



21ST
INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS OF
**SOIL
SCIENCE**
Soil resilience for
sustainable development



21st International Congress of Soil Sciences (ICSS-2026) **Soil Resilience for Sustainable Development**



 **May 5-7, 2026**

This time at
University of Poonch
Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan



Organized by:

Soil Science Society of Pakistan

In Collaboration with

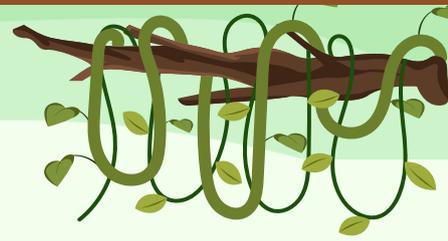
*Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences,
University of Poonch Rawalakot*



Let's work together for a better, more sustainable future!

 www.sss-pakistan.org

 info@sss-pakistan.org



Background

The **Soil Science Society of Pakistan (SSSP)**, founded in **1958** and revived in **1984**, hosts the Soil Science Congress biennially. To date, SSSP has organized **20 International Congresses** nationwide. The Executive Council of the Soil Science Society of Pakistan has decided to organize the **21st International Congress of Soil Science (ICSS-2026)** at the **University of Poonch Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan**, on **May 5-7, 2025**, which represents a significant national milestone in advancing soil science in Pakistan, especially for the Azad Kashmir region.

The theme of ICSS-2026 “Soil Resilience for Sustainable Development” suits well with current changing environmental conditions. The congress emphasizes the urgent need to preserve and enhance soil health in the face of challenges such as land degradation, salinity, loss of organic matter, nutrient imbalance, and the worsening effects of climate change. Pakistan’s agriculture, which sustains the nation’s economy and livelihoods, faces growing threats from floods, droughts, and reduced soil productivity.

The **ICSS-2026** will bring together scientists, policymakers, educators, farmers, industry representatives, and civil society to exchange knowledge, foster collaboration, and develop actionable strategies for improving soil management. By promoting innovation and awareness, this congress aims to align national research and policy with global sustainability goals. Investing in soil resilience today means ensuring a food-secure, sustainable, and climate-resilient Pakistan for future generations.



Call for Abstract

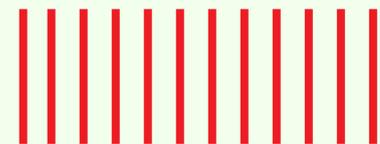
Abstract submission is now open for the following modes of presentation. For queries and further information, please contact:
Convener, Technical Committee,
Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Email:
ashraf.muhammad@uos.edu.pk,
WhatsApp: +92 333 6873259

Plenary & Keynote Sessions

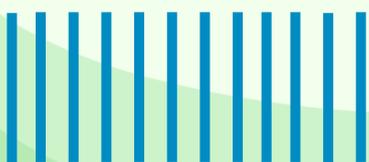
Renowned scientists will deliver four to five plenary papers and a keynote address, highlighting key challenges and innovations in soil and environmental sciences aligned with the Congress theme

Voluntary Papers

Researchers are invited to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentations. Multiple submissions as co-authors are welcome; however, each participant may present only one paper as an oral or poster presenter.



Scientific Sessions & Presentations

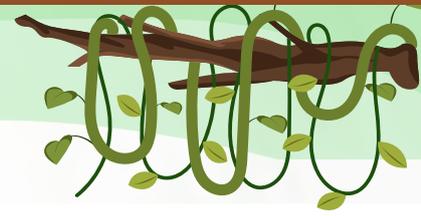


Oral & Poster Presentations

The Technical Committee will announce presentation durations in advance. Poster format and size guidelines are available at <https://sss-pakistan.org/icss>. Posters should be clear, well-structured, and readable from a distance of 1.5 meters.

Online Presentations

A limited number of online sessions will be organized for international invited speakers who cannot attend in person. Approval for virtual participation will be granted by the Organizing Committee



ABOUT VENUE

UNIVERSITY OF POONCH, RAWALAKOT

Established 2012

The University of Poonch, Rawalakot (UPR) is a leading public sector university in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, dedicated to higher education, research, and community development. It is situated in Rawalakot District Poonch. The University was established in 2012. It offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs through various faculties including Agriculture, Basic and Applied Sciences, Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Medical and Health Sciences, Management, Humanities and Social Sciences and Engineering. The University hosts departments such as Horticulture, Plant Pathology, Agronomy, Soil and Environmental Sciences, Computer Science, Pharmacy, English, Economics, and Psychology, among others. Professional degree programs like Pharm-D, DVM, Electrical Engineering and Bachelor of Eastern Medicine and Surgery (BEMS) are also offered. With a diverse student body and qualified faculty, UPR emphasizes practical learning, innovation, and research. The University operates research farms and laboratories that support scientific investigation, particularly in agriculture and environmental sciences. Through its broad academic portfolio and research activities, UPR plays a vital role in the educational and socio-economic development of the region.

Attractions

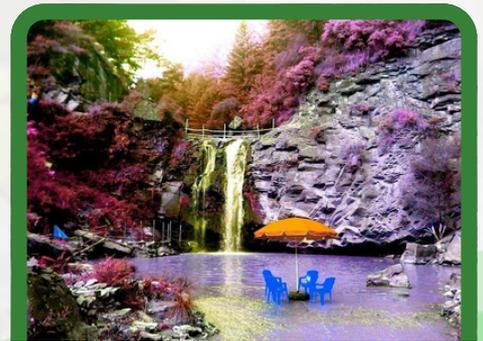
Discover the enchanting beauty of Rawalakot, the Pearl Valley of Azad Kashmir. Experience nature at its finest as you explore breathtaking destinations such as Banjosa Lake, Toli Pir, and Nergola waterfall.



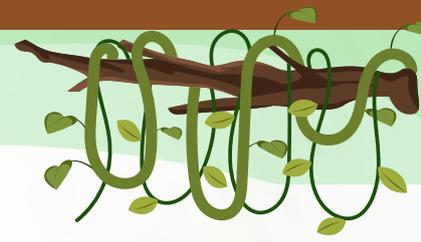
TOLI PIR



BANJOSA LAKE



NERGOLA WATERFALL



Travel Guide

Rawalakot, known as the “**Pearl Valley**,” is about 110 kilometres from Rawalpindi/Islamabad and can be reached in around 3 to 3.5 hours through the scenic Azad Pattan/Kahuta route. Participants travelling to the conference may begin their journey from their respective cities to Islamabad. From Islamabad, they can proceed to major transport terminals such as Faizabad Bus Terminal, Pir Wadhai Bus Stand, or Soan Adda in Rawalpindi, where regular public transport and private coach services to Rawalakot are available. Organizing Committee ICSS-2026 intend to facilitate participants by providing Pick up from a central place in Rawalpindi/Islamabad to the Congress Venue and a Drop back after the congress for a limited number of participants. Such provision, however, will be notified in due course of time. The weather in May is generally mild to pleasantly cool, so light woollen clothing or a jacket is recommended, particularly for the evenings. Comfortable shoes are advisable due to the hilly surroundings. Boarding and lodging for conference participants will be available in pre-circulated guest houses and hotels in and around Rawalakot, ensuring comfort and convenience. With its natural beauty, welcoming climate, and warm hospitality, Rawalakot promises both an enriching and refreshing conference experience.

For any query and pick and drop from main bus stop please contact:

Convener Transport Committee: Dr. Khalid Mehmood, UPR, Rawalakot

Email: transport.icss@gmail.com

Cell #: 92 345 9756474

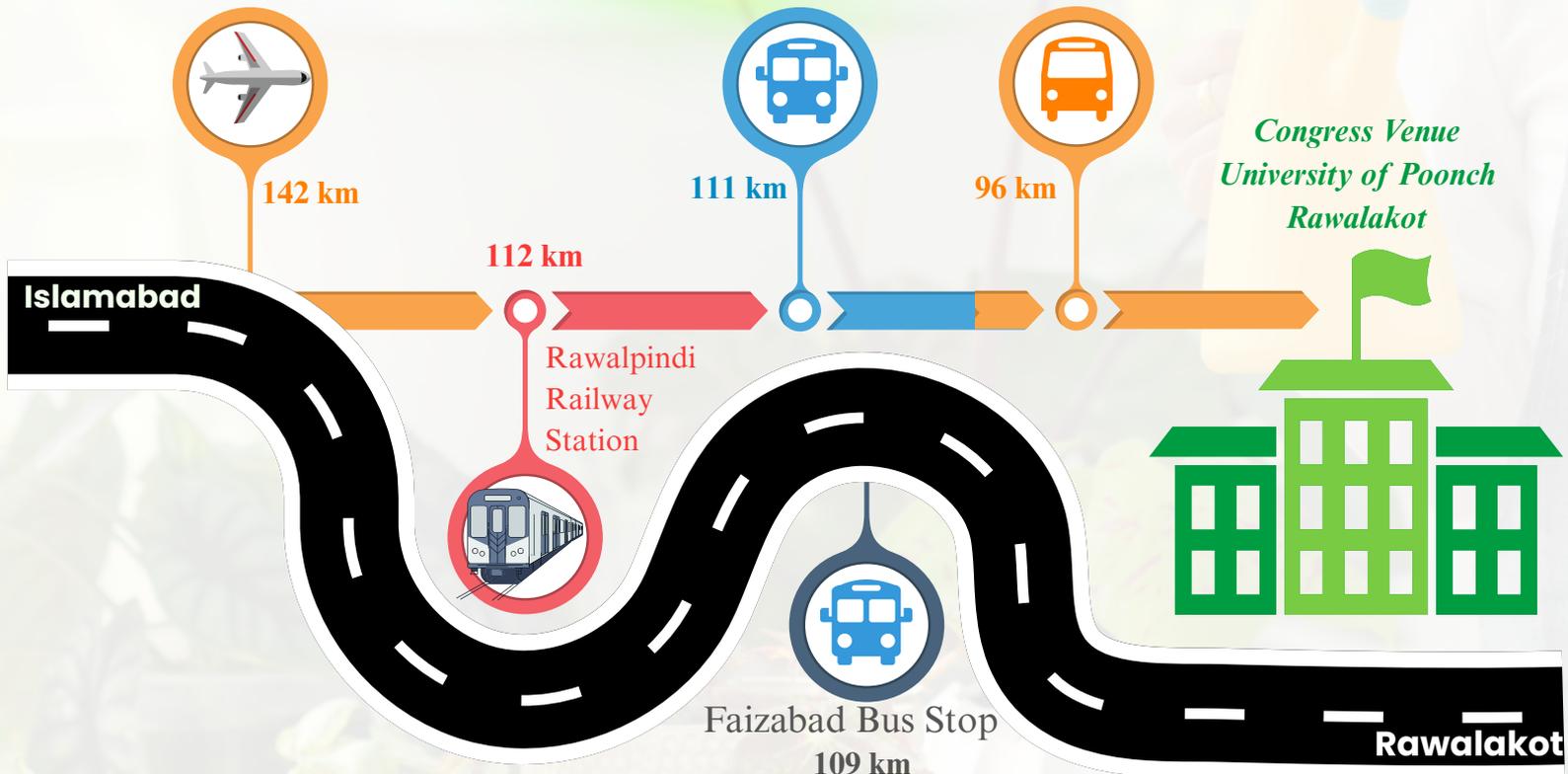
Travel Advisory

Islamabad Int. Airport

Pir Wadhai Bus Stop

Soan Bus Stop

Congress Venue
University of Poonch
Rawalakot





Congress Themes

Soil Science and Management

Soil Chemistry and Soil Physics

Soil Biology and Biochemistry

Soil Fertility, Nutrition, and Soil Conservation

Soil Mineralogy

Pedology

Soil Morphology

Soil Environment

Agricultural and Water Resource Management

Agronomy

Water Management

Soil Salinity

Soil Drainage

Sustainable Irrigation Practices

Precision Agriculture

Integrated Crop Soil Management

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Resilience

Environmental Pollution and Management

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Soil Environment Interactions

Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health

Waste Recycling and Resource Recovery

Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation

Sustainable Land Use and Urban Soil Management

Technological Innovations and Tools

Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning in Agriculture

Soil and Water Quality Monitoring Technologies

Smart Sensors and Internet of Things (IoT) Applications

Data Analytics and Modeling for Environmental Systems

Renewable Energy Integration in Agricultural Systems



Congress Timeline

1 Oct 15, 2025

OPENING ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

2 Jan 31, 2026

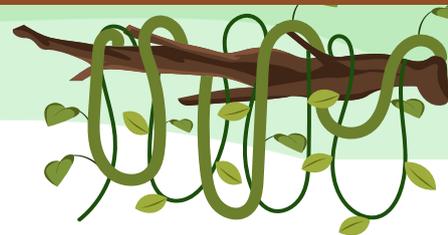
ABSTRACTS AND REGISTRATION (CLOSING DATE)

2 Mar 15, 2026

NOTIFICATION OF ABSTRACT ACCEPTANCE

4 April 20, 2026

ACCOMMODATION RESERVATION REQUEST (LAST DATE)



Registration Fee

Life Members (SSSP)	PKR 3500	
Regular Members (SSSP)	PKR 4500	<i>Congress registration fee = 3500 + Annual Membership fee = 1000</i>
Non-Members	PKR 5000	<i>Congress registration fee = 3000* + Registration & Membership fee = 2000 *PRR 500 Waivers on congress registration Fee on becoming member of Society</i>
Student Members (SSSP)	PKR 2000	
Student Non-Members	PKR 3000	<i>Congress registration fee = 2000 + Annual Membership fee = 1000</i>
Foreign Participants	USD 100	
Post Congress Tour	PKR 500	<i>Interested participants can register a post congress tour on site</i>

Fee Payment

Please pay registration fee to Soil Science Society of Pakistan at National Bank of Pakistan, NIH Branch, Islamabad. Congress registration details are available on <https://sss-pakistan.org>. Participants are required to submit registration fee (preferably online) to the Society account and send its proof to:

- **Dr. Sair Sarwar (Treasurer SSSP)**
- **Email:** treasurer@sss-pakistan.org, sardarsair@hotmail.com
- **WhatsApp:** +92311-6669858

The fee can be submitted online using the following details:

- **Account Title:** Soil Science Society of Pakistan
- **Account No.:** 16544018304351, **IBAN:** PK60NBPA1654004018304351
- **Bank:** NBP NIH Branch, Islamabad.

Personal cheques are not acceptable. Foreign participants can pay at the time of Congress.

Accommodation

Accommodation requirements must be communicated to Convener Accommodation Committee to **Dr. Junaid Rahim, UPR, Rawalakot** to his **Email:** accommodation.icss@gmail.com on the given Proforma available on the Society website <https://sss-pakistan.org>. A limited number of rooms in different institutions' rest houses/hostels can be reserved on first come first served basis at Rawalakot. Rooms in hotels can also be arranged on request. The details of hotel charges and other accommodation facilities will be shared on society website <https://sss-pakistan.org>.



Post Congress Tour

A one-day tour including a visit to the scenic Banjosa Lake, with time for boating, and a stop at the Toli Peer hilltop for panoramic views shall be arranged on **May 8, 2026**, provided reasonable numbers of participants are interested. For information, please contact Convener Post Congress Tour Committee.



Foreign Participants

We strongly recommend that foreign participants reach out to the ICSS-2026 organizers well in advance to facilitate the necessary

arrangements, including travel, visa applications, transportation, boarding, lodging, and any other essential aspects of their ICSS experience. Our team is here to assist and ensure your smooth participation, so please do not hesitate to contact us for any support or guidance you may require. Transport from Islamabad International Airport can be arranged to University of



Poonch Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir. Every foreign participant should make arrangement for receiving Pakistani visa by contacting the Pakistani Embassies and consulates located in their home countries. However, Congress organizers would provide formal invitation letter after their confirmation and abstract submission. **In this regard, please contact Congress Secretary, Dr. Ifra Saleem.** The invitation from the Society is meant to facilitate the grant of visa and does not imply to bear the responsibility of sponsoring the trip to Pakistan.

Awards

To acknowledge services to SSSP, celebrate excellence and inspire future innovation in soil science, and encourage students, the following awards will be presented during the ICSS-2026 (For detail, please follow link: <https://sss-pakistan.org/>).

1 Call for Research Proposals

Environmental Friendly Fertilizers and Microbial interventions

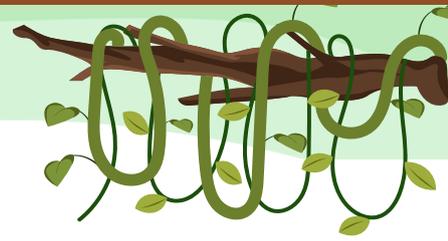
- **Late Dr. Muhammad Arshad (T I) Award**
- **Dr. Fauzia Yusuf Award**

2 Society Awards

Fellow award, Services to Soil Science Society of Pakistan, etc.

3 Gold Medal Awards

The awards will be presented to outstanding graduates (2024–2025) in the field of Soil and Environmental Sciences from each province, including AJK.



Advisory Board

1. Federal Minister for National Food Security & Research, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad
2. Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad
3. Coordinator to the PM of Pakistan on Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad
4. The Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security & Research, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad
5. The Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change & Environmental Coordination, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad
6. Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Islamabad
7. Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad
8. Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad
9. Vice Chancellor, University of Poonch, Rawalakot
10. Vice Chancellor, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi
11. Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
12. Vice Chancellor, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan
13. Vice Chancellor, The University of Agriculture, Peshawar
14. Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam
15. Vice Chancellor, Lasbella University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal
16. Vice Chancellor, The University of Agriculture, Sawat
17. Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, D.I. Khan
18. Prof (Retd.). Dr. Zahir Shah, Ex-President SSSP, Former Vice Chancellor University of Chitral, Chitral
19. Prof (Retd.). Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi, Ex-President SSSP, Former VC University of AJK, Muzaffarabad
20. Prof (Retd.). Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Ex-President SSSP, Univ. of Agri. Faisalabad
21. Dr. Abdul Rashid, Ex-President SSSP, Ex-Member PAEC, Islamabad
22. Prof (Retd.) Dr. Kazi Suleman Memon, SAU Tandojam
23. Dr. Shahid Mahmood, Ex-President, Soil Science Society of Pakistan, Lahore
24. Secretary, Agriculture Department, Government of the Punjab, Lahore
25. Secretary, Agriculture Department, Government of KP, Peshawar
26. Secretary, Agriculture and Price Control, Government of Sindh, Karachi
27. Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Balochistan, Quetta
28. Secretary, Agriculture Department, AJK
29. Secretary, Environment Protection and Climate Change Department Govt of Punjab
30. Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Coastal Development Department; Government of Sindh, Karachi.
31. Secretary, Climate Change, Forestry Environment & Wildlife Department Govt of KP
32. Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Govt of Balochistan
33. Secretary, Environment Govt of AJK
34. Secretary Forest, Wildlife & Environment Department Government of Gilgit-Baltistan
35. Director General Green Pakistan Initiative
36. Director General, Agri. Research, AARI, Faisalabad
37. Director General, Agri. Research, KP, Peshawar
38. Director General, Agri. Research, ARC, Tandojam
39. Director General, Agri. Research, ARI, Sariab, Quetta
40. Director General, Agriculture, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad
41. Chief Executive, Punjab Agricultural Research Board, Lahore
42. Member, NRD, PARC, Islamabad



Organizing Committee

1. Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid, PMAS, Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Congress President ICSS-2026
2. Prof. Dr. Imtiaz Hussain, Dean F/O Agri., Univ. of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK
3. Prof. Dr. Khalid Saifullah Khan, Director, Inst. of Soil & Environ. Sci., PMAS-AAUR
4. Prof. Dr. Inayatullah Rajpar, Dean, Faculty of Crop Production, SAU Tandojam
5. Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq, Univ. of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK (VP, SSSP AJK)
6. Dr. M. Mahmood-ul-Hassan, Ex-GS SSSP, CSO(R) LLRI, NARC, Islamabad
8. Dr. M. Tariq Siddique, Ex-GS SSSP, Associate Professor (R), PMAS-AAUR
9. Prof. (Retd.) Dr. Muhammad Yaseen, ISES, University of Agriculture Faisalabad
10. Prof. Dr. Nasir Rahim, Ex-Dean F/O Agri., Univ. of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK (Ex-VP, SSSP AJK)
11. Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, Director, Inst. of Soil & Environ. Sciences, UAF
12. Dr. Aqila Shaeen, Chairperson, Department of Soil & Env. Sci, Univ. of Poonch, Rawalakot, AJK
13. Director General, Environmental Protection Agency, Govt. of AJ&K, Muzaffarabad
14. Director General National Agriculture Research Centre, Islamabad
15. Dr. Muhammad Akram Qazi, Chief Scientist, Soil Fertility Research Institute, Lahore
16. Dr. Sarfraz Hussain, Chief Scientist, Inst. of Soil Chem. & Environ. Sciences, Kala Shah Kaku
17. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, University of Sargodha (Convener Tech Committee ICSS-2026)
18. Dr. Abdullah Niaz (VP, Punjab), Pesticide Residue Laboratory, Kala Shah Kaku
19. Dr. Nizamuddin Debar, (VP, SSSP, Sindh), Nuclear Institute of Agriculture, Tandojam
20. Dr. Dost Muhammad, Dept. of Soil & Environ. Sci., Univ. of Agri. Peshawar (VP, SSSP KP)
21. Dr. Kashif Ali Kubar Dept. of Soil Sciences, LUAWMS, Uthal Lasbella (VP SSSP Balochistan)
22. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad, Associate Dean, Institute of Environ. Sci. and Engineer. NUST, Islamabad
23. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jamal Khan Khattak, Chairman, Dept. of Soil and Env. Sci, The University of Agri. Swat
24. Prof. Dr. Allah Wadhayo Gandahi, Chairman, Dept. of Soil Science, SAU, Tandojam
25. Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad, Chairman Agriculture Department, AIOU, Islamabad
26. Prof. Dr. Tanveer-ul-Haq, Chairman, Dept. of Soil & Env. Sci., MNS Univ. of Agri., Multan
27. Dr. Maqshoof Ahmad, Chairman Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, Islamia University Bahawalpur
28. Dr. Abdur Rehim, Chairman, Dept. of Soil Science, BZU, Multan
29. Prof. Dr. M. Arif Siyal, Chairman, Dept. of Environ. Sci., BZU, Multan
30. Dr. Qudratullah, Chairman, Department of Soil Science, Gomal University, Dera Ismail Khan
31. Dr. Zarina Bibi, Head Department of Soil Science, University of Agriculture, Dera Ismail Khan
32. Dr. Rashid Mahmood, Chairman Department of Soil Science, University of Punjab, Lahore
33. Dr. Nosheen Mirza, Chairperson, Dept. of Soil and Environ. Sciences, Ghazi University, Dera Ghazi Khan
34. Dr. M. Sharif, Head Dept. Soil Sci., Baluchistan Agri. College Quetta
35. Dr. Zahoor Ahmad, Dept. of Soil and Climate Science, University of Haripur
36. Dr. Tariq Sultan, Director, Land Resources Research Institute, NARC, Islamabad
37. Dr. Nadeem Iqbal, Chief Scientist, Soil Salinity Res. Institute, Pindi Bhattian Section, AARI, Faisalabad
38. Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro, General Secretary SSSP (Congress Secretary, ICSS-2026)



39. Dr. Obaid-ur-Rehman, Chief Scientist, Soil & Water Conservation Res. Institute, Chakwal
40. Dr. Abid Niaz, Chief Scientist, Soil Chemistry Section, AARI, Faisalabad
41. Dr. Muhammad Nasim, Chief Scientist, PQC, Multan
41. Mr. Aleem Sarwar , PS, Soil Water Testing Laboratory , AARI, Faisalabad
43. Mr. Amjad Qureshi, PS, Bacteriology Sec, AARI, Faisalabad
44. Dr. Samreen Siddiqui, PS, Soil Biochemistry Sec, AARI, Faisalabad
45. Mr. Hafeezullah Rafay, PS, PQC, Faisalabad
46. Dr. Muhammad Akhtar, Deputy Chief Scientist, Soil Science Div. NIAB Faisalabad
47. Dr. Muhammad Imtiaz , Deputy Chief Scientist, Soil Science Div. NIFA, Peshawar
48. Dr. Farman Ullah Khan, Director Soil and Water Conservation, Directorate General SWC, Peshawar
49. Dr. Muhammad Rashid, SRO, Soil and, Plant Nutrition Division, ARI Tarnab, Peshawar
50. Dr. Hidayatullah Kakar, Agri. Chemist, Agriculture Research Institute, Quetta
51. Mr. Imdad Ali Soho, Director, Agri. Research Center (ARC), Tandojam
52. Dr. Hafeezullah Babar, Director Soil Fertility Research Institute, ARC, Tandojam
53. Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Babar, Director Soil Salinity and Reclamation Research Institute, ARC, Tandojam
54. Mr. Sohail Ahmed Qureshi, Director Soil Environment Research Institute, ARC, Tandojam
55. Chairman, Pakistan Crop Protection Association, Multan
56. Mr. M Asif Ali, Director Business Development, United Agro Chemicals, Lahore
57. Dr. Aftab Naseem, Head of Agri. Services, FFC Ltd., Lahore (Industry Representative SSSP)
58. Mr. Shauzab Gardezi, Head Agronomy, Engro Fertilizers Ltd. Lahore
59. Mr. Ijaz Ahmad, Deputy Manager Regul. Affairs & PQA, Engro Fertilizers Ltd. Lahore
60. Dr. Nadeem Tariq, CEO Biotech Fertilizers (Pvt) Limited. Lahore
61. Dr. Farrukh Hussain, Director Biotech Fertilizers (Pvt) Limited, Lahore
62. Mr. Naseerullah Khan, Farmers Engagement Manager (Tech Services), Fatima Fertilizer Comp. Ltd Lahore
63. Dr. M. Saeed Ekbal, Farm Advisory Services Manager, Fatima Fertilizer Comp. Ltd Lahore
64. Mr. M. Aamir Majeed, Technical & Development Head, Jaffer Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., Lahore
65. Dr. M. Irfan ul Haq, General Manager (Technical), Auriga Group of Companies, Lahore
66. Mr. Rashid Ahmad, Executive Director, Crop Life Pakistan
67. Mr. Asif Majeed, CEO, Kanzoo Ag, Multan
68. Mr. Muhammad Rashid, Manuchar Pakistan
69. Mr. Abdul Wakil, Azeems Group Pvt. Ltd, Karachi
70. Mr. Faraz Butt, Head Agri Services, Luckey Core Industries, Lahore
71. Dr. Junaid Rahim, UPR, Rawalakot (Convener Accommodation Committee)
72. Ms. Sumaira Sharif, UPR, Rawalakot (Convener Hall Management Committee)
73. Dr. Khalid Mehmood, UPR, Rawalakot (Convener Transport Committee)
74. Dr. Majid Mahmood Tahir, Soil & Environ. Sci. UPR (Councilor, SSSP AJK/ Focal Person ICSS-2026)
75. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Convener Souvenir Committee
76. Dr. Sair Sarwar, Director Admin, NARC Islamabad (Treasurer SSSP)
77. Dr. Ifra Saleem, Joint Secretary SSSP, (Associate Congress Secretary, ICSS-2026), Soil Chemistry
78. Dr. Shahid Mahmood, Department of Environmental Sciences, PMAS AAUR, Rawalpindi
79. Dr. Muzammil Anjum, Department of Environmental Sciences, PMAS AAUR, Rawalpindi



 *Congress President*

Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid

PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Email: president@sss-pakistan.org, azeem@uaar.edu.pk, WhatsApp: +92 301 6005958

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Email: ifrasaleem17@gmail.com, WhatsApp: +92 340 6427351

 *Congress Co-Secretary*

Dr. Majid Mahmood Tahir

Sindh Agriculture University Campus Umerkot, Pakistan.

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For Further Information

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