



# NEWS BULLETIN

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Old Shujabad Road, Agriculture Complex Multan-Pakistan

# Annual Mango Festival

## – Centaurus Islamabad

Mango Festival was at the Centaurus Mall Islamabad as a continuation of its 4<sup>th</sup> year collaborative event on 2-3 July 2021. The event was organized in collaboration with Mango Research Institute, Multan and Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). The event was inaugurated by the Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi; Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce, Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood; Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, President ICCI and the Vice Chancellor, MNS Morocco, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Palestine and Nepal and diplomatic staff from many other embassies also.

The festival encouraged mango growers and exporters and provided a platform for showcasing export-quality mangos. The basic aim of organizing this exhibition at the most visited Mall of Islamabad was not only to showcase the diversity of Pakistani Mangoes but also to link growers to high end markets and enhance mango exports as per

University of Agriculture Multan, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.).

This festival brought natural fragrance and aroma of mango varieties in the capital city from different regions of the country. About 40 exhibitors across Pakistan set their stalls in the Mango Festival to exhibit more than 160 varieties of mangoes including low-sugar varieties. The mango festival was attended by people from all walks of life including government ministers, industrialists and ambassadors of Germany, Belgium, Belarus, UAE, Iran, vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The promotion of mango in the federal capital has helped boost the export potential of the "king of fruits". The visitors and participating mango growers appreciated the efforts of Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan and Prof. Dr. Asif Ali for organizing the mango festival.

The closing ceremony was held on July 3, 2021. The chief guest was Hon'ble Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research. During his address



Syed Fakhar Imam said, “We have recently seen a remarkable difference in mango export as compared to other fruits' export and such festivals certainly helped

brought this positive trend in export promotion. The efforts MNS University, MRI and Centaurus for organizing such a festival were appreciated.



## Showcasing Diversity and Building Social & Business Networks of Mango

Fifth Annual Multan Mango Festival was organized from July 8-10, 2021, at DHA Arena Multan. The worthy Chancellor of the University Ch. Mohammad Sarwar, Governor Punjab, along with Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Provincial Minister for Energy, Dr. Akhtar Malik inaugurated the festival on July 08, 2021. The Governor appreciated the efforts of the University in branding the mango festival and making it a regular activity since 2016. He was delighted to

see such an immense and wonderful diversity of mangoes in this festival. He also appreciated the efforts of MRI, DHA and mango growers for their contributions in the efforts of the university.

An overwhelming public response was received owing to highly attractive, entertaining, and business-oriented activities. A seminar and discussion session of the stakeholders was also held to discuss technical issues being faced by the mango industry during harvesting,



transportation, packaging, and marketing.

At the occasion, many dignitaries like Squash Champion, Mr. Jansher Khan, Lt. Gen. Muhammad Waseem Ashraf, HI(M) Chairman DHA Multan, parliamentarians, Malik Ahmed Hussain Dehar, Haji Atta Ur Rehman, Malik Saleem Labir, Qasim Khan Langah, Mian Tariq Abdullah, Ms. Shahida Ahmed Malika, Additional IG South Punjab Capt. Retd. Zafar Iqbal Awan, Secretary Agriculture South Punjab, Saqib Ali Ateel, Retd. IG Railway Police Syed Ibne Hussain, Vice Chancellor BZU, Prof. Dr. Mansoor Akbar Kundi, Vice Chancellor Women University Multan Prof. Dr. Uzma Qureshi, Vice Chancellor Khawaja Fareed University, Prof. Dr. Suleman Tahir, Vice Chancellor, Nishtar Medical University Prof. Dr. Ahmed Ijaz Masood, Vice Chancellor CUVAS, Prof. Dr. Sajjad Ahmad Khan, Chief Executive, PARB, Dr. Abid Mehmood, Director MRI, Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Grewal, and progressive growers like Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais, Ms. Rabia Sultan, Major. Tariq Khan, Zahid Hussain Gardezi, Noor ul Haq Jhander, Khawaja Shoaib,

Chairman Kissan Ittehad Khalid Khokhar and many other were present. More than 70 stalls were arranged by mango growers, mango processing industry and exporters for the visitors and general public.

Various festive activities including games, kids' mango eating competition, face painting, kids fancy dress walk, mango drawing, puppet show, magic show, mascots, camel dance, and traditional drum beating were part of the festival. The students of MNSUAM organized various performances including cultural show, dramas, singing, and folk dances etc. A competition on 'Mango Dish Making' was organized by the Department of Food Science and Technology wherein students from different educational institutes, housewives and restaurants' staff participated and prepared various mango dishes with unique recipes. A cultural singing concert was organized in the Mango Enclave of DHA which was a good activity for the promotion of agricultural tourism. The visitors were also offered ample mangoes at the Mango Eatery. A multilingual



mushaira was part of the second day's activities, which was well received by the audience. The event was open for local communities and families to visit the exhibition and get information on different mango varieties and participate/attend the festive activities.

The closing ceremony of the mango festival was held on July 10, 2021 wherein Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam concluded the Mango Festival. Syed Fakhar Imam also chaired a seminar on value and supply chain for mango where all sectors of mango business participated. The Minister informed that the government has started working on new plans for the improvement of agricultural production and profitably with higher exports which will contribute in poverty alleviation. Overall, this event provided a valuable opportunity for awareness, branding and networking in mango production, supply and value chain. The stakeholders of

mango industry were brought together across the country under a single roof and discussions were made to overcome prevailing challenges, identify crucial gaps, and explore options to improve the value and net income of the mango supply chain. More than 200 indigenous and exotic mango cultivars being grown in Punjab region were displayed on stalls. More than 70 stakeholders including growers, exporters, processors, nursery owners, fertilizer companies/dealers, pesticide companies, banks and several other organizations/firms etc. displayed their products on stalls.

More than 30,000 people visited and participated in the mango festival. Such an overwhelming response and involvement in the Mango Festival from mango stakeholders, government officials, and the local community is very encouraging which demands continuity of the festival in future.



## The Honorable Governor Punjab/ Chancellor visited the MNSUAM

Ch. Mohammad Sarwar, Governor, Punjab/ Chancellor visited MNSUAM on July 8, 2021. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (TI), Vice Chancellor welcomed the guest and briefed about the Strategic Plan and role of the varsity in development of Agriculture sector in this region. He apprised the guest about vision and mission of MNSUAM and on-going academic and developmental activities. He informed that the varsity is putting dedicated efforts to provide community services through effective outreach programs across Southern Punjab, particularly focusing on capacity

building of the farmers. The Honorable Chancellor visited innovations introduced at MNSUAM such as heat treatment plant, solar drying unit, vegetable nursery unit, bifloc fish unit at MNSUAM and appreciated the efforts of the varsity, particularly with regards to improved crops seeds and mango production and value addition systems. He said that we should all play our role for betterment of the agriculture sector. The honorable Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the varsity for farmers and rural community. Afterwards, he planted a tree sapling at the Admin Block.



# Syndicate Meeting

The 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Syndicate was held on July 30, 2021, in committee room of the Admin Block, MNSUAM. The meeting was chaired by the MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (TI) and was attended by Honorable Justice Lahore High Court Mr. Asjad Javaid Ghural; Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tufail, Vice Chancellor, Ghazi University, DG Khan as HEC Nominee; Mr. Naeem Khalid, Nominee of the Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of the Punjab; Mian Tariq Abdullah, Member of Provincial Assembly; Mr. Shah Sawar, Divisional Director, Local Fund Audit, Multan, Nominee of the Secretary Finance, Govt. of the Punjab; Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig Dean (Acting), Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities; Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed Dean (Acting), Faculty of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences; Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology (IPBB), Dr. Muhammad Asif Raza, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Dr. Muhammad Imran, Assistant Professor,

Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences; Ms. Palosha Khanum Lecturer, IPBB, Mr. Muhammad Rafiq Farooqi, Treasurer and Mr. Imran Mahmood, Registrar MNSUAM. The Chair briefed the house about academic and development activities at the University. The Syndicate granted approval regarding various administrative affairs of the varsity. The house gave a nod to the recommendation of the Finance and Planning Committee and proposed budget estimates for the year 2021-22 and other agenda items were approved. The house approved the signing of Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)/ Agreement of Cooperation (AOC) with national and international organizations. It was agreed that due to prevailing economic crises and COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no increase in fee of various degree program. Moreover, scholarships and other stipends will be increased in order to facilitate the students.

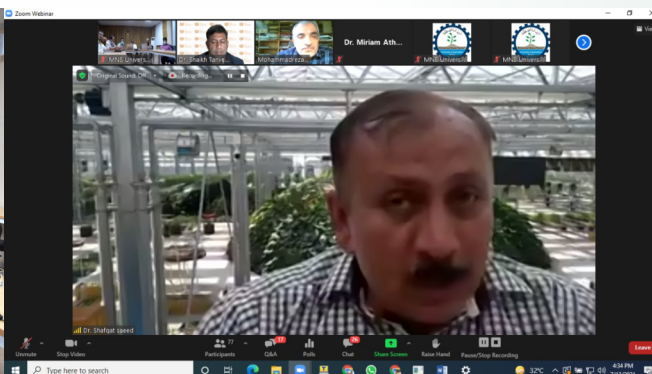




# Webinar to Promote Organic Farming

The Department of Agronomy organized an International Webinar on “Prospects and challenges of organic agriculture” on July 13, 2021. The objective of this webinar was to create awareness about the latest trends in organic farming as an eco-friendly approach, while seeking innovative solutions to its key challenges. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar (Chairman, Department of Agronomy) welcomed the participants and speakers of this webinar. Dr. Mudassar Aziz (Lecturer, Department of Agronomy) was the moderator and focal person of this webinar. The resource persons of this international webinar were from Japan, Germany, Iran and United Kingdom. Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad (Department of Agricultural Sciences, AIU, Islamabad), Prof. Dr. Mairam Athmann (HoD, Organic

Farming and Cropping System, University of Kessel, Germany), Dr. Nicola Cannon (Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, UK), Dr. Mohammadreza Rezapanah [(Associate Professor of IRIPP/AREEO, Tehran, Iran and Head and Board Member of CEOA (Centre of Excellence for Organic Agriculture)] and Dr. Shaikh Tanveer Hossain (Senior Program Officer, Agriculture Unit Asian Productivity Organisation, Tokyo, Japan discussed current scenario, historical perspective, development and certification systems, organic plant protection, recent trends and innovations in organic agriculture. Afterwards, a question-answer session was also held. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, MNSUAM) offered vote of thanks.



# Combating Cotton Diseases

Institute of Plant Protection, MNSUAM organized a series of meetings of a committee constituted by Secretary Agriculture (South Punjab) to identify the causes of blackening of leaves in cotton crop. The Vice Chancellor headed the committee. He tasked the teams to carry out field surveys and will present their field and lab analysis reports. Scientists from CCRI, Multan; AARI, Faisalabad; UAF, NIAB carried out independent studies and submitted the final reports. The microorganisms involved in

blackening of cotton leaves are *Cladosporium* and *Alternaria*. Both are non-parasitic microorganisms and grow superficially on secretions of sucking pests. Whitefly is the major source of honey dew secretions in cotton. It was recommended to control of sucking pests especially whitefly in cotton field and pray selected fungicides alone or in combination with 1% bleach when observe the blackening of leaves



# Veterinary Hospital Inaugurated at MNSUAM

In pursuit of its obligations to serve the farming community of the region, Faculty of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, MNSUAM has established a veterinary hospital for training of students and to facilitate farmers of South Punjab for treating their animals. The hospital will offer free of charge services to for disease diagnosis and treatment of cows, buffaloes, horses, cats, dogs, rabbits, and birds etc. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (TI) inaugurated the hospital on July 27, 2021, wherein faculty members, students and farmers participated. Addressing the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that we aspire to deliver the very best of veterinary health and care services and this

hospital is expected to meet the increasing demand for modern animal care and treatment requirements for pets and domestic animals. As a public sector University committed to serve the community of this region, we are taking all possible steps for the development of agriculture sector and the people associated with it. There is a lot for the students of this University to learn through this hospital. He announced to launch diploma and short courses on animal production and healthcare. He congratulated Dr. Asif Raza, Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary and Animal Science and his team for taking up such a relevant initiative.



## COVID Vaccination for Faculty and Staff

On July 15, 2021, the University has achieved the status of COVID free MNSUAM family. An on-campus camp of COVID vaccination for faculty and staff of university was arranged. Majority of the campus community got their second shot of COVID vaccine, and about 40 got first dose. These arrangements were made by Dr. Unsar Naeem-Ulah, Assistant Professor, Institute of Plant protection. Special appreciation to the Health Department for arranging a special counter for MNSUAM.



## Webinar on Guar bean

Department of Agronomy, MNSUAM organized an international webinar on "Current Scenario and Future Perspective of Guar bean Production" on July 15, 2021. In his inaugural address, MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (TI) emphasized on the inclusion of leguminous crops into the cropping system for the long-term benefits and sustainable soil management. He said that crops like guar bean can benefit both farmers and industry. Dr. Muqarrab Ali, Assistant professor/principal Investigator of guar bean project (HEC NRPU 10547) gave a comprehensive overview of project activities and achievement so far. Dr. Lal Hussain Akhtar (Principal Scientist, Guar Research Station/Director, regional Agriculture Research Institute, Bahawalpur discussed production technology and innovations in guar bean. Dr. Hadi Pirasteh-Anosheh, Assistant Professor, National Salinity Research Center, Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization, Iran postulated the opportunities for growing guar bean as a crop for saline environments. Industrialists and farmers also expressed



their viewpoints regarding value added products of guar bean and current farming practices. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, MNSUAM concluded the webinar, while, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Chairman, Department of Agronomy, MNSUAM offered vote of thanks.

## Vice Chancellor, University of Swabi Visited MNSUAM

Prof. Dr. Syed Mukarram Shah, Vice Chancellor University of Swabi, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visited MNSUAM on July 4, 2021. Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem Tahir welcomed the guest and briefed about the ongoing academic and developmental activities, and innovations adopted at the Varsity and their impacts. Prof. Dr. Syed Mukarram Shah acknowledged the development of MNSUAM as a role model and stated that within a short span of time this University has earned excellent reputation at national and

international levels. He admired the vision, teamwork and accomplishments of the University, pace and quality of ongoing developmental work and affirmed to devise collaborative research and teaching programs to boost agriculture sector of the country. He also visited research farms, fishponds, hydroponic unit, vegetable nursery unit, greenhouse, weather station, and newly constructed buildings of the University's main campus. Afterwards, the visitor planted a tree sapling.



## Chemical Safety Lab under Industry-Academia Linkage

MNS University of Agriculture, Multan had signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with CropLife Pakistan. As part of academia-industry linkage program, a chemical safety lab has been established by CropLife at MNSUA. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (TI), Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM flanked by Mr. Rashid Ahmad, Executive Director, CropLife inaugurated this lab on July 30, 2021. Addressing on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said, "We are keen to strengthen our connection with public and private sectors and to explore new opportunities for academic excellence. We very much appreciate that our industrial partners show strong commitment in both R&D and talent building". University is making quick progress and achieving all its objectives based on its vision to strive for academic excellence and build knowledge-based

economy. The linkages between faculty, industry and farming community are being promoted through effective external linkages and outreach programs, he further added.



# Oath Taking Ceremony of Qiraat and Naat Club's New Cabinet

Newly elected office bearers of Qiraat and Naat Club of the Varsity took oath in a graceful ceremony held on July 29, 2021. The chief guest of this ceremony was Allama Ahmad Saeed Madni. Emphasizing on teachings of Quran and Hadith, the reverent scholar said that life without religion is empty. The real pleasure and satisfaction could only be gained by putting Islamic guidelines into practice. He advised the students to learn the real purpose of their life

and render services for humanity. Incharge Qiraat and Naat Club Dr. Muhammad Nadeem took the oath from the newly recruited cabinet members. He said that we are optimistic that new members will prove an asset to the club and will carry out their activities with zeal and zest. Dr. Usman Jamshaid, Senior Tutor offered vote of thanks. The event was attended by large number of faculty members and students of the varsity.



## Mango Museum

The University is endeavoring to establish a mango museum in Multan. The idea was fully supported by the management of DHA and promised to provide all possible support to establish mango museum in DHA Multan. In a meeting of the Stakeholders, it was decided that a core group consisting of MNS scientist, mango growers,

industry stakeholders, MRI and DHA will be formed to workout the feasibility of developing mango museum in DHA Multan. It was decided that a professional who has experienced of building museum should be engaged and some model of already heritage museum specially army museum established in Lahore should be visited.

## Thesis Defense

Mr. Muhammad Arslan Khalid, Reg. No. 2017-uam-905, my PhD student in the Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology will defend his PhD thesis ONLINE on 10.08.2021 (Tuesday) at 1:00 pm in GRC at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan. The title of his thesis is

“GA-sensitive Rht gene(s) mediated phenotypic alterations to enhance drought tolerance in wheat”. All interested faculty, students and researchers are invited to participate.

