



PARC NEWS

April - June, 2022

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council

Vol. 34 - No. 2

PARC organizes annual seminar on Rice

ISLAMABAD: A two-day Annual Rice Research Review & Planning meeting was inaugurated at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) on May 18. The meeting was attended by representatives from National Agricultural Research System including the Director, Rice Research Institute, Kala Shah Kaku, Director, Soil Salinity Research Institute, Pindi Bhattian, Director, Planning Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Scientists from Agricultural Research Institute Mingora, Swat, Director, Agriculture, Nasirabad Balochistan and the rice scientists from Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

(Contd. on page 2, Col. 1)



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, Dr. Sadar ud Din Sidiqi, Ex-Member (PSD) PARC, Dr. Imtiaz Husain, DDG NARC and Dr. Muhammad Yousaf, National Coordinator (Rice) PARC are attending Annual Rice Planning & Review Meeting, 2022 held at NARC on May 18.

Chairman lauds KOPIA for developing aeroponics system at NARC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council is working on potato seed production through tissue culture and aeroponics technology. In this regard a seminar was organized at National Institute for Genomics and Advance Biotechnology (NIGAB), NARC on May 12. Seminar was delivered by Dr. Kwon Min a renowned Korean Expert on potato seed production. Potato is cultivated over an area of 194000 hectares with annual production of 500,000 tones. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman

PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali thanked the Speakers and Korean govt. for developing aeroponics system at PARC Islamabad and providing technical support. He was of the view that Pakistan has diverse climate for potato seed production throughout the year. PARC scientists showed keen interest in aeroponics while asking different questions. Addressing to the participants, Dr. Kwon Min briefed potato seed production system in Korea and he told how Korean

(Contd. on page 2, Col. 1)



A group photo of Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali along-with Mr. Kwon Min, Potato Seed Production Expert, KOPIA Korea at NIGAB, NARC on May 12.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is briefing to Mr. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Sardar Muhammad Yousuf, MPA Provincial Assembly KPK during their visit to PARC-NTHRI, Shinkiari Mansehra on Jun 23. Dr. Abdul Waheed, Director PARC-NTHRI Shinkiari, other scientists and officials are also present on the occasion.

Chairman lauds KOPIA for developing aeroponics system at NARC

(Contd. from page 1, Col. 3)

Govt. can help Pakistan in potato seed production. He focused on how to improve already aeroponics system established by Korean Govt. under KOPIA project at NARC.

PARC organizes annual seminar on Rice

(Contd. from page 1 Col.1)

The representatives of seed companies including Crop Life Pakistan also attended the meeting.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC while speaking to the participants appreciated the role of private and public sector for taking interest in research and development of rice in the country. He told the participants that PARC is committed to strengthen rice research and development in the country through advanced techniques in research, human resource development and allied facilities. The Chairman also emphasized on use of modern rice production machinery and suitable varieties to enhance the production for rice export.

Dr. Sadaruddin Siddiqui, Ex Member, Plant Sciences Division, PARC appreciated the role of seed companies and public sector institutes for making efforts to improve the potential of rice hybrids/varieties in Pakistan. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Deputy Director General NARC acknowledged the role of National Coordinator (Rice) Dr. Muhammad Yousuf, for organizing the meeting. Representatives of private sector expressed their interest to work in collaboration with the public sector.

Workshop on Rice Food Safety, Quality held

(Contd. from page 4, Col. 2)

Meraj, Dean, Mohammad Ali Jinnah University (MAJU) and Prof. Dr. Zubair Sheikh, President MAJU, Karachi. The conference Chief Guest is Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam. Vote of Thanks by Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri, Director General, PARC-SARC, Karachi.

The conference is addressed by the international and national experts: Dr. Qasim Chaudhry, Visiting Professor, University of Chester/Ex-Principal

Scientist, UK's FERA, UK. Dr. Qasim discussed about 'Pakistani rice in the international marketplace – quality & safety issues and future challenges. Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, T.I.; S.I. Professor Emeritus Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad talked about 'Drought tolerance to overcome toxicity and ensuring food safety of rice'. Dr. Muhammad Yusuf, National Coordinator (Rice)/PD (Rice project), PARC, Islamabad shared his expertise for the Role of rice sector in Pakistan for national & global food security. Pakistan rice genetic resources – Diversity for grain quality potential is discussed by Dr. Sadar Uddin Siddiqui, Ex-Member (PSD), PARC, Islamabad and Pakistan rice genetic resources – Diversity for grain quality potential by Dr. Sadar Uddin Siddiqui, Ex-Member (PSD), PARC, Islamabad

Dr. Allah Ditta Abid, PPA&DG, Department of Plant Protection, MNFSR, GoP, and Mr. Muhammad Anwar Mianoor, Senior Vice Chairman, Rice Exporters Association of Pakistan (REAP), Karachi also graced the occasion.

The project team also conducted training workshop on various important topics that included: rice quality constraints in relation to nutrition and food safety implications, pesticide residue contaminations in rice, Microbial association and their influence on rice quality, stored grain insect pests, aflatoxin contamination in Rice, microbial association and their influence on rice quality, rice starch: a value added product, red rice – a source of value addition, critical stages, associated factors and potential controlling measures.

The experts and scientists talked about various issues related to food safety and rice quality. They said that food safety is a global issue with public health and international trade implications. However, the developed countries have framed policies and regulations to ensure the food safety to the end users. Whereas, the developing nations are in the phase of transformation which is due to the emerging regulatory controls that face challenges of infrastructure, competency, legislation and management to address the issues efficiently.

Consequently, the threats to the public health and exports have compounded over time despite the fact that agriculture is the main underpinning pillar of economy of a developing country like Pakistan. The agro-commodities like rice which is the second most significant export crop in Pakistan also being suffering from excessive levels of contaminants mainly aflatoxins and pesticide residues. As a result of violation

of international standards for maintaining food safety concerns consignments of rice of Pakistan have been confiscated that has also been noticed in current year from EU.

Rice is a staple food for almost half of the world's population. Pakistan is amongst top five rice exporters and brings an average of 1.9 billion USD foreign exchange by exporting 4 million tons of rice every year. Unfortunately, Pakistan could not increase its share beyond 10% of the total world exports of rice.

Pakistan carries a huge potential as it produces both aromatic and non-aromatic rice varieties with sufficient quantities to serve the local as well as international markets. This 2-day conference & training workshop has also provided the opportunity for the rice researchers to share their findings with the stake holders. About 30 research studies and poster abstracts focused on food safety and quality of rice were presented in this program. The young researchers were excited while presenting their work.

This platform provided an opportunity to the stakeholders to gain knowledge about current issues related to rice exports and their potential solutions by the project team and also by the national and international experts.

PARC uplifting beekeeping sector: Dr. Ali

(Contd. from page 4, Col. 2)

Member, Natural Resources Division of PARC Dr. Shahid Maqsood Gill, also addressed the audience and shared his valuable remarks on importance of bees and their role in saving environment. He stressed on the focused strategy to conserve and save bees in the country. Beekeepers and farmers also showed their concerns over current challenges and issues to beekeeping in the country. Mr. Aftab Ahmed progressive beekeepers from Hasanabdal briefly told the audience, how beekeeping in facing issues of pesticides and climate change. Deforestation is causing huge loss to beekeeping industry in the country. There is dire need of plating bee flora in the country. Mr. Abdullah Chaudhry, a local beekeeper and vendor of beekeeping gadgets told that how NARC helped him in start beekeeping entrepreneurship. Mr. Anwar Director API paid vote of thanks to all beekeepers, Chairman PARC and Scientific community for participation in the event. In the end a short walk for awareness to save bees was carried out.

PICTURES' GALLERY



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is chairing 35th meeting of Board of Directors (BOD) of Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP) at PARC on Apr 19.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is briefing to Chinese delegation headed by Mr. Jianghua Shang Director GUANGXI Buffalo Research Institute, China about on-going activities of NIGAB, NARC on May 11.



A group photo of Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali along-with Chinese delegation headed by Mr. Jianghua Shang Director GUANGXI Buffalo Research Institute, China during their visit at NIGAB, NARC on May 11.



A group photo of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali Chairman PARC, Dr. Sadar ud Din Siddique Ex-Member (Plant Sciences) PARC, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain Dy. DG NARC and Dr. Muhammad Yousaf, National Coordinator (Rice) PARC along-with other participants of "Annual Rice Research Planning & Review Meeting" held at NARC on May 18.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is inaugurating KOPIA Funded Screen Houses Complex for Breeding & Virus free Potato Seed Production at PARC-MARC Astore Station Gilgit Baltistan on May 29. Dr. Cho Gyoungrae, Director KOPIA Pakistan, Dr. Sher Ahmed DG MARC Gilgit, Dr. Aish Muhammad Director (NIGAB) NARC and other Scientists are present on the occasion.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali is taking briefing from Dr. Hafiz Sultan Mahmood about the Demonstration of Post-harvest Processing Machinery for Peach at NARC on Jun 06. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Deputy Director General NARC, Engr. Zulfiqar Ali, DG (AEI) and other officials also present on the demonstration.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is being briefed about various stages of Ispaghool after processing in machinery at NARC on Jun 20. Engr. Zulfiqar Ali, DG (AEI), Dr. Hafiz Sultan Mahmood, Director (AEI) and other scientists of PARC/ NARC are also present on the occasion.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is inaugurating of "Demonstration of Ispaghool Processing Machinery" funded by ALP project at NARC on Jun 20. Dr. Shahzad Asad, Dy. Director General NARC, Engr. Zulfiqar Ali, DG (AEI), Dr. Hafiz Sultan Mahmood, Director (AEI) and other scientists of PARC/ NARC are also present on the occasion.

PARC uplifting beekeeping sector: Dr. Ali

ISLAMABAD: Declining population of Bees and Pollinators is a growing threat leading towards food insecurity and biodiversity issues. In this wake; World Bee Day was organized at National Agricultural Research Centre by Honeybee Research institute, on May 20. The event was attended by a huge gathering of beekeepers, farmers, and scientists. Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali was the chief guest of the event.

In his address, Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, annotated that research based solution to the beekeeping industry is the prime function of PARC and in this regard Honeybee Research Institute has clear guidelines for future research on the clinical trials of the each floral honey to

know its medical honey value. Chairman PARC, also told that due to efforts of PARC, Pakistan is now exporting honey to the world worth about 10 Million USD.

Dr. Rashid Mahmood Director HBRI, NARC/National Coordinator Honeybees welcomed the guest and briefed about the importance of World Bee Day and bees in our life along with current scenario of beekeeping in the country. Mr. Muhammad Ismail Country representative ICIMOD Pakistan, also addressed and shared ICIMOD success story on Apis Cerana local conservation efforts made in collaboration with HBRI, NARC. He also showed keen interest to join hands with PARC to save bees in the country.

(Contd. on page 2, Col. 3)



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Member NRD, PARC, Dr. Shahid Maqsood Gill, Country representative ICIMOD, Pakistan, Mr. Muhammad Ismail and Director HBRI, NARC/National Coordinator Honeybees, Dr. Rashid Mahmood are sitting on stage on the occasion of "World Bee Day -2022" held at NARC on May 20.

Workshop on Rice Food Safety, Quality held

ISLAMABAD: PARC Southern-zone Agricultural Research Centre, keeping in view the current challenges related to the food organizes two days stakeholder conference cum training workshop on 'Food Safety & Quality of Rice: Current Scenarios, Challenges and Prospects for Improvement' in collaboration with Mohammad Ali Jinnah University from June 14 & 15 at MAJU, Karachi. This event is conducted through the research project titled 'Development of a System, Based on Preventive Approach to

Address Food Safety Concerns in the Export of Pakistani Rice' (ALP project/CS-410) being executed by Dr. Saqib Arif, Project PI/PSO, Dr. Qurrat ul Ain, Project Co-PI/SSO, Mr. Salman Khurshid, SO and other project team members of PARC-SARC, Karachi.

The event is graced by the representatives of R&D organizations, industries, growers, academia, regulatory & trade bodies and some international experts.

The conference inaugurated by the welcoming notes by Dr. Muhammad

(Contd. on page 2, Col. 1)



A group photo of workshop participants



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is discussing on agriculture uplift with Mr. Ghalib Nishtar, President, Khushhali Microfinance Bank at PARC on Jun 02.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali Chairman PARC is chairing In-house PSDP 2021-22 Monthly Progress Review Meeting at PARC on Jun 27. NPD's/PI's are also present in the meeting.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is addressing to the participants on the occasion of closing ceremony of "Two Days Workshop on Wheat Varieties Development Protocol Quality Seed Production, Seed Act, and Breeder's Rights" at NARC on May 18.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is presenting PARC shield to Dr. Kwon Min, Potato Seed Production Expert, KOPIA Korea at NIGAB, NARC on May 12.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC is inaugurating wheat harvesting at National Agricultural Research Center, NARC on Apr 26. Officials of PARC & NARC are also present on the occasion.