

# NEWS BULLETIN

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MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan

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## MEETING OF MNSUAM DELAGTION WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF UZBEKISTAN

A meeting was held between the delegations of MNS University of Agriculture, Multan and the Embassy of Uzbekistan for collaboration in education, food security, water security, climate change, research, and technology. The meeting was held at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Islamabad on May 27, 2021. His Excellency Mr. Aybek A. Usmanov, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Pakistan appreciated the role of Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad for arranging this meeting and discussed various areas of mutual interest particularly research, and students and faculty exchange programs between the two countries. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM and H.E. Aybek A. Usmanov also discussed the possibility of exchange of knowledge, technologies, and expertise in on cotton, wheat, and other crops. Moreover, the export of Mangoes and organizing a Mango Festival in Uzbekistan was also discussed. In addition, enhancing connectivity in sectors of trade and commerce between the two countries was also highlighted. It was decided that necessary support will also be provided for collaboration between MNS University of Agriculture, Multan and relevant institutions of Uzbekistan.





## **THE VICE CHANCELLOR, MNSUAM MEETS AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA AND DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

The Vice-Chancellor, MNS- University of Agriculture, Multan, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, T.I, the Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Col. (R) Khalid Taimur Akram and the Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities- MNSUAM, Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig met His Excellency Mr. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan. The honorable Ambassador was invited to the up-coming Mango webinar and Mango festivals to be organized by the University, who graciously accepted the invitation and expressed his willingness for participating in such activities. He also expressed his keen interest in visiting Multan and other areas of South Punjab. His Excellency agreed to enhance efforts for academic and research collaboration among Pakistani and Indonesian Universities. In the said meeting, the Minister Counsellor B. Dharmawan of Indonesian Embassy was also present. Various other possibilities were also explored for cooperation in the agriculture sector. It was agreed that CGSS will facilitate academic collaborations between the MNS University of Agriculture, Multan and the academic Institutions in Indonesia to promote joint research ventures and exchange of relevant expertise. His Excellency Mr. Adam M. Tugio was of the view that inter-business contacts must be promoted to build better partnerships between Pakistan and Indonesia. He also appreciated CGSS for its instrumental role in promoting Pakistan's true potential in the region

The MNSUAM delegation also held a meeting with Dr. Phillip Deichmann, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and First Secretary Christian Bottcher. In the meeting, the German Diplomates were invited to the mango festival to be organized by the University. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali shared the collaborative activities between MNSUAM and various German universities and institutions including a DAAD funded project entitled "Collaborative capacity building for plant biodiversity research and preservation in oasis ecosystems of Pakistan". He informed that the project team from University of Kassel and International Centre for Development and Decent Work is visiting Pakistan during the last week of June 2021 to kick start activities of the project. The German Counsellor appreciated the collaborative research activities and ensured his full support in this regard. He extended invitation to the "Biodiversity plus" project team to the Embassy during their visit to Islamabad. He also said that German universities have always scholarship opportunities to Pakistani university students and will continue to do so in future. The Deputy Head of Mission also thanked the Executive Director, CGSS, Col. (Retd.) Khalid Taimur Akram for arranging this meeting. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, MNSUAM fortified the discussions with his experiences and insights on sustainability, climate change and biodiversity.



## **HANNS SEIDEL FOUNDATION PAKISTAN AND MNS UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE MULTAN DISCUSS COMMON AREAS OF INTEREST AND POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES**

A meeting was held between Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, Dr. Steffen Kudella, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Pakistan & Mr. Khalid Taimur Akram, Executive Director, Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad on May 27, 2021. Prof. Irfan Ahmed Baig, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan was also present during the meeting.

During the meeting, both the institutions i.e., Hanns Seidel Foundation Pakistan and MNS University of Agriculture, Multan discussed common areas of interest and possible joint ventures. Both institutions agreed to initiate research projects in areas of non-traditional security challenges specifically food security, water security, and climate change etc.

Furthermore, HSF and MNS University of Agriculture, Multan highlighted the need for academic cooperation. Hence, it was agreed upon that CGSS will facilitate in arranging various seminars, conferences, internship opportunities, and workshops for the capacity building of students especially from social sciences background.



## CELEBRATING

## WORLD BEE DAY AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEE POLLINATION UNDER CHANGING CLIMATE SCENARIO

The Institute of Plant Protection, MNSUAM organized an International Online Conference on Bee Pollination under Changing Climate Scenario on May 20, 2021. 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.

The Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Syed Fakhar Imam was the Chief Guest. Prof. Dr. DP Abrol, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu and Dr. Neil Cobb, Biodiversity Outreach Network, Northern Arizona University, United States were the keynote speakers. Other scientists from USA, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Cuba, and Pakistan also presented their research work. An overwhelming number of scientists and students from India, USA, Oman, Qatar, Bangladesh, UK, Cambodia, South Africa, Turkey, France and Pakistan participated in the webinar.

In his opening address Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, T.I, highlighted the role played by bees for food security. He stated that marking the day was aimed at sensitizing the growers and other stakeholders about the significance of a balanced ecosystem where bees can service with all their diversity. He also emphasized that agricultural productivity can be enhanced with an organized system of logistics for bee transportation and harbouring, as, when, and where required. He appreciated the team Institute of Plant Protection led by Prof. Shafqat Saeed to make this webinar a success.

Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Director, Institute of Plant Protection (IP<sup>2</sup>) provided the conference overview. He highlighted that the UN has declared 20<sup>th</sup> May as World Bee Day in order to let people know that how bees are vital for our environment and ecosystem. The main theme for The World Bee Day 2021 was "Bee Engaged". As the world is facing crisis during the Covid-19 Pandemic, it has also impacted beekeeping sector and has



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affected the production and livelihood of the beekeepers. The theme highlights the importance of beekeeping and bee derived products and their role in attaining SDGs. Around 75% of important food crops are pollinator dependent and among all other pollinators bees are the most important pollinators all over the world. 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. Bees contribute about 235-577 US dollars in global food production annually and play a vital role in keeping the environment healthy.

The honourable Federal Minister, Syed Fakhar Imam informed that bee business could be initiated with low investment which could result in good profit for farmers. Farmers could get reasonable income from this business if they inject even a little investment into it, he observed. The Minister appreciated the varsity for promoting bees business and holding the webinar on such an important issue. Dr. Asif Sajjad (Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur) presented resource partitioning in pollinator guilds among sub-tropical plant communities of Punjab, Pakistan. Dr. Yasir Ali (Agricultural Research Institute Tarnab Peshawar, The University of Agriculture Peshawar) presented the research work pertaining comparative study of foraging behavior of *Apis mellifera* L. at two different agro climatic conditions in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Dr. Agni Chandra from Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India talked about Predicting the Suitable Habitat of Bumble Bees in Trans-Himalayan Region of Himachal Pradesh, India. Spatio-Temporal Behavior of *Bombus simillimus* (Hymenoptera: Apidae) from Tolipir National Park, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan was discussed by Dr. Umer Ayyaz of Department of Entomology, University of Poonch Rawalakot, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan. Dr. Arshed Makhdoom Sabir from Beekeeping & Hill Fruit Pests Research Station, Rawalpindi, Pakistan elaborated the Pollination Services by Honeybees in The Punjab, Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed (Director, IP<sup>2</sup>) highlighted comparative pollination efficacies of solitary bees, honeybees and flies on *Medicago sativa* L. seed production in Pakistan. Dr. Mudassir Ali (Assistant Professor, IP<sup>2</sup>) gave an overview of diversity and





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effectiveness of native pollinators in the reproductive success of *Bauhinia variegata*. Dr. Khalid Ali Khan's (Research Centre for Advanced Materials Science (RCAMS), King Khalid University, Abha, Saudi Arabia) presentation was about queen cells acceptance rate and royal jelly production in worker honeybee of two *Apis mellifera* races. Aptness of some basic factors affecting the results of instrumental insemination of honeybee queens *Apis mellifera* under lab conditions was discussed by Dr. Muhammad Khalid Rafique (Honeybee Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad). Dr. Muhammad Asif Aziz (PMAS Arid

agriculture University Rawalpindi) appraised the problems and challenges in scaling up apiculture sector in Pakistan. Dr. Maria Ahmed (Department of Zoology, Kohat University of Science and Technology, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan) presented her findings regarding the effects of supplementary feeding on the health of *Apis mellifera* Population. Dr. Diego Alameda (Faculty of Biology, University of Havana, Cuba) postulated that native bees increase tomato pollination isolated from the pollination network. Dr. Mudassir Ali presented the recommendations of the conference, while vote of thanks was offered by Dr. Unsar Naeem Ullah (Assistant Professor, IP<sup>2</sup>).



## WALK FOR PALESTINE CAUSE

To showcase solidarity with Palestinians, campus staff and students organized a walk for the Palestinian cause on May 21, 2021, calling for an immediate stoppage of atrocities by Israeli armed forces. The participants of the walk stated that "we may not live in Palestine, but Palestine lives in us". They chanted slogans against Israeli aggression and called for an end to Israel's aggression towards innocent Palestinians.



Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor condemned Israeli terrorism against innocent Palestinians and said we would continue to raise this issue at every forum. He said that all Muslim countries of the world need to unite for the cause of Palestine's freedom. Other participants also condemned the Israel's ongoing and intensifying settlement activities in all manifestations in the occupied Palestinian territory and called for an end to the forced eviction of local Palestinians. The participants prayed for a "progressive and prosperous Palestine".

## SYNOPSIS DEFENSE

- Mr. Muhammad Adnan, Reg. No. 2019-uam-3706, Ph.D scholar of Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, has successfully defend his Ph.D. synopsis online on 28-April-2021 at 10:30 AM. The title of his synopsis is "Value addition of diammonium phosphate to improve phosphorous use efficiency and maize productivity".



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