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CONTENT

- The seventh ICN, 1-6 May, 2022
- 1st International Conference on Plant Protection Sciences
- Book Opening Ceremony
- Seminar on Banana diseases at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam
- Symposium on Chilli diseases at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam
- International Webinar
 - ❖ The Occurrence and Rhizosphere Microbial regulation of Soyabean root-rot by Maize-Soyabean relay strip Intercropping
 - ❖ The Bacterial wilt of Cucurbits; Ecology, Genetics and Management
- Research Innovation Competition RIC-2022
- M. Phil theses awarded
- M. Phil/ Ph. D admission
- Future events

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The Seventh International Congress of Nematology (ICN) (1-6 May, 2022)

The seventh International Congress of Nematology organized by the International Federation of Nematological Societies (IFNS) was held during 1-6, May, 2022 at the Palais des Congress in Antibes Juan-Les-Pins, France. It was a memorable scientific meeting delayed for two years due to the coronavirus situation. Nearly 700 nematologists including students and young scientists from 57 countries of the world participated in this mega event with great enthusiasm. The scientific program comprised 32 concurrent sessions with 288 oral presentations 12 workshops, 12 keynote speakers and poster sessions with more than 500 presentations. It was a great opportunity to meet, speak and interact with many international colleagues, renowned scientists and discover new research and science in the field of Nematology. Such events provided a unique opportunity for the participants to gain best knowledge from learned and experienced scientists in a friendly atmosphere. The curiosity and professionalism shown by students and young scientists was incredible.



1st International Conference on Plant Protection Sciences (ICPPS)

The first two day International Conference on Plant Protection Sciences (ICPPS) was held on 29-30 March, 2022. The conference was organized by Faculty of Plant Protection, Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam in collaboration with Sindh Higher Education Commission. The objective of the conference was to establish long lasting interactions for the exchange of innovative knowledge and capacity building between scientists related to the field of Plant Protection. Prof. Dr. Jan Muhammad Mari, Pro-Vic Chancellor welcomes the distinguished agricultural scientists from the world, honorable guests, young scientists and students and Prof. Dr. Fateh Mari, Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agricultural University, Tandojam inaugurated the conference. He encouraged the efforts of Faculty of Plant Protection for organizing the first International Conference on Plant Protection Sciences and emphasized to expedite such programs for better management within the country.



Distinguished scientists, plant protection experts and researchers from different parts of the world including Australia, USA, China, Malaysia, Thailand and Pakistan participated in the conference and delivered keynote speeches. They presented their innovative research and exchanged ideas and solutions to the problems facing agriculture globally. The conference provided an opportunity for the participants to strengthen the scientific and technological collaboration between Pakistan and advanced countries of the world. The scientific program comprised five concurrent sessions under different themes with number of oral presentations and poster sessions. The participants especially research students and young scientists got the knowledge of innovative and environment friendly strategies for crop protection and for the betterment of sustainable agriculture of Pakistan. Representatives of different Universities and institutions of the country attended the conference. Dr. Erum Iqbal, Ms. Namra and Ms. Sonam Khatri represented National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi. Namra gave the presentation on “Review of lesion nematodes from Pakistan” and Sonam Khatri delivered her oral presentation on “Potential use of fruit of *Citrullus colosynthis* L. Schrad, an emerging/forthcoming green pesticides and replacement of chemical pesticides” on first day of the conference.

Book Opening Ceremony of Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro

The opening ceremony of the book of Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro entitled “A Text Book on Plant Nematology” was held after inaugural session of the first International Conference on Plant Protection Sciences by Prof. Dr. Fateh Mari, Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agricultural University.

Symposium on Chilli diseases at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam

One-day national symposium on Chilli diseases was organized by Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam in collaboration with Pakistan Society of Nematologists, Pakistan Phytopathological Society and Agriculture Research Sindh on 30 May, 2022. Academicians, representatives of various research institutes and universities, research students, extension workers and growers attended the symposium in a large number. Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Mari, Vice Chancellor, Sindh Agricultural University was the Chief Guest of the symposium. In his inaugural address he said that 82% of the total chilly production was produced by Sindh province but now the chilly production has greatly suffered due to the seasonal effects, dry spell period and use of adulterated seeds. 10-11 presentations were made by invited speakers. To overcome the diverse diseases of chilly and other related problems, the speakers of the symposium underscore the need of a Chilly Development Board commencement which would help strengthen country's agricultural economy. Dr. Saboohi Raza, Chairperson, Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management and Director of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi attended the seminar with her staff and students.

International Webinar

- **“The Occurrence and Rhizosphere Microbial regulation of Soyabean root-rot by Maize-Soyabean relay strip Intercropping”.**

International Webinar on “The occurrence and rhizosphere microbial regulation of Soyabean root-rot by Maize-Soyabean relay strip intercropping” was held on 27 May, 2022 at Department of Plant Pathology, Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi coordinated by Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, Chairman, Department of Plant Pathology, PMAS-AAUR.

International Webinar - The Bacterial wilt of Cucurbits; Ecology, Genetics and Management

International Webinar on “The bacterial wilt of cucurbits; ecology, genetics and management” was held on 7 June, 2022 at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, jointly organized by Department of Plant Pathology, PMAS-AAUR, National Center of Industrial Biotechnology, PMAS-AAUR and Pakistan Phytopathological Society. Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, Chairman, Department of Plant Pathology, PMAS-AAUR was the Coordinator of this webinar.

Research Innovation Competition RIC-2022

Prize distribution ceremony of Research Innovation Competition RIC-2022 organized by ORIC, University of Karachi was held on 29 June, 2022 at Auditorium of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Karachi. The program was attended by the Director ORIC, Prof. Dr. Bilquees Gul, Guest of Honor, Commodor Akbar Naqi, Guest of Honor, Ms. Sahibzadi Mahin Khan, the Chief Host, Honorable Vice Chancellor, UoK, Prof. Dr. Nasira Khatoon. Mr. Iqbal Memon, Commissioner Karachi graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest distributed the prizes to the winners and certificates to the participants. National Nematological Research Centre also participated in the competition and acquired a certificate.

M. Phil theses awarded

- M. Phil thesis was awarded to Mr. Ashraf Ali. He carried out his research under the supervision of Dr. Salma Javed, Research Officer, National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi. His

research was based on “Distribution of entomopathogenic nematodes in Karachi, its storage and efficacy against subterranean termite”.

- M. Phil thesis was awarded to Mr. Samiullah. He completed his research work under the supervision of Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum, Research Officer, National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi. His research title was “Biodiversity and systematics of nematode fauna with its symbiotic bacteria from district Bajour, KPK, Pakistan”.

M. Phil/ Ph. D admission

University of Karachi arranged the entry test of M.Phil/ Ph.D. for the session year 2022-2023 on 19 June, 2022. All students successfully passed the test and interview. The enrolled candidates for M. Phil are: Sajjad Ali and Fatima Waseem Siddiqui; while candidates in Ph. D program are Samiullah and Ashraf Ali. National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi is the only research centre in Pakistan which provide quality and authentic research on different aspects of Nematology for M. Phil/ Ph.D. degree in Nematology