



Soil Science News

Quarterly Newsletter of Soil Science Society of Pakistan

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Editor: Dr. Munazza Youso

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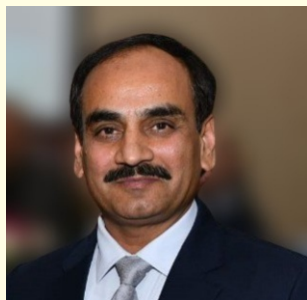


Editorial

Climate smart soil management is no longer a choice but a critical necessity for securing our agricultural future in the face of climate change. The rising occurrence of extreme weather events such as prolonged droughts, flash floods, and erratic rainfall has severely disrupted the natural balance of soil ecosystems across Pakistan. To address these challenges, it is essential to adopt sustainable agricultural practices such as conservation tillage, crop rotation, cover cropping, composting, use of biofertilizers, organic matter enrichment, precision nutrient management, and effective soil moisture conservation. These approaches not only enhance soil fertility and structure but also increase carbon sequestration and resilience against climate shocks. Healthy, well-managed soils contribute to better water-use efficiency and reduced green house gas emissions. To achieve lasting impact, it is crucial to translate scientific insights into practical, localized solutions that empower farmers, restore soil health, and secure sustainable livelihoods for the future.

Message from the President

I am deeply grateful for the trust with this great responsibility the member of Soil Science Society of Pakistan have placed in me to lead this prestigious Society, which has always been at the forefront in the field of agriculture, in particular, soil science for many decades. I am highly committed to serve this Society with dedication and passion. As the Society continues to grow in strength and influence, it is a pride for the whole Executive Council to be part of the society After taking oath by the EC and interacting with them so far, I am highly convinced that they are all very determined to bring about new advancements, innovations, and contribution



to the betterment of the Society to play their active role in sustainable soil management. Our country, Pakistan, relies heavily on it's soil and agricultural resources, not just for food security but also for the economic well-being of millions. Yet, we face mounting challenges: soil degradation, erratic weather patterns and climate change, rapid urbanization, and the increasing demand for food for a rapidly growing population. These challenges are not just academic and research concerns, but a socio-economic one, they directly affect food security, livelihoods of millions and sustainability of our environment. In this context, the Soil Science Society of Pakistan has a critical role to play in the coming years. As we embark on this journey together, we will strive to strengthen this Society as a professional organization at a local and international level, raising stakeholders' engagement, inspiring the next generation to carry forward the legacy of soil stewardship to ensure practical solutions for soil health. There is a dire need to activate the regional chapters of the Society to increase the interest of the young researchers and explore professional development opportunities through workshops and training programs that will empower them with the knowledge and skills they need to address the emerging challenges in agriculture sector. Surely, capacity building programs in collaboration with industry can help create a standardized level of expertise to tackle modern agricultural challenges. We will develop a stronger digital presence of our Society to stay connected to the challenges faced by farming community. In the end, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to past EC, especially Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir for his tremendous contribution as President of SSSP and for leading the Society in a dynamic manner. I also acknowledge the role of all the past presidents, office-bearers, and members of the society, their dedication and contributions have brought us to where we are today. I am committed to build upon their achievements and taking our society to greater heights. I call upon each of you, together let us make the Soil Science Society of Pakistan, a symbol of excellence.

News and Views for next issue of the 'Soil Science News' may be conveyed to the Editor at munzkh@parc.gov.pk or submitted to SSSP office bearers.



Executive Council 2025-2026

Soil Science Society of Pakistan (SSSP) is grateful to all its esteemed members for their active participation in the Executive Council election for the 2025-26 term. Congratulations to all the newly elected members of the executive council. We are confident that under their capable leadership, SSSP will continue to the advancement of soil science. Special applause for the Election Committee for their efforts to conduct the election successfully. We would also like to pay homage to our senior fellows whose pioneering efforts led to the establishment of SSSP in 1958 and its re-establishment in 1984, their commitment and foresight laid a strong foundation that continues to support and inspire our collective mission. It is because of their legacy that we have this valuable platform to share ideas collaborate on research and promote soil science for the benefit of Society. The composition of new EC is as follows;

President:

Dr. Azeem Khalid, Professor, PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi.

Past President:

Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Professor, Institute of Soil & Environmental Science University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

Vice Presidents:

Punjab: Dr. Abdullah Niaz, Principal Scientist, Pesticide Residue laboratory, Kala Shah Kaku.

Sindh: Dr. Nizamuddin Depar, Director, Soil & Environmental Sciences Division, Nuclear Institute of Agriculture Tandojam

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Prof. Dr. Dost Muhammad, Chairman, Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences. The University of Agriculture Peshawar

Azad Jammu & Kashmir: Dr. Abdul Khaliq, Chairman, Deptt. Soil & Environ. Sciences, The univ. of Poonch, Rawalakot

Balochistan: Dr. Kashif Ali Kubar, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, Faculty of Agriculture, Lasbela University of Agriculture Water and Marine Sciences, Uthal

General Secretary:

Dr. Ghulam Murtaza Jamro, Professor, Department of Soil Science Sindh Agriculture University Campus, Umerkot.

Joint Secretary:

Dr. Ifra Saleem, Senior Scientist, Soil Chemistry Section, Ayub Agri. Research Institute, Faisalabad.

Treasurer:

Dr. Sair Sarwar, Principal Scientific Officer, Land Resources Research Institute, NARC, Islamabad.

Councilors:

All Pakistan: Dr. Muhammad Zia-ur-Rehman, Associate Professor, Institute of Soil & Environ Sci, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

Punjab: Dr. Muhammad Baqir Hussain, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Soil & Environmental Sciences, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan.

Sindh: Dr. Saleem M. Bhatti, Associate Professor Department of Soil Science. Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Dr. Muhammad Adnan, Lecturer, Department of Agriculture, University of Swabi.

Azad Jammu & Kashmir: Dr. Majid Mahmood Tahir, Assoc. Prof., Department of Soil & Environ. Sciences, University of Poonch, Rawalakot.

Balochistan: Mr. Aurang Zeb Jamali, Lecturer, Department of Soil Science, Balochistan Agriculture College, Chaman road Baleli, Quetta.

Student: Mr. Javed Hussain, PhD Scholar, Deptt. of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Peshawar (student-for the year 2025)

Industry Representative:

Mr. Aftab Naseem, Manager Marketing/ Head Agri Services, Agri Services Deptt. Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited, Lahore.

Oath Taking Ceremony (EC 2025-26)

23rd Executive Council (2025-26) has taken oath in an installation ceremony held at the PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi on Monday 20th January 2025. The ceremony was attended by a large number of Soil Scientists from various parts of the country. Chief Guest of the ceremony was Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem, Vice Chancellor PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi while our Former President and Convener Election Committee, Dr. Shahid Mahmood graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. The Chief Guest took Oath from the newly elected members of the EC 2025-26.



Promotions/ Appointments/ Postings

Mr. Nadeem Ahmad, Deputy Director Office of the Directorate General Soil Survey of Punjab, Lahore has been promoted to the position of Director (BS-19) on regular basis.



Dr. Muhammad Usaman Jamshaid, joined the additional charge of Director Student Affairs along with Senior Tutor, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan in 2025.



Dr. Muhammad Nasim, Principal Scientist (BS-19/ Soil Fertility), recently posted as Chief Scientist (BS-20), Soil Chemistry Section, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad, is hereby transferred and posted as Chief Scientist (BS-20) at Pesticides Quality Laboratory, Multan.



Dr. Abid Niaz, Principal Scientist (Soil Science/ BS-19), Soil Bacteriology Section Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute Faisalabad is hereby transferred and posted as Chief Scientist (BS-20), Soil Chemistry Section, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute Faisalabad



Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq, Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Poonch, Rawalakot has been appointed as controller of Examination, University of Poonch Rawalakot.



Dr. Aqila Shaheen, Assoc. Professor, has been appointed as Chairperson of Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Poonch Rawalakot, AJ&K.



Research Awards

Dr. Shahid Mahmood, Associate Professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences, Institute of Soil & Environmental Sciences, PMAS-Arid Agri. University Rawalpindi was honoured with the prestigious University Research Award 2024. The award was conferred by His Excellency, Governor of Punjab, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan.



Dr. Muhammad Baqir

Hussain, Associate Professor and

Dr. Muhammad Arif,

Lecturer at the Deptt. of

Soil and Environmental

Sciences, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of

Agriculture, Multan have been awarded "Publication and

Citation Award 2024" by the Vice Chancellor MNS-UAM.



World Soil Day 2024 Celebrations

World Soil Day 2024 was celebrated with full zeal at various academic and research institutions across the country. Soil Science Society of Pakistan collaborated with multiple institutes for the celebrations. Few glimpses of the event are as follows;

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

World Soil Day was celebrated at the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF). To mark the occasion, the Soil and Environmental Sciences Students' Society organized a handmade poster competition and cake cutting ceremony. Speaking at the event, Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir emphasized the importance of conserving soil resources for future generations and stressed the need to regularly organize similar awareness activities.



The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB)

The Department of Soil Science, Institute of Soil and Water Resources (ISWR), The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), marked World Soil Day 2024 with a series of engaging activities including a cake-cutting ceremony, models and poster competition among students at the institute, and awareness walk, aimed at raising awareness about soil health and sustainability. The celebration were inaugurated by the Worthy Vice-Chancellor, Eng. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran, accompanied by Prof. Dr. Tanveer Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, and Prof. Dr. Maqshoof Ahmad, Chairman, Department of Soil Science, ISWR along with faculty members.



Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam (SAU)

World Soil Day was celebrated by Deptt. of Soil Science, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), along with scientists from the Sindh Chapter of the Soil Science Society of Pakistan, the Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) Tandojam, and Soil and Environmental Sciences Division, NIA Tandojam.



National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad

Land Resources Research Institute, National Agricultural Research Centre, Islamabad, celebrated World Soil Day with enthusiastic participation of a large number of scientists and students from both NARC and PARC. The Member, Natural Resources Division (NRD), addressed the gathering, highlighted the significance of soil care and monitoring. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony.



University of Poonch Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir

The Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences, University of Poonch Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir organized the World Soil Day with the collaboration of Soil Science Society of Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq and Dr. Aqeela Shaheen, Chairperson, Department of Soil and Environment, highlighted the importance of soils to our existence, particularly with respect to World Soil Day theme. Honorable Dean, Prof. Dr. Habib Ahmad Rathore appreciated the efforts of the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences. World Soil Day celebrations included a seminar, poster competition, awareness walk and cake cutting ceremony.



World Mountain Day

World Mountain Day was celebrated by the Department of Soil & Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Poonch, Rawalakot, Azad Kashmir. On this occasion a seminar and hiking competition was also organized.



Ph.D. Completion

Dr. Sammia Ghazanfar has completed her Ph.D. in Soil Science under the supervision of Dr. Azhar Hussain Associate Professor, Department of Soil Science, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur.



Up-gradation/Accreditation



BS Environmental Sciences program of the Department of Environmental Sciences, PMAS- Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi has been accredited in the highest category "W" by the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC), HEC Islamabad. This prestigious accreditation is valid for the period 2024-2028 and reflects the program's commitment to academic excellence, high-quality education standards, and continuous improvement in teaching, research, and community engagement.

Renewal of SSSP Membership

SSSP membership gives numerous advantages. All soil scientists interested to renew SSSP memberships or become new member are requested to visit www.sss-pakistan.org or visit following portal;

<https://forms.gle/fs2eAAahGA2Nt83e9>

For further information please contact;
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