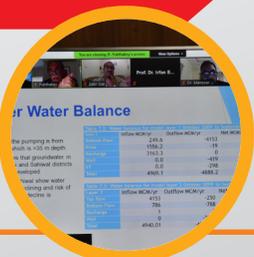


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TAMGHA-E-IMTIAZ CONFERED ON PROF. DR. ASIF ALI



The 23rd March, 2021 would be remembered as a proud moment in the history of MNSUAM as the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali received his “Tamgha-e-Imtiaz” for his outstanding performance and contribution to the development of Agriculture sector as a Plant Breeder and Geneticist. This is the first ever civil award received by a MNSUAM Official. On behalf of The President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi, the Governor Punjab, Ch. Muhammad Sarwar bestowed Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, the star of excellence upon Prof. Dr. Asif Ali during the investiture ceremony held at the Governor House to celebrate Pakistan Day. The prestigious civil award was conferred upon him on the occasion of Independence Day, August 14, 2020. The President of Pakistan had bestowed the award on prominent personalities including foreign nationals in recognition of their services in different fields including medicines, education, social services, fine arts and for showing gallantry in the war against terrorism and during the coronavirus pandemic. The team MNSUAM comprising students, faculty, and administrative staff congratulated him for this marvelous achievement.

FARMER FIELD DAY ON HYBRID WHEAT



Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology (IPB2), MNSUAM in collaboration with SunCrop Group organized a Farmer Field Day to provide opportunity to the participants to visit the demonstration plots of promising wheat genotypes having novel traits of water saving (self-irrigation), low gluten, rich in protein contents and high yield. The farmers also witnessed the effectiveness of SunCrop herbicides “FINDUS EXTRA” demonstrated in the university. In his inaugural address, the



Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, acknowledged the support of SunCrop and emphasized the importance of academia industry collaboration for feeding a burgeoning world population, which is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The scientists of MNSUAM have introduced climate resilient hybrids of wheat having yield potential up to 10 t ha⁻¹ which would be available for general cultivation in next two to three years. Innovative genetics along with proper crop management can increase



notational average yield of crop under climate change scenario i.e., rust attack due to changing rainfall patterns, erratic drought spells in rainfed areas and increasing salinization of soils due to continuous use of brackish underground water. He added that farmers should judiciously use herbicides and fertilizers since their excess use is degrading our soils and air quality. The Vice Chancellor also said that the University in collaboration with AMRI has designed a wheat sowing drill and has conducted



experiments to reduce seed rate up to half and got success. He also thanked the Punjab Government for assuring farmers a good support price. He ended his welcome talk with phrases that we are always available for the welfare of farmers and also the people of this great country.

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Professor, IPB2 highlighted the importance of hybrid wheat for regional and global food security. Furthermore, he elaborated the pioneer work of MNSUAM related to hybrid seed production of wheat in Pakistan and success stories in this regard. He said that hybrid wheat seed





production is under progress i.e. sorting out males, isolation distance requirements from wheat and other pollen-producing crops, seeding rate optimizations, flowering synchronization, crop management, disease response in CDRI nursery. He said that 600 hybrids are under evaluation which would offer 35 to 40 percent more output. Hybrid wheat seeds are being tested at farmers' fields at various locations in Pakistan. He said that National Assembly Standing Committee on National Food Security and Research, recognized and highly appreciated the work of MNSUAM for development of new seed technologies. The hybrids have 20-30% yield advantage as compared to the open pollinated varieties. Furthermore, these hybrids also manifested rust resistance which is a major challenge for sustainability of wheat production in the country. The University wheat breeders are working with the private sector also. In response to a question regarding seed rate of hybrids, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali said that seed rate and other aspects of production technology are being optimized and full package in this regard would be available within the coming couple of years. The modern wheat drills developed at MNSUAM in collaboration with AMRI and private sector was also demonstrated to the participants.

Mr. Tassarwar Shah from SunCrop Group highlighted the results of their herbicide for effective weed control in wheat crop and other various R&D and marketing activities by the SunCrop group. Dr Shafique Pitafi (CEO, SunCrop Group) appreciated the efforts of MNSUAM to boost wheat productivity in the country. He assured his support to the university for R&D activities and service to the farming community.

Mr. Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Punjab laminated that stagnant wheat production demands cultivation of high-yielding hybrid seed at commercial scale to meet the food requirements of the burgeoning population. Hybrid cultivars with improved yield and other favorable agronomic traits may be promoted for cultivation on large area to boost the national yield. To become self-sufficient in wheat, the country is blessed with hardworking scientists and farmers,

fertile land, irrigation water and suitable climate. However, short supply of certified seed has been an issue. Adoption of modern technology is essential for increasing agricultural productivity. The viable way to enhance wheat production is through introduction of high quality seeds apart from ensuring other inputs. There have been some encouraging activities in development of hybrid wheat seed. He appreciated the efforts of team MNSUAM for taking lead in this regard.

PRE-LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF DICE



Pre-launching ceremony of DICE (Distinguished, Innovations, Collaborations and Entrepreneurship) Mega Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Agriculture & Food Science Innovation Event was organized by Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization, and Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, MSNUAM in collaboration with DICE Foundation and SunCrop Group on March 13, 2021. The Honourable Minister Agriculture, Mr. Hussain Jahania Gardezi inaugurated the pre-launch of DICE. Dr. Shafique Pitafi (CEO, SunCrop Group).and Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM) accompanied the Honourable Minister, and DICE is a non-profit organization registered in Michigan, USA. Annual DICE Mega Innovation Event is one of the major initiatives of the DICE Program and since 2007 the program is being conducted at various universities across Pakistan. The objective of this event is to foster culture of innovations and entrepreneurship, establish strong relation between industry and academia and possible

outcomes include innovations expo and innovations for commercialization. The MANSUM houses the DICE (Agriculture and Food Science) Office. During the last DICE event at MNSUAM, students from all over the country presented their innovations in areas of agriculture and food science, agribusiness and economics, ICT and computer sciences, engineering, and technology. The participants were briefed about the criteria, registration procedure, project requirements, evaluation grounds and scoring criteria and important dates. Talking on the occasion, Mr. Hussain Jahanaia Gardezi said that the event would bring together all academic institutes of Pakistan, industry, financial institutions and technology vendors displaying their research innovations, products, and technologies. He applauded this initiative and regarded this event a much needed and timely effort. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that MNSUAM is playing a key role in developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem. The event will showcase the business and entrepreneurial ideas of students from various institutions of Pakistan. The event will cover product and services based business plans as well as plant-based food products and related businesses. Another objective will be to inculcate the culture of entrepreneurship and value addition among students' and disseminate innovative business ideas. Here at MNSUAM, we are trying to produce graduates with hands on entrepreneurial skills so that they can create new jobs instead of being job seekers themselves, he further said.

SEMINAR FOR MANGO GROWERS



Keeping in view the global sustainable development goals and national strategic development pillars of Pakistan, an awareness seminar was organized for the mango growers to develop technical capacity for high productivity of mango orchards. The training was jointly organized by MNSUAM, BASF Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited, Mango Research Institute (MRI) and Pakistan Mango Growers Association on March 8, 2021. As many as 120 participants who joined the event online were mango growers from Punjab and Sindh; however, processors, traders, researchers, scientists and service providers were also present. Malik Haider (National Sales Manager, BASF), Mr. Atif Kamal (General Manager, BASF), Rana Abbas (Agric. Extension, Multan), Malik Tariq and Mr. Abid Majeed (Mango Research Institute) briefed and trained the participants about various concepts of mango tree growth and development, nutritional requirements and management, tree spacing and canopy management, mango disorders, diseases, pests and innovative control strategies. Representatives from BASF and FMC gave detailed presentations about the safe use of pesticides in mango orchards. At the end, a souvenir distribution ceremony was also held.



INTERNEES TRAINING UNDER ADP FUNDED PROJECT



MNSUAM in collaboration with the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and PMAS University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi has launched one-year internship program sponsored by the Dept. of Agriculture, Government of Punjab, for young agriculture graduates who were appointed in 10 low producing tehsils of the province including Haroonabad, Burewala, KotAddu, Kahrur Lal Esan, Pakpattan, Narowal, Shahkot, Quaidabad, 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.

A twelve-day long internees training was organized under the aforementioned project by Project Management Unit (PMU) from February 23 to March 7, 2021. Internees were imparted six hours of training every day comprised of minimum of two hours of hands-on activities/practical/group activities. Training modules + manuals were developed for a general guideline. Local agro-climatic conditions and working environments were discussed and incorporated in these modules and each module made an assessment of existing and post-training level knowledge of internees. The inaugural session of this training was graced by Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM), Mr. Barak Ullah (Additional Secretary, Agricultural Task Force) and Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, MNSUAM). Prof. Dr. Asif Ali emphasized the importance of agriculture and its significance in extraordinary times and appreciated the Department of Agriculture for taking the internship initiative to train and equip fresh agricultural graduates so that they can perform at the farm level. He pointed out that this project is unique in the sense that it is directly linking agri. graduates and University faculty with the farmers in 10 low producing tehsils of Punjab to enhance productivity. Agri. graduates following the latest agricultural technology in conjunction with ICTs can be successful entrepreneurs and role model for others to embrace such innovations. He also presented the facts and figures about entrepreneurial success of previous internees. Mr. Barak Ullah appreciated the efforts undertaken so far in the project and regarded this milestone towards the betterment of the farming community in Pakistan. He said that the positive impacts of this project are already evident and we expect further improvements in crop productivity, profit margins and livelihood standards in near future. While talking about important factors of the internship program, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig said that 110 graduates were appointed in Tehsils of Punjab with low crop productivity so that they could play their roles for improvement of agriculture in these areas, and this intervention is quite successful so far. MNSUAM in pursuit of its moral obligation to serve the farming community of Pakistan and uplift their socio-economic standards will continue such efforts. He further told that the performance of the internees is being observed through a modern monitoring system. Agricultural universities are ensuring experiential learning of their graduates with appropriate skill development and internships for future farming, entrepreneurship and increased employability. The event was organized by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq (Project Coordinator) and Mr. Shoaib Nasir (Incharge, Project Management Unit).

AWARENESS WEBINAR ON WORLD WATER DAY

Department of Agricultural Engineering, MNSUAM organized an awareness webinar "Reckoning Impact of Changing Climate upon Agricultural Water" regarding World Water Day on March 22, 2021. This day was observed under the international theme of "Valuing Water". The main objective of this seminar was to create awareness regarding declining water resources and associated problems. Another objective was to sensitize the farming community and general public towards judicious use of water for sustainable water management. Scientists from Australia, China and Pakistan presented research and learning experiences to improve the balance of water-cycle to help overcome water related challenges of the 21st century. Prof. JF. Punthakey (Charles Sturt University, Australia), Ms. Aye A. Myat (Chinese Academy of Science) and Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Malik (Ex Director, Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources) were the key speakers of this webinar. Prof. Punthakey talked about water distribution on the planet, water layer balance and withdrawals. Ms. Aye A. Myat emphasized on the use of high efficiency irrigation system rather than conventional irrigation practices to increase the water productivity of crops. She advocated the cultivation of crop with low water requirements especially in water scarce conditions. Dr. Manzoor shared his views about importance of fresh water resources for agriculture in Pakistan.

The screenshot shows a Zoom webinar interface with a slide titled "Layer Water Balance". The slide contains two tables of water balance data for model layers 1 and 2, covering the period from October 2009 to September 2015.

Table 7.2: Water balance for model layer 1 October 2009 to September 2015

Layer 1	Inflow MCM/yr	Outflow MCM/yr	Net MCM/yr
Bottom flow	249.6	-4153	-3903.1
River	1556.2	-19	1537.3
Recharge	3163.3	0	3163.3
Well	0.0	-419	-418.6
ET	0.0	-298	-298.0
Total	4969.1	-4888.2	80.9

Table 7.3: Water balance for model layer 2 October 2009 to September 2015

Layer 2	Inflow MCM/yr	Outflow MCM/yr	Net MCM/yr
Top flow	4153	-250	3903
Bottom Flow	786	-788	-1
Recharge	1	0	1
Well	0	-3897	-3897
Total	4940.01	-4934.17	5.84

The slide also includes a bulleted list of points:

- Most of the pumping is from layer 2 which is >35 m depth.
- WB shows that groundwater in the Okara and Sahiwal districts are fully developed
- Parts of Sahiwal show water levels are declining and risk of water quality decline is increasing.

The Zoom interface shows several participants in a video gallery at the top, including Prof. Dr. Irfan B..., Dr. Manzoor ..., and Dr. A.B. Noon. The bottom of the screen displays the Zoom control bar with options like Mute, Stop Video, Participants (46), Q&A, Polls, Chat, Share Screen, and Pause/Stop Recording. The system tray at the bottom right shows the time as 10:23 AM on 3/22/2021.

He proposed innovative ideas for water conservation at domestic, industrial and farmer's fields. He further added that the climate change, shrinking and degradation of water underneath and on earth's surface is causing water crisis around the globe. Other speakers, Dr. Allah Bakhsh (Ex-Dean, Agri. Engineering, UAF), Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, MNSUAM), Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali (Professor, Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, MNSUAM) and Dr. Sarfraz Hashim (Chairman, Department of Agri. Engineering, MNSUAM) said that farmers should irrigate their crop fields based on soil analysis and crop requirements and highlighted the current situation and future challenges pertaining water scarcity. Other faculty members and a large number of students also participated in the webinar.



WEBINAR

ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Role of women cannot be denied in the entrepreneurial development of any country. Under the umbrella of Graduate research Centre; a webinar on “Women Empowerment through Entrepreneurship” was organized on March 23, 2021. The event focused on women empowerment and their entrepreneurial spirit and intended to signify the involvement of female leaders and researchers in their entrepreneurial quest. The event objectives were to understand the

importance of female entrepreneurship for the development of Pakistan and kind of support needed to promote female entrepreneurship and commercialization of their products/services. Another objective was to unravel the factors that limit female entrepreneurs to excel in this field. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, VC, MNSUAM emphasized on women's role in the development of the country, while working side-by-side men in every field and without any fear. He acknowledged that women have special working capabilities and they play a vital role in progress of any institution. Women empowerment is prerequisite to achieve sustainable development and prosperity in Pakistan, he added further. Ms. Rabia Sultan, female entrepreneur and progressive grower shared her life-long experiences and success stories. She talked about how she acquired skills and approaches needed to become a successful female entrepreneur. Ms. Naila Qazi, Founder REACH under IdeaGist platform talked about potential and challenges of Pakistani female entrepreneurs. An open discussion session was held afterwards.



MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan

Webinar

“Women Empowerment through Entrepreneurship”

Guest speakers:



Ms Naila Qazi
Founder REACH, Canada



Ms Rabia Sultan
Progressive farmer



Ms Muneeza Manzoor Butt
Manager VAWC

Date: 24-03-2021
Time: 09:15am





Situation Vacant

Studentship on Hourly Paid Basis in Directorate of Student Affairs

Applications are invited for three (3) situation of Studentship on Hourly Paid Basis for Directorate of Student Affairs of MNS-University of Agriculture Multan. Details and criteria are given below.

Name of Post	No. of Posts	Qualifications	Experience	Pay Package	Period
Studentship	03 (One in each DSA, Student Financial Aid & Senior Tutor office)	B.Sc. (Hons.)/ BS /MS/ M.Sc. (Hons.)	Student should be currently enrolled in any Post graduate program in MNS - UAM. Preferably having excellent computer / IT skills	Hourly Basis as per university rules	89 Days

- ▶ Interested candidates are requested to submit Application on plain papers addresses to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Principal Officer, Directorate of Student Affairs along with 3 sets of CV, CNIC, passport size photographs, educational documents and experience letter (if any) etc. in person or through registered post.
- ▶ Applications along with all documents must reach within 10 days of advertisement.
- ▶ No TA/DA will be admissible for the interview.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq
Principal Officer, (SA)
Directorate of Student Affairs
MNS-UAM