

Establishment of National Insect Museum at NARC



**National Insect
Museum**



Chairman PARC
briefing visitors at
Museum

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Challenges

- Insects constitute 75% of animal bio-diversity and have direct relationship with human beings in many ways. Both indigenous and exotic insect species need identification
- Identification of insects is critically important in formulating dynamic plant protection strategies
- A century old Pusa Insect Collection (British era) as well as recent insect collection from Pakistan needed a place for preservation
- Due to lack of capacity, un-identified insect species were sent to other countries which consumed time and valuable foreign exchange

Intervention

- In **2005**, the foundation of National Insect Museum (NIM) was laid through a PSDP Project at NARC which was completed in 2007
- The museum has developed necessary infrastructure and expertise for systematic research on insects
- Since **2005**, more than **100** country-wide surveys have been carried out for insect collection
- Currently, identification services are being provided free of charge to the farmers, scientists, educators and students of various universities

Outcomes

- The national heritage descended from British era has been secured
- About 122,000 preserved insect specimens have become available for reference and research
- Over 47,500 are authentically identified specimens; of which 125 are new to science and 212 are new to country record.
- More than 40 students and internees have been trained in the field of insect systematics
- More than 1000 stakeholders have benefited from identification services

Way forward

- Exploring the insect fauna of Pakistan in order to develop a publically accessible insect database
- Capacity building of taxonomists dealing with applied entomology
- Dissemination of information through print and electronic media