



PSN NEWS LETTER

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8th International Conference "Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security" of Pakistan Phytopathological Society

Pakistan Phytopathological Society organized the 8th International Conference "Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security" during 26-28 November, 2023 in collaboration with Directorate of Public Relations, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment and Australian Center for International Agricultural Research. The conference was held at Baghdad ul-Jadeed Campus of Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan.



The theme of this year's conference is "Sustainable agriculture and food security, the nexus of plant pathogens, climate change and water challenges".

The Vice Chancellor of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Prof. Dr. Naveed Akhtar inaugurated the conference on 27th November, 2023. He welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed the importance and need of the conference. Prof. Dr. Tanveer Hussain Turabi, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, appreciated the arrival of the delegates in the conference and spoke about the effects of climate change in the agriculture sector.

In the inaugural session Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, President of Pakistan Phytopathological Society, Prof. Dr. Hongwei Zhao, Department of Plant Protection, Nanjing Agricultural University, China, Mr. Maxiyoan, Department of Plant Protection, Nanjing Agricultural University, China, Mr. Kaleem Afzal, Corteva Agriscience, Prof. Dr. Fateh Muhammad Marri, Vice Chancellor Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naeem, Vice Chancellor PMS Arid University Rawalpindi, Prof. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Qureshi Vice Chancellor Government Sadiq College Women University Bahawalpur gave a detailed speech.

Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Patron-in-Chief, Pakistan Society of Nematologists, ECO Science Foundation, Islamabad, presented a keynote talk "Climate Change Education of Youth- An Urgent Need for Sustainable Development" in the inaugural session. Overall more than 430 papers were presented in the conference. A large number of officers, faculty members and students participated in the conference besides, delegates from America, China, Turkey, Italy, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan attended the conference.

Chinese Friendship Award

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, in a remarkable celebration of international collaboration and academic excellence, was bestowed with the esteemed “Chinese Friendship Award” during an exclusive ceremony held in Beijing, China on 27th September, 2023. Dr. Soomro attended the event as a State Guest, a testament to his significant contribution in strengthening ties between China and Pakistan, particularly within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Belt and Road Initiative. Renowned experts from other countries viz., Argentina, Australia, Austria, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Russia, UK and USA also attended the event. All these experts were honoured with the “Chinese Friendship Award” due to their outstanding achievements and collaborative efforts with China in their respective fields.

For Pakistan, Professor Manzoor Soomro’s recognition on this global stage was a source of immense pride. Over the past decade, he has dedicated himself to fostering cooperation and collaboration between scientists and engineers in both China and Pakistan, as well as between institutions in these two friendly nations and the ECO Region.

Pakistan Society of Nematologists congratulates Prof. Manzoor Soomro on winning the prestigious Chinese Government Friendship Award in recognition of great efforts in culture, education, S&T as well as the contributions in the economic and social development.



International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICCP2023)

Dr. Amjad Shahzad Gondal (BZU, Multan) attended the “12th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICCP 2023)” held during 20-25 August, 2023 in Lyon, France. This congress was organized by International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) and French Society of Phytopathology (SFP). Dr. Gondal presented his research finding (Poster presentation) entitled “Evaluating the antagonistic efficacy of plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria against alternaria solani-induced early blight disease in tomato plants” at Scientific poster session of ICPP2023. He also attended the meeting of International Plant Pathology Organizations represented Pakistan Phytopathological Society as ISPP Councilor.

Obituary

Dr. Rafia Rehana Ghazi
(12 January, 1947- 5 July, 2023)

Dr. Rafia Rehana Ghazi passed away peacefully on July 5, 2023 after brief illness. We pray to Al-Mighty Allah that the departed soul may rest in eternal peace in heaven, Aameen!

Dr. Rafia Rehana Ghazi was born in Hyderabad Daccan (India). She did her M.Sc (Zoology) in 1970 from University of Karachi with specialization in Parasitology. She earned her Ph. D under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Fatima Bilqees Mujeeb from University of Karachi. After completing her Ph. D. she joined Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Vertebrate Pest Control Centre, University of Karachi. She was an avid nature lover and enjoyed reading books on Medical Parasitology and Helminthology. Her passion for research was recognized by numerous grants and awards. She authored and co-authored more than 275 papers supervised 5 Ph. D students and wrote numerous books on Parasitology and pest control. The walls of her lab were lined with reading material and theses which were edited as examiner. She retired as Director, Vertebrate Pest Control Institute in 2007. Her proudest achievement was to provide research help and laboratory facilities to dozens of M.Sc. M. Phil and Ph. D students throughout her professional life.

Dr. Rafia is survived by her devoted partner Mr. Kamal Ghazi and her daughter Dr. Samia Sajid.



Dr. Aly Khan

Pakistan Agricultural Research Council,
Karachi University Campus,
Karachi, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Nazir Javed

Prof. Dr. Nazir Javed gently passed away on October 18, 2023 after a brief illness. May Allah grant him highest place in Jannat-ul-firdous, and give strength to all family members to bear this loss, Aameen! Indeed his death is a great loss to the Pakistan Society of Nematologists, Pakistan Phytopathological Society and scientific community of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Nazir Javed, HEC approved supervisor, employed at Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Dr. Nazir did his M. Sc. in Plant Pathology from this institution, earned his Ph. D. and Post-Doc studies from the University of Reading, Reading, UK under the guidance of Dr. Simon R. Gowen. He chose the career of teaching and spent his entire life at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad served at different posts till his retirement as Professor in 2022.



Dr. Nazir was also a dedicated researcher and so had far published over 180 research papers in journals of international repute. He had participated in numerous international and national conferences & seminars and presented papers. He also supervised many M. Sc. and Ph. D. students. His recent research interest was on biological management of root-knot nematode through *Pasteuria penetrans* and entomopathogenic nematodes.

Prof. Dr. Rafique Ahmed

Prof. (Retd) Botany Department, University of Karachi, a world renowned Botanist, a great researcher and scientist, Prof. Dr. Rafique Ahmed has passed away on 28 October, 2023. May Allah bless his soul through His infinite mercy and place him in eternal peace in heaven, and give strength to all family members to bear this loss, Ameen! Indeed his death is a great loss to the Pakistan Botanical Society and scientific community of Pakistan.



Prof. Dr. Rafique retired as Professor of Botany and Dean, Faculty of Sciences, University of Karachi after a long professional career in teaching and research. His research work was concerned mostly with afforestation and agriculture at sandy deserts using saline water in irrigation. He was awarded many appreciation certificates, shields and awards: a shield for achievements and contribution in the field of Botany by faculty members of the University of Karachi in 2014; the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 6th International and 15th National Botanical Conference at Sardar Bahadur Khan University of Quetta in 2017.

Internship Program

National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi provided the facilities of internship program for the biological students of Karachi University and other universities and institutions of Pakistan from time to time.

- Three students from Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi viz., Ms. Syeda Zawish Kashif, Mr. Dur Muhammad and Mr. Ahmed Elahi completed their one month internship during June 23 – July 25, 2023 on the basic training on isolation and identification of plant parasitic and soil nematodes under the supervision of Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum, Research Officer, University of Karachi After completing their successful internship program certificates were awarded to them.
- Mr. Shakeel from Department of Plant Pathology, Quetta Research Centre completed his internship of two month duration in 2003 on the isolation, basic morphology and identification of plant parasitic nematodes under the supervision of Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum, Scientific Officer, National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi. After completing his successful internship program certificates were awarded to him.
- Mr. Auon Raza, student of B. Sc 3rd year Department of Pathology, Z.A. Bhutto Agricultural College, Dokri, Larkana Campus, Sindh Agricultural University Tandojam completed his internship during 10 June 10 – July 20, 2023 on the isolation, basic morphology and identification of plant parasitic nematodes under the supervision of Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum, Scientific Officer, National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi. After completing his successful internship program certificate was awarded to him.

Future events

- **23-25 March, 2024**

42nd Pakistan Congress of Zoology to be held at the Department of Zoology, University of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Muzaffarabad from 23-25 March, 2024.

Website: <http://zsp.com.pk/pcz.html>

- **15-19 April, 2024**

35th Symposium of the European Society of Nematologists will be held in the «Palacio de Congresos» in Córdoba, Spain from 15-19 April 2024.

Website: <https://esn24cordoba.com/>

- **1-5 July, 2024**

20th International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC), 1-5 July, 2024, Athens, Greece.
“Healthy Plants Support Human Welfare”

Contact:

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Phone #: 402-472-6011

Website: <https://www.ippcathens2024.gr/>

- **19-20 July, 2024**

ICPPNM 2024: 18. International Conference on Plant-Parasitic Nematode Management, Paris, France

Contact

Website: <https://waset.org/plant-parasitic-nematode-management-conference-in-july-2024-in-paris>

Conference Code: 24FR07ICPPNM002

Abstract/Full-Text Paper Submission: July 31, 2023

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection: August 30, 2023

Final Paper and Early Bird Registration: June 19, 2024

Conference Date: July 19-20, 2024