

# NEWS BULLETIN

Volume (7), Number (2)

FEBRUARY  
2022

*Edition*  
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OLD SHUJABAD ROAD, AGRICULTURE COMPLEX,  
MULTAN-PAKISTAN

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## Linking Research for Development with Smallholder's Livelihood

The Showcasing Event of Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Projects under the theme "Linking Research for Development with Smallholder's Livelihood" was organized at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan in collaboration with the ACIAR on February 4, 2022. Minister for Agriculture (Punjab), Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi; Secretary Agriculture South Punjab, Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel and Chairman Punjab Agriculture Research Board, Dr. Abid Mahmood graced the event. Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi said that MNSUAM is playing a significant role to solve the problems of farmers and development of agriculture. He further said that the projects presented in this successful program should be scaled up for dissemination to the masses for broader impact. He especially appreciated the Vice Chancellor for engaging farmers of South Punjab in the agricultural value chain development. He emphasized that researchers and academia should join hands. Secretary Agriculture, South Punjab, Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel said that government policies and subsidies are being extended to the farmers in the best possible





way to increase the productivity. He appreciated the efforts of the MNSUAM and said that he has assured his full support for the development of agriculture and provision of relief to the farmers. Dr. Abid Mehmood emphasized that we should come up with plans to combine industry and academia in innovation and commercialization of research in order to solve the problems of farmers in a better way. Dr. Munawar Kazmi (Country Manager, ACIAR) briefed the visitor that ACIAR support to Pakistan focuses on a collaborative approach for the long term security of food, water and energy by providing research and development and building technical capacity. He briefed about the significant work of ACIAR and how this work focuses on the rural communities. He expressed the hope that the ongoing projects will improve the livelihoods of farming community of Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) thanked all the participants and said that we will continue to play our role in working with ACIAR to solve the problems faced by the farmers. He added that MNSUAM is making provisions for R&D activities through developing academia-industry linkages, promoting entrepreneurship, developing collaborative activities with national and international organizations to elevate the socio-economic status of the farmers. Finally, all the participants visited the stalls displaying ACIAR funded project's achievements and success stories.



## Linking Research for Development with Smallholder's Livelihood





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## Kashmir Solidarity Day

To express solidarity with the people of Kashmir, a special ceremony was organized by the Senior Tutor Office. The event was part of three day activities at the University. During the three-day activities, the Dramatic Club, Media Club, Debating Club, Calligraphy Club, Qirrat and Naat Club of the University highlighted the Kashmir issue through their performances. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali addressed the participants and said that the issue of Kashmir is the bone of contention between Pakistan and India, which requires understanding of the human cause for its pragmatic solution. The people of Kashmir want freedom, which is their basic right. He further said that India's economic progress is far ahead than Pakistan and if we want to get Kashmir free then we should strive hard to become strong enough, so that the world could give importance to our stance. He added that scenario has changed and this information age



calls for coping with growing modernization, enhancing our communication skills and moving in the right direction. On this occasion, other speakers gave thought provoking lectures on Kashmir from a historical perspective. They argued that Kashmiris have their own culture and heritage and it is their fundamental right to express themselves through self-governance. At the end of the event, a solidarity walk for Kashmiri brethren was also organized, wherein students and faculty members participated.



## Kashmir Solidarity Day



## Seminar on Seerat-ul-Nabi and Shan-e-Quran

A seminar on Seerat-ul-Nabi and Shan-e-Quran was organized at MNS University of Agriculture under the auspices of Qirrat & Naat Club on February 7, 2022. The guest speaker was the Moazan and Teacher at Masjid Nabwi, Madinah, KSA, Al-Sheikh Muhammad Saad Nomani. He recites Quran in different styles and voices. He also recited Holy Quran in different styles. He explained the Shan-e-Quran to audience. His lecture was well versed and well applauded by the audience. The seminar was attended by large number of audience, faculty members, administrative staff and students. MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) gave souvenir of appreciation to the honorable guest. After the event, Al-Sheikh Muhammad Saad Nomani planted a tree sapling at the campus.





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## Capacity Building Workshop for Mango Exporters

A capacity building workshop for farmers exporting Unifresh Mango brand was organized at MNS Agricultural University on February 9, 2022. The objective was to familiarize the mango growers about export challenges and possible solutions. Another objective was development of mango clusters and consortium for promoting mango export. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali while addressing on the occasion, said that Agricultural University is actively working on building and enhancing the capabilities of mango growers in order to transform them into good entrepreneurs so that they can run their own business successfully. He further said that MNSUAM has successfully created its own brand under the name of Unifresh which will be helpful in connecting mango growers to the high end markets. Dr. Syed Mubashir Mehdi, Director, Business Incubation Center, MNSUAM informed the farmers on how they can become part of the Unifresh Value Chain system and its benefits and implications. He guided them about the whole framework of Unifresh Export Consortium. Prof. Dr. Amman Ullah Malik (UAF) trained the growers on postharvest mango management. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi and Mr. Rana Asif Hayat discussed the issues and challenges faced during the export process and access to the big markets and proposed pragmatic solutions. The participants learned a lot from this workshop and got guidance regarding mango export. More than 50 exemplary farmers from Sindh and Punjab participated in this workshop.





Capacity Building Workshop for Mango Exporters



## IT Industry and Academia Meetup

Department of Computer Science and Directorate of IT organized an IT Industry and Academia Meetup in collaboration with Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB), TechNation Pakistan, and Digital Pakistan on February 10, 2022. The seminar was presided over by the MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I). Mr. Osman Nasir (Managing Director, PSEB) introduced PSEB and the latest initiatives that PSEB is taking to bridge the gap between industry and academia. He stated that IT sector is the only sector in Pakistan that is trade-surplus by 88% in terms of software export. Merging IT industry with academia has a potential to exceed IT export by 10 billion dollar by 2025. He mentioned that PSEB is working on developing IT export strategy with clear objectives to achieve the target. Mr. Raza Ahmad Sukhera (Joint Director Policy and Sector Growth, PSEB) said that there is a need to bridge the gap between industry and education through industry-led training and boot camps organized by PSEB. Miss Hira Secretary General (All Pakistan Software House Association) encouraged the students to adopt the attitude of preparing and learning the skills required for the industry. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that he is completely convinced by the





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need to merge Information Technology with Agriculture to solve the National issue of food security. He mentioned that the merger of agro-based industry with IT can transform the future of agriculture in coming years. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig (Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities) mentioned the lack of paid internships for IT graduates and requested PSEB and P@SHA to bring more opportunities in the region. Shields and souvenirs were distributed among distinguished guests and the meet up ended with fruitful discussion with faculty and students at the lunch. Faculty of Computer Science is motivated to arrange frequent meet ups with industry to bring training and job opportunities for students and graduates.

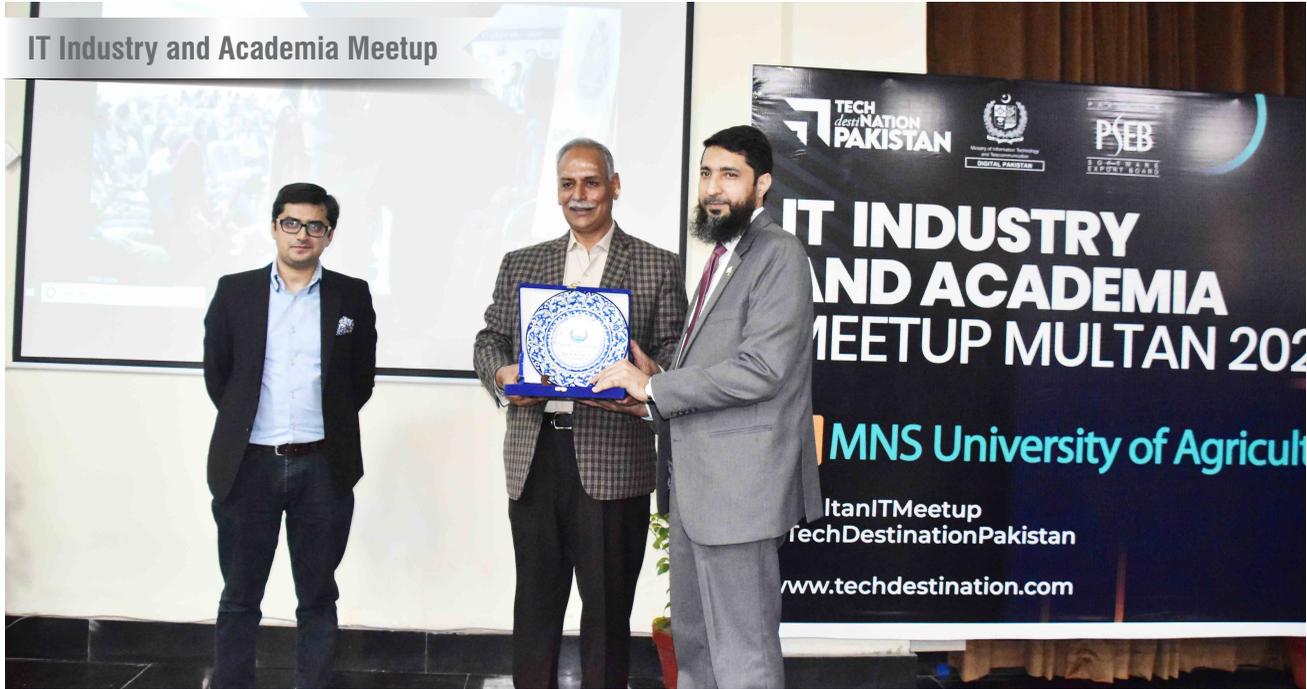




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## IT Industry and Academia Meetup





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## Consultative Session on Cotton Production Strategy 2022

A Consultative Session on Cotton Production Strategy 2022 was held at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan on February 14, 2022. The meeting was attended by experts from various institutions, the main purpose of which was to reiterate and prioritize the technological and socio-economic stewardship for the whole process of cotton production to achieve the crop yield target for the upcoming season. The meeting was chaired by the MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I). He expressed the hope that during the session, participants will focus on the coming cotton season in particular so that the hope that has been revived regarding the future of cotton among the growers would not die down. Dr. Saghir Ahmad presented the cotton scenario 2021 and way forward. Observing the current production and pricing, he opined, area under cultivation would increase to approximately 4 million acres in Punjab. He further speculated that it would expand to Baluchistan, Cholistan and other dry zones of Pakistan due to changing climatic conditions. While discussing the reasons, he further added that timely sowing, price intervention,





low rainfall, low night temperature, less pest attack and implementation of IPM favored the higher yields in 2021. The chair emphasized the importance of efficient weather advisory and inquired about the pre-season weather forecast system that can add in decision making to grow cotton in different regions. Dr. Anjum Ali (Director General, Agri. Ext.) emphasized on the use of bio-pesticides following the established system involving Adaptive Research and registration process after conducting rigorous bio-safety trials. Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner assured that MnFSR is moving the case of the cotton intervention prices as per last year formula (based on the Import Parity Price) on the recommendation of the committee. House appreciated the efforts and emphasized that a suitable intervention price is essential to promote cotton. Issues pertaining cost of cotton production were also discussed. Dr. Anjum Ali briefed the house on several interventions of the Govt. to reduce the cost of production and promote the use of good quality seed among the farmers. He also agreed to discuss the issue of irrigation cost in the relevant committee set for the purpose. He also invited Chairman PCPA to come up with a strategy to include certain pesticides in the Kissan Card so that farmer would be able to use pesticides on concessional rates. House also stressed on the availability of best quality seed (having more than 70% germination) for more than 4.0 million acres. It was discussed that farmers should be sensitized to use the seeds of approved cotton varieties with tag and traceability mechanism instead of purchasing unapproved varieties at higher prices. House also discussed the opportunity of reviving cotton in traditional areas of Sahiwal, Mailsi and Chicha Watni. Participant also highlighted the importance of cotton as an oil seed crop. The crop has also a huge contribution in bringing the income differential down in the rural areas with its pro-poor income generating impacts. Yield production was targeted to be increased by 10% as compared to the previous year (2.2 t ha<sup>-1</sup>). Overall, target for Punjab was set at 6.5 million bales with seed provision of 32000 metric tons. According to Cotton Commissioner, Dr. Khalid Abdullah, pricing should be based on lint quality and fiber length, and farmer should know and focus on producing good quality (lint quality and fiber length) rather than production. Mr. Shahid Sattar and Dr. Javed Hassan (representatives from APTMA) said that APTMA is happier and willing to pay more premiums on good quality cotton. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, while emphasizing on formulating a holistic approach for profitable cotton production, said that the seed crop should be completely separated from the fiber crop so that we can get good quality seed and importance of IPM should not be overlooked. The house emphasized that the government should timely announce a subsidy policy so that cotton cultivation could be further enhanced. Agricultural Scientist Dr. Shafqat Saeed; Agricultural Economists, Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig, Dr. Mubashir Mehdi; Chairman Cotton R&D Board Mr. Bilal Israel Khan; Chairman PCPA, Dr. Shafiq Pitafi; Deputy Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Dr. Haider Karar; Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Bandisha, Syed Tanveer Hussain, Mr. Asif Majeed, Dr. Ata-ur-Rehman, Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Dr. Naeem Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Fayyaz, Dr. Abdul Ghaffar were also present.



## HEC Table Tennis Zone-E Competitions

MNS University of Agriculture Multan organized HEC Intervarsity Table Tennis Championship 2021-22 Zone-E on February 17, 2022. In this event Islamia University Bahawalpur; Khawaja Fareed University of Engineering and Information Technology, Rahim Yar Khan; NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology, Multan; GC University, Faisalabad; Superior University, Lahore; BZU Multan, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan participated. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali inaugurated the event, while officials from Directorate of Student Affairs, Senior Tutor Office and Sports Coordinator, Registrar and the Director Sports were also present besides other academic and supportive staff to grace the occasion. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali urged the students to manifest sportsman spirit so that they can face the odds and play their effective role in the development of a healthy and prosperous society. He praised the initiatives taken to promote sports activities. Director Sports, MNSUAM, Mr. Arqam Iqbal thanked HEC for organizing these types of events in collaboration with universities. In this Championship, District Sports Officer, Mr. Adnan Lateef; Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig; Dr. Fawad Zafar, Dr. Mirza Abid, Mr. Manan Aslam and Director Sports IUB, Mr. Amjad Warraich, Director Sports, BZU Mr. Tars Mohy ud Din were also present and appreciated the efforts of MNSUAM for promoting sports activities in the region.



## HEC Table Tennis Zone-E Competitions



## Climate Smart Water-Fertilizer Intelligent System for Cotton & Wheat

One-day international training workshop on "Climate Smart Water-Fertilizer Intelligent System for Cotton & Wheat" was organized under PSF-NSFC funded project entitled "Genetic Adaptability and Water-Fertilizer Intelligent Regulation Mechanism of Climate Smart Varieties" on February 17, 2022. The objective of this workshop was to bring together scientists, research scholars, and private sector to enhance the knowledge about the cotton and wheat improvement using smart water-fertilizer system. The resource persons of this workshop were from MNSUAM, Pakistan, China and Indonesia. The workshop was held in two sessions, a webinar and hands on training session. The workshop was started with the welcome from Prof. Dr. Asif Ali T.I), Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM. He talked about the importance of climate change and need of scientific research in this area to address the related challenges. He further talked about the SINO-PAK joint research project. He appreciated the efforts of the organizers of this workshop and all team members. In the webinar, various talks on diverse topics such as climate smart cotton and wheat, Challenges and opportunities of cotton crop in Pakistan, and Introduction to different modules in SWAP model were



delivered by experts such as Prof. Zhang Rui, Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China; Dr. Muhammad Taufik, Department of Geophysics and Meteorology, IPB University, Bogor, Indonesia and Dr. Saghir Ahmad, Director, CRI, Multan, Pakistan, respectively. More than 50 participants attended the session. In the hands-on training session, resource persons, Dr. Habib ur Rahman and Dr. M. Saif Ullah conducted various session on APSIM and SWAP model for crops modeling studies. Participants learnt development of different modules using data of cotton and wheat genotypes for irrigation and water regulation mechanism in model. In the concluding session of the training, Mr. Mohsin Gardezi, VCO Fidak Farms, appreciated the efforts of the organizers for capacity building in new research areas. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali distributed the certificates among the participants.





Climate Smart Water-Fertilizer  
Intelligent System for Cotton & Wheat



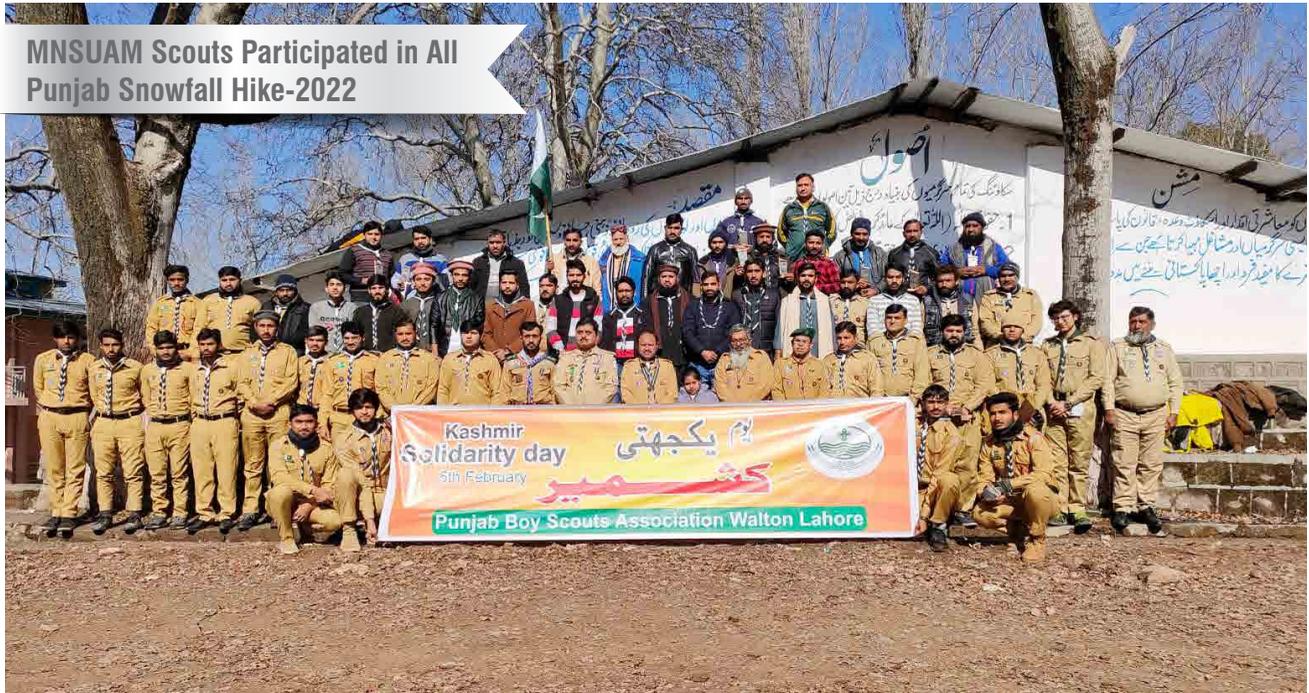
## MNSUAM Scouts Participated in All Punjab Snowfall Hike-2022

Rover Scouts Unit, MNS-University of Agriculture Multan participated in 10th All Punjab Snowfall Hike-2022 held from February 2-5, 2022 at Galliyat Murree. A team of 10 rover scouts led by Vice President of the unit Dr. Amir Bakhtavar participated in the hike. Opening ceremony was held at Punjab Boy Scouts Summer Training Centre Ghora Galli, Murree hills. Mr. M. Tariq Qureshi (Provincial Secretary, PBSA) was the chief guest of the opening ceremony. The Rover Scouts participated in hike from Donga Galli Murree to famous tourist spot (Mushkpuri Top).

Camp fire and closing ceremony was held at Scouts Summer Training Center, Murree in the presence of hike leader. A peace walk on Kashmir Solidarity Day was also organized by Punjab Boy Scouts Association on 05 February 2022.



MNSUAM Scouts Participated in All Punjab Snowfall Hike-2022





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## Recruitment Drive by HBL

HBL Recruitment drive for the positions of Agriculture Officers and Field Assistants was organized MNS Agricultural University, Multan. Seats were advertised by CDC/PB and applicants were registered via Google form and called for interviews. Shortlisted candidates were interviewed for above mentioned posts. More than 60 Agriculture graduates belong to different Universities appeared in the interviews and almost 30 field assistant diploma holders were interviewed by the representatives of HBL. The representatives of HBL met the MNSUAM Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali and thanked for the smooth conduct of recruitment drive at MNSUAM. Mr. Sajjad from HBL told that we feel a clear difference among the graduates of MNSUAM as they looked confident and have better field knowledge. Director Farms, Registrar, Treasurer and Dr Muhammad Ishtiaq, Focal Person CDC/PB were present during this meeting. Shortlisted candidates for Agriculture Officers and Field Assistants have been sent to head office for further process.



## Training for Tractor Operators

A hands-on training for tractor operators was organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering at MNS Agricultural University Multan. The trainer of this workshop was Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed, Former Deputy Manager Al Ghazi Tractor. He explained the daily, weekly and monthly maintenance of the tractor and imparted training on different parts of tractors and their better use. He also guided the participants about the troubleshooting while using tractors in the field. He further said that only by getting complete information of the tractor, one can get maximum benefit by using minimum fuel. Dr. Sarfraz Hashim, Chairman, Department of Agricultural Engineering, while informing about the importance of tractor and its maintenance, said that proper maintenance of tractor can save diesel and parts every year. On this occasion, Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais (Progressive Grower and Ex-member, MNSUAM Syndicate) appreciated the tireless efforts of Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed and vowed to conduct such trainings in future also.





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## Plant for Pakistan Drive

Plant for Pakistan Day was celebrated at MNS Agricultural University under the auspices of Plant for Life Society on February 22, 2022. A large number of male and female students participated in this activity. An awareness walk was conducted on campus at the beginning of the program, after which the students briefed the participants on their project. They urged that planting trees is not only the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) but also the way forward to overcome adverse effects of climate change. Participants took an active part in the tree planting campaign on campus and planted numerous trees to mark the Plant for Pakistan Day. At this occasion, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that planting trees is vital to sustain life and keep the environment clean and healthy. Trees are essential to support life and enhance happiness. He further said that MNSUAM has always actively participated in tree plantation campaigns. "We, as an Institution have planted thousands of trees in many schools of Multan under One Child, One Tree" and "Clean and Green Pakistan" projects. Moreover, we have planted trees on the Old Shujabad Road, and this activity has brought a pleasant change in the environment of the whole area". He urged all teachers, staff and students of the University to plant trees as a fulfillment of their national duty.



## Plant for Pakistan Drive



## Visit of Deputy Commissioner, Multan

Mr. Aamir Karim Khan, Deputy Commissioner Multan visited MNSUAM on February 23, 2022 and met Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) who gave a detailed presentation about MNSUAM. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali and other officials of the University accompanied him during the visit and gave a detailed round with briefing of various departments, laboratories, development projects, research activities and community services undertaken by the University. The guest applauded the dedicated efforts of the University management and remarkable achievements of the Varsity in such a short span of time. He hailed the efforts of the varsity for farmers and rural community and pledged his support for the betterment of the agriculture sector and support of the District Government Multan in this regard.





Visit of Deputy Commissioner, Multan





## MNSUAM Team participated in National Youth Symposium

A team of eight students and a faculty member from MNS University of Agriculture, Multan participated in the National Youth Symposium organized by Islamic Research Institute, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IRI, IIUI) from February 2-4, 2022. The event aimed at sharing the Narrative of Pakistan prepared by years of extensive effort by the religious scholars, political leadership and academia. Students were assigned different modules of the manual prepared for awareness and understanding of the public. Students were assigned to put forth their ideas for implementation of the narrative. The team MNSUAM actively participated in the discussion and committed to replicate learning with all executive members of student societies at campus. Later the same team would plan and execute the National Youth Symposium in real spirit at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan in collaboration with IRI, IIUI. The interactive



approach of the students, confidence and inclusiveness was appreciated by the organizers.





MNSUAM Team participated in National Youth Symposium



## Webinar on Rural Development

An international webinar on titled "Rural Development: Current Status, Challenges, and Future Perspectives in Pakistan" was organized by the Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics, MNS-Agriculture University Multan February 22, 2022. The webinar was organized to address the challenges and opportunities for improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas. The session was presided over by respected Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice-Chancellor, MNSUAM, who regarded rural growth and development as the key component for the economic growth of the country. He added that rural transformation and inclusive growth are need of the hour to address the issues of rural poverty, youth employment, and gender equality. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Nasir Nadeem, Chairman, and coordinated by Mr. Abd-Ur-Rehman, Lecturer, Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics. The guest speakers, Dr. Usman Mustafa, Mr. Israr M. Khan, and Prof. Dr. Zhou Deyi highlighted the current challenges and opportunities in the rural development sector. More than 100 students and faculty members participated in the Webinar. This webinar was part of the capacity-building program of the students and faculty members.



### Webinar on Rural Development





## International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geo-Information Systems

A two-day International Conference on "Remote Sensing and Geo-Information Systems (GIS)" was organized by the Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, MNSUAM on February 23-24, 2022. The main objective of this conference was to highlight the importance of Remote Sensing and Geo Information System (GIS) in the field of Livestock and Health Sciences for the first time in Pakistan. Scientists from 20 countries around the world including Germany, Italy, Spain, Algeria, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, Nigeria, Laos, Chile, UAE, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and nationals from all over the Pakistan attended this conference. The conference aimed at making integration of GIS and remote sensing in the field of Agricultural, Veterinary and Health science to cater the recent advances of the science in the emerging field of GIS and Remote sensing which can be helpful for epidemiological studies of any disease outbreak in Agriculture, Livestock or Health Science. The International Conference was presided over by the MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I). He stated that remote sensing is an advanced technology which can be used to identify and predict various factors using less labor and time. He further added that the (GIS) system can detect the changing amount of water in lakes and ponds, which will have a positive impact on agriculture and livestock production as a whole. Dr. Micheal Spice and Dr. Christoph Raab from Eberswalde University of Sustainable development Germany were the keynote speakers of this Conference who described the GIS system as an effective way to identify and use the changing state of glaciers





and water scarcity in northern Pakistan through remote sensing. He also said that livestock production could be further improved through remote sensing. Nigerian scientist Tharoor M. Salem said that water levels near rivers are declining over time, which is a wake-up call for the world as water scarcity could have a negative impact on agriculture and livestock. At the end of the International Conference, Coordinator Veterinary and Animal Sciences Prof. Dr. Asif Raza thanked all the national and international participants and said that for the first time in Pakistan (GIS) system and remote sensing will be used in livestock and agriculture. Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan thanked all the faculty members for the successful organization of the conference. Souvenir were awarded by the Vice Chancellor to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif Raza and chief organizer Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan and Conference secretary, Dr. Aziz Ul Rahman, Assistant Professor for their remarkable efforts in organizing this scientific event.





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## Training Session on Honey Beekeeping

Keeping in mind the ecological significance of honey bees, MNSUAM is leading the work on honey bee farming in the region. Dr. Muhammad Abid, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering/ Coordinator MNSUAM Entrepreneurship Program is actively involved in research and outreach activities in this regard. A training on Honey Beekeeping, it's production and business plan was conducted on February 28, 2022 in collaboration with SME Business Facilitation Centre, Multan and BIC, ORIC, MNSUAM. The basic purpose of this training was to develop entrepreneurial skills among the students for successful honey bee farming. The participants were given hands-on training in terms of colony management, queen breeding, honey extraction techniques, reduction in post-harvest losses, nutrition, pests and diseases and pollination of entomophilous crops, improving skills of honey bee keeping and harvesting practices. In the future, more sessions will be organized to commercialize modern beekeeping practices.





## Value Chain Approach of Research for Development

A meeting was held on value chain of various crops on February 28, 2022. It was chaired by Punjab Agriculture Research Board (PARB) Chairman, Dr. Abid Mahmood. The growing problems in the national and international market and the lack of proper marketing of Pakistani fruits and vegetables as a major problem were discussed. The participants agreed that agricultural research needs to be carried out in accordance with the market issues and challenges. Comprehensive research is needed for value chain of every agricultural commodity to improve the quality and efficiency of agricultural production. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Abid Mahmood, Chairman PARB, said that agricultural value chain studies are needed to fulfill the demands of consumers besides catering the access to the emerging markets and matching demand and supply. The exclusive studies of value chain are needed and agricultural universities should play their role for agricultural value chain research. In today's meeting, a comprehensive strategy will be formulated so that we can successfully market our agricultural crops and commodities. MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that this forum is aimed at solving the problems of global and national market in an efficient manner. He added that the University owns this initiative of PARB. MNSUAM is already providing a platform for value chain development and value added products for various fruits and vegetables in order to connect the growers with the high end markets. The value chain study can improve the quality of processing by reducing post-harvest losses, he added. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Director, Business Incubation Center, briefed about the value chain activities undertaken at the MNSUAM and gave a detailed presentation. The meeting was attended by Director ORIC, UAF, Prof. Dr. Zaheer Ahmad Zaheer; Dr. Amanullah Malik; Dr. Hamad Badar; Muhammad Ajmal; Ali Mohsin Shaheed Gardezi; Director ORIC, Pir Mehr Ali Shah University Rawalpindi; Major Tariq Khan and PO, ORIC, MNSUAM, Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali.





## Synopses/Theses Defense

- Mr. Muhammad Saleem (Reg. No. 2018-uam-901), PhD student at the Department of Agronomy has successfully defended his PhD thesis on January 5, 2022 at 10:30 am (online) in MNS University of Agriculture Multan. The title of his thesis is "Interactive effects of rhizobacteria and silicon to improve drought tolerance in maize (*Zea mays* L.)".
- Mr. Ghulam Mustafa (Reg. No. 2017-uam-914), PhD Scholar of Department of Horticulture has successfully defended his PhD thesis on January 18, 2022 (Tuesday) at 01:30 pm online. The title of his thesis is "Strategies to Revive Pomegranate Production in South Punjab".
- Mr. Uzman Khalil (Reg. No. 2017-uam-913), PhD Scholar of Department of Horticulture has successfully defended his PhD thesis on January 18, 2022 (Tuesday) at 03:30 pm online in MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan. The title of his thesis is "Bunch Architecture and Quality improvement of Table Grapes".
- Mr. Javed Iqbal (Reg. No. 2017-uam-919), PhD Scholar of Department of Horticulture has successfully defended his Ph.D thesis on January 19, 2022 (Wednesday) at 1:30 pm online in MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan. The title of his thesis is "Assessment and Management of Fruit Skin Defects in Two Mango Cultivars".
- Mr. Adnan Fareed, Reg No. 2017-uam-855, Ph.D student at the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, has successfully defended his Ph.D synopsis on January 20, 2022 at 10:30 am (online) in MNS University of Agriculture Multan. The title of his synopsis is "Monitoring and Biological Risk Assessment of Atrazine in Maize Food Chain; Field to Fork".
- Mr. Muhammad Afzal, Regd. No. 2017-uam-910, Ph.D Scholar in the Institute of Plant Protection has successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis on 20-01-2022 (Thursday) at 12:00 PM (online). The title of his thesis is "Molecular Characterization of Whitefly Mitotypes Associated with the Cotton Leaf Curl Disease in Pakistan".
- Mr. Khizar Hayat (Reg. No. 2014-uam-174), PhD Scholar of Department of Food Science and Technology will defend his PhD synopsis on February 9, 2022 (Wednesday) at 10:30 am online in MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan. The title of his thesis is "Shelf stability of dehydrated mango slices".



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

### For Post of Research Assistant Department of Agricultural Engineering, MNS University of Agriculture Multan

Applications are invited for the post of "Research Assistant" under the Research Project No. NRPU-1/16821 (R&D) entitled "Design and development of self-propelled energy efficient multi-grain crop planter" funded by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The details and eligibility criteria are given below:

Name of post	No. of posts	Qualifications	Pay Package	Period
Research Assistant	1	BSc/MSc (Hons)/MS in Agricultural Engineering (Preferably the Expertise in CAD design/Modeling)	Rs. 25,000 per month	1 Year

### General Information:

- Application along with copies of C.V. (including detailed marks and percentage), transcripts, two recent photographs, CNIC and other relevant documents should reach on or before March 1, 2022 in the office of "Dr. Umair Sultan, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan".
- MNSUAM has the right to cancel this post at any time, without assigning any reason
- No TA/DA will be admissible for test or interview

### Dr. Umair Sultan

Assistant Professor / PI Department of  
Agricultural Engineering MNS University  
of Agriculture Multan



## Vacant Post of Cattle Attendant

Applications are invited for the post of Cattle Attendant under Research Project No. PSF/NSLP/P-UAM 838 entitled "Biofortification of Fodders with Selenium to Improve Yield and Quality in Dairy Cattle" sponsored by Pakistan Science Foundation Islamabad. The candidates will be hired for 06 months of each project year with total duration of 03 years. The candidates should be literate. Experience in the relevant field will be given preference.

Name of post	No. of posts	Qualifications	Pay Package
Cattle Attendant	1	Literate	Candidate will be paid @ Rs. 15,000 p.m. fixed for six months of each project year.

- Applications along with attested transcripts/certificates, degrees, two recent photographs, CNIC, and other relevant documents should reach in the office of Chairman, Department of Agronomy on or before February 20, 2022 (4:00P.M).
- Incomplete applications or those received after the due date shall not be entertained in any case.
- The appointment will be on contract basis only for six months of each project year (subject to performance evaluation) during the entire duration of project
- MNSUAM reserves the right to change the period of contract.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for interview.

**Dr. Fahim Nawaz**  
Assistant Professor/PI