



Welcome

*Congratulations to all
the students on getting
admission (Fall 2020-21) in the
leading University of Pakistan*

NEWS LETTER

Jan - Jun, 2020

Pir Mehr Ali Shah

Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

Directorate of Public Relations & Publications

NewsLetter

Jan-Jun, 2020

Contents

S.No.	News	Pg.No.	S.No.	News	Pg.No.
01	PMAS-AAUR 20th Convocation, 4442 Degrees Awarded	01	08	Japanese Art Exhibition	12
02	CDWP approves National Center of Industrial Biotechnology at PMAS-AAUR worth Rs. 1439.775 Million	03	09	Seminar on Stress, Anger Management and Depression	13
03	Centre for Agriculture Strategy and Development	04	10	Member Planning Visited Institute of Hydroponics Agriculture	14
04	Pilot Project for Data Driven Smart Decision Platform for Increased Agriculture Productivity	07	11	86th Syndicate Meeting	14
05	International Seminar on Digital Technologies for Managing Agriculture and Water Resources	08	12	Professional Development Workshop for PhD Students	15
06	National training on “The role of isotopic and related techniques in measuring greenhouse gas”	09	13	HEC Team Visit PMAS-AAUR	15
07	PMAS-AAUR Organized Farmers' Day	11	14	Academic Council Meeting	16
			15	Students Received Scholarship Cheques	17
			16	Inter-Faculty Basketball Championship	17
			17	News in Pictures	18

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PMAS-AAUR 20th Convocation 4442 Degrees Awarded



A total of 4,442 graduating students from Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi were awarded degrees and 90 received medals at the university's 20th convocation held on January 30, 2020 which included 33 PhDs, 710 MPhil & MS, 1469 Masters and 2230 under-graduates. Gold medals were awarded to 55 students for their outstanding academic records while 17 students received silver medals and 18 received bronze medals.

Dr Khalid Mahmood Khan, the secretary general of the Network of Academies of Sciences of Islamic countries was invited as the chief guest with other participants included Vice Chancellor Dr Qamar Uz Zaman, deans, directors, faculty members, graduates and their families.

Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, the former vice chancellor of the university, said that the agriculture sector is facing the daunting challenge of ensuring food security for Pakistan's ever growing population which is projected to increase from 208 million today to more than 400m by 2050.

He said that agriculture and livestock sectors have to produce more food to feed the growing population in the face of shrinking land and water resources per capita available for agriculture as well as the looming impact of climate change on both sectors.

Agricultural scientists have a responsibility to come up with smart the agriculture technologies and new climate-resilient farming systems, especially for the rain-fed areas of Pakistan, to enhance agricultural productivity, increase farm profitability and increase national food security, he said.





Dr Khan said there is an urgent need to come up with modern cost-effective food processing and postharvest management technologies to build efficient & reliable agri-food value chains to produce diverse value added agri-food products to substitute imports and increase exports.

He praised the pace of the university's multidimensional development and emphasized the need for applied research in the agriculture sector. He congratulated the graduates and distributed medals & degrees amongst them.

In his welcome address, Dr Qamar Uz Zaman said that the university is making a special effort to expand its networking with national, international universities and well reputed research organizations through adoption of joint strategies to accelerate the pace of education, research, infrastructure and administrative development.

He said applied research has been strengthened to find solutions to the problems being face by the farmers, develop innovative technologies and generate predictable outcomes.

The Arid Agriculture University has also launched a digital agriculture initiative to promote automation in farming operations and postharvest handling processes, he said.

He hoped that these initiatives would help increase agricultural productivity and farmers' profitability by ensuring efficient use of agricultural resources and minimizing postharvest losses.

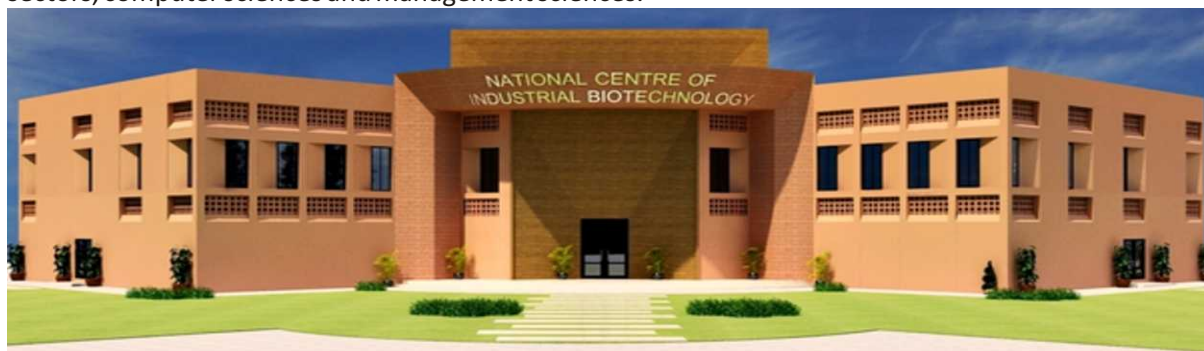
The university is also promoting hydroponic agriculture and the application of biotechnology & genomic research to increase the productivity of quality plant and animal-based products.



Establishment of “National Center of Industrial Biotechnology”

A beautiful evening was setting in PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS AAUR); soft wind was blowing over its giant trees; ever bustling campus walkways were looking serene and yet another Potohar evening had started casting its magic. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman who just landed into the country from Dalhousie University, Canada had joined the university as Vice Chancellor. He was pondering over his legacy, his impact and his vision for the future of university. He was committed that developing a research and development culture at the university will be his legacy and he could already envision that one “business unicorn” that will take off from labs of this university and change Pakistan's business landscape.

Indeed, a big idea can change the fate of a whole nation. Tata Consulting Service changed the course of India's progress, so did Samsung for Korea and Foxconn for China. But who is to brew this big idea and where? Universities are the most fertile grounds to generate ideas as they have in-depth expertise and specialisation in one sector but at the same time are multi-disciplinary where conditions are ripe to exchange the ideas among disciplines. The PMAS-AAUR is a public sector teaching and research university. The main research areas of university are biotechnology, tissue culture, hydroponics, digital and precision agricultural engineering technologies, life sciences, socio-economic sectors, computer sciences and management sciences.



In Pakistan, billions of rupees are being spent on import of agricultural products for food and biotechnological products especially for pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and cosmeceutical industries, to meet local market demand. Despite having rich biodiversity, country is unable to effectively utilize existing natural and human resources for market-based agri-products owing to lack of applied cross disciplinary approach. Therefore, it was envisaged to integrated use of innovative industrial biotechnologies equipped with tissue culture, hydroponics and precision/digital tools for the development of “Made in Pakistan” certified high value bio-products for local and global markets, import substitution and export promotion. Keeping this in mind the “National Centre of Industrial Biotechnology (NCIB)” is being established at PMAS-AAUR, main campus with PKR 1.4 billions from Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) for its hard-core research and commercialisation of ensuing technology program. NCIB is well positioned to develop a national facility that can provide direct value-addition to natural products isolated from plants and those derived from microbial origin. The NCIB mission is to develop state-of-art technology infrastructure with leading edge research for value-addition and bridge the academic and industry linkage by scaling the innovations from pilot scale studies transforming to knowledge-based economy. Moreover, train the man power to develop cost-effective, sustainable, safe and eco-friendly indigenized bioproducts supply chain.

Federal Government deserves kudos for realising potential of biotechnology in industrial ecosystem of the country and approving it in the wake of combatting toughest economic challenge of recent times in the form of COVID-19. Funding for such Research and Development programs should be a key highlight of every PSDP. University management deserves laurels in their bid to transform the university and tread on a new path to discovery by pioneering world class Research and Development.

Centre for Agriculture Strategy and Development

CONTEXT

Agriculture is the mainstay of the Pakistan's economy, employs 38.5% of the workforce, contributes 18.5% of the national GDP, and provides livelihood to around 65% of population. Around 65% of national exports are dependent on agriculture. The industrial output in the country is dependent on the raw material and consumption capacity of agriculture-led activities. The healthy growth in agriculture can stimulate domestic demand for industrial goods and other services and help achieve inclusive economic growth. Performance of agriculture sector however remains far from satisfactory.

Agriculture in Pakistan remains underdeveloped due to its inability to keep up with technological advancements, and inefficient and ineffective utilization of resources. It is dominated by small farmers growing five crops and a large population of under-performing livestock, the yields of crops and livestock heads are stagnant. Large surplus of commodities has failed to provide nutritional security for the vulnerable. High cost of production makes Pakistan agriculture uncompetitive in export markets. The country's food imports are worth billions of dollars.

Main challenge for Pakistan agriculture is to produce additional food to feed increasing population that is projected to be, depending on the source, somewhere between 338 and 400 million in 2050, in the face of shrinking good agricultural land and imminent threat of acute water shortages that are already starting to be felt across the country. Climate change will be another serious threat to national food security enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Addressing this daunting challenge successfully will require transformation of traditional subsistence agriculture into a knowledge-based

technology-led productive and competitive industry. Such transformation can improve food security, create jobs, raise incomes, reduce malnutrition, and kick-start the economy on a path to middle-income growth. However, this transformation requires a strong policy support of research and development initiatives along the entire agrifood value chain. It also requires academia, research, industry and government linkages, and international networking.

MISSION AND PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Centre for Agriculture Strategy and Development (CAS-D) is established at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi. Its mission is to find out-of-the-box solutions to critical challenges confronting Pakistan's agriculture through excellence in policy support and capacity building of the key stakeholders on the subject. The CAS-D serves as a think tank with the following specific objectives:

1. To undertake in-depth analysis of key agricultural development strategy and policy constraints, and devise creative, pragmatic and actionable policy solutions to strategy and policy bottlenecks;
2. To offer insights into the possible future policy choices to deal with the tangible agricultural issues and provide strategy & policy inputs to decision makers;
3. To initiate stakeholder dialogue on development of agricultural strategy and build networks and communities of practice to nurture and spread ideas and catalyze actions;
4. To mobilize expertise and put forward evidence to push for productivity, quality and innovation-led transformation of agriculture into a knowledge-based competitive industry;
5. To share outputs of the Centre (working papers, policy briefs, recommendations, etc.) with decision makers and disseminate those for greater

public awareness and engagement; and

6. To build capacity of the key stakeholders, particularly, the university faculty and students.

DESIGN

To develop and implement wholistic agricultural development strategies and policies, the Centre will serve as a think tank through bringing together expertise and key stakeholders of agriculture sector from both public and private sectors such as planners, policy makers, academia, researchers, educationists, practitioners, executives of agrifood industry and representatives of farmers. For this purpose, the Centre will organize both face-to-face and online thematic dialogue sessions such as thematic workshops, seminars, etc. The outputs (e.g. strategic recommendations, policy briefs, working papers, etc.) will be shared with the concerned quarters (including policy makers, industry, agriculture department and public awareness) for their consideration. Both electronic mass media and press, as well as social media platforms will be employed for dissemination of the Centre's outputs.

The CAS-D activities are aligned with PMAS-AAUR mission and vision, and relating priority areas of the Government, particularly regarding the transformation of agriculture from subsistence farming to a knowledge-based technology-led productive, sustainable and competitive industry so that it can meet challenges of the 21st Century. Based on the strengths of PMAS AAUR and the critical issues confronting agriculture, the Centre will focus on the following thrust areas: digital agriculture, value-added agriculture, climate smart agriculture, smart water resources, innovative industrial biotechnology and smart entrepreneurship. The new thrust areas can be added to the list and/or existing ones can be amended so that the Centre remains in the driving position to provide inputs for development of agriculture strategy and policy support through addressing rapidly evolving critical challenges of

agriculture. Benefiting from the diverse expertise and vast networking of PMAS AAUR, the CAS-D will mobilize the local, national and international expertise to analyze key agricultural development strategy and policy constraints; devise innovative solutions to strategy and policy bottlenecks; give insights into the possible future policy choices to deal with critical agricultural issues; and provide strategic & policy inputs to decision makers. The CAS-D will also engage other key stakeholders (Academia, research, agriculture department, and industry) and & farmers associations) in the process to enhance relevance and scope of its offering and political leadership to catalyze the actions.

The agricultural development strategy and policy recommendations are submitted to the concerned higher authorities and decision makers to facilitate them in strategy and policy formulation for addressing the tangible challenges of agriculture.

With the induction of high-tech agriculture, viz., digital agriculture, smart livestock farming, value addition of local commodities, climate resilient food production systems, smart water resources management, innovative industrial biotechnology, and smart entrepreneurship development, the CAS-D expects a significant improvement in the socioeconomic conditions of the farming communities through increased agricultural productivity, reduced cost of production, greater market access and increased farm profitability. The new agricultural strategy initiative will also give emphasis on production of value-added products of world-class standards for increasing agro-based export to high-end global agrifood markets.

CAS-D THEMATIC AREAS

The CAS-D will provide evidence-based inputs on agricultural development strategy and policy to decision makers to push for PQI-led transformation of agriculture into a knowledge-based technology-led competitive industry.

Initially (but not limited to), six chairs (digital agriculture, value-added agriculture, climate smart agriculture, smart water resources, innovative industrial biotechnology, and smart entrepreneurship) are established for addressing the most important areas to boost agricultural production, reduce cost of production, increase farm profitability, promoted value-added agriculture, boost agrifood exports and improve agricultural resources development and management through policy support aiming at strengthening academia, research, agricultural extension, industry and government linkages. The objective is to engage key stakeholders (universities & research organizations, agriculture department, local industry and farming community) in the University initiatives for transforming agriculture into a knowledge-based PQI-led competitive industry in the Potohar region and elsewhere.

The chairs of the thematic areas are designed to take full advantage of higher education in agricultural, livestock, environmental and development economic fields as the research-based agricultural strategy and policy are in demand. The chairs are entrusted to undertake research on key strategy and policy issues pertaining to agricultural development in Pakistan. Moreover, the Chairs are mandated to create strong university-policymaker linkages and share their expertise and facilities with public and private think tanks to suggest innovative strategic measures to accelerate the advancement of agriculture to meet the current and future local, national and global challenges. Advocacy shall be an essential part of all thematic areas of CAS-D.

Outputs and Outcomes

The Centre is expected to contribute to transformation of agriculture in Pakistan from the current predominantly subsistence farming to knowledge-based PQI-led productive, sustainable and competitive industry through following outputs:

1. Policy solutions to address agricultural development strategy and policy bottlenecks provided
2. Insights on agricultural development strategy & policy inputs to decision makers provided
3. Networks of experts and communities of practice to nurture and spread ideas and catalyze actions established
4. Linkages with international, national and regional institutions established
5. Working papers, policy briefs, recommendations, and concept paper shared with decision makers and disseminated for greater public awareness and engagement.

Policy Dialogues Convened

The CAS-D started operating in March 2020. Since then it has organized the policy dialogues on the following themes of vital national interest: Revitalizing poultry industry amidst COVID-19 outbreak; New Initiatives for development of agriculture sector in view of the post COVID-19 scenario; Domestication and commercialization of industrial hemp; Innovative value-added technologies for fruit and vegetables; Accelerating agricultural mechanization adoption in Pakistan with emphasis on mechanized rice production; Potential of establishing Agriculture machinery complex in Pakistan; Innovative water resource management; and Development of Climate-Resilient Agriculture. In addition, CAS-D in collaboration with Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics conducted a policy dialogue on Precision agriculture and sustainable solutions.

Pilot Project for Data Driven Smart Decision Platform for Increased Agriculture Productivity

Pakistan is facing the challenges of its growing population, increasing food demands under changing climate. Currently, Pakistan's agricultural economy is not prospering as it is characterized by stagnant yields, small land holdings, and low water productivity and crop diversification and adverse climatic change effects. One of the major causes of low agricultural productivity is the use of conventional equipment and minimum or no use of innovative technologies. To meet the current as well future challenges in agriculture and food security, Pakistan requires pervasive introduction of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), remote sensing, robotics and big data analytics. Pakistan is bestowed with a variety of land and climatic conditions which is suitable for a large variety of crops, fruits and vegetables. Due to decreasing water availability for cultivation, high cost of fertilizers and pesticides, there is a need to use digital tools and techniques to rationalize their usage for better economical production of agricultural products. This is good time to start advanced technologies like using Artificial intelligence (AI), Machine learning (ML) Internet of Things (IoT), sensor-based implements and devices, Geographical Information System (GIS), Remote Sensing (RS), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Big Data Analytics, Cloud Computing can play a very crucial role in meeting challenges of the future agriculture in the country.

The current government is emphasizing the "Digital Pakistan" and this concept is incomplete without the Digital Agricultural Technologies Revolution (DATR) in the country. The Vice Chancellor of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman is leading to instigate the Digital Agriculture technology in the country. Recently, Federal Government funded the PMAS-AAUR Pilot Project entitled "Pilot Project for Data Driven Smart Decision Platform for Increased Agriculture Productivity (DDSDP)" under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman. The PMAS-AAUR will develop 15 Acres digital farm to introduce the fully automated smart

agricultural technologies from soil preparation to the harvesting and traceability of the crops.

The key component of the project are to establishment Big Data Agriculture Repository (BDAR) Center at PMAS-AAUR and will also develop visualization Dashboard Facility for Ministry of National Food Security. Secondly, IoT based digital farm infrastructure will be developed at selected location. Artificial intelligence/ Machine learning will be employ for crop protection/management, including applications on yield prediction, disease detection, weed detection and species recognition, water and irrigation management, soil management. In this regards, SUPARCO will also provide its satellite and UAV based imaging services to develop site-specific crop management application. Thirdly, biological development of soil microbes for Bio-Product formulation will be developed for the green environment. Fourthly, the most important component of the project is to develop indigenous agricultural machinery and tools. Crop management Farmer's App will be developed for smart irrigation and disease monitoring. The trainings and capacity building of the stakeholders is also salient feature of this project.

Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman constituted a multidisciplinary team of experts from Agricultural Engineering, Computer Science, Information Technology, Remote Sensing and GIS, Agronomy, Horticulture, Entomology, Plant Pathology, Social and Economic Sciences to successfully execute this Project. Vice Chancellor assigned the charge to Dr. Muhammad Naveed Tahir as Project Director for overall management of the DDSDP project.

This project has great potential as commercial value and will revalorize the agriculture sector of Pakistan that will ultimately contribute to the national development. This project will play an important role in developing systems that are economical, environmentally sound, and easily adopted by the farming community of Pakistan and manufacturers.

International Seminar on Digital Technologies for Managing Agriculture and Water Resources



An international seminar on Digital Technologies for Managing Agriculture and Water Resources was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on January 16, 2020. The seminar was organized by PMAS-AAUR Faculty of Agricultural Engineering with an aim to create awareness about space technologies among the farming community for improving their farming activities, budgeting, reporting & monitoring on multiple tasks and performances.

PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman said that research based planning is need of time to manage the water resources in adequate manners and traditional ways of water management may be replaced with latest techniques & equipment to get more production in agriculture. The Vice Chancellor said that digital technologies can help increase production which would support in improving livelihoods of the farming communities in particular and food security of masses in general. He said that space technology can help to inform farmers not only about the markets but also to guide them on improved farming practices.

Director, Aratos Systems Netherland, Dr. Nikos, D. Bogonikolos presented about space technologies for the Society, its present & future opportunities. He discussed about unique advantages of stratospheric remote sensing and stratospheric drones, can removed from region to region as the season progresses (similar to grape pickers) or be quickly repurposed. He summarized about high altitude platforms which can

dynamically adapt to cloud coverage, provide optimum revisit rate and data freshness.

Dr. Akthar Abbas Assistant Director Surface Water Management section at Murray-Darling Basin Authority, Australia presented about impacts of climate change, system harmonization, water management 101 and the brief summary of River System of the Murray-Darling Basi, Australia. He discussed that Water access entitlements provide a right in perpetuity to a share of consumptive pool in a water plan. He summarized the water allocation represents the physical volume of water allocated to a water access entitlement in a given water season. Water allocations; unlike water entitlements are use or lose it but with a carryover allowance from one season to the next that varies by state. Dr. Jahanzeb Masood cheema Incharge Faculty of Agricultural Engineering presented about "Satellite and UAV Applications in Water Management & Crop Monitoring". He discussed about satellite applications at basin scale, monitoring of crop health at different growth stages to determine plant vigor Identifying hot spots where crop is more prone to nutrient deficiency.

Bareerah Fatima Liaison Officer, PCRWR's Advisory Services talked about program for Agricultural Water Management in Pakistan while Dr. Muhammad Naveed Tahir Assistant Professor PMAS-AAUR presented the application of earth observation data in agriculture. At the end Vice Chancellor distributed shields and certificates to the guest speakers

National Training on “The Role of Isotopic and Related Techniques in Measuring Greenhouse Gas”

The five days (January 20-24, 2020) training workshop on “The role of isotopic and related techniques in measuring greenhouse gas emissions from Agriculture by identifying their sources” was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR). The National workshop was organized by PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with Nuclear Institute for Agriculture & Biology (NIAB), Faisalabad and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The training was organized under the IAEA Project entitled “Developing Isotope-Aided Techniques in Agriculture for Resource Conservation & Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation” with the overarching goal of human resource development and strengthening technical capacity of Pakistan to develop climate smart agricultural practices.

The main goal of the training was to equip young scientists, researchers and post-graduate students with latest developments in climate change science, appraising the quality of the information, interpreting & synthesizing this evidence, and packaging it appropriately for use in decision-making.

International experts Prof. Dr. Christoph Muller, Justus-Liebig University Giessen, Germany and Dr. Mohammad Zaman, Technical Officer, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna, Austria gave training to the participants

how to measure the greenhouse gases using isotopic techniques.

The training covered the following components; Measuring greenhouse gases (CO₂, N₂O and CH₄) using chamber techniques, using isotopic data of ¹⁵N to identify the sources of N₂O and Interpretation of data of ¹⁵N₂O, ¹⁵NH₄⁺ and ¹⁵NO₃⁻, obtained from experimental trials with fertilizers enriched with ¹⁵N.

Participant over 15 different organizations participated in the training workshop including NIAB, NIFA Peshawar, NIA, Tando Jam, Sindh, PINSTECH, NUST, PMAS-AAUR, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Quaid-i-Azam University, GCU Faisalabad, Peshawar Agriculture University, Punjab University Lahore, Khawaja Ghulam Fareed University Rahim Yar Khan, Engro fertilizer and FFC.

Dr. Muhammad Masood ul Hassan, Member Science, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission was the chief guest at concluding session. He highlighted the impacts of changing climate on future crop yields and said that Pakistan agriculture sector is the victim of rapid climate change in the country. There is a research gap about climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation to agricultural development in Pakistan, he said. He was of the view that climate change patterns are causing irregular devastating



events in the country including floods, heat-waves, droughts, deforestation, storms, degradation of air quality and worsening situation of food security.

Prof. Dr. Qamar-Uz-Zaman, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR in the welcome address said that capacity building of young scientists, researchers and postgraduate students is very important in developing the skilled human resources where as Pakistan is lacking behind. He said that our universities are producing number of PhDs but in actual the students have no practical training at any level to contribute in the national economy.

In this regards, it is the responsibility of every individual to take notice of his/her action to reduce the effect of climate change, Dr. Zaman added. He said that at present we need to address this issue to the large masses for awareness to take effective steps in mitigation and adaptation. This training provided good opportunities for young scientists, researchers and students to learn practically in the estimation of greenhouse

gases for developing strategies for mitigation and adaptation, he said.

Prof. Dr. Qamar-Uz-Zaman said that a large population in the country is associated with the agriculture sector and there is a dire need to adopt the modern technology for reduction in poverty and ensure the food for the ever-increasing population.

Vice Chancellor emphasized linkages between academia, industry and end users by equipping them with modern technology. He said PMAS-AAUR will provide every support for the capacity building of the scientists, researchers, students and agriculture extension system in the province, particularly in Potohar region. Foreign experts and Participants were awarded shields and certificates during the concluding session. Dr. Iftikhar Ali, Director NIAB, thanked the foreign experts, participants and the organizing committee, particularly to Dr. Wajid Ishaque PS, NIAB and Mr. Aqeel Sultan, Registrar, PMAS-AAUR for organizing this training workshop.



PMAS-AAUR Organized Farmer's Day

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), in collaboration with the National Rural Support Program (NRSP) organized a Farmer's Day on February 25, 2020 at Tehsil Gujjar Khan consisting of 150 farmers, faculty members and students. the purpose of this event was for an active dialogue between farmers, faculty and students that the university research and expertise may reach to the end users.



Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest while deans, directors, faculty members were also present. Presentations and information was delivered by the PMAS-AAUR faculty of Agriculture Engineering, Live Stock, Veterinary and Food & Nutrition Departments to the participants.

Vice Chancellor Dr Qamar Uz Zaman, in his address, said that the Potohar belt has rich resources of cultivation of vegetables, fruits and cut flowers. He advised the farmers to adopt new innovations into agriculture.

The Vice Chancellor said that the core work of the universities are teaching and transfer of knowledge but due to some certain reasons the transfer of knowledge was being neglected so after getting the charge of the VC he instructed his team to conduct the activities where two way information, knowledge and issues will be shared with the farmers.

He was of the view that for the development of any sector research always remained a major field but unfortunately in Pakistan this area always neglected in every field. He instructed the students for applied research during degree so that the farming community problems may be resolved.

He informed the farmers that PMAS-AAUR faculty is available to help and support them. He also thanked the NRSP for arranging such a beneficial event and hoped for further in the future.

During the event Mr. M Imran representative of the PRC Agro Tech had shown a keen interest to work with the close coordination of PMAS ARID Agriculture by organizing events and bringing all information & technology to the farmers.

Mr. Malik Fatih Khan the RGM of NRSP exclaimed how NRSP work and hoped that farmers will utilize this useful information for better farming by overcoming the issues.

On the occasion farmers discussed their problems with the individual scientists. Different departments of the PMAS-AAUR also displayed their products & research findings on stalls, which were visited by farmers and appreciated. While sharing their experiences they appreciated the positive efforts of PMAS-AAUR for organizing the Farmer's Day to develop direct interaction with the scientists.



Japanese Art Exhibition

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agricultural University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with The Embassy of Japan and MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan organized an exhibition of Japanese Calendars 2020, on February 14-16, 2020.

Matsuda Kuninori, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, inaugurated the three-day exhibition together with the Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR Dr. Qamar Zaman and other distinguished guests.

Japanese calendars exhibition was an annual feature of the cultural activities organized by the Embassy and is very popular among the people of Pakistan. This year, around 90 calendars were put on display in the exhibition with the cooperation of Japan Calendars Association and numerous Japanese companies. The calendar's exhibition showcased a vibrant depiction of the Japanese heritage and cultural identity by reflecting images from traditional & contemporary arts, from sports, automobiles, nature, heritage and architecture to Japanese Kimono and Ikebana.

Ambassador Matsuda, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony said that a variety of Japanese calendars have been put on display in this exhibition which represent the beauty as well as the true life image of Japan. "The purpose for holding this calendars exhibition was to introduce various facts of Japan to the people of Pakistan. Cultural interactions play a pivotal role to foster people-to-people contacts and today's exhibition is one such effort," said the ambassador.

The ambassador further added that today's exhibition not only gives a picture of the socio-cultural development of Japan, but also exhibits the aesthetic features by Japanese calendar artists. The ambassador lauded the support and cooperation extended by the MAAP and Arid University for holding this exhibition. Most of the calendars being displayed were produced by private Japanese companies and were printed on recycled paper which was a fine example of Japan's efforts to be eco-friendly.

The University Vice Chancellor Dr Qamar Uz Zaman said that exposure of Pakistani youth to the Japanese art, culture and technological exhibitions could go a long way in bringing people of the two countries closer and changing the mindset of the Pakistani youth positively for enhancing social harmony and contributing to nation building endeavors. He said that there was a dire need to explore all possible avenues to benefit from the Japanese advancements in the field of agricultural technology.

The Vice Chancellor said the university had very active research and academic collaboration agreements with other institutes. He also looking forward for the active foreign collaboration & funding for its faculty development programmes and research projects. He was of the view that collaboration with Japanese University and industry will open new directions of academic and research exchange.



Seminar on Stress, Anger Management and Depression



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) organized a seminar on “Stress, Anger Management and Depression with other diseases related to work place which affects the working environment” on January 23, 2020, with an aim to create awareness of growing psychiatric & stress problems in the society.

The seminar was addressed by prominent health experts including Dr. Rizwan Taj, Head of Psychiatry Department, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Asma Mehboob Khan Clinical Psychologist PIMS, Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Dr. Abdul Saboor Dean Social Sciences PMAS-AAUR, Dr. Ghulam Hussain Baber Director Students Affairs PMAS-AAUR and Dr. Rizwan Raja Senior Medical Officer PMAS-AAUR.

Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman said that when a student or employee is depressed, he does not only affects that employee's productivity and happiness but also his colleagues. He said that students are more depressed in the modern era due to future insecurities and positive activities towards life would raise oneself out of the depression. He stressed upon the need to share creativity or talents to others as well with the balanced life by reading Quran & Sunnah in daily life.

Dr. Rizwan Taj said that depression is a serious health condition affecting thousands of people each year. He explained the common factors involved in depression are family history, stress, pessimistic personality, physical conditions and psychological disorders. He urged the audience to avoid work place depression by sharing their problems with others.

Dr Asma Mehboob Khan, Dr. Abdul Saboor, Dr. Ghulam Hussain Baber and Dr. Rizwan Raja also shared their views with the participants. They stressed that a holistic approach should be pursued to create awareness of the issue through the involvement of stakeholders, including government, civil society and families.



Member Planning Visited Institute of Hydroponics Agriculture (IHA)

Member Planning S&T, Dr. Hussein Abidi said that universities should focus on promotion of research & development for innovation and commercialization, keeping abreast with latest trends not only in the field of agriculture but also new advancements in science & technology.

He stated this while visiting the Institute of Hydroponics Agriculture of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on June 18, 2020. PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman, senior faculty members and researchers were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Abidi added that the government is committed to the development of the science & technology sector for creating new opportunities to drive sustained economic growth. He urged that agriculture innovations, new varieties and all other technologies must be shared with the farmers to develop agriculture on modern lines.

He said that food security is one of the major challenges and agricultural scientists must come forward to help Pakistan in diversifying its

agricultural products and achieving food security for its people.

He said the efforts and commitments of PMAS-AAUR for running the hydroponics plant with indigenous workforce are commendable. He also appreciated the steps taken by PMAS-AAUR for making modern agricultural technology accessible to farmers so they can increase the yields of their crops.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman briefed Dr. Abidi that the Hydroponics system is the latest technique to produce safe, nutritious, delicious and high quality vegetables.

The Vice Chancellor said "Pakistan was previously importing high quality hydroponics vegetables from other countries, IHA reversed this trend and now this institute is not only substituting these imports, but also planning to export these products to Middle East and Far Eastern regions as this Institute has exported worth US\$ 1.3 million vegetables to these regions" he added.

86th Syndicate Meeting



Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman presiding the 86th meeting of the University Syndicate held on 12th March, 2020.

Professional Development Workshop for PhD Students

Directorate of Advanced Studies organized a training workshop titled on "Professional Development Workshop for PhD Students" at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on January 15, 2020



PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Zaman, while addressing as chief guest said that there is a dire need to ensure quality education and research work at par the international standards to combat the challenges face by the country.

He stressed to strengthen academia, industry and government linkages for the fruitful result. He urged the faculty members to sharpen the skills of students so that they could prove their selves in their respective fields.

Vice Chancellor also highlighted the issues & problems of the higher education sector in the

country and the various steps being taken at the campus to improve quality research & education. He also assured the students and faculty members that university administration is making all its efforts to ensure the quality education and research work to compete the world.

Director Advanced Studies, Dr. Muhammad Azam, Dean Faculty of Agriculture Dr. Fayyaz Ul Hassan Sahi and Director Quality Enhancement Cell Dr. Riaz Ahmad also addressed the participants. They stressed on the need for ensuring quality education and for promoting the culture of research at the campus in line with the demands of the modern world. They said that no nation could make progress without ensuring quality and research oriented education.



HEC Team Visit PMAS-AAUR (17-02-2020)



65th Online Academic Council Meeting

The 65th Online Academic Council (OAC) meeting of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) was held on June 8, 2020, under the chairmanship of University's Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman to discuss the SOPs for the conduction of mid-term & final examinations, relaxation and amendments in rules for post-graduate & research students.

In the meeting SOPs were finalized to conduct online Mid-Term, Final-Term Exams, Assessment & result submission for spring semester 2020 as per date sheet, the report or project submission date was given for the students who were enrolled for final projects and internships till 30th September 2020. The committee relaxed the rules for the postgraduate research students as M.Phil, MS & M.Sc (Hons.) students had to appear in comprehensive exams. However, this relaxation was not given to those M.Phil/MS/M.Sc (Hons.) students who were already failed in comprehensive examinations. For Ph.D mode of Written Comprehensive examination (A, B & C) was finalized by the relevant Dean/Director, Director Advanced Studies and Controller of Examinations keeping in view the current prevailing situation of COVID-19.

The OAC unanimously approved the Academic Calendar for Mid/Final Exams spring 2020 and summer session 2020. As per approval of OAC the Online final exams for spring 2020 were started from 3rd August to 13th August 2020. The

summer session 2020 was started from September 17, 2020 and the mid-term exams were started from 14th September to 19th September 2020 while finals were started from 9th October to 16th October 2020. The OAC also approved a Mid-Term template where the exams were conducted.

The Program Educational Objectives (PEOs), Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), Course Learning Objectives (CLOs), Continuous Quality Improvement (CQIs) mechanism and related items. B.Sc Agricultural Engineering approved with the initiation of short courses related to Farm Machinery & Power, Farm Machinery Repair & Maintenance, Operational Efficiencies of Farm, Drawing Principles & CAD/CAM and Emerging Farm System Certificates at sub-campus Khushab of the University.

In the meeting, for practical courses the video demonstration was given to the students, addition of new members from the industries & the purchasing of books for Khushab Campus were also approved. The meeting was attended by Deans, Directors, Senior Faculty members, teaching heads, librarian, Registrar, Deans of Faculties, Directors of institutes and Controller Examination.

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

63rd Meeting of Academic Council (05-03-2020)



PMAS-AAUR Students Received Scholarship Cheques

A total of 60 students got worth Rs. 2.389 millions under HEC Merit & Need Base and Gurmani Foundation Scholarships in a ceremony held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on February 26, 2020. The ceremony was organized by PMAS-AAUR Directorate of Financial Assistance and University Advancement (FA&UA) where Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman was the chief guest while Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof. Dr. Fayyaz-ul-Hassan, Director FA&UA Waqas Ahmad and Registrar Aqeel Sultan were also present. Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman, Vice Chancellor PMAS - AAUR briefed the students about all necessary academic and research facilities available in scientific labs. University's Management is committed for provision of Quality Education to the talented students as there would be no excuse for low performers after getting fully funded scholarships, he said. He applauded the efforts of HEC & Gurmani Foundation for the promotion of Higher Education and provision of funds to the needy and talented students. He wished for the continuity of the programme for the welfare of students. Chaudhry Waqas Ahmed, Director FA&UA briefed the participants about eligibility and selection process of both Scholarship Program. At the end, scholarship cards were distributed among awardees.



Inter-Faculty Basketball Championship

The Barani Institute of Management Sciences (BIMS) became the winner of Inter-faculty Basketball Championship after beating Faculty of Crop & Food Sciences (FC&FS) by the score of 41-24 in the final match. The three days Championship was organized by Directorate of Sports at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), on January 2, 2020. Prof. Dr. Qamar Uz Zaman, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR was the chief guest on the occasion. He congratulated the winner of the championship and distributed prizes & certificates amongst the players.



In the event eight teams including faculty of Crop & Food Sciences, faculty of Sciences, faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University Institute of Information Technology, University Institute of Management Sciences, Barani Institute of Management Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Faculty of forestry & Wildlife Management participated. A large number of students and faculty members enjoyed the event during their respective faculty team's matches and hoped for such events in future as well.

NEWS IN PICTURES

52nd Selection Board (09-03-2020)



Finance & Planning Committee Meeting (06-03-2020)



Annual Employees Dinner & Awards Distribution (20-02-2020)



Kashmir Solidarity Walk (05-02-2020)



NCLBG&G, PMAS-AAUR Signed MoU (14-01-2020)



MoU Signed (23-04-2020)



Farmers Day at Talagang (03-03-2020)



Youth Management Program by Rawalpindi Police (13-01-2020)



Annual Dinner of University Institute of Management Sciences (10-01-2020)



Annual Lunch of the Faculty of Social Sciences (01-02-2020)





Pir Mehr Ali Shah

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