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15th Nematological Event: “Significance of Nematode Identification for better Management”

National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi

30-31 December, 2019

15th Nematological Event “Significance of Nematode Identification for better Management”, the two days seminar cum workshop was jointly organized by Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN), National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi, Karachi, and Pakistan Science Foundation held at National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan during 30-31 December, 2019.

The focus of the Conference was to highlight the significance of traditional taxonomy and to give emphasis on the correct identification of nematodes for their better crop management which would help strengthen the country’s agricultural economy.

At the inaugural session, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi encouraged the efforts of Pakistan Society of Nematologists to discursive the knowledge of Nematology and emphasized to expedite the training workshop program of Nematode Identification for better Management within the country. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi also acknowledged the services of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and said one lab or portion of the centre would be named after her. Director of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi Prof. Dr. Saboohi Raza welcomed the participants. In her welcome address she briefly highlighted the contributions of NNRC in the field of nematology; emphasizing the importance of nematodes, their identification and management. Afterwards a short documentation “Tribute to former Director and Meritorious Prof Dr. Shahina Fayyaz” was presented by Dr. ErumIqbal. President of Pakistan Society of Nematologists and ECO Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro delivered the presidential address. He told the audience about the establishment of the NNRC, accomplishments of the centre and the society. Dr. Soomro also said that identification of nematodes is the key to crop management. Shield distribution ceremony was at the end of the inaugural session. In the honour of services of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, an appreciation shield was presented by Pakistan Society of Nematologists to Dr. Shahina; in her absence Dr. Saboohi Raza, Director, NNRC received the shield. Shields were also presented to Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and Director, NNRC, Dr. Saboohi Raza. The inaugural session was ended with refreshment.



GLIMPSES OF INAUGURATION DAY AND SHIELD DISTRIBUTION

A panel discussion program was held after inaugural session. Dr. Aly Khan and Dr. Farman Ali delivered their oral presentations related to the topic. Dr. Aly Khan talked on the “Taxonomy of Nematodes” while “Importance of Taxonomy of Plant Pathogens for Crop Management” was the topic of Dr. Farman Ali talk. Both speakers emphasized on classical taxonomy of nematodes then molecular techniques can be applied for the confirmation of nematode species. Afterwards participants actively took part in the discussion on all aspects of the nematode identification and its importance in disease management strategies.



PANEL DISCUSSION SESSION

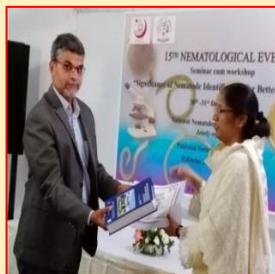
General body meeting of Pakistan Society of Nematologists was held at NNRC after lunch. The meeting was attended by Office bearers, members of the society and other participants of the workshop. The important issues related to the society were discussed. Training session 1 was held after general body meeting based on survey, sampling and sieving of the collected soil samples.

On day two, training session was started at 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM. The lab exercise was based on the identification of the important genera of plant parasitic nematodes, cutting and preparation of root-knot pattern and cyst cone for identification up to species level.

The closing ceremony was held after lunch. The certificates were distributed by the Director, NNRC to the participants. In the closing remarks she thanks to all the participants and wish that this workshop may help you in the correct identification of nematodes.



GLIMPSES OF GENERAL BODY MEETING AND TRAINING SESSION





GLIMPSES OF CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION AT CLOSING CEREMONY

The seminar cum workshop was attended by 20 registered participants, members of the society and others from all over Pakistan viz., Islamia University Bahawalpur; LUAWMS, Balochistan; Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan; PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi; University of Poonch, Rawalakot; Azad Jammu & Kashmir; University of Swabi, Anbar, KP; Wheat-Research Sub-Station, Murree and many departments of University of Karachi. Participants were trained in proper nematode diagnosis and correct identification of nematode species in making better crop management decision for nematode problem.

Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) and National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Karachi (NNRC) have been holding national and international training and capacity building workshops in Nematology ever since their establishment.

The aim to hold this workshop was:

- To increase the competence in the field of traditional taxonomical research in nematology and management.
- To develop expertise / human resource persons in nematode diagnosis, proper identification through recent technologies.
- To motivate and fascinate students, young researchers and scholars to learn and focus on developing research skills on the subject matter.
- To emphasize the importance of capability buildup in nematode disease management strategies in the context of correct diagnosis and proper identification of nematode problems.
- To emphasize the importance of plant parasitic nematode problem in the context of current and future global challenges.

The content of the workshop has been designed to sum up initial to advance techniques in lab exercises such as:

- Symptoms of nematodes on plants and roots.
- Sampling techniques and strategies.
- Processing of soil sample.
- Analysis of soil and roots for cyst and root-knot nematodes.
- Temporary and permanent mounts of nematodes.

- Morphological identification of plant parasitic nematodes.
- Preparation of perineal pattern of RKN and cyst cone.

Minutes of the General Body Meeting of Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN), 2019

A meeting of General Body of Pakistan Society of Nematologists was held on 30th December, 2019 at NNRC, UoK at 3:30 PM on the occasion of 15th Nematological Event - seminar on; “Significance of Nematode identification for Better Management” The meeting was presided by the President PSN, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro and attended by members, office bearers of the Society and participants of the workshop. The following office bearers of the society attended the meeting:

1. Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro (PSN), Islamabad
President (in chair)
2. Dr. Munawar Raza Kazmi, Islamabad
Vice President, Federal
3. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar, Rawalpindi
Vice President, Punjab
4. Dr. Farman Ali, Mardan
Vice President, KP
5. Dr. Syed Asim Rehan Kazmi, Karachi
Vice President, Sindh
6. Dr. Taimoor Khan, Lasbella
Vice President, Balochistan

Agenda:

1. Election of PSN
2. Vice President for Gilgit-Baltistan Province
3. Revision of criteria for PSN membership
4. Ways and means to promote the science of Nematology in Pakistan
5. Improvement of Pakistan Journal of Nematology (PJN) for HEC recognition categories
6. Financial status of PSN
7. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

The meeting began with the name of Allah Almighty and agenda was discussed item wise. All the participants took active part in the discussion and detailed discussion on various aspects in the meeting resulted in the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 1: It was resolved with consensus of the Executive Council and Members of PSN that election on various offices of PSN will be held and then on the sitting President PSN Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro will serve as the Patron-in-Chief and Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz will be the Patron of the Society.

It was also decided that the post of General Secretary / Treasurer is hereby bifurcated / separated in to two and that a new position of “Permanent Secretary” based on the Society’s office at NNRC, Karachi be created to take care of the office and official business of PSN. Director, NNRC shall be the Permanent Secretary of the Society work with a provision to nominate/ appoint somebody from NNRC to work on

his/her behalf. Director, NNRC will also be the Ex-officio Treasurer of PSN; while the General Secretary can be from anywhere from Pakistan and not necessarily from NNRC.

The next election of PSN for the year 2020-2022 will be conducted online for the posts of President, Vice President of Sindh, Secretary and General Secretary. Executive Council and Members of PSN unanimously elected Dr. Syed Asim Rehan Kazmi as the Election Commission of the Society. Time frame of the election will be within three months that is up to 31st March, 2020. The decision was unanimously approved.

Resolution No. 2: The posts of Vice Presidents of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) were created separately and would be filled-in through the forthcoming PSN elections. It was further resolved that all the Vice Presidents and Secretary General must endeavor to organize seminars, symposia or workshops on Nematology in their regions and institutions to promote the science of nematology among all stakeholders including the students.

Resolution No. 3: PSN membership is open to all including growers; however, those who are interested to contest the election should have the relevant expertise in biological sciences and should also have at least one year long membership of the society. Cooperate members would be eligible for membership but will not be eligible to contest the election. Life members list would be updated on the website of PSN. The membership fee was also revised as follows:

- Life membership = Rs. 5,000
- Annual membership = Rs. 1,000
- Student membership = Rs. 500
- Cooperate membership = Rs. 10,000

Resolution No. 4: Scope of the PSN's official journal "Pakistan Journal of Nematology" be broadened and the issue/ aspects like soil health and nematode interaction with other organisms should be covered; the subject be expanded but should remain in the domain of Nematology. This will be mentioned under "Instructions to Authors" on the journal. Research papers should be online just after acceptance.

Resolution No. 5: For the up gradation of PJN Prof. Dr. Tariq Mukhtar and Dr. Amjad Gondal offered and were assigned the responsibility to work on the issue of recognition of the journal by HEC. Every member will also try and use their links to help with the matter. Data of 3-5 years will be observed based on national and international papers and their citations.

Resolution No. 6: Society financial report and activities was presented by the President as the General Secretary/ Treasurer could not join the meeting due to her health reasons. He informed the members that financial status of last year was cleared and closed. Audit of grants and accounts of the society is done by the Audit and Account Section of the University of Karachi. Financial status of the year 2019 will be presented in the next meeting of PSN General Body/ Executive Council.

Resolution No. 7: It was resolved that

- The next Nematology Conference will be organized together with Plant Pathological Society at Faisalabad, 2020. Prof. Dr. Mukhtar will coordinate in this matter.
- From January 2020 onwards, the paper publication charges would be made as: Rs. 2,000 / paper up to 6 pages; beyond that Rs. 500/ page will be charged. Foreign authors of papers will be charged at the rate of \$ 50 / paper.
- The decisions will be implemented from 1st January, 2020 onwards.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Chair for continued cooperation by the members and Dua for early recovery of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz.

New Director of NNRC, University of Karachi

Associate Prof. Dr. Saboohi Raza, passionate and enthusiastic scientist has been assigned the responsibility of Directorship of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi on 4 November, 2019. Dr. Saboohi is a Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Management, University of Karachi since 2017. Dr. Saboohi Raza has a brilliant academic record with good professional and research experience. She has published over 30 National and International publications besides written two chapters in books. Six MS and two Ph. D. degrees were awarded under her supervision. Many theses of M. Phil and Ph. D. have been submitted whereas several M. Phil and Ph. D. scholars are doing their research work under her mentorship. Dr. Saboohi has participated in number of symposia with oral and poster presentations; received international training from Austria and China. She is also member of many scientific societies including Pakistan Society of Nematologists.



Tree Plantation Campaign at UoK

Plants are the source of oxygen and control the temperature of the world. They play a vital role in the ecosystem. Trees are signs of life and support the living system on earth. In this regard University of Karachi arranged a seminar “Environmental Awareness and Tree Plantation Campaign” on 21st August, 2019 at Karachi University Business School Auditorium. Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Advisor to Chief Minister, Sindh on Law, Environmental and Coastal Development was the Chief Guest while Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, presided over the seminar. Prof. Dr. Iraqi said that the tree plantation is an important step for environmental system especially in the scenario of global warming. He said that geographical and environmental conditions are at heavy risk due to unnecessary tree cutting. He emphasized to plant more trees in order to achieve the goal of an environmental friendly society. It would also benefit our upcoming generations. At the end of the seminar a small tree was planted by the Chief Guest and the VC of University of Karachi. On this occasion Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Dawar, Director NNRC planted two small trees at NNRC on 23rd August, 2019 at 10:30 AM along with all the NNRC staff.



TREE PLANTATION BY PROF. DR. SHAHNAZ DAWAR, DIRECTOR NNRC, UOK

ISO Certification

A routine audit was conducted by the team of consultant of ISO 9001: 2015 on 1st November 2019. They visited NNRC, observed and checked all the activities and equipments according to the ISO rules and regulations. They appreciated the working and satisfied from it by signing the documents for the certificate of ISO 9001: 2015 for the year 2019-2020.

Visit to NNRC

Fifty students from University of Uthal, Lasbela, and students of Department of Genetics, University of Karachi visited NNRC. During the visit Director, NNRC, Dr. Saboohi Raza, teachers, research and technical staff members welcome them. The students were shown the videos about the importance of nematodes, their damages and management through EPN and other bio pesticides. Demonstrations were made and lectures were delivered about the nematological problems. They visited the labs and were briefed about the research accomplishments of NNRC.



STUDENTS FROM UNIVERSITY OF UTHAL, LASBELA VISITING NNRC LAB.

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Shameel Memorial Seminar

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Shameel Memorial Seminar entitled “An Approach to the Solution of Plastic Pollution” was organized by Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization, University of Karachi at Arts Auditorium, UoK on 23rd October, 2019. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Iraqi, Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi was the Chief Guest. NNRC research staff, visiting faculty and students attended the seminar.

Submission of Ph. D. Thesis

Ph. D. Thesis of Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad and Mr. Sagir Hussain has been submitted to Advance Scientific Research Board (ASRB), University of Karachi. The title of Mr. Ashfaq Ahmad thesis was “Cotton Pest and their Bio-management in Sind Pakistan” while “Identification of Plant Parasitic Nematodes of Cereals, Fruits and Vegetables of District Hunza-Nager, Gilgit and Ghizer of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan” was the title of the research work of Mr. Sagir Hussain. Both the scholars did their Ph.D. research under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz.

Future Events

March 11-12

48th Annual meeting DPG Workgroup Nematology at Vienna, Austria, 2020

March 23-24

4th International Conference Medical & Clinical Microbiology, 2020 at Singapore City, Singapore, 2020

May 3-8

7th International Congress of Nematology at Antibes Juan-les-Pins, France, 2020

September 28-29

8th World Congress and Expo on Applied Microbiology, 2020 at Barcelona, Spain.

November 29 – December 1

PSN ‘International Conference of Nematology will be organized together with Plant Pathological Society at Faisalabad, Pakistan, 2020