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INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi facilitated the internship program throughout the year for the students of Karachi University as well as for other universities of Pakistan. Under this program students get the benefit and gain the knowledge about nematodes, their importance in agriculture, their disease symptoms and identification.

Internship Program for Department of Zoology: An internship program on morphological and molecular identification on nematodes were arranged at NNRC by Prof. Dr. Nasira Khatoon and Prof. Dr. Afshan, Dept. of Zoology in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, for the students of Master of Science (Parasitology), Dept. of Zoology for 06 days (15-20 September, 2014). Twenty nine students participated in this program. They were welcomed by Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC, University of Karachi. During the internship program Dr. Nasira Kazi, Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum and Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Solangi delivered the lectures with the help of documentary movies and slide presentations on importance of nematodes and safe use of entomopathogenic nematodes as biopesticides for the control of insect pests of many agriculturally important crops.

Distribution of certificates: Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Abid Azhar, Dean Faculty of Science, University of Karachi, distributed the certificates and prizes among the position holders and other students in the concluding session after completing their successful Internship program at National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi. Prof. Dr. Abid Azhar, Dean Faculty of Science, expressed his views about the program and said that this type of internship programmes will be arranged regularly for other concern courses which provide a glance into the practical life of students in future.

Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Abid Azhar, Dean Faculty of Science, University of Karachi, Karachi, visited National Nematological Research Centre. He took a round of all the labs and library room guided by Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC along with other members. He observed the different symptoms of plant parasitic and beneficial nematodes under the microscope and take keen interest. He appreciated the research work and progress made by the team of NNRC.



Snapshots taken during the program and visit of labs, NNRC

GRAND SUCCESS - GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

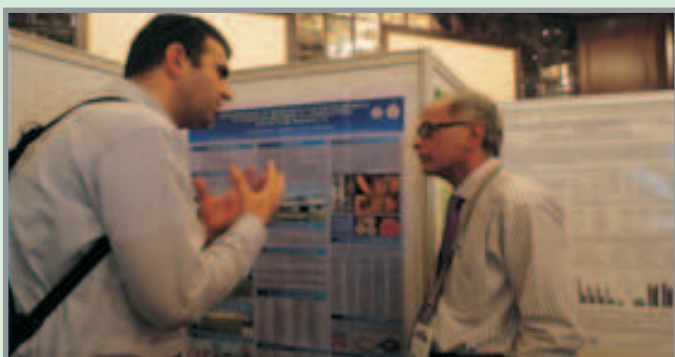
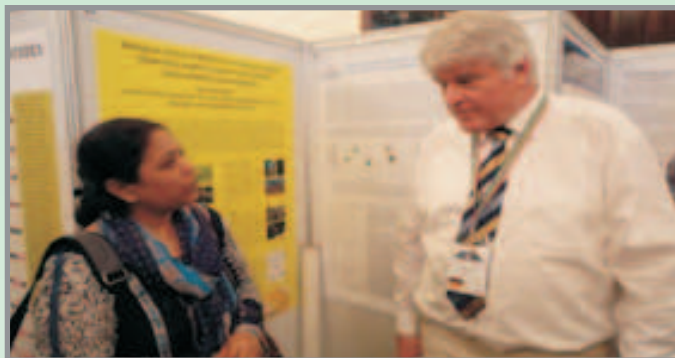
On behalf of Pakistan Society of Nematologists, all staff members of National Nematological Research Centre, research scholars, students and colleagues extend their warmest congratulations on a wonderful achievement to Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC, University of Karachi and for her relentless and selfless service to the subject of Nematology as well as to the Centre and Society. She has been up graded from BPS-21 to BPS-22 (Meritorious Professor) on 08th March, 2014. It is indeed a celebrated accomplishment for the Centre.

Dr. Shahina has been associated with the centre for the last three decades working with a great company of wonderful people. It is a story of great commitment and dedication; with limited financial and technical support the Centre in a short span of time achieved the excellence with extremely vibrant, productive and fruitful years.

The NNRC has set new standards in the field of Nematology under her able guidance and NNRC would continue to kindle the fascinating and poignant love of the subject in a positive manner with the objective of ultimate extermination of nematode pest problem for the self competency of agricultural products of the country in the coming years. Best wishes for continued success in all her endeavours. May Allah accept her unremitting endeavours in the advancement of Nematology, the Centre and the country.

VISITS

Dr. Tabbasum Ara Khanum visited South Africa: Dr. Tabbasum Ara Khanum, Research Officer, NNRC attended the 6th International Congress of Nematology held during 4-9 May, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa and delivered the oral presentation on “Status of entomopathogenic nematodes as biocontrol agent in Pakistan”. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, Economic Cooperation Organization Science Foundation (ECOSF), also attended the congress. Poster was also presented in the poster session entitled “Nematological Research and Development in Pakistan Historical Perspective and Future Prospects”.



Glimpses of participants during Congress of Nematology at South Africa

Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz visited Islamabad:

Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC visited Islamabad to attend the “Entrepreneurship Workshop for Scientists and Engineers” at National University for Science and Technology (NUST) during 2-7 June, 2014, in conjunction with the STE4D Conference. The workshop was aimed for the scientists and engineers of the country who take interest in learning entrepreneurial skills to commercialize their inventions. The participants got the benefit from the perspective provided in the workshop from international and local experts.



PH. D & M. PHIL DEGREE AWARDED: One M. Phil and one Ph.D. degree was awarded to the research students of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi by the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR), University of Karachi, Karachi in 2014.

Ms. Mehreen Glusher: Ph. D. degree has been awarded to Ms. Mehreen Gulsher. Her doctoral research work was based on “Studies on diversity, distribution, molecular identification and phylogenetic analysis of entomopathogenic nematodes.” She completed her research work under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz.

Ms. Faizah Niaz: M. Phil degree has been awarded to Ms. Faizah Niaz. Her research topic was “Biodiversity of marine nematodes of the order Chromadorida from the coastal areas of Karachi. She completed her research work under the supervision of Dr. Nasira Kazi.

SURVEYS

Staff and other members of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi conducted surveys of different areas of infected agricultural fields of Pakistan. The survey team comprised of Mr. Zafar Siddiqui, Mr. Mohammad Sadiq, Mr. Naseem Khan, Mr. Mohammad Faizan Khan and Mr. Sagir Hussain.

Survey of potato fields, Punjab: Potato is the fourth most important crop by production in Pakistan and is high yielding. It has a high nutritive value and gives high returns to farmers. Pakistan is self-sufficient in potatoes for household consumption and relies for more than 99% on locally produced seed potatoes. Nowadays potato crop is under constant threat of different pests and pathogens including potato cyst nematodes. Therefore, survey was conducted of potato growing areas of Punjab for searching the potato cyst nematode, during 08-16 April, 2014 by the survey team of NNRC. They visited Lahore, Depalpur, Pakpatan, Arifwala, Okara and nearby potato growing areas.



Samples collection from potato and vegetable fields of Punjab

Survey of potato fields, Gilgit-Baltistan: Survey team of NNRC conducted surveys of infected potato fields of Gilgit-Baltistan. Soil and root samples were collected from potato fields and adjacent fields for the presence of nematodes especially golden cyst nematodes which are the major pests of potato.



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