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# PARC NEWSLETTER

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council

October - December, 2022

Vol. 34 - No. 4

## Crop residues burning increasing environmental pollution: Dr. Ali

ISLAMABAD: Every year about 16 million tons of paddy straw is produced in Pakistan, of which about 60 percent is burnt. Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) organized a national awareness seminar in Gujranwala district on Nov. 28 to prevent the burning of paddy stubble and to educate and train farmers, in which officials of the Punjab Agriculture Department, agricultural machinery manufacturers, representatives of companies providing machinery services to farmers and many Numbers of farmers participated. Chief guest of the seminar, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Mr. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali gave a special address to the participants and emphasized that under no circumstances should the paddy stubble be set on fire, but instead should come to mechanical solution. Government of Pakistan has given subsidy on all the machines for growing paddy and all

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## Aeroponic technology vital for potato research: Cheema

ISLAMABAD: The third latest aeroponic greenhouse for production of virus-free seed potatoes was inaugurated in collaboration with the Korean Program on International Agricultural (KOPIA) at National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) on Dec. 15. Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Tariq Bashir

Cheema, Ambassador of South Korea, H.E. Mr. Suh Sangpyo, Chairman, PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali and Dr. Cho Gyoung-rae, Director, KOPIA Pakistan Center and inaugurated the event. On this occasion, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research

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Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Tariq Bashir Cheema inaugurating with Ambassador of South Korea, Su Sung Pyo, and Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali the third project of the latest aeroponics technology for potato seed at NARC on Dec. 15



The US Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Donald Blome is being demonstrated and briefed about the wheat sowing planter during his visit to NARC on Dec. 01. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC and other high level officials are also present on the occasion.

## Crop residues burning increasing environmental pollution: Dr. Ali

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other crops from which the farmers should take full advantage. In this regard, chairman, PARC emphasized the farming community to contacts officials of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Punjab Agriculture Department who will guide them in time. He further said that burning of crop residues in fields is destroying health of our agricultural lands. It burns organic matter, alter soil pH, nutrients and damage living micro-organisms which play an important role in increasing crop production. Straw is rich in fiber, protein, starch, enzymes and organic materials that make the soil fertile. Besides, this straw can be used in paper and cardboard industry.

## Workshop on Aflatoxin Biocontrol

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Mr. Parwaiz Ahmed Baloch, Director FQSRI, welcomed all participants, thanked management of both universities and wished that efforts of FQSRI, PARC-SARC team would help the participants to increase and improve their knowledge and skills respectively. Dr. Najmus Sahar, SSO, FQSRI, PARC-SARC, Karachi depicted the national status of aflatoxin contamination in chilies and its critical control points through which it could be minimized. It was informed that pre and post harvest practices i.e. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) including Good Drying,

Storage and processing practices were essential to carry out along with biocontrol technology to minimize the hazardous impact of poisonous fungal speakers of the session, management of PARC-SARC, NARC and CABI with the support of USAID/USDA to organize a successful training workshop along with the collaboration of JUW and MAJU.

## Aeroponic technology vital for potato research: Cheema

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Chaudhry Tariq Basheer Cheema said that Government of Pakistan is grateful to the Korean government for the transfer of latest aeroponics technology to Pakistan and the training of scientists. He said that heavy rains and floods in the country have caused a loss of 30 billion US dollars to Pakistan's agriculture. Agriculture is the guarantee of prosperity in Pakistan. The agriculture is the guarantee of prosperity in Pakistan, but the sector is facing numerous challenges such as supply of quality seeds and climate change. It is that potato is fourth most important and cash-generating crop, but due to the lack of good quality seeds, it is facing problems like reduction in production. In Pakistan, potatoes are cultivated on an area of 300,000 hectares, while 20,000 tons of potato seeds are imported into Pakistan every year.

On this occasion, Korean Ambassador Excellency Mr. Suh Sangpyosaid that Pakistan and Korea are promoting cooperation in the field of agriculture and the transfer of aeroponics technology to Pakistan through the Korean Program

on International Agriculture is also a link in this chain. In order to ensure food security, large quantities of agricultural commodities have to be imported, for which valuable foreign exchange is spent, the aeroponic seed potato technology project is important for Pakistan and by eliminating the import of potato seeds through this project. This will be a step towards self-reliance in local potato seed production.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC said that in collaboration with the Korean government technical cooperation flagship project, potato seed production through aeroponic technology, post-harvest reduction in aflatoxin in chili and quality fodder production for livestock are being implemented successfully in the country.

## PARC taking revolutionary steps to uplift agriculture: Dr. Ali

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Science Division, PARC, Dr. Shahzad Assad Deputy Director General, NARC were also present in the meeting and also participated in the discussion regarding the future collaboration in the field agriculture in general and particularly for the development of climate resilient wheat varieties and resource conservation technologies. Later on, the delegation also visited the different labs of National Agriculture Research Center including, Ecotoxicology lab, Aflatoxin lab, Wheat Speed Breeding Facility (Glasshouse), Wheat field research trials, National Gene Bank of Pakistan, PGRI, KOPIA Aeroponic Potato Seed production facility and NIGAB laboratories NARC.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC inspecting with keen interest the Combine Seeder machine during National Awareness Seminar for farmers in Gujrawala on Nov 28.



## PICTURES' GALLERY



The US Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Donald Blome is planting Marwa (Murraya) plant at NARC during his visit to commemorate the completion of the Emergency Flood Response Distribution Plan on Dec. 01. Ms. Florence Rolle, FAO Country Representation, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC and other high level officials are also present.



The US Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Donald Blome is being demonstrated and briefed about the wheat sowing planter during his visit to NARC on Dec. 01. Ms. Florence Rolle, FAO Country Representation, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC and other high level officials are also present on the occasion.



A group photo of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC with a delegation from Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) during their visit at NARC on Nov. 25



A group-photo of Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali alongwith Mr. Wu Zhong Hua, General Manager, Hubei Allwin high-tech Seed Company Ltd. China and the participants at NIGAB, NARC on Oct. 27.



Handing over ceremony of Korean Agricultural Machinery to Pakistan Agricultural Research Council at NARC on Dec. 02.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali is inaugurating Wheat sowing through regenerative Agricultural Planter developed by Agricultural Engineering Institute (AEI), NARC on Oct. 27.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC chairing Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) meeting on Wheat and Pulses crops at PARC on Dec. 13. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member (PSD) PARC/Chairman VEC and other committee members are also present.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali chairing a high level meeting on PARC Strategic Plan 2022-27 being briefed by Dr. Amir Irshad, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme) at PARC on Nov. 22.

## IOFS, COMSTECH, PARC MOOT

### PARC taking revolutionary steps to uplift agriculture: Dr. Ali

ISLAMABAD: A three days expert meeting on "Climate Resilient Wheat Crop Improvement for food security" with the special session on Afghanistan wheat issue: The breeding of nutritious and climate-resilient varieties was held from Nov. 23-25 at COMSTECH Secretariat. The event was organized by the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), The OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation

(COMSTECH) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). On the last day, IOFS delegate members from Kazakhstan, Turkiye, Tunsia and Afghanistan visited National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) Islamabad. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC briefed the delegation about the different on-going research and development activities of PARC. Senior management of PARC including Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Member Plant

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A group photo of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC with a delegation from Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) during their visit at NARC on Nov. 25

## Workshop on Aflatoxin Biocontrol

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri, DG, PARC-SARC said that main objective of the technical collaboration between PARC-SARC, PARC-NARC and CABI Regional Bioscience Centre, Pakistan with the financial support of USAID/USDA was to spread awareness and help out chilli farmers of Sindh province to increase their capacity regarding aflatoxin, international standards and their regulations respectively. He paid vote of thanks to the management of Jinnah University for Women (JUW) for coordination and

permission to organize the 4th Training Workshop on "Aflatoxin Biocontrol Training" under "Regulatory Harmonization in Pakistan for MRLs and Biopesticides" attended by faculty members and research students of JUW, Karachi and Mohammad Ali Jinnah University (MAJU), Karachi held in JUW, Karachi on Oct. 06. He stressed upon to strengthen the active collaboration b/w research institutes, academia and industry for the welfare of farming community.

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Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali presiding over 52nd meeting of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Board of Directors (BoD) of Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP) held at PARC on Dec. 06. All Technical Members of PARC including other members of the Committee were also present in the meeting.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali visiting KOPIA new aeroponics System at NARC on Dec. 02.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali presenting the PARC Shield to Miss. Xiaobo Zhu, GM, Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company and Mr. Zhouxu Sheng, Country Head Pakistan, during their visit at NIGAB, NARC on Nov. 30.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali receiving a Shield from Mr. Wu Zhong Hua, General Manager, Hubei Allwin high-tech Seed Company Ltd. China, in the presence of Dr. Muhammad Rizwan and Mr. Zhou Yunpeng after their visit at NIGAB, NARC Oct. 27.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali giving away pulses seed to a farmer of Mastung, Balochistan on Oct. 21.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali looking over rice field alongwith participants of Traveling Rice Seminar at Soil Salinity Research Institute, Pindi Bhattian on Oct. 15.