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Since 1977, the NNRC has been hosting national and international scientific conferences and workshops in partnership with PSN. There have been a total of 16 Nematological Events organised so far. The 16th Nematological Event took place on June 17-18, 2021.

“16th Nematological Event: Present Era of Ecofriendly Nematode Management Strategies”

(17-18 June, 2021 at University of Karachi)

The two day Training Workshop “Present Era of Ecofriendly Nematode Management Strategies” was jointly organized by the National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi, Karachi and Pakistan Society of Nematologists from 17-18 June, 2021 at the University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan. The workshop was funded by Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and ORIC, University of Karachi.



Inaugural session of the Workshop

A total of 50 participants which included trainees from PMAS, Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Islamia University, Bahawalpur, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam, Plant Disease Research Institute, Tandojam, Sindh Agriculture University, Umerkot Campus, LAUWMS, Uthal, Balochistan, Jinnah University for Women, Karachi, Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi and other Departments of University of Karachi attended the workshop.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi.



Speech delivered by the Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi

In his opening speech, Professor Iraqi welcomed the distinguished guests and thanked PSF for partnering with the University to organize the workshop. VC also assured his full support for the workshop and NNRC for future endeavors. In the inaugural speech the Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi acknowledged the services and efforts of Dr. Maqbool and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz in strengthening and recognition of the Center in the country and abroad.

Dean Faculty of Science, Prof. Dr. Nasira Khatoon emphasized on the theme of the workshop. She said, “Keeping the health and environment as prime aims, this endeavor will work on a complementary approach promoting scientific and technology advancement facilitating the sustainable development in this area.”

Parton-in-Chief of Pakistan Society of Nematologists and President ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro talked about the role of NNRC in disseminated the subject of Nematology, accomplishments of the centre especially in organizing the seminars and workshops for young scientists and scholars and the society.

President, Pakistan Society of Nematologists, Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar in his speech praised the role of NNRC in organizing seminars, conferences and training workshops regularly each after two years. This one is the 16th Nematological Event. He further said that every individual who did or doing research on any nematological aspect has acquired knowledge from the NNRC. I am very much thankful to NNRC and its team for their diligent work in this workshop.

Earlier, Dr. Saboohi Raza, Director, NNRC formally welcomed all the guests, participants and other guests of the ceremony from Pakistan. She briefly highlighted the contributions of NNRC in the field of Nematology; emphasizing the importance of nematodes, their identification and eco-friendly management strategies.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro, Dean Faculty of Science and Dr. Saboohi Raza also spoke about the memorial occasion of the two eminent nematologists, late Dr. M. A. Maqbool and Meritorious Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and paid rich tribute to them for their splendid research accomplishments in the discipline of Nematology. They further said that these great scientists devoted their entire lives in developing and strengthening the Centre. Their names will be written in golden words in the history of NNRC.

Shield and souvenirs were also distributed to distinguished guests after speeches.

On Day two, training session was started at 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM. The participants were engaged in different activities and following topics were covered through presentations and hands-on activities:

- Introduction to Nematology and importance of nematodes.
- Survey, field observation, collection and storage of soil and root samples, techniques for extraction and isolation of nematodes
- Symptoms and disease caused by plant parasitic nematodes
- Soil analysis of soil and root samples
- Morphology and major groups of plant parasitic and insect parasitic nematodes
- Quantitative and Qualitative analysis of plant parasitic nematodes:
- Status of root- knot, cyst and entomopathogenic nematodes.
- Extraction of entomopathogenic nematode (EPN) by Soil Trap method, White Trap method for extraction of infective juveniles, Dissection of *Galleria mellonella* larvae for life cycle of EPN.
- On the second day, a concluding ceremony was arranged after lunch and certificates were distributed among the trainees, participants and supporting staff by Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, the President of Pakistan Society of Nematologists.



Chief Guest, President ECOSF, Prof. Manzoor H. Soomro expressing his views



Shields and souvenir distribution among guests



Training session

Honorary ceremony of Dr. M. A. Maqbool (late) and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz (late)
17 June, 2021

Before the inauguration of the workshop an honorary ceremony of Dr. M. A. Maqbool (late) and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz (late) was held on 17th June, 2021 at National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi, Pakistan at 10:30 AM.

Unveiling ceremony of the name plates of the two great scientists was performed by the Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi followed by the “Dua Mughfirat” for the departed souls. The graceful ceremony was organized by NNRC, UoK to name the NNRC seminar library in honour of Dr. Maqbool as “Dr. Maqbool Memorial Library” and molecular laboratories to Dr. Shahina as “Prof. Dr. Shahina Laboratories” in recognition of their long and sincere professional services and immense contributions to the Centre.



Guests of honorary ceremony

The ceremony was attended by small number of distinguished guests: the Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Dean of Science, Prof. Dr. Nasira Khatoon, PSF representative, Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, Prof. Dr. A. Mubeen Lodhi, Dr. Saboohi Raza and staff members of NNRC.

7th International Conference of Pakistan Phytopathological Society
(21-23 November, 2021)

7th International Conference of Phytopathological Society was held at University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan during November 21-23, 2001. The conference with the theme “Current Scenario and Future Prospectus” was jointly organized by Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Pakistan Phytopathological Society. Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, welcomed participants of the conference and thanked the organizing team. He also pledged his support for the conference and Department of Plant Pathology for future ventures. The Chief Guest, Mr. Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for Food Security and Research urged the agriculture scientists to make integrated efforts to minimize the losses of farmers in terms of pest attack and diseases. More than 500 scientists across the country and several speakers from different countries participated in the conference.



Snaps taken during the conference

Accreditation and Inauguration of Agriculture Experimental Field Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi

Under the self-sustainability program University of Karachi has taken an initiative to allot a large land area about 18 acres to Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management to facilitate the research activities. Academia-Industry linkage is very essential for technology development and considered as a key challenge in Pakistan. Karachi University has an active research culture and is ranked among the top Pakistani universities. In this context, VC said that “It is not only contributing for the national cause but also paving ways for other industrial organizations and different departments of KU to work together as a team for common interests”. Different representatives of industry officials appreciated this opportunity to explore the potential and constrains in establishing sustainable University-industry linkages.

According to this program, availability of extensive research platform for students has been ensured where different projects will be conducted in the area of Hydroponics, Fodder Hydroponic system, Glass House, green house, Regenerative farming, permaculture activity, Urban forestry, sustainable fodder farm, apiculture, integrated farming, Aquaculture, Poultry control shed, Feed milling station, large and small ruminants, experimental farm, quill farming, duck farming, ostrich farming, bio-slurry plant, bio-gas plant, drying station and composting station. This will enhance the impact of research programs in agricultural sciences and provide students with a pathway for manifesting their career objectives.

Prof. Dr. S. Irtifaq Ali, Ph.D. D.Sc.

(1930-2021)

Dr. Syed Irtifaq Ali, Professor Emeritus, renowned Botanist and former Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, passed away peacefully on 18th February, 2021 after a brief illness at the age of 91. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace, Aameen!

He was an internationally renowned top ranking Systematic Botanist. The magnum opus of Dr. Ali was the **Flora of Pakistan** that he had edited for the last four decades. It is the most comprehensive and authentic scientific work ever on Pakistan's flora. For his contribution and distinguished carrier he was conferred with Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 1988.

Ph. D. Degree Awarded

- ❖ **Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed:** Ph. D. degree in Nematology has been awarded to Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed. He carried out his research on “Cotton Pests and their Biomangement in Sindh, Pakistan”. He completed his research work under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz.
- ❖ **Ms. Sonum Khatri:** Ms. Sonum Khatri was awarded Ph. D. degree in Nematology. Her doctoral research work was based on “The effect of *Citrullus colocynthis* extract against phytonematodes” under supervision of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and co-supervisor Prof. Dr. Shaheen Faizi.
- ❖ **Ms. Samreen:** Ms. Samreen was awarded Ph. D. degree in Nematology. She conducted the research work on “Biodiversity and economic importance of nematode belonging to the order Aphlenchida from Pakistan” under the supervision of Dr. Salma Javed, Research Officer, NNRC, KU.
- ❖ **Mr. Nasir Mehmood:** Ph. D. degree in Nematology has been awarded to Mr. Nasir Mehmood. His research work on, “Studies of Plant and Soil nematodes of Fruit from different Agroclimatic areas of Sindh and Balochistan” was completed under the supervision of. Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum, Research Officer, NNRC, KU.

M. Phil. Thesis Awarded

- ❖ **Mr. Bashir Ahmed:** M. Phil degree in Nematology has been awarded to Mr. Bashir Ahmed. He carried out his research under the supervision of Dr. Salma Javed, Research Officer, NNRC, KU.

The Seventh International Congress of Nematology (ICN)

The Seventh International Congress of Nematology will be held du 1-6 May, 2022 at the Palais des Congrès in Antibes Juan-Les-Pins (France). All previous registrations have been maintained. Registration for the Seventh International Congress of Nematology is currently six hundred and eighty two nematologists from 57 countries including 100 students. The scientific program comprises 32 concurrent sessions with 288 oral presentations, 12 workshops, 12 keynote speakers and poster sessions with more than 500 presentations. Options for online viewing of sessions are now available. New program will be available soon with revised dates.

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