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NEWS BULLETIN

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Internees Conference under Agri. Internship Program

The Internee engaged under Agri. Internship Program with the financial support of Government of Punjab met on May 10, 2022 to share their experiential learnings of working on the Farmers field. This Internship Program is sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Punjab, for young agriculture graduates who were placed in 10 low producing tehsils of the province including Haroon Abad, Burewala, Kot Addu, Kahrur Lal Esan, Pakpattan, Narowal, Shahkot, Quaid Abad, Chakwal, and Fateh Jang. These internees were given hands-on training for modern agriculture practices so that they can use their knowledge and skills to help solve the problems of the growers. Under this project, more than 2000 farmers have been registered (in first year) and are being provided with quality advisory services at farm level; including crop diversification, innovations and efficient resource utilization. Project Director, and MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) distributed certificates of achievement among the agricultural graduates and gave shields to the Supervisors. Speaking on the occasion, he said that MNSUAM in pursuit of its vision to serve the farming community for improving their socio-economic standards will continue such efforts. MNSUAM is ensuring experiential learning of their graduates for future farming, entrepreneurship and increased employability. Other participants included Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig (Focal Person, Agri. Internship), Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq (Project Coordinator) and Supervisors. The conference appreciated the achievements of the internees and assured the full cooperation of the University for future as well.

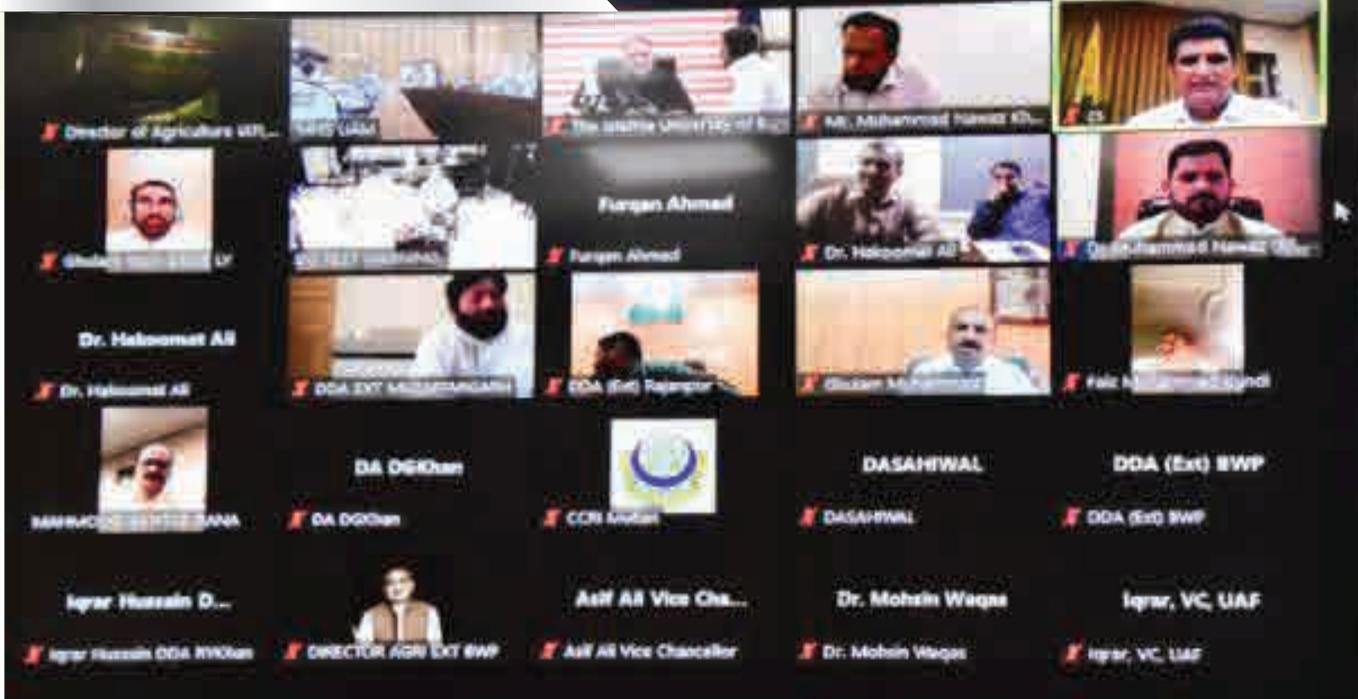


Cotton Productivity Enhancement Campaign

An online meeting on cotton campaign was hosted by MNS University of Agriculture, Multan in collaboration with Agriculture Department, Government of Punjab on May 11, 2022. Agenda of the meeting was to take on board all the stakeholders involved in cotton production and to launch a campaign in cotton growing areas to assist farmers in solving their cotton-related issues, to assist the agriculture extension department in outreach activities and most importantly to provide hands-on experience to the Agri. Graduates by working with farmers and experts from different agriculture departments. Following recommendations/decisions were made after discussion with all stakeholders. MNSUAM will be the focal point for coordination with universities and hub for this campaign. Each participating University and Agriculture Department will nominate their focal person within one day and each University will provide the number of students they can engage throughout the cotton season and this list of students needs to be arranged tehsil-wise. Moreover, Universities will prepare the schedule to arrange Farmer Field Days, Seminars, Road Shows, deployment of students for module-based training regarding cotton pest management and agronomic practices. Agri. Extension Department will provide their requirement for the number of students for each tehsil and will devise action plan for student's training. Students engaged in the cotton campaign should be awarded with 'Summer Internship Certificates'. Geo-tagging system will be used for students monitoring. MNSUAM will assist other Departments/Universities to deploy this system. Agriculture Extension and Pest Warning Departments will support internees within their available resources for mobility. It was also agreed upon that support from private sector will also be solicited such as seed, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.



Cotton Productivity Enhancement Campaign



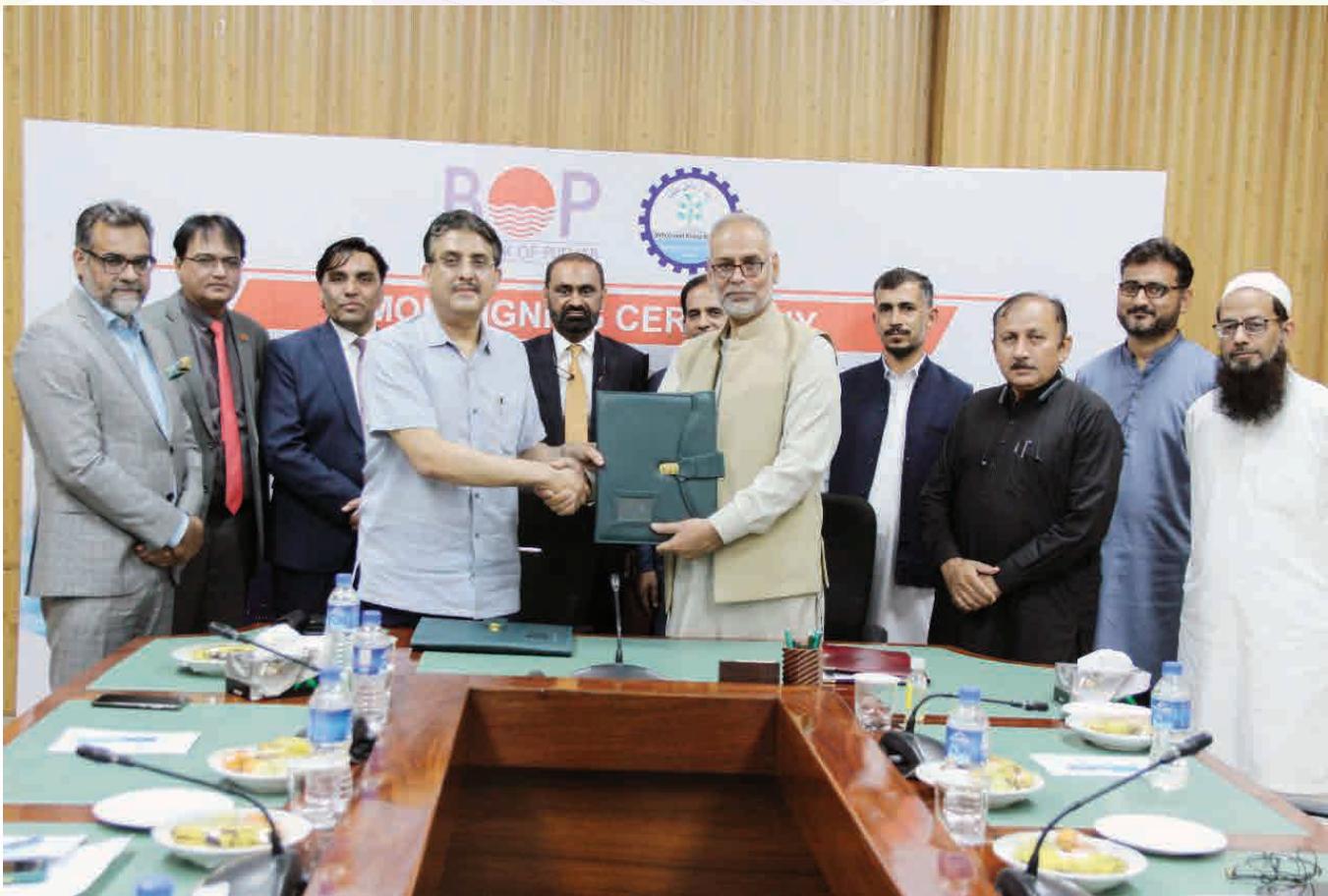
MoU between MNSUAM and Bank of Punjab

The Bank of Punjab and MNSUAM have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on May 13th, 2022 to establish a working relationship among the parties to benefit fresh Agri. Graduates and farmers associated with the university. Under this arrangement, fresh university graduates will be accepted for internship and jobs at The Bank of Punjab on priority. Further, farmers and graduates associated with the University will also be eligible for financing under BOP's own Product range as well as under government's markup subsidy schemes. These farmers and university graduates will be encouraged to avail financing facility to update their existing infrastructure and move towards modern farming techniques. MNSUAM will provide opportunities to BOP for promoting its Agri. Focused Financial Products through expos arranged by them. The BOP may also conduct informative sessions for MNSUAM Faculty and Students regarding financing facilities offered by the Bank. The Bank of Punjab may also participate in upcoming startup competition arranged by the University. This inclusiveness will empower farmers and University Graduates through better economic outcomes and provide them sufficient cash flows to meet their day to day agri. businesses. MoU signing ceremony was held at MNSUAM which was attended by Mr. Asif Riaz, Group Head Retail & Priority Sectors Lending – BOP and Mr. Sarfraz Hussain, Head Agri. Credit Division – BOP, while MNSUAM was represented by Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor and Prof. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Director BIAEC, Dr. Mohkam Hammad, Director, External Linkages, Treasurer of University and

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Deans of different faculties. In a joint statement, Mr. Asif Riaz and Prof. Dr. Asif Ali shared that, "We are excited to partner on this important initiative that has the potential to gradually transform the agricultural landscape of Pakistan by promoting organized financial inclusion of farming community and Agri. Graduates to improve farming practices". This will help prioritize the financial inclusion and well-being of Agri. Graduates and Farming community.



Farmers Training Workshop on Cotton Production

Department of Agronomy, MNSUAM in collaboration with Fatima Fertilizers organized a one day workshop on Cotton Productivity Enhancement on May 11, 2021. The event covered informative presentations/lectures by subject experts followed by interactive discussion, Q&A session, and field demonstrations focusing on production scenarios, latest strategies for new and improved cotton germplasm, vigorous crop stand, cotton pathology, physiology and quality in an era of dwindling natural resource base and uncertainty of climatic optima. About 150 participants were trained about innovative trends and practices with special reference to sustainable cotton production. Specialists in cotton agronomy, pathology, physiology, entomology and quality shared their experiences with the participants, who also received hands-on training about these aspects. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Chairman, Department of Agronomy and Director, University Farms welcomed the participants, invited speakers, national scientists, researchers, industrial partners, farmers, stakeholders, students and campus community. He said the MNSUAM is always striving to resolve agricultural issues of farming community on priority basis. Mr. Imran Hameed, Fatima Fertilizer Representative said that balanced use of fertilizers in cotton is the basic ingredient for higher yield. Other topics covered were IPM, effective use of agricultural pesticides, judicious water and nutrient use strategies and irrigation scheduling, pest scouting, gap filling, thinning, managing crop husbandry as per weather forecasts etc. Dr. Mohkam Hammad, Associate Professor and Director, External Linkages thanked all the stakeholders for providing a platform for the welfare of the farmers while continuing their cooperation with the MNSUAM. At the end, certificates were awarded to the successful students for completing a short course on weeds and their management.



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Farmers Training Workshop on Cotton Production



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Agri. Graduates Received Training on Cotton

Training of students on cotton production technology, pest and disease control was conducted at MNSUAM on May 17, 2022. Addressing the students on the occasion, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that in order to promote experiential learning, we have organized Summer Internship Program for our graduates in collaboration with Agriculture Extension Department. Students will be in field during summer vacations for the guidance of farmers and will have an opportunity to learn from experiences of farmers and extension workers. He motivated the students to perform well and bring credit to their Alma Mater. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean, FAES briefed the students about the program objectives and activities. Dr. Muhammad Ishtiaq, Assistant Professor, Entomology, gave information about pest and beneficial insect identification, pest scouting and economic threshold levels, harming and controlling cotton insects. He added that integrated pest management is a combination of common sense and scientific principles. It's a way of thinking about pest management that values biodiversity and avoids adverse effects on humans and environment. Dr. Muqarrab Ali, Assistant Professor, Agronomy talked about modern production technology of cotton, while Dr. Muhammad Arslan Khan gave an overview of cotton diseases, precautionary measures and control tactics. At the end of the program, Mr. Allah Ditta Abid, Director, Plant Protection spoke and shared his field experiences and responded to student's queries.



Effect of Climate Change on Mango Production

A meeting was held at MNSUAM on May 18, 2022 to appraise the effects of climate change and ongoing heat wave on the productivity of mango crop. The meeting was chaired by the MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I). Academicians, research scientists and progressive growers attended this meeting. It was agreed upon that climate change is negatively impacting mango orchards and immediate action is required to safeguard this economically important fruit crop. MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) urged to develop a database for prediction and decision support of mango growers. On this occasion, Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Grewal, Director, Mango Research Institute, Multan laminated that severe temperature variation from March 11 to March 17 from 37 °C to 42 °C, contrary to 34 °C routine temperature in previous years, affected the mango fruit to a greater extent. Similarly, the temperature in April also remained high compared to the ones in previous years, and it also aggravated problems for the growers. He delivered a detailed presentation on the effects of climate change and mitigation strategies. Progressive Mango Grower, Malik Zafar Hussain Mahay regarded climate change as a serious threat to mangoes. Syed Abid Imam also attended this meeting as a special guest and acknowledged the work of Agriculture University for the mango growers. Mr. Shehzad Sabir Director, Agriculture Extension, Multan informed that due to ongoing heat wave, besides fruits, growth of plants and development of new branches are also being affected. It was decided to carry out a well designed survey to assess the damage caused by the heat waves on different varieties of Mango and developed strategy to improve mango production in the changing climatic conditions.



Public Health Nutritional / Medical Camp

A Public Health Nutritional / Medical camp was organized by Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in collaboration with Department of food science and Technology, ORIC and ACIAR Pulses Project-041 on May, 19, 2022. The purpose of the camp was to collect the data for the completion of research proposals by BS. Microbiology (4th semester), to advocate the healthy life style, to identify the early signs of life style diseases and the prevention recommendations to avoid the grave prognosis of life threatening ailments. The camp was a huge success since more than 300 students and 50 faculty members have been medically assessed and provided with relevant recommendations. The high influx of participants in the camp is an indicator that the provided services were highly appreciated. Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan, PO ORIC, Prof. Dr. Umer Farooq (Chairman, Department of Food Science and Technology) and Dr. Muhammad Umair Waqas (Convener, Public health/Nutrition Medical Camp) inaugurated the camp and provided first-hand information on the available services at the camp to the visitors. Dr. Muhammad Umair Waqas explained the objectives of the camp and highlighted the importance of this activity. MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.) was the chief guest of the event and he advised to set up the health advisory facility at university on permanent basis. This medical camp provided services such as anthropometric measurements, uric acid, cholesterol, HB and blood glucose test, pulse rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation and body temperature measurements, eye checkup, nutritional recommendations, prevention strategies and behavioral change therapies.



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Public Health Nutritional / Medical Camp



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International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation

The Institute of Plant Protection, MNSUAM organized 2nd one-day International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation on May 20th, 2022. Every year this day is celebrated as World Bee Day. The event provided insights into current status, innovations and advances in bee pollination under the changing climate with special focus on native social and solitary bees. Main themes of the event were biodiversity and conservation of bees, crop pollination, and beekeeping. The conference stimulated and facilitated discussions and dialogues about new research ideas that can help to explore the pollinator diversity and their conservation strategies. A total of 72 abstracts were received, and participants from five countries, including Pakistan, India, USA, China, and Nepal, participated in the conference. Moreover, a photo salon competition was also organized, and 69 entries were received from students and researchers. In the inaugural session, the chief guest was Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary for Agriculture, South Punjab. Dr. Shimat V. Joseph from the University of Georgia, USA, and Dr. Neil Cobb from iDigBees were the guest speakers. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.), gave the inaugural speech about biodiversity and its importance concerning the pollinator fauna. He emphasized the need to highlight the importance of bees in our daily lives. He stated that marking the day was aimed at sensitizing the growers and other stakeholders

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about the significance of a balanced ecosystem where bees can service with all their diversity. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed briefed about the importance of social and solitary bees. He also highlighted the history of World Bee Day. About one-third of the food that we eat daily relies on bee pollination. Honeybees and solitary bees play an important role in the pollination of crops such as canola, soybeans, cucurbits, sunflower, cucumber, citrus, melon and many other important food, commercial and cash crops, he further added. Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel put light on the role of the South Punjab Agriculture Secretariat in reducing the use of pesticides in cotton, which directly impacted the beneficial fauna. He appreciated the role of MNS University of Agriculture Multan and its leadership in emphasizing the role of pollinators. The conference continued for three sessions. At the end of the conference, Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed presented the conference recommendations. The Vice-Chancellor reiterated to focus on the action on the conference recommendations. He appreciated the role of the whole team in conducting the scientific gathering. Photo Salon winners were announced, and the top three position holders were given cash prizes.



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International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation



Rozan Mushaira

Literary Club from MNS University of Agriculture, and Qiraat and Naat Club organized a poetry recital on May 21, 2022 which was presided over by the poet Mr. Ahmed Rizwan. Other poets included Mr. Faisal Hashmi, Mr. Abid Malik, Mr. Sarfraz Arish, Mr. Naeem Naz Qaisrani, Mr. Tariq Ahmad, Mr. Asif Ali Wasiq, whereas Mr. Wasi Zad, and Mr. Hamza Kharal were alumni poets from MNSUAM. Mr. Shahbaz Jellani (Executive Member, Literary Club) and Mr. Moazzam Ali Fageer (President, Literary Club) also recited beautiful poetry in attractive and unique style for the enjoyment of the audience. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.) Vice Chancellor of the University graced the event and appreciated the efforts of Literary Club and the enthusiasm of students for revering the event. In his address, he thanked all the poets for entertaining the audience with beautiful and thought-provoking poetry. he further added that poets and leaders have dreams and managers and technical experts strive for the fulfillment of those dreams. Dr. Unsar Naeem Ullah, Convener Literary Club lauded the initiative and stressed that such literary event must be encouraged and MNSUAM has a rich history of poetry and literature. Poetry always represents the link between environment and human's emotions and feelings, he further added. At the end of the ceremony, the souvenirs were presented to the distinguished poets by the Vice Chancellor.



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Rozan Mushaira



Chinese Scientist visited MNSUAM

Mr. Li, a Senior Scientist and General Manager of a Chinese Seed Company, visited MNSUAM on May 22, 2022. The main purpose of his visit was to further strengthen the cooperation between Pakistan and China in research on cotton and other crops. During the visit, Mr. Lee and agricultural scientists from the University of Multan conducted joint cotton experiments. Mr. Li had an interaction with the Vice Chancellor. During the meeting, hybrid seed production technology, seed commercialization, Sino-Pak Cotton Conference, Joint Research programs and signing of MoU were discussed. On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that there is a need for re-evolution of cotton in Pakistan. There is an urgent need for national and international efforts and China has supported Pakistan at all levels. Mr. Lee showed his keen interest to promote cooperation between MNSUAM and Chinese Biotechnology Research Institute.



Green Youth Movement Club

A training workshop under the auspices of Green Youth Movement Club (GYMC) was organized by Higher Education Commission and British Council at MNSUAM on May 24, 2022. It is a HEC-led directive as a step to fulfill the vision of clean and green Pakistan entrusted to Ministry of Climate Change. Faculty from 14 universities of South Punjab participated in the workshop. The special guest of the event Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that the university has started many eco-friendly programs to increase awareness of environment sustainability among youth since 2016 and dozens of environmental trainings have been imparted to the students. He further said that the university is carrying out various projects for the betterment of the local community in its vicinity. Mr. Talha Chishti, Program Director, British Council informed the participants about the aims and objectives of this workshop. He also briefed them on the hands-on aspects of the program. The main goal of GYMC is to engage the youth in schools, colleges, and universities to promote eco-friendly culture across the country.. Mr. Imran Mehmood, Registrar, MNSUAM, thanked the Higher Education Commission and British Council representatives and faculty members from all the universities.



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Green Youth Movement Club



Agreement of Cooperation between MNSUAM and The Association for Biorisk Management

MNS University of Agriculture is very keen to establish liaisons with public and private organizations having potential for capacity building and holding a strong background of research and development. Likewise, the Association for Biorisk Management (ABM) a non-governmental organization registered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, is working all over Pakistan under the registered society act 1860, Government of Pakistan. An Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) was signed between MNSUAM and the Association of Bio-Risk Management on May 25th, 2022. Both parties agreed to join hands on the following term in the mutual interest of their organizations; the ABM will provide necessary measures and technical support regularly for the control of zoonotic pathogens through the introduction and strengthening of biosafety and biosecurity practices in the existing laboratories at MNSUAM. Furthermore, ABM will conduct the biorisk assessment of the labs of MNSUAM and recommend mitigation measures accordingly. Similarly, MNSUAM will provide a list of nominated participants as per ABM criteria. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that such joint efforts can play an effective role in bringing about positive change in the society and the way we conduct research. He further said that a committee on biosafety has already been constituted at MNSUAM and biosafety is we considered as an important component of our research system.



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Agreement of Cooperation between MNSUAM and The Association for Biorisk Management



Basketball Tournament

Basketball Tournament 2022 was organized by the Mulberry Courts, Office of the Hall Warden and Directorate of Students' affairs. Teams of University Warriors, Multan Eagles and Khanewal Lions Club participated in the event. The University team was successful on presenting the best game. Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) appreciated the players, Hall Warden Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum, Superintendent Dr. Shahbaz, Dr. Ahmed Mahmood, Abdul Rehman, Director Sports Mr Arqam Iqbal, Sports Coach Mr Qiaser Javed and all other members who joined hands to make this event a success. While speaking at the occasion, VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that after suffering from loneliness due to a disaster like Corona, the young generation should come out of closed rooms and benefit from the sports facilities available at the campus. It is our duty to give students the ample opportunities to be happy, but to take advantage of this, students must make their mark in these sports. Hall Warden, Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum said that our youth, which is entangled in gadgets and excessive use of social media, has to be brought out of the comfort zone to prepare for the challenges of life. Playgrounds are crucial in this regard. He further emphasized to ignite the spirit of using sports facilities on regular basis.



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Basketball Tournament



How to achieve success in examinations?

The Center for Teaching and Learning organized a hybrid seminar entitled "How to achieve success in examinations?" on Monday, May 30th, 2022. The presenters included Dr. Ahmad Mahmood, Ms. Shafa Nayab, and Dr. Fawad Zafar Ahmad Khan. The purpose of the seminar was to educate the students about the modern preparation methods and motivate them for their final exams. Ms. Shafa Nayab started off the session with a detailed overview of the preparation techniques, including SQ5R and Cornell notes. Dr. Ahmad Mahmood highlighted the importance of planning and the flow charts in exam preparation. Dr. Fawad Zafar Ahmad Khan briefed students about time management, group study, and method to attempt the exam questions. Senior Tutor Dr. M. Usman Jamshaid appreciated the Center for Teaching and Learning for organizing the seminar at the right time. He motivated the students to use the tactics of modern age to get success in exams.



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How to achieve success in examinations?



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Research on cotton in Full Swing

Institute of plant Breeding and Biotechnology has two running projects entitled "Genetic Adaptability and Water-Fertilizer Intelligent Regulation Mechanism of Climate Smart Varieties" a joint venture of PSF and NSFC and "National Crop Genomics and Speed Breeding Center for Agricultural Sustainability" a ADP funded project. The former project is about the development of water and fertilizer efficient climate smart cotton and wheat varieties based on multi-locational trails coupled with climate data and predication the next fifty years crop plan of cotton and wheat on the basis of crop and irrigation models. The cotton sowing of cotton varieties was done at locations of MNSUAM Farm Multan, Cotton Research Station Rajanpur, Cotton Research Station Faisalabad, Cotton Research Station Khanpur and MNSUAM Farm Jalalpur considering these location as suitable zones for diverse climate data and crop modeling. The layout of cotton trails is given below

The glimpse of cotton sowing during multi-location trials are presented in pictures



Sowing at CRS Rajanpur



Sowing at JPPW Farm



Sowing at MNSUAM Farm



Sowing at CRS AARI, FSD

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Cotton experiments for the phenotyping of cotton germplasm under the project “National Crop Genomics and Speed Breeding Center for Agricultural Sustainability” include the sowing of 110 cotton lines at two location of MNSUAM farm Multan and JPPW farm. The pure seed production block of the all varieties is planted at CRI Multan. The objective is to characterize these varieties for drought, heat, salinity and fiber quality traits for association of these traits with whole genome sequencing data of cotton genotypes. A parallel controlled condition experiment is in progress for characterization of these varieties. The recorded data will be used in marker assisted breeding of cotton to develop fast track cotton climate smart varieties. The glimpses are below



Sowing at MNSUAM Farm Multan & JPPW



Leaf sampling from field



Controlled experiments for phenotyping

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Thesis Defense

Mr. Muhammad Kashif Shahzad Sarwar (2017-uam-909), a Ph.D. student of Plant Breeding and Genetics at the Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology will defend his Ph.D. thesis online on June 17, 2022 (Friday) at 02:30 pm. The title of his thesis is "Integrating biochemical and genomics resources for drought tolerance in cotton". All are invited to participate.

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Situation Vacant

MS/M. Phil STUDENTSHIP AND RESEARCH ASSISTANT (HORTICULTURE) FOR HEC FUNDED NRPU PROJECT# 16820

Applications are invited for one post each MS/M.Phil Studentship and Research Assistant under the NRPU Research Project No. **16820** Entitled "**PRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED MANGO NURSERY FOR SMALL TREE SYSTEM**" funded by Higher Education Commission, Islamabad at MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan on a contract basis for one year (extendable). Details are given below:

Name of post	No. of Posts	Qualifications	Experience	Pay Package
MS Studentship (Horticulture)	01	Enrolled in M.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (Horticulture)	Project relevant experience will be preferred	16000/M=
Research Assistant	01	M.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture (Preference will be given to Horticulture graduate)	Project relevant experience will be preferred	41000/M=

Interested candidates are requested to submit application on plain paper addressed to **Dr. Kashif Razzaq**, Principal Investigator (PI) / Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture along with 03 sets of CV, recent passport size photographs, attested copies of CNIC, educational documents and experience letter (if any) etc. in person or through registered post.

Complete applications should reach the office of the undersigned within 15 days of advertisement during office hours.

Dr. Kashif Razzaq
Assistant Professor/
Principal Investigator (PI)
HEC funded NRPU Project # 16820
Department of Horticulture
MNS University of Agriculture Multan



Job Opportunities

MNS-University of Agriculture Multan invites application for Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Project Accelerating genetic gain in wheat through hybrid breeding in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Pakistan from open market to be posted anywhere in Pakistan for the following post on contract basis.

Sr. No	Name of Post	No. of Post	Qualification/Experience
1.	Research fellow Salary (Rs. 70,000 – 100,000) Negotiable with an annual increment of 10%	01	MSc (Hons)/equivalent degree in Plan Breeding and Genetics with no third division in academic career. Candidates having research experience of conducting multi- location trials of cereals and seed production trials of cereal hybrids during degree or after award of degree will be preferred.

General Information/instructions:

- All the advertised positions are contractual
- MNSUAM has the right to cancel these posts at any time.
- **NO TA/DA** will be admissible for test or interview.
- Candidates should be prepared to undertake extensive touring in remote village area.
- By hand /incomplete/late submission of application will not be entertained.
- Female are also encouraged to apply.

Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig
Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
MNS-University Agriculture Multan.
061-9200224