

PARB NEWSLETTER

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Volume No.: XXI

Issue: May, 2012

Visit of Internees P&D Department

A group of six internees from Planning and Development (P&D) department visited PARB in order to have an understanding of agricultural research and role of PARB. Chief Executive PARB Dr. Mubarik Ali through a presentation highlighted that increase in yield enabled us to feed over four times more population. He explained that export gap has been increased immensely in the last few decades, thus putting pressure on our economy. **“We are losing international market as flow of new technology is poor in Pakistan”** he commented. The root causes of research as explained by Dr. Mubarik Ali include little incentive to be innovative, lack of collaboration between institutes & disciplines and poor scientific monitoring and evaluation system. PARB was created to overcome the problems of research through the pillars of Planning, Coordination and Monitoring of research projects in Punjab. PARB has funded 53 output oriented



research projects in crops and livestock sectors and many are in time-line too. He briefly informed the process of funding research projects and the strict monitoring mechanism through which every project has to go with defined parameters. Dr. Mubarik Ali stressed the role of policy makers in speeding up the process of introducing research and innovation in Pakistan so that we may compete with international standard in our products. The door of research is here, need is only to open new horizons in order to combat future challenges. In conclusive remarks he directed

the internees to please play their effective role as nations are equipping themselves with laboratories and scientists as being their best weapon of war against food insecurity. He further commented that nation's struggle lies in the achievement of scientific innovations and Pakistan lagged far behind in this. The internees took keen interest and thanked Chief Executive PARB Dr. Mubarik Ali for giving his precious time and motivated them to do constructive work for the uplift of economy through R & D.

12 PARB's Projects Evaluated

The 26th Board Meeting of PARB held under the chairmanship of Minister for Agriculture Punjab, Ahmed Ali Aulka, decided to technically evaluate 12 PARB's funded projects through independent evaluator. The evaluation has been done successfully during last two month and showed satisfactory performance of all these projects, in line with the approved schedule of the activities. The list of 12 projects is as below:

- ◆ Improvement of chickpea productivity through the identification of drought tolerant and disease resistant chickpea genotype for marginal lands
- ◆ Development and Commercialization of Cotton Leaf Virus Resistant/Tolerant Indigenous Transgenic Bt and Glyphosate Resistant Cotton Hybrids (5 hybrids)
- ◆ Sugarcane plant improvement through traditional and modern breeding technologies.
- ◆ Development of Transgenic Cotton with multiple genes resistant to cotton leaf curl virus [*CLCV*, *bollworm*, and *herbicide resistant genes in two varieties VH-289 and MNH-786 as well a in coker*]
- ◆ Integrated Pest Management of (IPM) Aphids on Wheat Crop
- ◆ Novel approach to generate wide spectrum resistance to all cotton begomoviruses infecting cotton and other cultivated crops
- ◆ Development of meat type Japanese quail with higher body weight acclimitized to indigenous managemental conditions through 6 generations of selective breeding programme
- ◆ Exploiting CA technology potential for extended storage and shipping of fresh produce to international markets.
- ◆ Micro Propagation of Date Palm through Tissue Culture
- ◆ Evaluation of Phosphoric Acid as an alternate to commercial phosphate fertilizer and enhancing its efficiency for higher productivity
- ◆ Safeguarding Pakistani Wheat from potential disease threats
- ◆ Control of Bacterial leaf blight in rice through management and resistant varieties

World Environment Day

The 2012 theme for World Environment Day is "Green Economy", The UN Environment Programme defines the

Green Economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. Practically speaking, a Green Economy is one whose growth in income and employment is driven by public and private investments that reduce carbon emissions and pollution, enhance energy and resource efficiency, and prevent the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.



Japan International Award for Young Agricultural Researchers, 2012

Young researchers engaged in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and related industries, under 40 years of age can apply for this Award. The last date for submission of application is 29th June 2012.

For details please visit the website:

<http://www.jircas.affrc.jp/index.html>

Exhibition on Technologies (R & D) for Rice Sector

A seminar was also held on this exhibition to discuss the key issues of rice industry including poor linkages and infrastructure, lack of funds, untrained manpower in rice cultivation and low investment in R &D. The issues related to pre and post-harvest in rice were also discussed in detail. The pre harvest issues includes non- interventions of government to improve rice cultivation & harvesting, lack of awareness among farmers and use of modern technology. Chief Executive PARB Dr. Mubarik Ali chaired the session of Post- Harvest issues in rice, which were discussed as non-consistency in fabrication/finishing & lack of automation, non-certification, unhygienic store facilities, low production &value addition in products and wastage during milling. The participants suggested to strengthen extension wing of agriculture department, focused on output oriented research projects, encourage private sector collaboration in R & D, technical training for the farmers and enhance foreign partnership for machinery improvement to resolve the key issues of pre and post harvesting issues. All the exhibitors and presenters were awarded shields as a vote of acknowledgement for their active participation.

PARB's Projects In Glimpse

Monitoring of a project at Bahawalpur to control Wheat Rust



Monitoring of a project at Cotton Research Station Multan to Develop CLCV resistant cotton hybrid



Monitoring at University of Agriculture Faisalabad on a project of Sudden Mango Death Syndromes (SMDS)



Monitoring at Punjab University Lahore on a project of CLCV through RNAi technique



AGRI NEWS

International Symposium In Brazil

The Brazilian Society of Agricultural and Agro Industrial Waste Management and its co-promoters are organizing the III International Symposium on Agricultural and Agro Industrial Waste Management in Brazil on 12th to 14th March 2013 in Brazil. The most relevant scientific topics to be discussed involve waste from agriculture, livestock and agro industrial activities.

Papers can be submitted until 28th September 2012 and the best paper will be selected for publication in the scientific Journal Scientia Agricola according guidance in III Sigera's website.

For information please visit : www.sbera.org.br/sigera2013 and sigera2013@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP

The Crawford Fund is now calling for nominations for its Crawford Fund Fellowship for 2012. The training will take place at an Australian institution and will emphasize the application of knowledge to increase agricultural production. The closing date for nominations is 29 June 2012.

More information can be found at: <http://www.crawfordfund.org/training/awards/fellow/cfa2012.html>

4TH NATIONAL WHEAT CONFERENCE & KISAN MELLA 2012 at UoS

Pakistan Agricultural Scientist Society (PASS) invited world renowned atomic scientist Dr. Samar Mubarakmand as Chief Guest to inaugurate 4th National Wheat Conference and Kisan Mella on 26th March, 2012 at University College of Agriculture, University of Sargodha (UoS). Dr. Mand stressed that Pakistan should utilize its natural resources and reserves of coal, natural gas, gold and copper to overcome the prevailing energy and electricity crisis. He said that a heavy amount of coal gas was being produced in Thar desert that could be used to produce cheap electricity, diesel and even petrol for our home consumption. **“The idea is not a new one; already South Africa has done it successfully and boosted up its economy from its mineral reserves”** he maintained. He also suggested the agricultural scientists that we should not only increase our agricultural yields, but also develop the agriculture sector as an industry. He quoted UoS as an exemplary educational university and now its management should collaborate with international Universities to facilitate students. Vice-Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Mohammad Akram Chaudhary, in his welcome address informed that faculty will follow the footsteps of Dr Samar Mubarakmand to evolve new high yielding crop varieties and disease free citrus nurseries. Lt. General (r) Faiz Jillani Malik, Maj. Gen. Imtiaz Hussain Sherazi, Prof. Dr Muhammad Afzal, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, and Secretary General PASS Dr. Ijaz Rasool Noorka also addressed at the conference.

International Event

Dr. Sardar Alam, Assistant Professor Agronomy Dept. UAF and Dr. Abdul Wakeel Assistant Professor Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences UAF attended 6th World Congress on Allelopathy held in China through PARB travel grant opportunity. Scientists all around the world were there to present their work related to advances researches in the field of allelopathy. The theme of the conference was **“Allelopathy Research for Sustainable Development- from theory to practice”**. They thanked PARB for providing them such a great opportunity that will enhance their skills to practically utilize allelopathy to increase agricultural productivity.

What is Allelopathy

It has been used in various ways to solve the problems related to crop production. For example Genetically Modified varieties of different crops having allelopathic effect against weeds have been developed. It has also been used for the growth promotion of different crops and also for pest management especially for weeds.