

NEWS BULLETIN

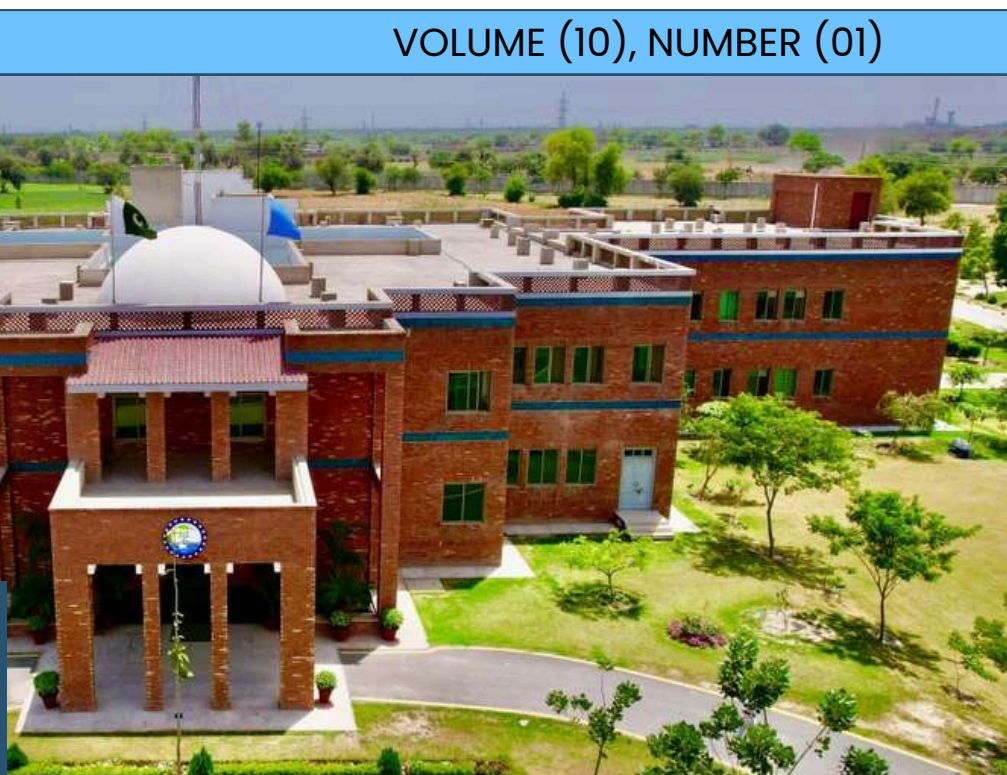
A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MNSUAM

VOLUME (10), NUMBER (01)



EDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Fauji Fertilizer Company Delegation's visit of MNSUAM
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Delegation's Visit of MNSUAM
- MNSUAM's Collaboration with Australian Institutions to Enhance Agricultural Water Productivity



HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ AWARDS HONHAAR SCHOLARSHIPS TO 402 MNSUAM STUDENTS

01



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JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2025

HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER MARYAM NAWAZ AWARDS HONHAAR SCHOLARSHIPS TO 402 MNSUAM STUDENTS

The Honhaar Scholarship distribution ceremony, held on Monday, January 06, 2025 at Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, was a significant milestone in Punjab's commitment to educational upliftment and youth empowerment. Among the many participating institutions, 402 students from MNS University of Agriculture, Multan were honored with scholarship cheques under the Honhaar Scholarship Program—Pakistan's largest academic financial aid initiative, launched by Honorable Chief Minister Punjab, Her Excellency Maryam Nawaz Sharif. In her powerful and heartfelt speech, the Honorable CM addressed the students not as a politician, but as a mother speaking to her children. She extended warm congratulations to all the scholarship recipients, their parents, and teachers, praising their dedication and academic



perseverance. She emphasized that the scholarship is not merely financial aid, but a recognition of the hard work and potential of students across Punjab. To symbolize this honor, students receiving the scholarship were presented with a guard of honor, a gesture she described as a public acknowledgment of the value of education and intellectual excellence. She encouraged students to keep dreaming and striving, telling them that their success is the success of the province. Honorable CM also announced key initiatives aligned with the scholarship program's vision. She launched an e-portal for transparent and efficient scholarship payments, announced a foreign scholarship program to provide international opportunities for outstanding students, and confirmed that a laptop scheme and expanded e-bike distribution initiative will be introduced starting in January.

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Her message was one of empowerment, underscoring the government's long-term vision of equipping youth with the tools they need to excel in a competitive global environment. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Vice Chancellor MNSUAM, issued a statement congratulating the 402 awardees from the university. He expressed immense pride in their achievement and thanked the Government of Punjab, especially Honorable Chief Minister Her Excellency Maryam Nawaz, for recognizing the potential of students from MNSUAM. In his statement, he noted that the Honhaar Scholarship represents a transformative opportunity for the students and reflects the vision of CM and province's investment in building a future-ready generation of skilled, educated individuals, particularly in critical sectors like agriculture. Dr. Kashif Razzaq, Director of Financial Assistance and Scholarships at MNS University of Agriculture, also extended his congratulations. He acknowledged the tireless efforts of the students and the supportive role of the university faculty in guiding them. Dr. Kashif emphasized that this scholarship will not only ease the financial burdens of deserving students but also motivate them to aim higher in both academics and their professional aspirations. He reaffirmed the commitment of the university to support such initiatives that encourage inclusivity, merit, and excellence.



FAUJI FERTILIZER COMPANY DELEGATION'S VISIT OF MNSUAM

A delegation from Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) visited Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan, to discuss future collaborative initiatives in agricultural development on January 27, 2025. The delegation included Mr. Zaheer Ahmed Khan, Head of Sales, Central Zone Multan; Mr. M. Tahir Naeem, Head of Agri Services Multan; Mr. Faisal Mehmood, Head of Sales Multan; and Mr. Niaz Ahmed, Agri Services Officer. In their meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana they explored on projects related to agriculture, public-private partnerships, and new initiatives for supporting farmers and students. The delegation appreciated the efforts of the university in promoting agricultural development in the region and for playing a pivotal role in advancing agricultural sector. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana expressed his gratitude for their interest in collaborating with the university and emphasized the importance of joint efforts to address challenges faced by farmers. He welcomed the proposal to launch initiatives combining research and practical solutions to enhance agricultural productivity. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to working on future projects that aim to support farmers, improve agricultural yields, and provide training opportunities for young professionals.



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DELEGATION'S VISIT OF MNSUAM

In continuity to the history of fruitful collaborations, team ACIAR Delegation visited MNSUAM on Jan 29, 2025 and reviewed the progress on Hybrid Wheat Project. A meeting was held with the delegation, which included Mr. Munawar Kazmi Country Manager, ACIAR, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Rajwana Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig, Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq while Dr. Richard joined online. The Australian delegation reviewed the Hybrid Wheat Project and welcomed several new scientists to the project team. They advised the team to achieve their targets within the stipulated timeframe. Dr. Richard announced that he would visit the university again in February to inspect the wheat trials.



Expressing his gratitude to the Australian delegation, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM stated that he is looking forward to more future collaborations.



MNSUAM'S COLLABORATION WITH AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTIONS TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL WATER PRODUCTIVITY

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan and consortium of Australian Universities led by University of South Australia agreed to work for an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) funded research for development project to improve water management in agriculture on January 31, 2025. The collaboration aims to develop sustainable solutions for optimizing water use and addressing the challenges of water scarcity and climate change in Pakistan's agricultural sector. Led by Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig, the project will focus on maximizing water efficiency in key crop production systems. A high-level meeting was held at MNSUAM to finalize the project proposal, attended by Dr. Neil Lazarow (Program Manager- Water) and Dr. Munawar Raza Kazmi (Country Manager, ACIAR), along with senior faculty members and researchers from MNSUAM, including Prof. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan, Dr. Alamgir Akhtar Khan, Dr. Tanveer-ul-Haq, Dr. Nazar Fareed, and Dr. Khurram Mubeen. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rajwana Vice Chancellor MNSUAM outlined the institution's achievements in agricultural innovation and highlighted the role of international collaboration in improving Pakistan's water productivity. The Australian delegation expressed confidence in the project's potential to enhance water-efficient farming and strengthen research partnerships. This initiative is expected to benefit farmers by improving crop yields, conserving water resources, and promoting climate resilience. It will also facilitate joint research, student exchange programs, and technology transfer between MNSUAM and its Australian counterparts.



ICAC'S DELEGATION VISITS MNSUAM

MNS University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM) had the privilege of hosting a high-profile delegation from the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), including Mr. Eric Trachtenberg, Executive Director of ICAC, and Mr. Kanwar Usman, Head of Textiles at ICAC on February 6, 2025. During the visit, Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, welcomed the delegation on behalf of the Vice Chancellor. He, along with other esteemed faculty members, briefed the guests on the university's ongoing cotton research initiatives and outreach programs aimed at benefiting farmers and the broader textile industry. Mr. Eric Trachtenberg, visiting Pakistan for the first time, praised MNSUAM's efforts in cotton research and emphasized ICAC's commitment to fostering global cotton development.



He highlighted the emergence of Jassid as a significant pest in Africa and expressed willingness to facilitate collaboration between MNSUAM researchers and African experts to address common challenges in textile policies, production technologies, and plant protection. Mr. Kanwar Usman stressed the need for greater accessibility to cotton germplasm resources, emphasizing that the Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) holds over 6,000 germplasm accessions that should be made digitally accessible to researchers worldwide. The visit concluded with the Vice Chancellor presenting shields to Mr. Eric Trachtenberg, Mr. Kanwar Usman, and Dr. Naveed Afzal in recognition of their contributions to the cotton sector. The delegation's visit reaffirmed the strong partnership between ICAC and MNSUAM, paving the way for future collaborations in cotton research, innovation, and sustainable agricultural practices.

EDDY COVARIANCE FLEX TOWER INAUGURATED AT MNSUAM JALALPUR PIRWALA CAMPUS

The MNS University of Agriculture Multan (MNSUAM) marked a milestone with the inauguration of the Eddy Covariance Flex Tower at its Jalalpur Pirwala campus. The ceremony was led by Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rajwana, Vice Chancellor MNSUAM signifying a major advancement in climate change research and agricultural sustainability. The event was graced by esteemed faculty members, including Prof. Dr. Alamgir Akhtar Khan, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Bio-System Engineering & Technology, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig, Dean of Social Sciences & Humanities, Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Dean of Food and Home Sciences, Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan, Director ORIC, Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Director Farms, Prof. Dr. Tanveer Ul Haq, Prof. Dr. Nasir Nadeem Director Graduate studies, Mr. Rafiq Farooqi,



Treasurer, Registrar, administration staff, Dr. Muhammad Abid, Farms Manager and supporting staff, showcasing strong institutional support for this groundbreaking initiative. Dr. Muhammad Saifullah provided a detailed briefing on the Eddy Covariance Flex Tower, explaining its role in measuring carbon flux, evapotranspiration, and other key environmental parameters. The project, funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) initiative, aims to enhance climate-smart agricultural practices and improve water resource management. The efforts of Dr. Muhammad Saifullah and his team at MNSUAM were widely appreciated by the attendees, acknowledging their dedication to advancing research and innovation in agriculture. Prominent researchers and experts from the Department of Agricultural Engineering, including Dr. Umair Sultan,

EDDY COVARIANCE FLEX TOWER INAUGURATED AT MNSUAM JALALPUR PIRWALA CAMPUS

Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan, and Dr. Muhammad Abid, Engr Saqib Yaseen and Engr. Omer Farooq, were also present. Additionally, Muhammad Ghazanfar, serving as Assistant Water Expert Students under the FAO Project, participated in the event, underscoring the engagement of young professionals in this vital research domain. This initiative reaffirms MNSUAM's commitment to pioneering scientific advancements in agriculture, with a strong focus on climate resilience and environmental sustainability.



BLOOD DONATION CAMP

The Blood Donation Society of MNSUAM, in collaboration with the Regional Blood Center (RBC) Multan, organized a successful two-day blood donation camp on February 11-12, 2025. The primary aim of the camp was to encourage students to donate blood, ensuring its availability during emergencies and saving lives in critical situations. An organizing committee was constituted before the start of the event, was responsible for coordinating the necessary arrangements and raising awareness among students about the importance of blood donation. The camp began at 9:00 AM with a ceremonial inauguration, which was attended by Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences; Mr. Imran Mehmood, (Director, Planning & Development); Muhammad Rafique Farooqi (Treasurer); and Ms. Somiya Ambreen (Registrar). During his address, Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed highlighted the multiple benefits of blood donation, both for the recipients and the donors themselves. He also suggested that blood grouping should be made a mandatory requirement for newly admitted students, with their blood group information included on the student university card, to further support future blood donation initiatives. Representatives from RBC Multan were present to provide insight into the blood testing procedures and the comprehensive services their organization offers.

The representatives from RBC Multan informed the participants that blood testing was conducted using the latest and most reliable techniques. This provided the donors with confidence that their blood would be treated with the highest level of care and accuracy. Over 100 students volunteered to donate blood, and a total of 70 blood bags were successfully collected. The donors were provided with refreshments to maintain their well-being throughout the event. In appreciation of their efforts, RBC Multan awarded certificates of appreciation to each blood donor and organizer, as a token of gratitude for their contributions to the camp's success.

WEBINAR ON "RESEARCH SMARTLY WITH AI TOOLS: SEARCH TO CITATION"

A webinar on "Research Smartly with AI Tools: Search to Citation" was organized on February 12, 2025, at the Graduate Resource Centre, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, in collaboration with the Central Library and PASTIC. The session aimed to introduce students, researchers, and faculty members to the effective use of artificial intelligence (AI) in academic research. The session was facilitated by Ms. Rubina Ahmed and Dr. Shoaib-ur-Rehman, while Dr. Maryam Abrar from PASTIC served as the resource person. The event was graced by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Rajwana along with a large number of students, researchers, and faculty members, including Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem, Dr. Nasir Nadeem, Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum, Dr. Unsar Naeemullah, Dr. Kashif Razzaq,



Dr. Muhammad Arif, Dr. Asif Farooq, Dr. Farrukh Baig, Ms. Shifa, and others. The session introduced the participants to various AI-powered research tools and modern platforms designed to enhance the research process. The resource person demonstrated how AI can expedite literature reviews, improve citation accuracy, and ensure research credibility. The audience gained insights into efficient research techniques using AI, such as automated reference management, AI-driven data analysis, and strategies to ensure accuracy in academic work. The session was well-received, with participants actively engaging in discussions and expressing enthusiasm about the potential of AI in simplifying complex research processes. Representatives from PASTIC acknowledged the webinar's success, stating that such sessions play a vital role in equipping students and researchers with modern research skills. They also expressed their commitment to continuing collaborative efforts with the University of Agriculture to organize similar knowledge-sharing events in the future. The session was brought to a close with At Ms. Rubina Ahmed expressing her gratitude to Dr. Maryam Abrar from PASTIC and all the participants for their contributions to making the event successful.

AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA VISITS MNSUAM

Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan had the honor of welcoming His Excellency Sebastián Sayús, Ambassador of Argentina to Pakistan, and Mrs. Erica Lucero, Deputy Head of Mission, for their official visit to the university on February 17, 2025. The visit was facilitated by the Office of Research, Innovation, and Collaboration at MNSUAM to explore mutual areas of research, innovation, technology exchange, and academic collaboration. Prof. Dr Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM briefed the distinguished guests on the university's ongoing initiatives and collaborations, highlighting that MNSUAM is already engaged in a joint research project with the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA) of Argentina.



Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem, a leading researcher at MNS-UAM, is the collaborating scientist in this significant project. The visit was particularly timely, following the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the governments of Pakistan and Argentina. This agreement aims to bolster bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly in agriculture and technology. During the discussions, several key areas of mutual interest were identified for potential collaboration, including Precision Agriculture, Livestock and Dairy Development, Agro-Biotechnology, Water Management and Irrigation Systems, Academic and Student Exchange Programs, extending collaboration in students scholarships in Argentina and establishing a Sports Centre to foster the development of nursery of players for different clubs of Argentina.

AMBASSADOR OF ARGENTINA VISITS MNSUAM

The delegation appreciated the research advancements at MNS-UAM and expressed their keen interest in fostering a long-term partnership. Ambassador Sebastián Sayús reaffirmed Argentina's commitment to enhancing academic and scientific ties with Pakistan, emphasizing that collaborative efforts in agriculture and technology could significantly benefit both nations. This visit marks a step forward in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Argentina, paving the way for future research collaborations and academic exchanges. MNSUAM remains dedicated to fostering international partnerships that contribute to the advancement of science, technology, and sustainable agricultural practices. The guests planted trees at the university lawn to mark the visit's memorial.



SEMINAR ON YOUTH RESILIENCE AND COUNTERING EXTREMISM

Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan, successfully organized a one-day seminar titled “Advancing Inclusive and Resilient Youth Communities through Preventing Violent Extremism at Educational Campuses” on February 24, 2025. The event brought together academic leaders, researchers, and experts to address critical strategies for fostering peace and inclusivity in educational institutions. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Principal Officer Students Affairs, delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the university’s commitment to nurturing socially responsible youth. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor MNSUAM underscored the role of educational institutions in combating radical ideologies, stating that, “Our campuses must be sanctuaries of tolerance and critical thinking. By empowering young minds, we build resilient communities that reject violence and embrace diversity.” A keynote address was delivered by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, Director General of the Islamic Research Institute at International Islamic University, Islamabad. Dr. Zia provided a comprehensive overview of the seminar’s objectives, tracing the historical context of violent extremism and highlighting proactive measures for prevention. He stressed the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, stating that, “Education, research, and community

engagement are pillars in dismantling extremist narratives. We must equip youth with the tools to champion peace.” Dr Zia delivered an insightful talk on the historical context and objectives of the seminar. He highlighted the importance of integrating ethical values and constructive dialogue within educational institutions to prevent extremist ideologies from taking root. His address underscored the role of research and academic collaboration in building an inclusive society. Prominent journalist Mr. Rafiq Qureshi addressed the seminar, shedding light on the role of media in shaping narratives that foster inclusivity and counter extremist mindsets. Additionally, Prof. Dr. Abdul Quddus shared his expertise on academic approaches to developing resilience in youth and ensuring that universities serve as platforms for constructive discourse.



SEMINAR ON YOUTH RESILIENCE AND COUNTERING EXTREMISM

Dr. Rustam Khan, Deputy Director of the Islamic Research Institute (IRI), contributed to the dialogue by presenting data-driven strategies for early detection of radicalization trends. His session emphasized the role of institutional policies and mental health support in safeguarding students. Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum, Hall Warden inspired the students for becoming a part of the Paigham-e-Pakistan campaign for disseminating the peace narrative to all the stakeholders of Pakistan. He advised the youth to direct their energies in positive way to foster the economic and civic respectabilities. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, appreciated the contributions of all the speakers and reaffirmed the university's commitment



to nurturing a safe and inclusive academic environment. The seminar successfully provided a platform for scholars, media professionals, and policymakers to exchange ideas and strategies for fostering resilient youth communities, ensuring that educational campuses remain hubs of peace and intellectual growth.



NAHE'S NATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY – PHASE II

The National Outreach Program for Higher Education Faculty (Phase II) was successfully completed at Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM). This four-week training was organized in collaboration with the National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan. The aim of the program was to improve the teaching skills of university faculty members and help them adopt new and effective methods of teaching. The training started on February 17, 2025, and ended on March 11, 2025. It included up to 80 sessions with expert trainers, focusing on areas like teaching techniques, research methods, classroom management, and the use of modern tools in education. These sessions helped the faculty learn better ways to teach and manage students in



today's academic environment. Faculty members who completed the training with at least 90% attendance and submitted all their assignments received certificates. The opening ceremony was held at Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Library, MNSUAM. Dr. Noor Amina Malik, Managing Director of NAHE, was the chief guest. She spoke about how important it is for teachers to keep learning and growing professionally. She said that this program would help early and mid-career faculty adopt modern teaching methods and improve the overall quality of education. She also thanked Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor for hosting this important training at MNSUAM and supporting the cause of faculty development. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor MNSUAM, also addressed the audience. Praising the efforts of NAHE, he encouraged the faculty to take full advantage of such training programs and

NAHE'S NATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FACULTY – PHASE II

expressed that when teachers improve, students also benefit. The closing ceremony of the training was held on March 11, 2025, and was attended by Prof. Dr. Zubair Iqbal, Vice Chancellor Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, as the chief guest. In his speech, he appreciated the hard work of the participants and the organizers. He highlighted that such programs are very helpful in building a strong academic environment and improving the standards of higher education in Pakistan. He congratulated the faculty members who completed the training and encouraged them to apply what they had learned in their classrooms. A total of 30 faculty members from MNSUAM took part in this training. These included Abd Ur Rehman, Hafiz Zahid Mehmood, Sarfraz Hashim, Umair Sultan, Muhammad Sibte Abbas, Misbah Shareef, Umrah Zafar, Gulzar Akhtar, Nazar Farid, Syeda Anum Masood Bukhari, Israr Hussain, Javeria Jabeen, Nadeem Iqbal, Akash Fatima, Sehrish Ejaz, Shahid Iqbal, Nabeel Ahmad Ikram, Asif Farooq, Asif Mehmood Arif, Farrukh Baig, Muhammad Arslan Khan, Nadir Naqqash, Aimen Batool, Muhammad Imran, Shakeel Ahmad, Waseem Hassan, Baseer Ahmad, Momna Mehmood, Muhammad Usman, and Samar Wafa Kabeer. The training was coordinated by Dr. Unsar Naeem Ullah, Associate Professor (Entomology), who served as the Training Coordinator.

The event was also supported by Assistant Director Ghulam Murtaza Goraya, Professor Dr. Asif Raza (Dean, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences), Professor Dr. Umar Farooq (Dean, Faculty of Food and Home Sciences), Librarian Ms. Rubina Ahmed, Dr. Fawad Zafar, and other faculty members and staff. Their teamwork and dedication made the program a great success. This training program shows the commitment of university toward improving the teaching standards.

