

# PARB NEWSLETTER

Editor in Chief: Dr. Mubarak Ali

3rd Floor ZTBL, 47-The Mall, Lahore  
Ph: +92 -42-37232744 Ext. 616  
Fax: +92 -42-37247594  
Website: www.parb.gov.pk



Editor & Designer: Maryam Naseer

Email: rpo@parb.gov.pk

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## Farmer's Day



Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Malik Ahmad Ali has said that rice farmers will earn 4 to 5 billion rupees annually by using modern technology of direct cultivation of rice through seed. He expressed these views while addressing a gathering of cultivators during inspection of fields of rice directly cultivated through seed by Rice Research Institute Kala Shah Kaku (RRI-KSK) on Mureedkay Narowal Road. Chief Executive Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) Dr. Mubarak Ali, Director General Agriculture (Research) Dr. Noor-ul-Islam, Director RRI-KSK Dr. Muhammad Akhtar, officers of agriculture department and a large number of farmers were presented on the occasion. Dr. Mubarak Ali informed that PARB has provided funds to RRI-KSK for intro-

duction of cultivation of rice directly through seed. He said that through this modern technology, direct cultivation of rice results in increasing number of plants due to which not only production is increased from 6 to 8 maund per acre but labor expenses become also reduced. He said that this technology being cheaper than mechanical and traditional cultivation, gives better results in less time besides saving 15 to 20 percent water. He informed that technology has now entered in to commercialization phase and large area will be cultivated through this technology in future. He also acknowledged the support of Punjab government and said that government is aware of the problems of cultivators and steps are being taken on priority basis for their

resolution. Dr. Muhammad Akhtar informed that this research project is economically beneficial and does not affect the quality of rice. He said that through this technology, cultivation of rice will become possible on one million acre land in next few years. The Agriculture Minister directed that complete technical guidance and training should be provided to the cultivators so that by increasing production of rice, the cultivators would play their due role in strengthening economy. He further said that besides provision of funds of one billion rupees to PARB, double amount has been allocated for improvement of research infrastructure by the Punjab Government.

## Scientists are Congratulated for Developing Miracle CLCV Resistant Cotton Plant

Punjab Agriculture Minister Malik Ahmad Ali Aulakh and Chief Executive PARB Dr. Mubarik Ali visited Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology (CEMB) in Punjab University and congratulated the scientists for developing cotton GMO which can effectively resist the CLCV growth in the plant.

Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCV) is devastating cotton production and woe the cotton farmers every year. The losses due to the disease are estimated 3 million bales worth of approximately Rs. 250-300 billion depending upon the cotton prices.

PARB started a project in collaboration with CEMB and Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS) in Punjab University in 2009 to develop GMO that can effectively resist the virus growth in cotton plant with a cost of Rs. 29 million. The GMO construct against the virus was built in Toronto University. It was incorporated in the best cotton varieties of Punjab in collaboration with IAS and CEMB. The methodology used to build the construct is called RNAi technique.

The scientists told the minister that international and national collaboration developed through PARB played a critical role in the success of this project. They informed the minister that couple of confirmatory test is needed before the seed of the GMO can be given to the farmers. These research stages will be completed within 1-2 years.

The minister for agriculture gratitude Dr. Mubarik Ali for initiating this project, his planning and coordination efforts that brought the success. He emphasized to speed up the work so that the fruit of the scientific success can reach to the farmers as soon as possible. He assured all support to complete the project as soon as possible.



## EID- UL -ADHA MUBARAK



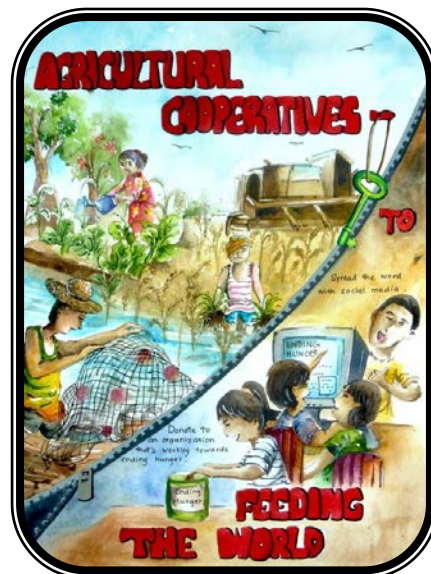
*Eid-ul-adha is an Eid of sacrifice and commitment to ALLAH's order. May ALLAH Subhan ho tala bless us with the same in all circles of life and help all, especially who are helpless, worried and waiting for his REHMET, ameen sum ameen.*  
**EID MUBARAK**

## AGRI NEWS

## World Food Day

*“Agricultural cooperatives – key to feeding the world”* is the formal wording of the 2012 theme. The official World Food Day theme, announced each spring by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), gives focus to World Food Day observances and raises awareness and understanding of approaches to ending hunger. It has been chosen to highlight the role of cooperatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger.

*PARB’s vision is to enhance sustainable productivity, reduce poverty, ensure food security and promote competitiveness in the agricultural sector through output oriented agricultural research development plans.*



## Workshop for Farmers in PARB's project

One day Farmer's workshop in a PARB funded project, **“Biological management of root knot nematodes on vegetables”** was organized by



Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) on 10th Oct, 2012. The objective was to stimulate awareness, upgrade knowledge and improve skills of participating farmers, researchers and students on Pasteuria technologies developed by the Department for the biological control of root knot nematodes in vegetables.

Project Manager Prof. Dr. Nazir Javed along with other faculty briefly demonstrated the nematode problems and their effective bio control agents. They also emphasized that the field applications of bio control organisms like Pasteuria as bio pesticides must be applied to enhance the vegetables production of the country as it is beneficial, having no adverse effect on human and environment. PARB's monitoring members Muhammad Abdullah Khan and Mr. Abdul Rehman reported that problem was delivered practically in laboratory as well as in field.

This workshop provided a diverse and dynamic forum for: (i) sharing experiences among experts and farmers (ii) discussing the principles and practices for biological management of nematodes and (iii) identifying useful methods/ tools for development and promotion of biological management system.

**International Participation**

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Assistant Professor Agronomy department PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi participated in international congress on Modeling and Stimulation held in Australia. In a report submitted to PARB, he informed that problems like choice of crop, erosion control, water conservation, variety & management selections under particular area and extreme climatic conditions can be well tackled through these models. It can be used as a tool for designing agricultural production and crop management systems such as Genotypes and crop selections, fertilizer and irrigation managements, tillage operations, crop rotations and intercropping, sowing time, weeds control and scenario analysis. He further suggested that there is more to climate variability than ENSO (Climate knowledge), therefore we have to understand climate variability.

Dr. Muhammad Ayyoub Tanvir Lecturer Forestry department UAF attended International Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology, Biological and Bio systems Engineering held in Malaysia. The main objective was to create an effective medium for academia/industries to present and share ideas, innovations and problem solving techniques. He commented that scientists doing efforts to cope with the problems of environmental degradation using magnetic field application should be encouraged. Magnetic Seed Stimulator should be provided to scientists in order to promote such studies.

*This section truly reflects the views of scientists taken from their debriefing reports*

**Project's Monitoring in Glimpse**



*Development, evaluations and promotion of herbal anticoccidial(s) for the control of coccidiosis In Poultry at UAF*



*Development, evaluations and promotion of Distillery Yeast Sludge (DYS) based poultry feeds and prebiotic agent for the productivity of poultry meat and eggs at UAF*



*enhancement of cost effective mutton production through genetically enhanced prolificacy management at Patoki UVAS*



*Utilizing bacterial ACC-D Deaminase to enhance water use efficiency for sustainable production of rice at UAF*