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Chairman's Message

The National Dialogue on Agricultural Research is a critical initiative that brings together all stakeholders in the agricultural sector to collaborate, exchange ideas, and explore innovative solutions for sustainable agricultural development. The present agricultural scenario is characterized by challenges arising from climate change, population growth, and the degradation of natural resources. It requires the collaborative efforts of national stakeholders like AARI, Faisalabad, UoA, Multan, UoA, Peshawar, UoA, Faisalabad, PMAS-AAU, Rawalpindi, IUB, Bahawalpur, AoHS, NIH Islamabad, PCRWR, Islamabad, CU, Chitral, and international stakeholders like FAO, USDA, CAAS, YAAS, CABI, CIMMYT, ACIAR, RDA, JICA, CSAM, CIDA, IRRI, ILRI, EMPHNET, IWMI, ICARDA to effectively tackle these challenges. Vertical expansion through research is the only solution to address them. The NARS has been addressing these challenges together since the inception of our country. The National Dialogue on Agricultural Research has provided a platform for all stakeholders for brainstorming.

PARC holds National Dialogue on Agricultural Research

ISLAMABAD: A three-day National Dialogue on Agricultural Research was held at National Agricultural Research Centre from May 02-04.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Minister of National Food Security and Research, Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema, highlighted the government's commitment to promoting the agricultural sector and improving the livelihoods of farmers. The minister emphasized the importance of research and innovation in achieving sustainable agricultural development and achieving the target of self-sufficiency in edible oil production. The minister advised the Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research to pinpoint governance and financial issues hindering agriculture research.

Main objective of the event was to explore challenges, recent trends, and novel technological innovations in the field under the theme of "Harnessing Agriculture Potential to Boost Pakistan's Economy". The inaugural session was

attended by national and international stakeholders in agriculture. The Dialogue has been planned to provide platform for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss and deliberate on the latest developments and innovations in agricultural research and future plan.

Zafar Hassan, Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research emphasized to improve governance through establishment of a well-coordinated system among different institutions and rationalize existing resources to improve efficiency of the research system.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted importance of research to deal with the food security challenge of the country. He shared PARC led coordinated efforts of National Agricultural Research System like; germplasm sharing, variety

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Tariq Bashir Cheema, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Zafar Hassan, Federal Secretary, NFS&R, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, Dr. Kauser Abdulla Malik, Former Chairman PARC/Director ORIC, FCCO Lahore and Dr. Iqar Hussain Khan, VC, University of Agriculture Faisalabad sitting on a stage during the Inaugural Session of National Dialogue on Agricultural Research held at NARC on May 02.

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development and release – more than 700 varieties, Agricultural Linkages Program – throughout NARS. He further emphasized National Agricultural Research System needs autonomy to enhance collaboration with international partners in technology, joint projects, exchange programs and capacity building.

Dr. Kausar Abdulla Malik, former Chairman PARC graced the occasion

and said that Pakistan has highly qualified human resource power in agricultural research in all cutting-edge technologies. He urged for the financial support to harness the ability of available qualified human resource. He emphasized on the importance of endowment fund for agricultural research execution.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, emphasized that PARC should have

leading role in agricultural research coordination. In this reference, he acknowledged that three-day dialogue will further strengthen the strategy for coordination

The National Dialogue on Agricultural Research is a crucial initiative that brings together all stakeholders in the agricultural sector to collaborate, exchange ideas, and explore innovative solutions for sustainable development.



Tariq Bashir Cheema, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research along with others standing on the stage for National Anthem on May 02.

National Dialogue on Agricultural Research





PICTURES' GALLERY

National Dialogue on Agricultural Research



PICTURES' GALLERY

National Dialogue on Agricultural Research



Dr. Alison Bentley, CIMMYT



Ms. Florence Rolls, FAO



Dr. Masroor Ellahi Babar, VC Gomal University



Dr. Cho Gyoung-rae, KOPIA



Dr. T.P. Tiwari, CIMMYT, Pakistan



Dr. Abdul Rashid, CropLife, Pakistan



Dr. Babar Ehsan Bajwa, CABI



Mr. Waheed Ahmed, Chairman PFVA

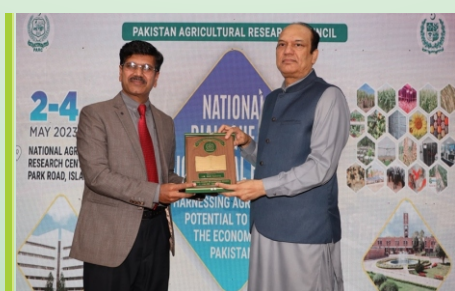


PICTURES' GALLERY

National Dialogue on Agricultural Research



Dr. Alison Bentley, CIMMYT





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National Dialogue on Agricultural Research





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National Dialogue on Agricultural Research



Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Former Chairman PARC



Dr. Nadeem Amjid, Former Chairman PARC



Dr. Zahir Shah, VC, Chitral University, Chitral



Dr. Sabahat Noor, SSO, NIGAB, NARC



Dr. Hafiz Sultan Mahmood, Director AEI, NARC



Prof. Dr. Munir Iqbal, UK



Dr. Nowsherwan Noble Nawab, PSO, HRI, NARC



Dr. Rab Nawaz, Sr. Director WWF



Dr. Ismat Gull Khattak, DG, PNAC



Dr. Waqar Ahmed, USDA



Prof. Dr. Asad Jan, IBGE



Mr. Fazli Wahab, ARI, Tarnab, Peshawar



Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, UAF



Prof. Dr. Moazzam Nizami, Chairman Forestry



Dr. Akmal Siddique, Technical Advisor, MNFS&R

Tanveer hails PARC for holding National Dialogue on Agricultural Research

ISLAMABAD: The three-day National Dialogue on Agricultural Research successfully concluded at the National Agricultural Research Centre on May 04. At the closing ceremony of the Dialogue, the chief guest, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training,

Rana Tanveer Hussain commended PARC for organizing a comprehensive and goal-oriented dialogue that involved all stakeholders. The Minister emphasized that the agriculture sector is crucial to Pakistan's economy and stressed the importance of maximizing

its potential to ensure food and nutritional security. He urged all the researchers to establish a purely indigenous and self-reliant agricultural research which is aligned with the international standards of food and nutritional security.



Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, Prof. Dr. Athar Mehboob, VC, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Mari, VC, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojaam, Prof. Dr. Zahoor ul Haq, VC, Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, and Dr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Member SSD PARC sitting on the stage during the concluding session at NARC on May 04.

Outcome of National Dialogue on Agricultural Research

The national dialogue on agricultural research in Pakistan provided a platform to the parliamentarians, bureaucrats, ambassadors, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) board of governors, vice chancellors, heads of federal and provincial research organizations, international organizations, multinational companies, professors, researchers and students to share their expertise, plans and possible joint ventures in the form of presentations and talks. The dialogue covered all important themes that are crucial for sustainability

and uplifting of agriculture sector.

- ◆ Themes included climate-resilient crop production systems through genomics, diversification, sustainable approach and environmental adaptability.
- ◆ Innovative propagation techniques and management strategies for promotion of high-value horticultural crops productivity and marketability
- ◆ Precision farming and smart agriculture mechanization, allowing small-scale farmers to optimize resource.
- ◆ Animal Genomics, diagnostics,

and vaccine development to improve breed and food animal productivity.

- ◆ Improved soil health, water resources, environment, rangelands, and agro-forestry that can lead to sustainable natural resource management.
 - ◆ To standardize products, value chain innovations, quality enhancement for agricultural exports and overall economic growth.
- The follow up roadmap is under progress and will be shared with all stakeholders for endorsement and joint action plans.



A group photo of Rana Tanvir Hussain, Minister for Education and Professional Training, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC alongwith senior scientists and participants of National Dialogue on Agricultural Research at NARC on May 04.



PICTURES' GALLERY



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC in a live morning show of ABN TV channel on May 30. The purpose of this show is to address current agricultural issues and strategies for their management to boost Pakistan's economy.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, discussing research activities with Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (SJ), Vice Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University at Quaid-i-Azam University on Jun. 02.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, discussing possible future collaboration strategies regarding PARC and National Agricultural Research System with Neil MacIntosh, HR Director, CABI, Bioscience, UK and Dr. Babar Ehsan Bajwa, Senior Regional Director Asia at PARC.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC exchanging farm research views with Luc Boyer, Deputy Economic Counselor based in French Embassy at PARC on April 10.



A group photo of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC along with senior scientists and participants of three-day hands on training workshop on PCR ELISA and Bioinformatics tool at NIGAB, NARC on May 24.



A group photo of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC along with Ms. Shazia Adnan, Director General IPO Pakistan, representatives from IPO Pakistan, Plant breeders and senior scientists of PARC during a two-day training workshop on Patent and Plant Breeders Rights Application Drafting at NIGAB, NARC on May 31.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali participated in a live morning show "SUBHA E PAKISTAN" of PTV News on occasion of World Food Safety Day on Jun. 07.



Mr. Muhammad Saeedullah Yousafzai, Acting Chairman / Member Finance presiding over a meeting with Ms. Monique Tran, Counselor for Agricultural Affairs, France and Mr. Luc Boyer, Economic Counselor based in French Embassy at PARC.

Agriculture in Balochistan has a huge economic potential: Dr. Ali

Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan, has great potential for crop, fruit, and vegetable production due to its diverse agro-climatic conditions. It experiences a wide range of climates, including arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid regions. The cooler regions of Ziarat and Quetta are suitable for apple and cherry orchards, while warmer areas like Lasbela and Khuzdar are favorable for citrus fruits, dates, and vegetables. Balochistan is the fruit-basket of the country. Many areas in the province are suitable for the growth of rewarding crops such as pistachios, almonds, walnuts and apricots etc. Balochistan is producing 90 percent of all grapes, cherries, pomegranates and 70 percent of all dates produced in Pakistan. Balochistan has the capacity to significantly contribute to pulses production in Pakistan, meeting domestic demand and potentially even exporting to international markets.

Mash Seed Distribution



During a recent visit, Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, accompanied by the Project Director of the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) Pulses Project, Dr. Muhammad Mansoor, inaugurated the distribution of 58 tons of Mash seed, which is sufficient for cultivating 5800 acres of land. Through collaborative efforts between PARC and the Agriculture Extension Balochistan, a total of 325 tons seed of major pulses has so far been distributed across the province.

Seminar on Organic Cotton, Pulses



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the audience, Dr. Ali emphasized the economic potential of organic cotton, highlighting its ability to generate foreign

exchange earnings and contribute to the overall growth of the country. Dr. Ali further emphasized the significance of intercropping organic pulses with cotton, presenting a promising opportunity for farmers to expand their organic farming operations and tap into the rising market.

Inauguration of Bio-Control Lab



Under the program "Building the Policy Ecosystem for Organic Production Landscape in Pakistan", In a significant leap towards promoting sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices, the CABI Bio Control Lab located in Rakhni was recently inaugurated by Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali. The establishment of the CABI Bio Control Lab is a testament to the commitment to address the challenges faced by farmers and contribute to a more sustainable future for agriculture.

Release of parthenium Bio-control agent (Listronotus setosipennis) stem boring weevil



Parthenium has spread throughout much of the country, causing problems in both rural and urban areas. Under the CABI PlantwisePlus Programme, CABI Regional Bioscience Centre has been granted permission to release the Stem-Boring Weevil, *Listronotus setosipennis* as a biocontrol agent for managing *Parthenium hysterophorus* in Pakistan. This weevil is hoped to prove a sustainable and effective management option for this invasive weed.

CABI's Contribution

CABI has been at the forefront of global efforts to manage invasive species and promote sustainable agriculture. The organization has played a pivotal role in the identification, evaluation, and introduction of bio-control agents around the world. Its partnership with

PARC in introducing *Listronotus setosipennis* underscores the significance of international collaboration in addressing complex agricultural challenges.

First-ever Green Shop unveiled



In commemoration of World Environment Day, the WWF-Pakistan Organic Cotton Team, in collaboration with the Agriculture Extension Department Balochistan, launched the First Ever Green Shop. The initiative aims to facilitate the accessibility of bio inputs for organic farmers at the local market level, promoting sustainable and environmentally-friendly agricultural practices. The launch was accompanied by a farmer's field day held in Rakhni.

Awareness Walk



An awareness walk was also arranged on the occasion which was led by the chief guest, Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali on the occasion.

World Environment Day, celebrated annually on June 5th, is an international initiative that raises awareness and encourages action for the protection and preservation of our planet's environment.

Significance of Chairman's Role

The chairman's involvement not only highlights the seriousness of the issue but also signals the importance of collaborative efforts between govt. agencies, research institutions, and international organizations like CABI.

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC said that to fully exploit the agricultural potential of Balochistan, it is essential to invest in infrastructure development, improve irrigation system, provide farmers with access to modern farming techniques, and promote research and development to enhance crop productivity and quality.