6, 2015.

In the ceremony, a total of 800 laptops with internet devices, were distributed among students. Ms Maiza Hameed, MNA, was the chief guest.



Ms Hameed said, "Youth is the future of our nation and current government is introducing so many initiatives for the youth to enable them to meet the challenges of future". She said that information technology is need of the hour and the main purpose of distribution of laptops among students to equip them with the latest and modern technological innovation. She said that it was the vision of our Prime Minister who wanted to provide all required facilities to the students so that they could devote themselves fully to education and become proud Pakistanis. She stated that education is the top priority of Prime Minister, Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, and special steps have also been taken to provide best educational opportunities to the students in urban and rural areas as well. She lauded the Vice Chancellor, faculty members and university administration on successful launch of the ceremony and advised the students to use this



technology in a right way so that we could bring educational revolution in our country. She urged the students to concentrate on their studies so that they could lead the nation. At the end she also planted a tree in the University premises.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said, "The steps taken by government will provide the students better educational and research environment." He appreciated the wisdom and vision of the Prime



Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for launching laptop scheme. He said that government awarded these laptops to the students in order to enhance their professional skills and open the ways of progress for Pakistan. Now it is students' responsibility how efficient they use this technology in their studies, he added. Advising the students, the Vice Chancellor said, that "Students are the future of nation and they should work hard, produce better quality research to play their due role in the development of the country".



Student appreciated the laptops distribution initiative by the government and hoped that these kinds of projects will continue in future.

Korean Rural Community Corporation Delegation Visited PMAS-AAUR

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) and Korean Rural Community Corporation (KRC) have agreed to enhance cooperation in the field of agriculture to find solutions of problems being faced by the farming community of Pakistan.



It was decided in a meeting between PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad and KRC delegation headed by Chief Executive Officer (CEO), KRC, Mr. Lee Sang Mu on May 21, 2015. They also shared views for joint efforts that are important for potential expansion of future collaborations and agreed to initiate capacity building programs for farming community through training, research and development projects. They highlighted the significance of close collaboration among the organizations and said it will not only help them to resolve common issues but also will enhance the mutual understanding. They also agreed to train the farming community in getting new technologies so that they could increase per acre production.



PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad welcomed the delegation and gave a detailed presentation on the educational, research and extension programmers, future plans of the university and its role in the development of agriculture sector. He also informed the participants that University is already working with KOICA, an aid agency of Korea, and stated that KOICA

project will greatly contribute to the capacity building initiatives for farming community. The Vice Chancellor said, "Scientists are working to reduce the cost of production in the country and to make the farming profitable. He said that the university has its own farm on the Chakwal Road for hands-on training of students. He said the university is actively involved in extension activities and working with the farmers to focus on the agricultural development of



small farmers. The University also is playing its role to bring together all the stakeholders of the agriculture actively sector under one umbrella for the development of agriculture in the country, he added.



Mr. Lee Sang Mu, in his brief speech, appreciated the measures being taken for the elevation of the University with the hope that it would go a long way in context of teaching, learning and research programs. The delegation appreciated the efforts of PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, in bringing up the University at par with the international standards. He also planted a tree at University campus. The Vice Chancellor presented souvenirs to the members of delegation.

PMAS-AAUR Model Research Farm

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) is striving hard to provide a diversified academic environment for Pothwar youth/farming community looking towards joining hands with modern world for exportable surplus. University administration is endeavouring to bring about a tangible change with a view to equip the graduates for self-employment thereby making a positive contribution in national development in addition to providing livelihood for themselves and the poor farming community of the region.

Under the supervision/guidance of Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, a model farm equipped with Drip Irrigation Mechanism has been established at around 250 acres University Research Farm Mandra-Chakwal Road in Tehsil Gujjar Khan, District Rawalpindi to increase the existing acreage and to carry out on-farm diversified nature of research activities.

The university has embarked upon new initiatives and projects tapping need oriented vision for the Pothwar area and converted its research area into a Model Farm with provision for collecting summer rains into five water reservoirs through which the water saved amounts to 72 acre-foot sufficient for irrigation of its entire farm of 250 acres using high efficiency irrigation system operated through solar energy. The cropping scheme at the farm includes orchards of citrus, olive, date palm, fig, grapes and vegetables under tunnel farming besides conventional crops.

This is in fact an impressive display of modern precision agriculture approaches being put into practice to attract farming community towards innovative modern day farming. The purpose of setting up this model farm was to introduce modern technology packages for the farmers keeping their limited economic resources and affordability in view.

Research labs, administration block, hostel, fish farm and veterinary hospital have been established at the Farm. In the future, more facilities will be established, including Animal Farm, Poultry Hatchery, Semen Evaluation & Preservation Laboratory, Animal Feed Mill, Field Laboratories and Glass Houses.

This model farms would also serve as center of excellence for all the agriculture activities and cater for the information, training, needs of the farmers to serve the problems encounter by them and increase their productivity thereby contributing to the national economy.



Training Workshop on Water Resource Management

A ten-day (May 11-20, 2015) training workshop on Water Resource Management for Balochistan Farmers/govt officials was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).



It was organized by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations and AUS-AID Agricultural Project, with an aim to enhance capacity of the participants in water resource management and efficient use. Thirty three participants including seven females of agricultural departments/colleges, researchers, farmers, people from NGO and FAO field staff participated in the workshop.

Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, stressed that there was a dire need to adopt latest techniques on farm water management to make barren lands productive. He recommended that it is time to improve water management, irrigation and crop cultivation and launch of mass awareness campaigns. He hoped that training workshop will help to strengthen the Balochistan's farmer's technical capacity in on-farm water management and emphasized the need of rainwater harvesting to solve the problems regarding water scarcity. Vice Chancellor highlighted the need of water resource management for Balochistan people and assured full cooperation of PMAS-AAUR. He wished to strengthen this training program in future.



Earlier, the team leader and National Expert Water Resource Management, FAO, Malik Aijaz Hussain Awan, in his welcome address gave a brief introduction about the Balochistan Agriculture Project of AUS-AID & FAO and hoped that this training will be helpful for the participants and undoubtedly assist in moving the agricultural sector of Baluchistan to a higher level. He thanked the University administration and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad for arranging this workshop on the campus and assured full support from his organization to the University.



During the 10 day training workshop participants got training on high efficiency irrigation system, crop water requirements, introduction to landscaping, sources of irrigation water in Pakistan, surface irrigation methods, demonstration to solar system, conveyance and application efficiencies, irrigation scheduling, GIS remote sensing techniques etc. They also visited University Research Farm at Chakwal Road.

Yum-e-Takbeer Celebrated University

The Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) celebrated Yum-e-Takbeer on May 28, 2015, with a solemn pledge to make Pakistan a stronger country, militarily and economically.

The day was celebrated to commemorate the detonation of six nuclear devices by Pakistan in response to five ones by India in 1998. In this regard, a seminar was organized at University, which was presided over by Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR. A large number of faculty members and students were also present on this occasion.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad said that "Yum-e-Takbeer" is a memorable day in the history of Pakistan and now it is our responsibility to make more progress in the fields of science and technology. The Vice Chancellor highlighted the role played by Mian Muhammad Nawaz Shareef and Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan in the perspective of nuclear detonations. He paid rich tributes to the team of nuclear scientists who raised Pakistan's strategic status in the community of nations and signified the principle of self-reliance. He said that it is need of the hour to focus our energies to convert the country into a real welfare state. He stressed the students to leave no stone unturned by using their God-gifted skills and work hard to put the country on way to progress and prosperity.

Director Students Affair, Dr Mazhar Bhutta, shared history, experiences and the efforts of all those who made this nation proud being a Muslim, atomic power. He emphasized the importance of hardworking, restless efforts, sacrifice for the nation, upholding the ethics and morality of a good muslim, having patience and loyalty to the mother land. He

said that time has come that all the political forces, educational, social and economic experts and intellectuals should evolve a comprehensive strategy to convert the country into an invincible force.

7th Annual Aridian Premier League (Cricket) held at Arid Varsity

The Barani Institute of Information Technology (BIIT) won the 7th Annual Aridian Premier League (Cricket) by defeating University Institute of Information Technology (UIIT) in the final match, held on June 1, 2015 at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR).

As many as 74 teams took part in the tournament and matches were played on knockout basis. Mr. Hanif Abbasi, Chairman Metro Bus Project was the chief guest at the final match, while PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Deans/Directors, Principal Officers, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.



Mr. Abbasi, Chairman Metro Bus Project, congratulated the winning team and announced flood lights for University Sports ground. He said a variety of projects has been initiated by the Punjab government for the betterment of sports in the city of Rawalpindi, where youth can fulfill their potential. He appreciated the efforts of organizing committee for the successful and timely completion of the tournament.

The Vice Chancellor, said that promotion and development of high performance sport is one of the major aims of PMAS-AAUR. He said, "Sports Kills discrimination among students and unites them as a team which ultimately enhances their performance and dedication".

Seminar on Blood Donation

The Blood Donor Club of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with Department of Biology/Zoology and office of Senior Tutor organized a seminar & Poster competition in connection with "World Blood Donor Day" on May 19, 2015 with an aim to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and to thank all voluntary donors for their life saving gift of blood.



Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR in his address said, "Blood donation is a humanitarian service as there is an acute dearth of blood donors in the society". He appreciated the role of Blood Donor Club for this noble cause and urged the students to continue actively participating in welfare activities, especially those targeting the poor section of the society. He further said that civil society and media should play their role in motivating young people to give blood and help fellow human beings. The Vice Chancellor also distributed prizes among the winner of the poster competition and presented shields to the guests.



on the occasion, Dr Paul Kohorst, Team Leader GIZ Blood Project German Technical cooperation with Pakistan and Dr Hasan Abbas Zaheer, National Director, National Blood Transfusion Programme, Ministry of Health Pakistan, highlighted the World Blood Donor Day and urged the students to come forward and donate blood on regular basis. They expressed their gratitude over the overwhelming response for this noble cause and said this event proved that youth has the potential to become a driving force behind motivation for blood donation.



Poster competition was organized with the theme "Thank You for Saving My Life" and more than 80 students from different departments of Arid University participated. They expressed their creative views about voluntary blood donation and were appreciated by the people. Ms Hinza got first position while Ms Qudsia & Aneela got second position. Ms Nigar and Nuzhat jointly got third positions in the competition.

International Biodiversity Day Celebrated

International Biological Diversity Day was celebrated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on May 22, 2015 with the objective to raise awareness on biodiversity related issues and its significance.



A seminar was also organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with ICIMOD, National Cleaner Production Center and Technology Times, with the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development". On the occasion, PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, was the chief guest. The seminar was attended by Dr Abdul Wahid Jasra, Country representative ICIMOD, Dr Muhammad Khurshed DG Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Prof. Dr Tariq Mahmood (Advisor R&D HEC), scientists from various organizations, representatives of environment and wildlife conservation agencies as well as a large number of students and teachers from the Arid University.

PMAS-AAUR, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, highlighted the significance of biodiversity and emphasized the community role to conserve vegetation with collective initiatives. He said that biodiversity in Pakistan is facing different threats and there is a need to protect biodiversity for future generation by adopting the practical measures. He said that sustainable use of biological resources was yet a challenge for society as a whole, and hence needed collaboration and an integrated approach to promote sustainable use of biodiversity. He said the young generation has immense potential but need directions to play their role. While talking about the posters and models displayed by the students, the Vice Chancellor said that youth had great potential and they expressed their capabilities in an impressive way by depicting their understanding on

the burning issues related to science. "This surely shows their sensitivity and level of awareness to such issues", he added.



On the occasion, Dr Abdul Wahid Jasra, Country representative ICIMOD read the message of ICIMOD Director General, David James Molden, on biodiversity and its importance for sustainable development.



A poster competition organized by the students of Environmental Sciences Department and displayed models in connection with Biodiversity Day Competition. They highlighted the significance of biodiversity conservation and importance of biodiversity in ecosystem. They also showed existing and emerging problems caused by biodiversity loss and prospects of biodiversity conservation. Students also presented a skit on biodiversity theme and it was excellent activity to express the conservation of biodiversity. Students also participated in project idea presentation on biodiversity. Winners of competitions were awarded prizes and shields by Prof. Tariq Mahmood (Advisor R&D, HEC) and Chief Guest (Technical Session) Dr Muhammad Khurshid DG, EPA. At the end, Dr Azeem Khalid, Chairman, Department of Environmental Sciences thanked the participants and resource persons for making this event successful.

Farmers Training on Value Addition of Fruits Held at Arid Varsity

One day farmers training on value addition of fruits was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on April 23, 2015 to develop entrepreneurship resulting in increase of farmer's income, skill development for self-employment in food processing and putting farming community on the road to prosperity. The training was organized by PMAS-AAUR department of Food Technology in collaboration with USAID, CIMMYT, UC DAVIS program of AIP and was attended more than by more than 40 farmers belonging to different areas of Pothwar.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, who was the chief guest at the inaugural session of the training, said that fruit industry had a great potential for exports. If fruits are not suitable for export, a lot of money can be earned through value addition, he added. He pointed out that there is a need to focus this industry and to improve the status of fruit processing industry for value addition. Dr Ahmad highlighted the importance of value addition and said that it was essential to enhance the capacity of the people associated with the field by holding workshop training programmes and seminars. He explained the important role played by fruits in improving rural economy and the various technologies used in the preparation of value-added products.

The participants were trained about the latest techniques in value addition of fruits by Dr Anwaar Ahmed, Associate Professor Department of Food Technology. He imparted the farmers with practical knowledge to process agricultural products under hygienic conditions to ensure food security at household level as well as to use the skills to start income generating activities to that will sustain their families. Focus of the training was to learn the latest

procedures in cultivation, grading, processing and marketing of the fruit products to increase the fruit shelf-life, taste and texture. In the end trainees expressed their satisfaction and said that the training was anew, beneficial and vital experience for them, and they would apply what they have learnt to their agriculture farms to enhance the quality and quantity of fruits.

PMAS-AAUR and Magnus Kahl Seeds Australia signed MoU

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) and Magnus Kahl Seeds (MKS) Australia signed an MoU on April 24, 2015 regarding development of hybrid onion seed at the university campus. Magnus Kahl Seeds is an Australian based international plant breeding company with specialty in onion hybrid seed production. Faculty members and students from PMAS-AAUR will collaborate with R&D staff of MKS during the 4-years of the project. The university will extend its lab facilities, glass houses and fields to MKS staff and the MKS in turn will provide lab equipments and consumable to the department of Plant Breeding and Genetics of PMAS-AAUR. Magnus Kahl Seeds will also sponsor a PhD study in this project. Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR and Mr. Shehryar Nawabi, Director, MKS signed MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.



In the end Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmed, Vice Chancellor, appreciated the interest and investment of MKS in Pakistan and expressed his desire for expanding widening of horizons of collaboration between the two organizations. Mr. Shehryar Nawabi, Director, MKS pledged his continuous support for future research endeavors of the university.

Seminar on Water Security

A seminar was organized by Faculty of Agri Engineering & Technology. Dr Shahbaz Khan Office-in-Charge of UNESCO Jakarta was the chief guest.



Speakers have said that water is the most precious resource on world and stressed that it is the need of the hour to create awareness among people to save water.

They stated this while addressing at a seminar on Water Security at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on May 8, 2015.



Dr Shahbaz Khan said that water security is a major issue on earth and increasing population worldwide, particularly in Pakistan is caused for environment deterioration and water security. Dr Shahbaz explained the working of UNESCO and how it is creating. He apprised faculty about the challenges



and strategies to combat water security. Millennium Development goals and post 2015 agenda were also discussed regarding priority intervention strategies. While mentioning the expertise at PMAS-AAUR, Dr Khan showed keen interest that the varsity participates in building regional capacities program of the UNESCO. He urged that we have to create awareness about rational use and to water storage capacity because this would worsen in the coming years if immediate steps were not taken.



Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, in his address, stressed on the need for addressing the issues of water resources and action plans for sustainable water management in Pakistan. He was of the view that if precautionary measures were not taken immediately, our survival will be a big question mark. He said there is dire need to make the people aware about the importance of each and every drop of water. He told the audiences about different practices around the world to save and store water according to different climatic conditions. He also emphasized that for a region where whole population is dependent on rainwater should get benefits from rainwater harvesting and it is also an important technique to save our water resources.

Training Workshop on Prospects of Modern Beekeeping in Pakistan

A three day training workshop on prospects of modern beekeeping in Pakistan was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) from April 7-9- 2015.

The workshop was organized by PMAS-AAUR Department of Entomology to create awareness of value added products of honeybees and to provide orientation for starting beekeeping as a hobby and a profitable enterprise. Around 50 participants including professional beekeepers, those interested to start beekeeping, students and researchers of R&D organizations attended the workshop.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad was the chief guest on the occasion. He said that awareness raising and training of honeybee farming could help poverty and increase in the production of honey as well as of crops through pollination. Highlighting the importance of bees' flora and wildlife, the Vice Chancellor urged that bees farming should be promoted in the country and added that the workshop was an excellent

orientation for those starting beekeeping as a hobby or a profitable enterprise. He further said that promotion of beekeeping at all levels would help enhancing family income and foreign exchange earnings through export of bee products. He appreciated the efforts of the Department of Entomology for organizing this workshop and hoped that Department would continue its efforts in future by organizing such types of trainings. He said that technical expertise and practical training is necessary for beekeeping and urged the University faculty to start teaching, training and research work on honeybee breeding and management for production of honey and other by-products.



Dr Elizabeth Stephan, Ex-Director & Dr Rashid Mehmood, Director, Honeybee Research Institute, National Agriculture Research Centre, Islamabad, Dr Safdar Ali, Dean, Faculty of Crop and Food Sciences, Mr Naveed Ahmad, a progressive bee farming grower, Dr Khawar Jawad Ahmad, Dr Shafqat Saeed, Dr Zahid Iqbal, Mr. Noor Islam, M. Siddique Chohan, Col. Retd. Anwar Abbasi and Dr Muhammad Asif Aziz also addressed the participants during the three days of training workshop. Speakers also elaborated the diseases and mites and their management in honeybee farming.



News in Pictures
Pothwar Art and Literature Festival



News in Pictures Pothwar Art and Literature Festival



PMAS-AAUR Model Research Farm

