



SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF PAKISTAN

SOIL SCIENCE NEWS

Special Issue: International Years of Soils 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Editorial	2
Oath Taking Ceremony Executive Council SSSP	3
Earth Day, Biodiversity Day & World Env. Day	4
FAO Workshop on Bal- anced Fertilizer use	5
International Olive Workshop	6
Microbial culture Collec- tion of Pakistan	7
New Appointments/ Promotions/Transfers/ Professional Tours	8
Doctoral Degree Com- pletions (Year 2015)	10
International Confer- ence on Soil Sustainabil- ity	11
Awards/Honors/ Distinctions	12



Editorial Board

Editor:

Dr. Hafiz Naeem Asghar

Associate Editor:

Dr. Muhammad Iqbal

Email:

news@sss-pakistan.org

Message from FAO Ambassador of International Year of Soils

It is a great pleasure for me to send you a few words from very far away in a very modest way. In addition to being a treasure of nature, soils are an essential resource for human societies. We depend on soils for our food, and for the many ecosystem services they provide. We depend on soils, yet most earth inhabitants ignore them or take for granted all the ecosystem services we benefit from our soils. We depend on soils, but we continue to degrade this non-renewable resource and soil is still a second tier environmental priority. You know that, I am sure, you are already convinced, and, being members of the Soil Science Society of Pakistan, you even are experts. Your country has its

own challenges like salinization, erosion, nutrient depletion which are so closely related to food security. Every country has soil challenges nowadays. Investing in training and education in soil science,



for both young women and

Dr. Claire Chenu

Professor of Soil Science
AgroParisTech, France
FAO Special Ambassador
International Year of Soils 2015

young men, is, I am convinced,

a fruitful way forward. This international year aimed at raising awareness worldwide. It has been a tremendous success by the number and diversity of events and actions. It has been exceptional by the commitment of so many people. Yet it is just the beginning. The trend of soil degradation must be reversed through sustainable soil management practices. Efforts are needed in many directions: education, research, soil information systems, proper advice and implementation of sustainable practices, effective policies. Let me congratulate you for being part of these celebrations, let me encourage you to continue to study and to defend soils.

Healthy soils for healthy lives!

Sad Demise of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad *An irreparable loss to Soil Science Community*

Eminent soil scientist, President Soil Science Society of Pakistan and Dean Faculty of Agriculture University of Agriculture Faisalabad Professor Dr. Muhammad Arshad (Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, Distinguished National Professor, and Nominated Fellow PAS) passed away on 30th January 2016 at the age of 59. He died of heart attack at his residence in People's Colony. His funeral prayer was attended by thousands of his students, colleagues, friends and dignitaries from all over the country.

Dr. Arshad earned his Ph.D.



in Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry from the University of California, Riverside, CA,

USA. Dr. Arshad had more than three decades of experience in teaching and research. He was the one pioneering the concept of utilizing microbially produced plant growth regulators for the betterment of crop production in Pakistan. He prepared a "Rice Biofert" containing microbially derived plant growth promoting substances. He developed effective bioremediation biotechnology for the pesticides-polluted soil and water environments. He also developed novel biofertilizers to improve the yield of crops.

Dear Colleagues!

We hope that everyone of you will be doing well.

"We are really grateful to the previous editorial board of the SS News Dr.

M. Mahmood ul Hassan and Dr. Ijaz Rafique.

They did a commendable job in making this newsletter a success."

Year 2015 has been a great year for Soil Science; International Year of Soils (IYS 2015) was celebrated in a jubilant way across the globe. The year was marked by a large number of scientific events like conferences, seminars, workshops, awareness walks and public meetings.

Besides IYS, another globally significant event of passed year was Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21). The event brought first ever agreement requiring all nations to restrict global warming to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels. Soils being house of large pool of global carbon stocks, we hope that soil scientists will make good efforts to achieve this target.

Pakistan also observed vigorous celebrations of International Year of Soils 2015 and a lot of events were organized by universities and research organizations.

At the start of the year 2016, soil science community of Pakistan met a great tragedy in the form of sad demise of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad, a real patron of soil science community, a highly decorated scientist and kind hearted human being. May Allah bless his soul.

This year is also an important year for soil scientists because we will be having 16th International Congress of Soil Science this year at PMAS-AAUR on March 15-17. We hope to see you at this important event.

Wishing you a successful and scientifically productive year.

Editors

Sad Demise of Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad (Continued)

Dr. Arshad was declared "Best Scientist in Agriculture for the Year 2001" by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Islamabad and he received "Best University Teachers Award for the Year 2003" from Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. In recognition of outstanding performance in education and research, Dr. Arshad was decorated with National Civil Award "Tamgha-i-Imtiaz 2005" by the President of Pakistan. He was also awarded best performance shield by the President of Pakistan on the eve of Centennial Celebrations of the University.

Currently, he was working as Dean Faculty of Agriculture, UAF. He held prestigious posts as Di-

rector, Center for Agricultural Biochemistry and Biotechnology (1998-2000). Also, he was assigned the responsibility of the

proceedings/technical reports/abstracts at national level, Dr. Arshad has published more than 100 research articles in foreign

referred impact factor journals which earned an impact factor of over 200 and more than 2000 citations for him. Professor Arshad successfully produced 16 Ph.D. scholars as major supervisor and 17 as co-supervisor. Eight more scholars were currently pursuing their Ph.D. under his direct guidance.



Director, Center for Agricultural Genetics and Saline Agriculture (1998-99). He also acted as Senior Tutor during 1997-2000. He also worked as Director, Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Besides contribution of more than 200 research papers/

His sad demise has been termed the great loss to agriculture sector and soil science community that cannot be fulfilled. His services for the cause of agricultural sector, education and research would be remembered forever.

May Almighty Allah rest his soul in peace.

Oath Taking Ceremony, Executive Council 2015-16 of SSSP held at AARI, Faisalabad

Following the By-laws of the Soil Science Society of Pakistan, elections of the Executive Council 2015-16 of the society were held in December 2014.

The out going Executive Council gave the responsibility of Election Commissioner of SSSP to Dr. Wisaal Muhammad, Director Nuclear Institute of Food & Agriculture Peshawar. The office of the Election Commissioner accomplished this activity very successfully and the results of the election were announced in January 2015 through society website and in written to all members.

Oath taking ceremony of the Executive Council 2015-16 of SSSP was held on February 17, 2016 at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad. The ceremony was attended by a large number of soil scientists belonging to academia, research institutions and private sector throughout the country.

Dr. Shahid Mahmood, Manager Technical Services Fatima Fertilizer Company Lahore (Former President of SSSP) presided the ceremony and took oath from the newly elected executive members of the society. Members include *Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad*, Dean Faculty of Agriculture, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (**President**); *Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah*, Deptt. Soil & Env. Sci., The Univ. Agri. Peshawar (**Past President**); *Dr. Sabir Gul Khattack*, Director, Agriculture Research Institute, Kohat, *Dr. Nizamuddin Depar*, Principal Scientist, Nuclear Instt. of Agri. Tandojam, *Dr. Muhammad Sharif*, Lecturer Soil Science, Baluchistan Agri. College Quetta, *Mr. Abdul Khaliq*, Chairman, Deptt. Soil & Env. Sci., Uni. of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK, *Dr. Abid Subhani*, Agricultural Chemist, Soil & Water Cons. Res. Instt., Chakwal (**Vice Presidents**); *Dr. M. Tariq Siddique*, Assoc. Prof. Deptt. Soil Sci., PMAS-Arid Agri.

Univ. Rawalpindi (**General Secretary**); *Dr. M. Ashfaq Anjum*, Agricultural Chemist, Soil Chem & Env. Sci., AARI Faisalabad (**Treasurer**); *Dr. Shakeel A. Anwar*, Asstt. Agri. Chem., Soil Chem & Env. Sci., AARI., Faisalabad (**Joint Secretary**); *Mr. Nisar Ahmad*, Assistant Agri. Chemist, Biochemistry, Ayub Agri. Res. Instt., Faisalabad, *Mr. Tahir Majeed*, Agriculture Officer, Provincial Ref. Fertilizer Lab., Lahore, *Dr. Saleem M. Bhatti*, Assistant Prof. Deptt Soil Science, Sindh Agri. Univ. Tandojam, *Prof. Dr. Farman Ullah*, Deptt. Soil & Env. Sci., The Univ. Agri. Peshawar, *Mr. Tariq Ziad*, Research Officer, Directorate Soil & WTL, Quetta, *Dr. Aqeela Shaheen*, Asstt. Prof., Deptt. Soil & Env. Sci., Univ. Poonch. Rawalakot (**Councilors**); *Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmed Zahir*, Professor, Instt. Soil & Envi. Sci., Univ. of Agri. Faisalabad (**Chief Editor Soil & Environment**)



Soft launching of Celebrations of International Year of Soils 2015 and Special Seminar on "Future of Nutrients in Food Security"

Soil Science Society of Pakistan Actively celebrated International Year of Soils 2015. A large variety of activities including seminars, workshops, awareness walks, poster competitions, students activities like quiz competitions, documentary making competitions and essay writing competitions were organized by

the society in collaboration with various universities and research organizations of the country. The celebrations started from a special soft launching ceremony held at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad in February 2016 following the oath taking ceremony of the Executive Council 2015-16 of the society.

The ceremony also included a special seminar on "Future of Nutrients in Food Security" by eminent fertilizer sector expert Dr. Nadeem Tariq, Chief Executive Officer of Niha Tech. Private Limited Pakistan. The eminent speaker emphasized

the use of balanced and site specific nutrient application for sustainable crop production. It was discussed that it was very much necessary that farmers adopt modern techniques of soil health diagnosis and that the soil amendments and fertilizers should be applied according to soil and crop conditions.



World Earth Day & Annual Function Celebrated at Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences , UAF

World Earth Day (April 22, 2015) was celebrated in the Institute to create awareness about the importance of earth in our lives and agriculture and strategies for its prevention from pollution. Lectures on “Sustainable Urban Management” and “Sustainable Nuclear Management” were delivered by

learned speakers. Soil and Environmental Sciences Student Society (SESSS), Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences organized a Poster Competition and awareness walk.

SESSS, ISES of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad arranged Annual Function in the Institute on April 28,



“Sustainable Urban Management is necessary to meet the housing requirements of increasing population but at the same time saving agriculture and environment”



2015. This was an excellent opportunity for co-curricular activities, to present students awards and to further strengthen students-teacher interactions.

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (S.I) Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad was chief guest of the event.

International Biodiversity Day Celebrated at PMAS-AAUR

International Biological Diversity Day was celebrated at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) on May 22, 2015 with the objective to raise awareness on biodiversity related issues and its significance.

A seminar was also organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences in collaboration with ICIMOD, National Cleaner Production Center and Technology Times, with the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Develop-

ment". On the occasion, PMAS-AAUR Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, was the chief guest.

The seminar was attended by Dr. Abdul Wahid Jasra, Country representative ICIMOD. Dr. Muhammad Khursheed DG Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency, Prof. Dr. Tariq Mahmood (Advisor R&D, HEC), scientists from various organizations, representatives of environment and wildlife conservation agencies as well as a large number of students and teachers from the Arid University.

A poster competition was organized by the students of the Department and models in connection with Biodiversity Day were also displayed. The models highlighted the



significance of biodiversity conservation and importance of biodiversity in ecosystem.



Soil & Environmental Sciences Students Society (SESSS), UAF Organized Environment Awareness Walk & Annual Sports Festival

On June 5, 2015 ISES, UAF celebrated World Environment Day. Objective of this event was to create awareness about environmental pollution, its impact on our lives and remediation measures. Along with public awareness lectures, a walk was also arranged by SESSS, and waste collection bins were installed at different locations.



Soil and Environmental Sciences Student Society (SESSS), ISES organized Sports week from October 15-17, 2015. This event provided opportunity for healthy activities to the students. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad (T.I., Distinguished National Professor), Dean Faculty of Agriculture UAF inaugurated the sports week.

One-day workshop “Contribution of Balanced use of Fertilizers towards Food Security” held at Karachi

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) and the U.S. Department for Agriculture (USDA) convened a one-day workshop on the “Contribution of balanced use of fertilizers towards food security” at a local hotel on May 28, 2015.

The objective of the workshop was to highlight the significance of balanced fertilization in sustainable agriculture and food security. The workshop elaborated the use of appropriate balanced inputs and 4Rs (Right fertilizer at

the Right rate at the Right time in the Right place) Nutrient Stewardship in



partnership with the private sector, including fertilizer companies, wholesalers/retailers and farmer associations. The participants of the workshop also as-

sessed the use of fertilizer management practices at farm-gate level with special focus on Mango plantation. This workshop brought together more than 75 participants from the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, National Fertilizer Development Center (NFDC), provincial agricultural research, information and extension departments, academia, Harvest-Plus, Fertilizer Industry, Farmer Associations, Research Institutes and FAO to share experiences, case studies and initiatives.

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. Nisar Ahmad- Former Chief NFDC, Planning Commission of Pakistan. Dr. Mubarak Ahmed, Director General Southern-zone Agriculture Research Centre, PARC, FAO Assistant Representative (Programme) Mr. Nasar Hayat, Dr. Waqar Ahmad (Soil Expert, FAO) and others spoke to the participants of the workshop.



Three Day International workshop on “Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in a Changing Environment- A special Focus on Olive Tree” held at PMAS-AAUR

International Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture Water Management in a Changing Environment- A special Focus on Olive Tree” was held at PMAS Arid Agriculture University



Rawalpindi on September 30, to October 2, 2015.

The workshop was organized by the Department of Environmental Sciences PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC), Trees and Timber Institute- National Research Council (CNR) of Italy and Institute of European Studies "Alcide

De Gasperi", with an aim to demonstrate technologies for sustainable water use and promote olive cultivation in Pakistan in addition to provision of technical expertise to the local researchers, academia representa-

tives and olive cultivars. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Dr. Ahsan Iqbal, was Chief Guest of inaugural session. on modern trends to make Pakistan

Speakers at the workshop suggested that olive industry of Pakistan should be sustainable as well as profitable in order to compete in the international market. Moreover, selection of suitable regions, appropriate olive varieties, selection of suitable cultivars, pest and disease management, ensuring quality control, preparing human capital and capacity building of farmers are some of the utmost factors for growing olive in Pakistan.

Chairman Higher Education Commis-



sion, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad was the chief guest of the closing session. In his address, he stressed the need to implement the olive research into the fields in order to meet the olive oil needs and getting maximum yields in changing climate.



Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, PMAS-AAUR, in his address said that emphasized the importance of olive and olive cultivation in the area and assured the institutional support of PMAS-AAUR for the developmental initiatives of olive and its cultivation.

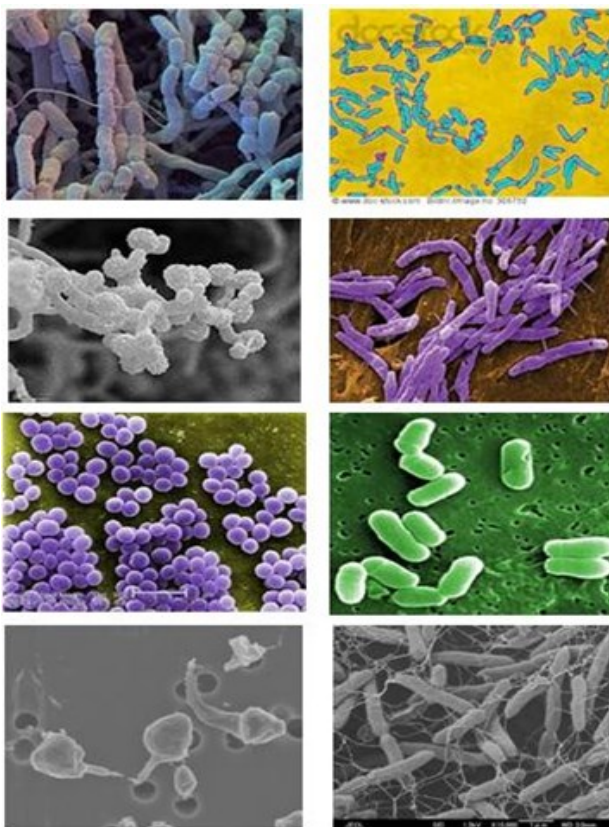
De Gasperi", with an aim to demonstrate technologies for sustainable water use and promote olive cultivation in Pakistan in addition to provision of technical expertise to the local researchers, academia representa-



Institute of Microbial Culture Collection of Pakistan (IMCCP) established at National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad, Pakistan

In Pakistan, long term preservation of microbes is a neglected subject. The importance of microbes in biotechnological, agricultural and industrial applications has pushed many Institutes to collect the indigenous beneficial microbes from various ecological zones of Pakistan. However, most of the strains collected by various labs were either stocked in glycerol as unidentified strains or abolished with time due to contamination or loss of interest of researchers at end of the project.

Recently, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) took an initiative to start working on identification and preservation of economically important bacterial strains from Pakistani ecology. In this regard, PARC has established "Institute for Microbial Culture Collection of Pakistan (IMCCP)" for preservation of microbial bio-asset of Pakistan ([www.parc.gov.pk/index.php/en/imccp-](http://www.parc.gov.pk/index.php/en/imccp-home)



home). This institute aims at managing repository of microorganisms as "National Culture Collection of Pakistan (NCCP)". NCCP will

serve as a microbial gene bank and will play an important role in offering services not only to preserve microorganisms using techniques that maintain viability, purity, and important characteristics of microorganisms, but also to supply high quality microorganisms for use in teaching, research and industrial applications. The facility for preservation of microbial strains can be availed by various scientists working in teaching, research and industry following the Best Practice Guidelines of the OECD (2001) and information exchange taking into account national and international requirements.

NCCP will further characterize any potential candidate novel strain that can be delineated as a novel species from Pakistani ecology using polyphasic taxonomic approach. The institute is establishing facilities for providing services to scientific community to meet the minimum standards for describing novel taxa from Pakistani ecology.

One-day Symposium "Healthy Soils for food Security and sustainability" Nov 05, 2015 held at University of Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

In order to celebrate the International Year of Soil (2015), a one day symposium titled "**Healthy soils for food security and sustainability**" was organized by Dr. Ali Raza Gurmani, Associate Professor/Head of Soil Science Section, University of Haripur.

The key note speakers of the symposium were Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah, University of

Agriculture Peshawar/President SSSP; Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Chief Editor Soil & Environment, University of Agriculture Faisalabad; Prof. Dr. Ghulam Jilani, Pir Mehar Ali

Shah, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi; Dr. Tariq Sultan, Principal Scientific Officer, LRRI, NARC, Islamabad. Chief Guest of the symposium

was Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation.

A Poster competition was also organized among the students and three best presenters were awarded shields.



New Appointments/Promotions/Transfers/Professional Tours

⇒**Dr. Khalid Saifullah Khan** Professor, Department of Soil Science & SWC, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi was appointed Chairman of the department.



⇒**Mr. Muhammad Ilyas**, Director SWACRI was promoted as Director of the Institute of Soil Chemistry & Environmental Sciences at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad.

⇒**Dr. Muhammad Akmal**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Soil Science & Soil Water Conservation, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi joined the Department as Associate Professor.

⇒**Dr. Riffat Hayat**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Soil Science & Soil Water Conservation, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi joined the Attock Campus PMAS-AAUR as Associate Professor and Project Director of the campus.

⇒**Dr. Ali Raza Gurmani**, Assistant Professor has been promoted to Associate Professor and assumed the charge of Head of Soil Science Section, Department of Agricultural Sciences, University of Haripur, Pakistan.

⇒**Dr. Ehsan ul Haq**, Agricultural Chemist Soil & Water Testing Lab Rawalpindi was promoted to Director Soil Salinity Research Institute, Pindi Bhattian.

⇒**Dr. Shahid Mahmood** joined Department of Environmental Sciences, PMAS-AAUR as Assistant Professor.

⇒**Dr. Rabia Khalid** joined PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Attock Campus as Lecturer of Soil Science.

⇒**Dr. Tanvir Ahmad** Lecturer at the Department of Soil Science & Soil Water Conservation, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi was promoted as Assistant Professor in the Department.

⇒**Miss. Munazza Yousra** has recently been appointed as Scientific Officer (SPS-8) on regular basis in PARC and has joined Land Resources Research Institute, NARC, Islamabad. Previously, she had worked as Scientific Officer on contract basis in Ecotoxicology Research Institute,

⇒**Dr. Muhammad Humair Ahmed Malik** has joined, as Scientific Of-



ficer in Land Resources Research Institute, National Agriculture Research Center, Islamabad

⇒Former Student Councilor of SSSP

Dr. Azhar Hussain has joined Department of Soil Science, UC&ES, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur as Assistant Professor (IPFP).

⇒**Dr. Sabir Hussain** Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, GC University Faisalabad joined UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences, University College Dublin, Belfield Dublin, Ireland for one year post-doctoral contract.

⇒**Dr. Qaiser Hussain**, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science & Soil Water Conservation, PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi joined King Saud University for Post-Doc.

⇒**Dr. Muhammad Usman**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad joined Environmental Mineralogy and Environmental Chemistry Group, at the Center for Applied Geoscience, University of Tübingen, Germany for one year Post-Doc through Alexander Von Humboldt Research Fellowship.

⇒**Dr. Muhammad Arshad**, Assistant Professor, Institute of Environmental Sciences & Engineering, National University of Science & Technology Islamabad became Associate Professor.

⇒**Dr. Muhammad Amjad** has joined Department of Environmental Science, COMSATS Institute of Vehari as Assistant Professor. Prior to this he served Department of Soil Science & SWC, PMAS-AAUR on one year interim placement contract.

⇒**Dr. Zeshan Sheikh** has joined Institute of Environmental Sciences & Engineering, National University of Science & Technology, Islamabad.

⇒**Dr. Asma Hassan** has joined Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Poonch., Rawalakot, AJK

⇒**Ms. Tayyaba Samreen** has joined Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences, UAF as lecturer.

⇒**Dr. Muhammad Sanaullah** Assistant Professor, Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad has joined back the institute after completion of post-doc from George-August University of Göttingen, Germany through Alexander



Von Humboldt Research Fellowship.

⇒ **Dr. Zaffar ul Hye Gondal** Assistant Professor of Soil Science at BZU has completed three months US Full bright fellowship and returned back. He is now in UK for common wealth fellowship

⇒ **Dr. Muhammad Arif Ali** Assistant Professor Soil Science BZU completed one year's postdoc (sep 2014 to Sep 2015) while availing SWISS Excellence Award from Government of Switzerland. Afterwards, he started US Full bright fellowship in USA

⇒ **Naveed Ali Khokhar, Zahoor Ahmed Channa and Imran Ali Dhamach**, were appointed Assistant Research Officers at Soil Fertility Section, Agriculture Research institute Sindh.

⇒ **Muhammad Asif Siddiqui** was appointed Assistant Research Officer at Soils Section, Soil Chemistry, Tandojam and **Khalil Ahmed Mangi** at Rice Research Institute Dokri, ARI, Sindh.

⇒ **Mr. Mashooq Ali Odhano** Assistant Research Officers, Soil Chemistry (Soil Fertility Section), ARI, Tandojam have been promoted to Assistant Agriculture Chemist at same section in Khairpur.

⇒ **Dr. Qurban Ali Panhwar**, Assistant Research Officers, Soil Chemistry (Soil Fertility Section), ARI, Tandojam have been promoted to Senior Scientist, Soil Science Division, Nuclear Institute of Food & Agriculture, Tandojam.

⇒ **Dr. Niaz Hussain Sial**, Senior Scientist has been promoted to Principal Scientist at NIA, Tandojam.

⇒ **Dr. Nizamuddin Depar** Senior Scientist at NIA, Tandojam has been promoted to Principal Scientist.

⇒ **Dr. Javeed Shah**, Senior Scientist has been promoted to Principal Scientist at NIA, Tandojam.

⇒ **Dr. Allah Wadhayo Gandhi**, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam has been promoted to Associate Professor in the department.



⇒ **Dr. Mehrunisa Memon**, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam has been promoted to Associate Professor in the department.

⇒ **Dr. Zia-ul-Hassan Shah**, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam has been promoted to Associate Professor in the department.

⇒ **Dr. Khalid Hussain Talpur**, Lecturer Department of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam has been promoted to Assistant Professor in the department.

⇒ **Dr. Muhammad Farooq Qayyum**, Assistant Professor of Soil Science at BZU, participated in International DAAD Alumni seminar on "Quality Management along organic agri-value chains in developing countries" (February 02, 2015-February 10, 2015) held in Witzenhausen Germany.

⇒ **Dr. Abdur Rehman** Assistant Professor of Soil Science at BZU participated in "International workshop/training on Safe Production of Grains" in Shenyang Agricultural University, China

World Environment Day Celebrations at Ghazi University DG Khan

Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan celebrated World Environment Day with full zeal. The celebrations included a seminar and awareness walk, followed by palm plantations at the campus. Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Asif Rehmani, Assistant Professor, Agronomy introduced the background of World Environment Day celebrations. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Nawaz, Dean Faculty of Agricultural

Sciences, Ghazi University highlighted the importance of environment and World Environment Day.

An Environment Awareness Walk was also arranged at City Campus, Ghazi University, D.G. Khan. The guests and par-



ticipants also took part in Date Palm Plantation near Allama Iqbal Block, City Campus, Ghazi University, D.G. Khan.





Doctoral Degree Completions (Year 2015)

University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Sr. No.	Scholar's Name	Supervisor	Sr. No.	Scholar's Name	Supervisor
1	Muhammad Aftab	Dr. M. Anwar-ul-Haq	11	Azhar Hussain	Dr. Muhammad Arshad,
2	Wasim Javed	Dr. Ghulam Murtaza	12	Muhammad Imran	Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan
3	Wazir Ahmed	Dr. Muhammad Yaseen	13	Shakeel A. Anwar	Dr. Muhammad Iqbal
4	Muhammad Jan	Dr. M. Anwar-ul-Haq	14	M. Abdul Qayyum	Dr. Javaid Akhtar
5	M. Asif Naeem	Dr. Muhammad Khalid	15	Hafiz M. Rafique	Dr. Hafiz Naeem Asghar
6	Sadia Bibi	Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan	16	Waqas ud Din Khan	Dr. Tariq Aziz
7	Muhammad Shakar	Dr. Muhammad Yaseen	17	Tayyaba Naz	Dr. Javaid Akhtar
8	M. Mazhar Iqbal	Dr. Ghulam Murtaza	18	Parveen	Dr. M. Anwar-ul-Haq
9	Abd-ul-Majeed	Dr. M. Anwar-ul-Haq	19	Muhammad Aon	Dr. Muhammad Khalid
10	Abdul Ghaffar Khan	Dr. Anwar-ul-Hassan			

PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

Sr. No.	Scholar's Name	Supervisor	Sr. No.	Scholar's Name	Supervisor
1	Asma Hassan	Dr. Shahzada S. Ijaz	6	Muhammad Sharif	Dr. Shahzada S. Ijaz
2	Zafar Abbas	Dr. Muhammad Akmal	7	M. Humair Malik	Dr. M. Tariq Siddique
3	Kashif Bashir	Dr. Safdar Ali	8	Rabia Khalid	Dr. Safdar Ali
4	Muhammad Ijaz	Dr. Safdar Ali	9	M. Nadeem Iqbal	Dr. Ghulam Jilani
5	Ahmad Ali Khan	Dr. Ghulam Jilani			

Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam

Sr. No.	Scholar's Name	Supervisor
1	Javed Ahmed Shah	Dr. Zia ul Hassan Shah

New Executive Council of 4S-PMAS-AAUR takes Oath

The Oath Taking ceremony of the elected Executive Council of Soil Science Students Society PMAS-AAUR (4S-PMAS-AAUR) was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on Dec 9th, 2015 during World Soil Day Celebrations. The Chief Guest was Prof. Dr. Zahir Shah, Former President, Soil Science Society of Pakistan.



International Conference on Soil Sustainability for Food Security held at UAF

International Conference titled Soil Sustainability for Food Security was organized by the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad at New Senate Hall on November 15-17, 2015. The confer-

ence was attended by a large number of delegates from agriculture sector departments.

Sardar Sikandar Hayat Bosan, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research chaired the inaugural

session.

Amongst the participants/speakers included scientists from Germany, Australia Adou Dhabi and many senior and young scientists from all over the country.



Seminar on “Healthy Soils for Sustainable Agriculture” organized at PMAS-AAUR in connection of World Soil Day and International Year of Soils 2015 celebrations



A seminar on “Healthy Soils for Sustainable Agriculture” was organized by Department of Soil Science PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with the Soil Science Society of Pakistan during two days celebrations of International Years of Soils 2015 & World Soil Day. The celebrations also included students’ activities like Quiz Contest, Documentary Competition and Poster Competition. The ceremonies were attended by representatives of research institutes, academia, organizations and students.

Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR chaired the Inau-

gural Session. Dr. Abdul Majeed, Country Representative ICARDA was guest of honor of the occasion. A key note address on status of soil degradation in Pakistan was delivered by Prof. Dr. Khalid Saifullah Khan, Chairman Dept. of Soil Science

& SWC, Technical session consisted of four talks by guest speakers.

Dr. Muhammad Rashid, Former DG Agricultural Research Punjab/ Specialist UAF, Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Professor Environmental

Sciences, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Dr. Arshad Ali, Director Land Resources Research Institute, NARC, Dr. Zahir Shah, Former President SSSP and Professor, Dept. of Soil & Environmental Sciences, The University of Agriculture Peshawar also spoke on the occasion.



Dr. Zia ul Hassan Shah conferred Best university Teacher Award 2014

It is a matter of immense pride for the soil science community that Dr. Zia-ul-Hassan Shah, Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam has been decorated with Best University Teacher Award 2014 by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan in recognitions of his achievements, services and outstanding performance in the field of research and academics.



BZU Scholar Wins International Plant Nutrition Institute 2015 Scholar Award

International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) has selected the winners of the 2015 Scholar Awards. A total of 37 graduate students, representing 13 countries, were chosen as IPNI Scholar Award recipients. Each winner received the equivalent of US\$2,000.

Mr. Muhammad Imran, Phd Scholar at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Punjab, Pakistan was also among the winners.



<https://www.ipni.net/scholar/home>

Upcoming International Conferences

3rd International Conference on Hydropedology

Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China, August 16-19, 2016. The conference theme is "Hydropedology and Natural Resources in the Earth's Critical Zone for a Sustainable World". Abstract deadline: March 1, 2016. <http://hydropedology2016.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>

Third World Conference of World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC)

Third World Conference of World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC). Belgrade, Serbia, August 22-26, 2016. First Announcement and Call for papers. The registration form and detailed information is available at the conference website. <http://3rdwaswacconference.sfb.bg.ac.rs/>

15th International Conference on Soil Micromorphology

Mexico City, Mexico; November 27 – December 5, 2016. This conference will be organized jointly with the IUSS Commissions I.3 Soil Genesis and I.6 Palaeopedology. The early registration fee for full participants at the Conference will be 200 €; the student fee will be 150 €, with appropriate verification of student status. Details at; <http://www.icsm.igeologia.unam.mx/index.html>

3rd International Conference on Agriculture and Forestry (ICOAF)

The International Institute of Knowledge Management of Sri Lanka in collaboration with Cagayan State University of the Republic of the Philippines as host is excited to invite you to submit original research papers for presentation to the 3rd International Conference on Agriculture and Forestry (ICOAF) to be held on June 1-3, 2016 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, with the theme "Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry as Essential Response to the Challenges of Global Food Security and Environmental Stability."

Details at; <http://agroconference.com/>