



# PARC NEWS

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## Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Placed at the Top of List of Productive Scientist for Year 2016



Pakistan Council for Science & Technology (PCST) has recently announced the final results of Productive Scientists of Pakistan for 2016. The final result can be viewed at its website: <http://pcst.org.pk/psp2017.php>.

It is a matter of a great pleasure that present Chairman PARC (Dr Yusuf Zafar T.I.) got the top position as being the most Productive Scientist of Pakistan in the field of Agriculture. The criteria were based on 10 measurable indicators. It is also a matter of pleasure that the name of 20 scientists of PARC have been included in the Directory of Productive Scientists of Pakistan in the subject of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Source of this list is <http://pcst.org.pk/psp2017.php>).

It's a matter of great pride for all of PARC Scientists that its Chairman has been announced as top productive scientist for the year 2016. The scientist community congratulated the Chairman for this highly valuable achievement, which will not only be a source of inspiration for PARC young scientist in particular but also for scientist working in National Agricultural Research System of Pakistan, in general.

The eminent scientists of the country and PARC scientists applauded that they have now a strong reason to boost-up their work for securing national food security through their research efforts with full zeal and dedication under the able guidance of such a productive scientist.

List of successful applicants form PARC

## PARC Developed 1st Draft of Food Security Policy in Consultation with Provincial Partners, Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman, PARC

Meeting of Inter Provincial Research Coordination Committee (IPARCC) held at PARC HQs Islamabad under the convener-ship of Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC. Provincial Partners of Agricultural Research / Livestock, Planners and Acade-

mia head included Gilgit Baltistan participated in the meeting.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar Chairman, PARC apprised the members that the main objectives of IPARCC is to have greater research coordination among the Federal & Provincial

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Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairing the Meeting of Inter Provincial Research Coordination Committee (IPARCC) and vice Chancellor Forum at PARC Hqs.

## MNFS&R, USDA and ICARDA holds meeting on Improving Resistance to Cotton Leaf Curl Virus (CLCuV), Supporting Cotton Best Management for Small Farmers

Cotton is the most important crop in Pakistan. A large population of our country is directly attached with this crop. USDA and ICARDA are helping Pakistan to conduct a comprehensive research on this disease focusing on the development of Virus resistant varieties using various approaches, training of farmers for the best management practices through Farmers, Field School and Agronomic Practices like sowing of cotton crop in standing wheat. This was stated by Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security and Research while addressing at the occasion of Sustainability Meeting of the Project "Improving Resistance to Cotton

Leaf Curl Virus (CLCuV), Supporting Cotton Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Small Farmers". This meeting was organized by International Centre for Agricultural Research in dry Areas (ICARDA) Pakistan at local hotel in Islamabad.

Minister MNFS&R said that I am a farmer and agriculture is in our roots. Cotton is one of the most important crops. We are on 4th number in the world in cotton production. Through this project we get the opportunity to work under one umbrella. I hope the team will overcome the leaf curl virus. This project is not just important for Pakistan but for other agricultural countries. Minister MNFS&R appreciated ICARDA for

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Federal Minister National Food Security and Research Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Chairman PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Dr. Brain Scheffer, Dr. Jodi Schefflaer, Dr. Abdul Majeed Country Rep. ICARDA, Dr. Khalid Abdullah and Dr. Arshad ICARDA are addressing on the occasion of Improving Resistance to Cotton Leaf Curi Virus, supporting Cotton Best Management Practices for small farmers

## PARC Adopting New Techniques for Development in Crops and Livestock Sector

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) is adopting new research technologies for development in Crops and Livestock. It is said by Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC in his opening remarks to the participants of “Competitive Grant Selection Committee Meeting” held at PARC HQs Islamabad on 9th August, 2017. The meeting has been arranged by Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP) for Pakistan under PARC-CIMMYT-USAID. Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC further said that under AIP, Agricultural funds are provided to PARC for development of Agri. Sector. Livestock sector has an important value as well as

crops in Pakistan. Male young stock (feeding on same ration) of cross breeds of “Baluchistan Nari Master”, “Bagh Nari” and “Red Sindhi” are compared for their “Weight Gain Ability” at Beef Production Research Centre, Sibbi. He further added that detection of Mycotoxin in Poultry feeds of Baluchistan and its bio control has also been developed by using probiotic bacteria. Other participants of the meeting also expressed their views on microbiological upgradation of industrial waste and their role in poultry fed fortification, effect of different antibiotics & steroidal residus in Chicken meat with their effect on human in Punjab.



Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC chairing the meeting of Competitive Grant Selection Committee at PARC HQs.

## Belarus-Pakistan Bilateral Relations to Grow Rapid Progress on Agriculture

Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister for M/o National Food Security & Research, Islamabad held a meeting with Mr. Vitaly Vovk Belarusian Minister for Industry / Co-Chairman of the Joint Belarus – Pakistan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation) on 13th July, 2017. During the meeting, The Federal Minister M/o NFSR welcomed the Honorable Belarusian Minister on his visit of Pakistan and reiterated the Govt. of Pakistan attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Belarus.

They also recalled the visit of Federal Minister M/o NFSR to Belarus as a member of delegation led by Prime Minister of Pakistan in August 2015 and also

highlighted the visit of the Honorable Chairman of the House of Representatives of Belarus to Pakistan in April, 2017 alongwith delegation and successful launch of 1st Pakistan – Belarus Agricultural Forum on sidelines of that high level visit. They also discussed the forthcoming visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to Belarus expected in the 1st week of August, 2017 to further strengthen bilateral relations in all spheres of cooperation including trade and economic aspects.

Both of the Ministers agreed that such frequent visits at higher levels refer to the sincere efforts being made on both sides to promote cooperation on mutual interest

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Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister for MNFS&R Meeting with Belarus delegation headed by Mr. Vitaly Vovk, Minister industry on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

## Achieving Food Security and Nutrition

(Contd. from page 4, Col. 2)

risks. He further explained that these challenges could be managed through adopting soil and water conservation technologies, enhanced use of high efficiency irrigation systems, developing drought resistant varieties, and introducing climate smart agriculture. He was confident that valuable suggestions from all stakeholders will help in a great deal to finalize this document for achieving food security and nutritional goals of the country.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar (T.I), Chairman PARC said that we have achieved the growth rate of 3.46%, which is just close to target of 3.5% and it was 0.2% in 2015-16. He said that this year we had record production of Corn, Sugarcane, Potato and Wheat. This we had never achieved during past 70 years. He explained the reasons like KISSAN package, consistent efforts of the practical farmers and heroic struggle to strive for lowering input costs. He said that proposed food security policy will be another major milestone. Supreme Goal for all activities had to make food system inclusive and resilient. This all we have to achieve in the back drop of rising population, climate change and enhanced food safety standards. For food security all major economies like USA, UK, EU, India kept these sectors under one umbrella. He appreciated that immense efforts have been made day and night by Dr. Muhammad Azeem, DG NARC and his team to have a consensus on policy which must not only be acceptable but owned by every segment of our society. We strongly hope and expect that today's workshop will put final seal of approval for this pioneering National Food Security Policy to be placed on agenda of Federal Cabinet by our honorable Federal Minister. He said that every one linked with food will get benefits from this Food Security Policy.

Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, DG NARC described about food security policy with relevant implementation arrangements. He said that the policy will be presented to the federal cabinet for approval after fine-tuning. He presented all the details for discussion in four technical groups to suggest pragmatic improvements.

Muhammad Abid Javed, Secretary for National Food Security and Research hoped that implementation of the policy will help to promote value-added food production while creating a new class of agricultural entrepreneurs. He also paid vote of thanks to participants i.e Ministry of Planning, Development and Reforms, PARC, NARC, Agricultural Policy Institute; international organizations like FAO, ICIMOD, WFP; and provincial governments for providing valuable input during the whole process of preparing policy document.

## MNFS&R, USDA and ICARDA holds meeting on Improving Resistance to Cotton Leaf Curl Virus

(Contd. from page 1, Col. 3)

running this project in Pakistan.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar (T.I) Chairman PARC said at the occasion that I am here as an old colleague of cotton. Cotton is my first love in research field. I know that how hard people struggle to overcome the problems. Virus problem is a challenging problem, so we have to live with it as we are living with bird-flue. Marvelous effort done by this project. Due to this project outcome, we will have good crop variety in future. This project is at end but we will discuss and continue the project. We are ready to finance some projects because we know that cotton is a major crop of our agriculture sector. Govt. will facilitate by rupees 85 million loans for cotton project. Chairman PARC said that if we talk about the history we will see cotton lead with all the big names.

At the occasion Dr. Abdul Majid, Country Manager, ICARDA said that the project is going to end in June 2017. We have to look that, how we can develop the awareness of leaf and plants diseases. We have to learn new techniques from the different countries to overcome the disease. Institutional collaboration is needed regarding this aspect.

Dr. Brain Scheffler, Research Leader, USDA said that different issues like animal health and cotton project was so successful. It is my desire to talk about steps we taken in this project. We take initiatives to fight a common threat i.e Cotton Leave Curl Virus. Due to this disease 20 to 40% crops loss happen in Pakistan. We built this project for sometime but that is not enough. We plan to work further in Pakistan. The leaf curl virus is on large scale in Pakistan. It is also found in Australia and China too. Flies are another big problem and need no passport or visa. This virus is in top twenty threats in US. One of the biggest researches is to look up the virus that how it looks like. We have to look upon strategies that from where the virus comes, how we can overcome it. Pakistani farmers are highly effective by this virus. 13 projects are running on basis of various groups at 6 locations in Pakistan.

Dr. Jodi Scheffler Research Leader, USDA said that I worked by USDA for Pakistan. By collecting samples in the field we gathered the information. Best management practices to reduce the chance of viral infection. We need capacity development, confidence building and providing brocher to farmers in English and Urdu.

Dr. Khalid Abdullah, Cotton Commissioner said that when we receive the idea of this project we had so many meetings. So many human beings lost the plants because of this disease. Best part of this project is human resource development. We get very good results by this project.

## Food Security Policy in Consultation

(Contd. from page 1, Col. 3)

research partners to develop a concrete agriculture research agenda and PARC being a Federal Research Organization, have to perform the role of an effective coordinator and facilitator. The Chair hoped that such events will be helpful to share the knowledge, on-going research activities, enhance the Collaborative research opportunities for logic conclusion to address issues as well as to set priorities for the future research in National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

During the Speech, the Chairman, PARC also informed the forum that PARC has developed 1st draft of Food Security Policy in consultation with provincial partners and ready to be placed before the Cabinet for deliberation. Provincial partners of Agriculture and Livestock sector delivered their presentation by highlighting the initiatives taken in their provinces for boosting up the research activities.

At the end, the Committee unanimously agreed to join hand together for collaborative research activities, issue based commissioned research projects, policy research, climate change and food security.

## Oath Taking Ceremony of Newly Elected Members

(Contd. from page 6, Col. 2)

highlighted the role of PARC in CPEC. Federal Minister thanked to PARC's employees and scientists for their continued support to enhance food and nutritional security, improving the productivity of Pakistan's agriculture, and ultimately adding to the country's economy.

Elected Members of EAPARC elections 2017-18 are Rana Maqsood as Chairman EAPARC, Rao Shah Jehan as President, Ch. M. Aslam Gujjar as General Secretary, M. Taj Kiyani as Vice Chairman, Imtiaz Ahmed Khan Sr. Vice President, Sohail Khalid Vice President and Syed Sajid Naqvi as Secretary Information of EAPARC.

## Chairman PARC Meets with Chinese Delegation Regarding Fish (Trout) and Yalk Breeding

(Contd. from page 4, Col. 2)

Kanal land to build food, soil and water testing lab. He said that we have huge number of domestic Yalk breeds and we transferred one veterinary doctor to that area also. PARC will be a good evaluator and facilitator for this project and also PARC should be involved in each and every step of this collaboration.

Ms. Jin Han, PhD, Asstt. Professor, Lanzhou University said at the occasion that we need 150 samples of yalk meat to test out in our laboratory and one sample should be 5 grams each. She said that Lanzhou University also decided to announce a training program for Pakistani scientists. She said that this collaborative effort will must increase in Yalk breeding in hilly areas of Pakistan.

Prof. Ruijun Long, Ph.D, Senior Engineer, ICIMOD said that Cold Water Fish Project is a remarkable effort by PARC and we are also interested in development of fisheries sector. He said that I am assured that with the collaboration of ICIMOD, Lanzhou University and PARC will achieve the goals and could be able to show positive results in these important sectors. He said that I joined ICIMOD since last year and Lanzhou University provided equipments to Karachi Centre.

Dr. Munir Ahmed, Member PARC said at occasion that we are recently working on a project to produce bio-gas from different waste stock of crops like Wheat, Rice and Sugarcane etc. He said that we installed almost 45 units in crop waste areas and if all of them will work efficiently then people will trust on it and it will grow more, because it is the key of success for this project. He said that PARC will completely collaborate with ICIMOD and Lanzhou University for development of agriculture, livestock and fisheries sector.

## Online submission of articles to Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Research

Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Research has signed contract with a British Publisher Partner Smith and Franklin after approval by the competent authority for promotion of Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Research as well as publishing assistance to get impact factor through wide indexing of the journal. The articles which have been submitted to PJAR have already been handed over to the company to interact with authors, referees and the journal management.

2. The new article submission is invited online to the following link generated by Smith and Franklin through Researcherslinks.com for Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Research: <http://researcherslinks.com/journal-details/Pakistan-Journal-of-Agricultural-Research/24/aims-and-scope>
3. It is to be noted that the Management Committee PJAR has revised the manuscript charges @ Rs. 5000/- (or equivalent US\$) for 6 pages of manuscript and additional pages @Rs. 500/- (or equivalent US\$).
4. For further information, please feel free to contact Managing Editor, PJAR at 051-9255827 or faisalmynname@gmail.com

## Chairman PARC Meets with Chinese Delegation Regarding Cold Water Fish (Trout) and Yalk Breeding Development in Hilly Areas.

**Livestock and Fisheries Sector could also be Developed Rapidly by Collaborative Efforts and Adoption of New Technology.**

Dr. Yusuf Zafar (T.I), Chairman PARC during a meeting with Chinese delegation including Prof. Ruijun Long, Ph.D, Senior Engineer, ICIMOD, Ms. Jin Han, PhD, Asstt. Professor, Lanzhou University, Hu yongbiao, Researcher, Gansu Fisheries Research Institute and Wang tai, Senior Engineer, Gansu Fisheries Research Institute; discussed about fisheries and Yalk breeding development in hilly areas of Pakistan. He said that we are very much

keen for joint collaboration in this project and we are already working upon two projects with the help of Govt. of Pakistan; one is cold water fish development and 2nd is livestock development. He further said that ICIMOD is working in hilly areas and there are many ongoing projects. He pointed out that Chief Minister of Gilgit Baltistan wrote to Prime Minister and other stakeholders to cooperate in this project. Govt of Gilgit assured to provide 10 to 15

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*Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC meeting with Chinese delegation development of cold water fish (trout) and yalk breedin in mountain areas of Pakistan*

## Achieving Food Security and Nutrition for its Population is a High Priority for the Present Government

State is constitutionally responsible for provision of basic food to its people. Pakistan has to overcome the great challenges for ensuring food availability, increasing accessibility, improving utilization and maintaining stability to achieve food security in real terms. This was stated by Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research on the occasion of National Food Security Policy Consultative Workshop at NARC. Federal Minister said that through collaboration with provincial, national and international partners; we have been able to deliberate and finalize food security policy document.

He said that presently the production of food is more than its requirement across the globe. But unfortunately about 30-40% food is lost during production & post-harvest stages. He said that contribution of all partners in food security policy deliberation was very high and the improvements suggested by the technical groups will help to further fine tune the policy document for forwarding to the cabinet for its approval. He said that MNFS&R took the initiative to formulate a national agriculture and food security policy. He said that Pakistan also needs to continue to build the resilience of the agriculture sector to climate change

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*Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister for MNFS&R, Abid Javed, Federal Secretary for MNFS&R and Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC are sitting at stage on the occasion of Consultative Workshop on National Food Security Policy.*

## Provincial Seed Council Sindh has Approved Sugarcane Varieties viz Thatta-326 and Thatta-2109 of NSTHRI, Thatta for General Cultivation

**New crop varieties and latest technology will help to boost agriculture production**

Provincial Seed Council Sindh has approved sugarcane varieties viz. Thatta-326 and Thatta-2109 of NSTHRI, Thatta for general cultivation. These varieties will boost productivity and help farmers to uplift their livelihood. This will also put positive impact over country's economy development. This was stated by Ex-Director, National Sugar & Tropical Horticulture Research Institute, PARC while speaking to participants at Provincial Seed Council Committee meeting. He said that the variety Thatta-2109 is developed through exotic fuzz (true seed) of the bi-parental cross obtained from Hoama, Louisiana, USA. It is early maturing with high cane and sugar recovery potential, good ratooner, good germination, fast growth habit in all growth stages, good tillering ability, semi self trashed, thicker cane stalks, resistant to root, stem and top borers, resistant to smut, rust and red hot diseases.

At the occasion while presenting sugarcane variety Thatta-326 he said that it developed through exotic fuzz (true seed) of the bi-parental cross obtained from Hoama, Louisiana, USA. This combines the distinct characters of commercial worth like early maturing with high cane and sugar recovery potential. Good ratooner, good germination, medium fast growth habit at initial and fast in later growth stages, profuse and uniform tillering ability, semi self trashed, medium thicker cane stalks, semi spreading canes, resistant to root, stem and top borers, highly resistant to smut and resistant to rust diseases, moderately resistant to red rot disease. He said that new crop varieties and latest technology will help to boost sugarcane production. New ways of cultivation and genetically improved seeds helps farmers to grow more and play their more effective role in agriculture sector development.

## Joint Visit of TIKA, NIFA, and PSF Management Group at NTHRI, Shinkhari

*(Contd. from page 7, Col. 3)*

improve the livelihood status and participatory approach for development of the local farmers and growers. The TIKA assured full assistants while the NIFA and PSF for provision of different medicinal plants and providing the facility of laboratory for analysis. However they were also interested to use the expertise of NTHRI in multi discipline research activities. At the end Delegation thanked to the Director, NTHRI, Shinkhari for fruitful visit of the Institute.

## Demonstration of Newly Developed Sugarcane Crusher at ABEI, NARC, Islamabad

Agricultural and Biological Engineering Institute (ABEI) organized a demonstration of a newly developed farm-level sugarcane crusher on May 18, 2017 at ABEI, NARC, Islamabad. The Honourable Federal Minister for Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan was the Chief Guest at this event. Senator Zafrullah Khan Dhandla, Chairman PARC, Members of PARC, Director General NARC, CS-II/Director General Agricultural Engineering Division, Directors/Programme Leaders, scientists, agricultural machinery manufacturers and sugarcane growing farmers were present in this demonstration event. More than 100 participants including scientists, farmers, manufacturers and other stakeholders participated in this demonstration event of new sugarcane crusher.

This crusher was designed and developed under RADP Sub-Project titled "Development and adaptation of farm-scale agricultural technologies for sugarcane crushing, maize stover harvesting, maize drying and palm oil extraction". The machine was tested at farmers' fields of sugarcane growing areas of Swabi and Peshawar for extracting sugarcane juice with an encouraging performance. The sugarcane crushing capacity of this machine varies between 3-4 tonnes per hour with an average juice recovery of 64 %, which is around 12% more than those of conventional crushers.

Dr. Muhammad Azeem Khan, Director General, NARC welcomed the participants and highlighted the salient achievements of ABEI. He further added that our engineers are capable and are ready to accept challenges to develop and introduce new agricultural machines in the country. Dr. Tanveer Ahmad, Director ABEI, briefly introduced the success stories of this Institute from its beginning and talked about the financial impact to the country by ABEI developed agricultural machines. Chairman PARC, Dr. Yusuf Zafar, T.I., appreciated the efforts of PARC engineers for developing and introducing new agricultural machines in the country. He further added that new

sugarcane crushing technology would revive our gur-making cottage industry that will greatly benefit small farmers to increase their income.

The Federal Minister highly appreciated this initiative of PARC to reduce juice losses in bagasse for farm level sugarcane crushing. He personally witnessed the working of the machine and asked the views of farmers, who also appreciated this machine. The Minister presented honorary shields to concerned engineers for recognising their efforts for developing this machine and with the hope to work with the same zeal and enthusiasm for development of future mechanisation technologies. He also emphasized that this is the technology to reduce sugarcane juice losses and reduce labour requirement at the farm. But, there are many other areas where the engineers should focus on because labour shortage has become a serious issue for Pakistan's agriculture. For instance, manual harvesting of sugarcane, maize, wheat and rice has become very difficult as labour is not available for farm operations. These areas should be mechanised so that the field operation could be performed successfully. He stressed that a big responsibility lies on engineers to mechanise different farming operations, to make farming a pleasant job and to address labour shortage issue in coming years. He assured engineers to fully support projects relevant to farm machinery development and its import from other countries. In the end, Dr. Nadeem Amjad, CS-II/Director General, Agricultural Engineering Division, PARC thanked the participants to grace the event.

The Minister also witnessed the Ispaghool processing machinery being developed by ABEI with funding from ALP. He appreciated this initiative because this crop was not focussed in the past and we have to import Ispaghool from India. The quality of ABEI processed Ispaghool was better than the ones sold by multi-national companies in Pakistan. The Minister appreciated and liked the indigenously produced Ispaghool and asked scientists to demonstrate this technology to local cottage industry in Hasilpur.



Federal Minister for Ministry of NFS&R, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Senator Zafrullah Khan Dhandla, Chairman PARC, Members of PARC, Director General NARC, DG, Agricultural Engineering Division and other higher officials visiting newly developed Sugarcane Crusher and Ispaghool processing machines at ABEI, NARC

## Rapid Progress on Agriculture

(Contd. from page 2, Col. 3)

basis and this bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest including agriculture is growing due to the vision and mission of the leaderships of two sides. The Federal Minister, M/o NFSR also ensured rapid progress on bilateral cooperation in sphere of agriculture sector between the two countries by entering into four MoU's / Agreements including a Memorandum of Intentions on Scientific Cooperation between National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (NASB) and PARC which was signed on 10th August, 2015 in Minsk, Belarus.

It was also discussed in the meeting by Federal Minister and Belarusian Minister that two sides have identified cooperation in the area of farm machinery and storage. This area offers huge potential for foreign investments because our farmers need quality machinery at affordable prices. The Federal Minister, M/o NFSR also said that Govt. of Pakistan is committed to provide an enabling environment for the foreign and local investment and business in the country. The Federal Minister for M/o NFSR, Islamabad also appreciated the efforts for the progress made by Belarus in the field of farm mechanization.

At the end of the meeting, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan The Federal Minister M/o NFSR, Islamabad conveyed full support and cooperation of the Govt. of Pakistan to facilitate the process in all areas of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and Belarus and also thanked the Excellency Mr. Vitaly Vovk Belarusian Minister for Industry / Co-Chairman of the Joint Belarus - Pakistan Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation) for having this meeting and visit to Pakistan.

## AIP- Agronomy National Meeting

(Contd. from page 7, Col. 2)

techniques such as zero tillage wheat and ridge planting of wheat are being disseminated in the country under AIP for Pakistan. CIMMYT is also collaborating with manufactures for local production of zero-tillage Happy Seeder for wheat planting after combine harvested rice, Multi-crop planter for DSR and Push row planter for maize planting in KPK. Under AIP agronomy project, CIMMYT, in collaboration with national partners have reached to 12000 farmers through dissemination of zero tillage, ridge planting, better nutrient management, provision of planters, training of farmers, national scientists and organizing farmer field days. These techniques are helping farmers in saving water, avoiding residue burning, reducing cost of production and improving profits.

## Media Needs to Highlight Sustainable Innovations in Agriculture Sector in Pakistan: Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) alongwith local and national media recently toured agricultural initiatives led by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad.

Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman PARC highlighted the Agricultural Innovation Program's (AIP) aim to improve farming practices and livelihoods in farming communities especially for smallholders across Pakistan. Dr. Yusuf Zafar further added that the goal of AIP is to increase crop productivity and production value of livestock, horticultural, and cereal crops; thus increasing income for Pakistani farmers. Overall, the AIP aims to have measurable impact on agricultural growth, food security for the poor, and climate change resilience and adaptation in Pakistan's agricultural sector. He also said that funded by USAID and led by CIMMYT, AIP helped to boost agricultural productivity by bringing new technologies to improve Pakistan's overall economy as the Agriculture is the largest sector of Pakistan's economy, supporting half of the country's labor force.

CIMMYT country representative in Pakistan and AIP project leader, briefed media representatives about the collaboration between USAID and CIMMYT along with NARC and other partners. He highlighted key AIP successes, such as the introduction of new planting machineries and drip irrigation systems.

The tour also visited to Maize fields at NARC where AIP initiatives in improved livestock, maize and wheat were show cased. AIP Scholars, Students who have completed their Master's degree in the U.S with AIP funds were also present on the occasion and provided information on their experiences and accomplishments.



*Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Chairman, PARC Briefing Media about USAID, PARC and CIMMYT Partnership Through AIP to Improve Farming Practices and Livelihoods Across Pakistan*

## Oath Taking Ceremony of Newly Elected Members of EAPARC PARC's Election 2017-18 Held at NARC. Federal Minister for M/o NFSR Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan Participated as Chief Guest

Oath taking ceremony of newly elected members of EAPARC was held here at NARC on 23-08-2017. Federal Minister M/o NFS&R Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan participated as Chief Guest of the ceremony and took oath from newly elected Members of EAPARC Election 2017-18. Chairman EAPARC highlighted the efforts of EAPARC for the prosperity of PARC Employees.

While addressing to the participants of the ceremony, newly elected President of EAPARC Rao Shah Jehan welcomed the participants including Federal Minister of NFSR and presented his charter of demands which includes timely promotion of every employee, period of time scale promotion

Five (05) to Seven (07) years' service instead of ten (10) years, appointment of a Medical Officer at NARC, establishment of a School and College, and restoration of previous medical facility

Dr. Yusuf Zafar (T.I) Chairman PARC ensured in his address that legal demands of EAPARC must be accorded & implemented in its true spirit as early as possible. Chairman, PARC also remarked about the PARC/ NARC employees efforts and role in promotion of agriculture sector in Pakistan. On the occasion, Federal Minister, M/o NFS&R Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan congratulated the EAPARC newly elected members on their victory in EAPARC Elections 2017-18. Federal Minister also

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*Federal Minister, M/O NFS&R, Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan Taking Oath from Newly Elected Members of EAPARC Election 2017-18 held at NARC*

## Agreement for Research and Technology Transfer Between Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and Nestle Pakistan Limited Lahore at PARC HQs, Islamabad

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Nestle Pakistan Limited Lahore signed a MoU for Research and Technology Transfer. PARC will provide the technical support for development of demonstration site at its research centre NARC. Nestle Pak will develop and upgrade the research & demonstration site at Climate Change, Alternate Energy and Water Resources Institute (CAEWRI) NARC through improving and installing high efficient irrigation systems, water storage, water distribution and solar energy based water pumping system. This site will also be used for capacity buildings of professionals, farmers, students service providers & other parties.

PARC and Nestle Pak will create awareness in conserving water and its efficient utilization among stake holders at national level. PARC will demonstrate the irrigation system to media, government officials, Nestle management, NGO's farmers and academia from various region of Pakistan.

Mr. Khurram Zia, Business Executive Officer, Nestle Pakistan said that through this agreement awareness campaign will be very useful in conserving water and its efficient utilization among its stakeholders. Chairman, PARC also highlighted that this agreement is a joint effort of PARC and Nestle Pak, Lahore and its main objective of the activity is to increase water productivity, efficiency and quality.



*Secretary (Council) PARC Mr. Muhemmad Tariq and Country Business Manager Mr. Khurram Zia are Signing a MoU Between Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and Nestle Pakistan Limited at PARC Hqs, Islamabad, Chairman PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., and Head of Corporate Affairs Mr. Waqar Ahmad are also Present on the Occasion*



70th Independence Day of Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Celebrated with Passion at Hazara University, Mansehra.  
Chairman PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I. Acted as President

A decorated ceremony held at Hazara University, Mansehra to celebrate 70th Independence Day of Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Chairman PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I. presided over the Independence Ceremony. Chairman, PARC highlighted the importance of freedom and to follow the golden principles of work, work and work by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He also emphasized to remember the forgotten sacrifices of our elders to create Pakistan and now it is our prime duty to make Pakistan more prosperous, progressive and forwarding in Agriculture and its allied sectors. Chairman PARC further told the participants that PARC have vision to

achieve self-sufficiency in the field of Agriculture, Livestock and also highlighted the efforts of PARC and its allied research stations in achieving the targets of food security to make the country prosperous in agriculture field.

On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Hazara University Professor Dr. Muhammad Idrees paid his thanks to Chairman, PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I. for his visit to University and précised the efforts of University in the field of education.

Afterwards, Chairman PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I. also visited PARC's Tea Research Stations situated at NTHRI, Shinkiari, Mansehra



Chairman PARC Dr. Yusuf Zafar T.I., Founder Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Adeel and Vice Chancellor Hazara University Professor Dr. Muhammad Idrees are Addressing to Participants of Flag Hosting Ceremony at Hazara University, Mansehra

AIP- Agronomy National Meeting – 2017  
inaugurated in Islamabad

Farm crop productivity can be increased by adopting resource conserving crop management technologies and the active involvement of public, private sector and farmers for transfer of technologies is important.” said Dr Ghulam Ali, Member and AIP focal point of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) at inaugural session of two-day AIP-Agronomy National meeting – 2017. He appreciated CIMMYT and national partners' efforts in development and dissemination of crop management techniques to the farming community in the country. The meeting is being jointly organized by CIMMYT and PARC under USAID's Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP) for Pakistan. National partners from all over Pakistan will share progress on AIP's agronomy activities, and discuss

implementation related issues and future activities at the event. The inaugural session was attended by 75 agriculture professionals from various provincial and federal research institutes, agriculture extension, universities, private companies and international research centers, who are involved in agronomy research and dissemination of CA technologies among the farming community under AIP.

CIMMYT Country Representative and AIP Project Leader, informed participants that 23 national public and private sector partners are collaborating on crop management activities under USAID funded AIP. CIMMYT is also collaborating with private sector for local production of new planters.

Cropping System Agronomist, informed the participants that conservation agriculture

(Contd. on page 5, Col. 3)



Mr. Khalid Mehboob elected as  
Independent Chairperson of the  
FAO Council

Pakistan has participated in FAO Council Chairmanship seat at Rome and due to the personal presence of Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister



MNFS&R won these lauzals by a significant margin. The other countries for this slot were Slovakia, Cyprus, Indonesia, Albania and Bosnia. From Pakistan a scientist, Khalid Mehboob was nominated. The Federal Minister lauded that Mr. Mehboob's rich experience of over 40 years working at senior positions in FAO and then as Pakistan's Alternate delegate to FAO, WFP and IFAD, enabled him to seek consensus among all stakeholders and establish effective coordination among the Rome based agencies, which is of great importance for attainment of the goals of FAO.

It is to be said that due to tireless efforts of Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Federal Minister MNFS&R, this success was made possible to uplift the agriculture development in Pakistan.

Farmers association has acknowledged the services of the Federal Minister and also congratulated him to win this slot. They hoped that this opportunity will be beneficial for Pakistan for the period serving as Chairman FAO Council at Rome.

Joint Visit of TIKA, NIFA, and PSF  
Management Group at NTHRI,  
Shinkiari

TIKA Islamabad, NIFA Peshawar and PSF Islamabad jointly visited National Tea & Value Crops Research Institute Shinkiari on 19th May 2017.

The Director NTHRI welcomed the group at the institute with his team.. The delegation was led by Mr. Ibrahim Katirei Dy. Coordinator, Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency Islamabad. Director NTHRI delivered detailed presentation about the long history of tea cultivation to present status and potential of this valuable crop besides other high value crops production. Later on guest were briefed in detail about Developmental activities with latest technology on high value crops i.e., fruits, vegetables, Kiwi, Olive cultivation and tea promotion in KPK.

The gusts visited tea Nursery, Plantation, Progeny Garden, Tea Processing Plants, Fruits & Vegetables section, Medicinal Block Area and NTHRI Display Center. They took keen interest in all of activities and highly impressed by achievements of NTHRI (PARC). The group showed their interest in mutual benefitwith NTHRI for the developmental activities up to the grass root level which will be benefited to

(Contd. on page 4, Col. 3)

# 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrations at National Agricultural Research Centre Islamabad

14<sup>th</sup> August 2017

