



# NEWS BULLETIN AUGUST 2021 Volume(6), Number(08)

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# MNSUAM and Syngenta Signed Memorandum of Cooperation

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the MNS University of Agriculture (MNSUA) Multan and Syngenta Pakistan on August 1, 2021. Both organizations agreed to establish a Learning Centre and Insecticide Resistance Management Lab as platforms for field research, sharing of resources, and complementing each other's technical expertise for sustainable agricultural development. Prof Dr. Asif Ali (T.I, MNSUAM Vice Chancellor) and Mr. Tauseef ul Haq (Business Sustainability and CPD Head, Syngenta Pakistan) signed the memorandum. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Director External Linkages, and Mr. Ashraf Ansari, Technical Support Manager, Syngenta Pakistan assured productive partnership between the two organizations. The memorandum is a step to strengthen the professional relation between academia and industry which is the future of commercialization of innovative research.



## Webinar on Wellness through Greenery

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## Chief Executive PARB visited MNSUAM

Dr. Abid Mehmood (Chief Executive, Punjab Agriculture Research Board) accompanied by Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I; Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM) visited Experimental Farm of MNSUAM on August 4, 2021 and inspected cotton fields. The purpose of his visit was to appraise research work on pink bollworm and other innovations introduced by the University. He was briefed about IPM model introduced and implemented by the Varsity for pink bollworm management, use of PB Ropes to prevent attack of pink-bollworm, and its effect on whitefly management in cotton. He was told that this technology ceases the need of

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insecticides for pink bollworm control. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali briefed him that the University is converting the research into simple language so that farmers could easily comprehend new technology and be able to use it. Later on, Dr. Abid Mehmood also witnessed color sorter used to sort the seed of male sterile lines for hybrid wheat seed production. He was also demonstrated high efficiency seed drill prepared by Anri. Engineers of the University.



# Youm-I-Esthesal Kashmir Observed at MNSUAM

Youm-i-Esthesal Kashmir was observed at MNSUAM on August 5, 2021 against revocation of Article 370 and 35-A and continuous victimization of Kashmiris by the Indian government. The event was attended by large number of students and faculty members. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM said we have very close religious and cultural relationship with Kashmiris and condemn all kinds of brutal acts with them. He further said that the Kashmir dispute must be handled according to the UNO charter. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig (Dean, FSS&H) also expressed that the issue of Kashmir is the bone of contention between Pakistan and India, which requires understanding of the human cause for its pragmatic solution. The revoking of article 370 and 35-A is another condemnable Indian act to subjugate the rights of Kashmiri people. The participants strongly condemned Indian atrocities on innocent Kashmiris struggling for their right to freedom. Dr Asif Raza, Mr. Imran Mahmood, Mr. Muhammad Rafeeq Farooqi, Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum, Dr. Usman Jamshaid and Mr. Riaz Ahmad Haraj were also present on the occasion.



# Tree Plantation Campaign Launched at Jalalpur Pirwala Experimental Farm

Directorate of University Farms, MNSUAM organized a Tree Plantation Campaign at Jalalpur Pirwala Experimental Farm on August 6, 2021. Tree plantation was inaugurated by Mr. Mudassar Mumtaz (Assistant Commissioner, Jalalpur Pirwala), while Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed (Dean, FAES), Dr. Adul Ghaffar (Director, Uni. Farms), Dr. Asif Raza (Director, Estate Management) and Dr. Muqarrab Ali (Focal Person, Plants for Life Society) accompanied him. Directorate of University Farms and Plants for Life Society Team leaders highlighted the significance of trees for life and society. They urged that planting trees is not only the

Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) but also the way forward to overcome adverse effects of climate change. Mr. Mudassar Mumtaz said that tree plantation is vital for a clean and green environment. He appreciated the efforts of the University farm management in this regard. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed said that tree plantation is essential keeping in view the global climate change scenario. Trees contribute to the environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting the wildlife. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar said that we are planting more than 20,000 multipurpose trees here this Monsoon season. Afterwards, each faculty member accompanied by a number of students continued this plantation drive by planting several hundreds of saplings.



## Webinar on Halal Meat

Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences organized a webinar on "Halal Meat Industry in the World: Challenges and Prospects for Pakistan" on August 08, 2021. Syed Fakhar Imam (Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research) was the Chief Guest. while, Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais (T.I) (Ex Minister Livestock/Ex-Chairman, Punjab Agriculture and Meat Company) delivered a detailed presentation on fattening and Halal Meat trade. The event promoted awareness about potential of global Halal meat market, industrial perspectives, critical challenges and prospects regarding Halal meat export with special reference to Pakistan. Syed Fakhar Imam said that livestock is also key sector of agriculture beside crop production and needs due attention. He asserted for improvement in quality of products, setting up accredited laboratories to meet standardization and conformity of Halal meat products to increase its exports manifold. . Mr. Mumtaz Khan Manais acknowledged that with Pakistan's geographic position and high-quality livestock, the halal meat industry is one of the many export options that Pakistan is looking to fully exploit for its export mission. In his presentation, he elaborated the factors that hinder export competitiveness and international standards to be followed regarding quality halal meat. He also stalked about potential of livestock sector, quality meat production, its processing, value addition, marketing and supply chain for local and export markets. The discussants, Prof. Dr. Iqrar A. Khan (S.I), Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and Prof. Dr. Sajjad Khan, Vice Chancellor, Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences endorsed that country's share in the world Halal market is negligible despite having a great opportunity to grab the global market. They also emphasized the need of genetic improvement programs of local breeds. They also emphasized on the need

of balanced nutrition and better livestock management to maximize productivity and economic returns. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that despite various challenges, livestock sector is already actively contributing to the national economy. He said that livestock is the among the biggest economic activity in rural areas and major source of women empowerment. Afterwards, the Chief Guest inaugurated the plantation of Miyawaki forest by planting a tree sapling.



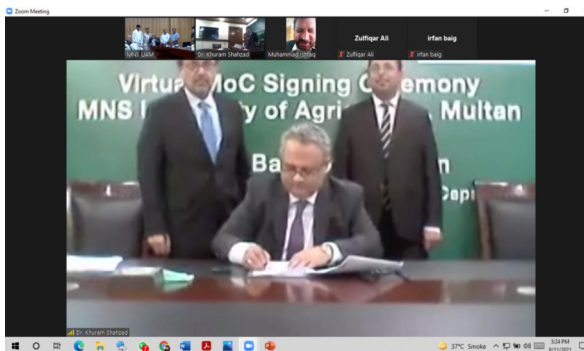
## Meeting of the Academic Council

The 7th meeting of the Academic Council was held on August 9, 2021 under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I). The house welcomed the elected faculty members of Academic Council to their first meeting and anticipated that they would contribute towards the academic affairs of the University through their positive and valuable input. The house gave a nod to the initiation of new degree programs, viz. B.Sc. (Hons.) Environmental Sciences, B.Sc. (Hons.) Agricultural and Resource Economics, BS Data Science, B.Sc. (Hons.) Home Economics, BS Zoology, M.Sc. (Hons.) Agro-industrial Engineering Technology, M.Sc. (Hons.) Agricultural Engineering, MS and Ph.D in Microbiology, and Zoology. Revised scheme of studies of various under and postgraduate degree programs were also discussed and suggestion for improvements were proposed. Amendments in postgraduate statutes were discussed and recommended for approval by the Syndicate. The house discussed the adoption of HEC policy regarding responsibility on the supervisor of plagiarized Ph.D/MS/M.Phil thesis and recommended for adoption of HEC policy through the Syndicate. Proposal for establishment of Para Veterinary School at Jalalpur Pirwala was appreciated by the house and creation of various posts for the Para Veterinary School was recommended for consideration of Finance and Planning Committee. The Academic Council also approved allocation of 5% self-support seats for admission to all undergraduate degree programs offered by the Department of Computer Science and approval of fee structure for self-support seats. The idea for establishment of Institute of Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship Development (IAED) was also appreciated by the house and was recommended for approval of concept from the Syndicate. The house grant approval for recommendations made by the Executive Committee regarding admission criteria for academic Session 2021-22 under prevailing situation of Covid-19 Pandemic.



# Mutual Cooperation Agreement Inked between MNSUAM and National Bank of Pakistan

The signing of a Mutual Cooperation Agreement (MCA) between MNSUAM and National Bank of Pakistan was held virtually on August 11, 2021. On behalf of MNSUAM, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor and on behalf of the NBP, Mr. Rehmat Ali Hassani, Group Chief signed the agreement. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that purpose of this agreement is to provide services in order to guide the farmers and students. It also aims at training and promotion of hydroponic, tunnel farming, vegetable nursery, ultra high density mango orchards, agricultural machinery, modern poultry and dairy farming, bee keeping, biofloc fish farming and mushroom production. The agreement will also provide opportunities to the agricultural university students to learn and work in the field. He added that the MCA aims at increasing the overall capacity of farmers and students so that the people affiliated with the field of agriculture can benefit in a real sense. The NBP Group Chief said that by focusing on the private sector, we can improve and bring a positive change to the society. He said that loans would be given to farmers and cultivators of 12 acres and less and the MNSUAM will facilitate the process for their welfare. He applauded MNSUAM for working tirelessly for the betterment of agriculture in the region and the day is not far off when this region will be the most productive region in the country.

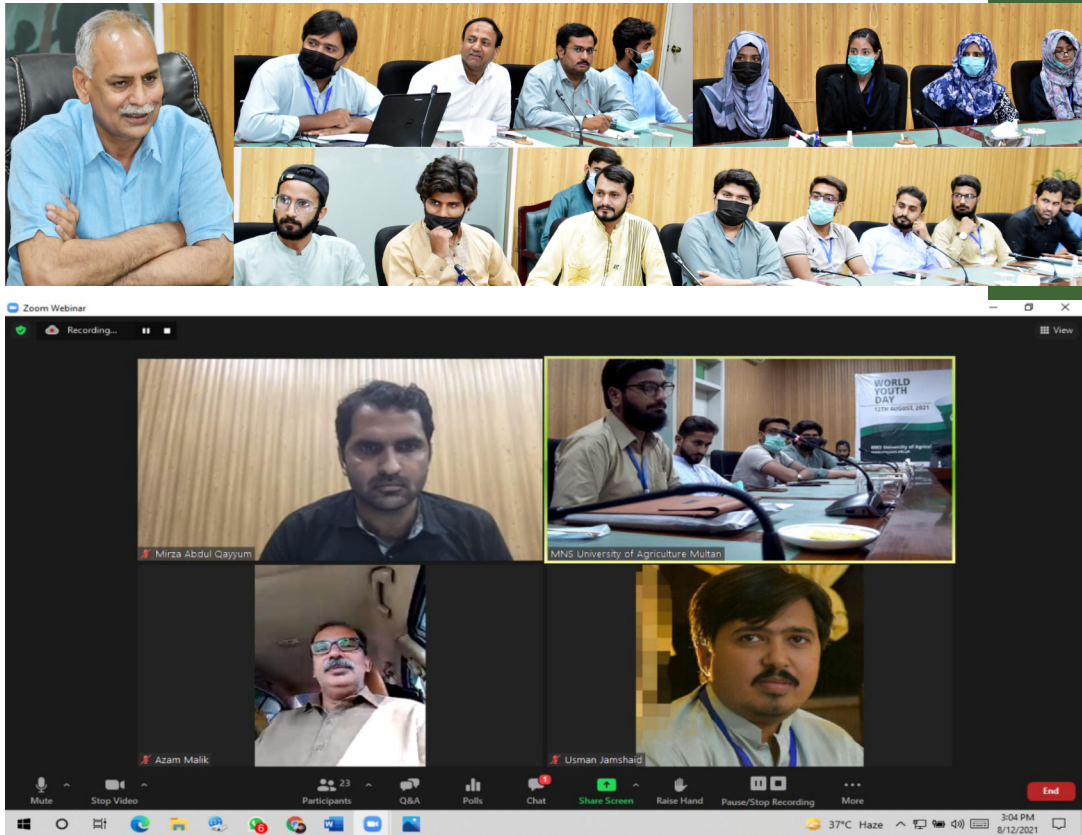


## Webinar on the Eve of World Youth Day

Department of Public relations and Senior Tutor Office of MNSUAM organized a webinar on the eve of World Youth Day on August 12, 2021. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor was the chief guest of this event while, Mr. Azam Malik, Motivational Speaker and Poet was the keynote speaker. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that we should educate our youth in a manner that they can serve the nation professionally. We always try to engage our students in such seminars and activities, which on one hand educate them about society's obligations towards them and inculcate the sense of being responsible citizens on the other hand. Mr. Azam Malik postulated that the youngsters can play a vital role in the development of the country and they should do what they prefer to do and have decision power to choose right career and goals. He further said that we should adapt the model of Iqbal's Shaheen, if we really want to succeed in life. Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum and Mr. Naeem Toor also spoke on



the occasion and said that if China and USA can bring economic revolution, then Pakistan has also great potential since most of its population comprises of young people full of innovative ideas and energy. They urged the youth to become successful entrepreneurs instead of becoming job seekers. Dr. Usman Jamshaid and Mr. Riaz Ahmad Hiraj along with students of various societies participated in the webinar.



## Independence Day Celebrations and Plantation Drive

Pakistan's 74th Independence Day Celebrations Ceremony were held on 14th August, 2021 at the main campus of the University as well as Jalalpur Pirwala Experimental Farm. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, hosted the national flag followed by the national



anthem. Large number of students, faculty and officials were present at the moment. Later on, flag hoisting ceremony and tree plantation campaign were held at Jalalpur Pirwala Experimental Farm. The event was graced by Mr. Hussain Jahania Gardezi (Minister for Agriculture, Punjab), Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel (Secretary Agriculture, South Punjab) and Mr. Barak Ullah (Additional Secretary Agricultural Task Force) and many other notables from South Punjab Agriculture Forum. A large number of faculty members and students from MNSUAM participated in this campaign and planted numerous trees under the auspices of Plants for Life Society and Directorate of Farms. Mr. Hussain Jahania Gardezi also inaugurated the new building of Training Centre at Experimental Farm, Jalalpur



Pirwala. He said that following agenda of faith, discipline, and unity suggested by great Quaid-e-Azam, we can develop our nation to embrace any challenge. He added that self-belief and proper planning is the key to achieve any task. It is the responsibility of youth of this country to come forward and lead its way to prosperity and success. Afterwards, the Dramatic Club of MNSUAM performed various national songs, skits and dramas on themes related to Independence of Pakistan. The memorable performances of the students were lauded by participants in the ceremony. The participants applauded the pace of developmental work and congratulated University Administration for organizing this event in the newly established building and prayed for further success. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the faculty and administrative staff for organizing such a wonderful event and cherished all activities. The faculty members and administrative staff also brought their families and children in the ceremony, as well as a large number of students attended the event.

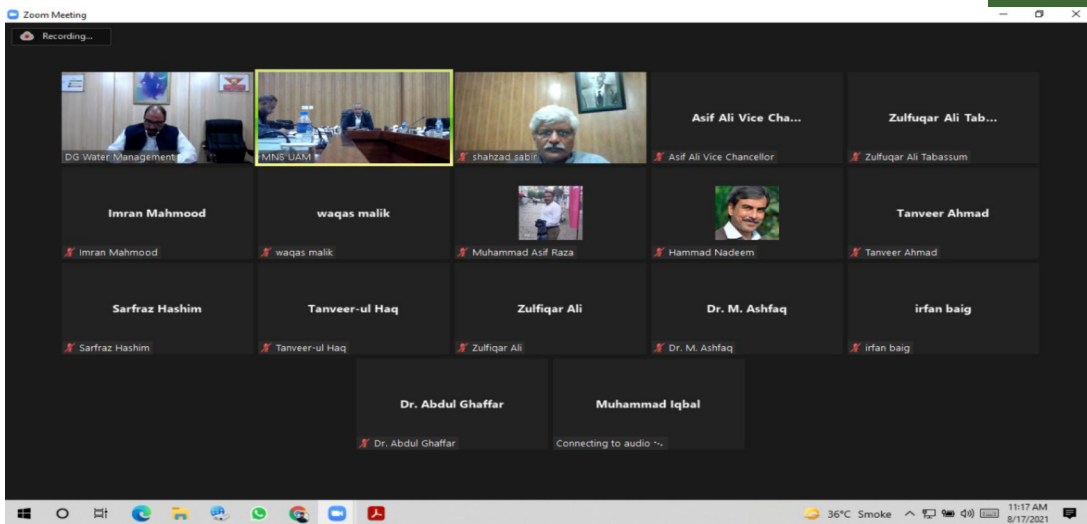
## Demonstration of IPM for Cotton

Cotton IPM Day was celebrated by Institute of Plant Protection, MNSUAM at Research Farm Jalalpur on August 14, 2021. On-field demonstration in IPM plot was specially arranged for the Pakistan and Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel (Secretary Agriculture, South Punjab) graced the day with their presence. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I; Vice Chancellor) welcomed the guests and said that our primary goal is to provide a platform to the farming community to solve their problems by establishing effective linkages between farmers and research institutes. The MNSUAM in collaboration with Department of Agriculture is keen to disseminate the knowledge about production and management of cotton crop. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed briefed the visitors about University's initiatives on Smart Plant Protection and success stories regarding cotton production by merely using botanicals in the field without any synthetic pesticides. He added that by using IPM technology, farmers can save money, lower their production costs, and maximize profit margins while sustaining environmental quality. The guests were demonstrated IPM block wherein a healthy cotton crop stand free of insect pests and diseases was bearing plenty of fruits. Minister and Secretary Agriculture emphasized the need to adopt the IPM technology developed by the University for farmers. Minister for Agriculture appreciated the efforts of university for the revival and uplift of cotton crop in Punjab. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali inspired the faculty of IPP to gear up the direction of research as per real issues of Pakistan.



# Meeting of Board of Advance Studies and Research

The 13th meeting of the Board of Advance Studies and Research (BASR) was held on August 17, 2021 under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I). The chair welcomed all the members and highlighted the importance of this forum by strengthening through addition of stakeholders like DG Water Management, DG Field, DG Agriculture Research, DG Agriculture Extension and progressive farmers. He stated that this University is working for a particular and important sector of the economy where the research agenda is more important for the development of knowledge, technologies and human resource management. We try to involve all stakeholders for bringing their wisdom through this august statutory body. Chair congratulates the DG Field on winning the election of Engineering council. The chair highlighted the importance of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and making the curriculum of all postgraduate degree programs in line with SDGs. In current meeting, previous decisions taken in 12th BASR meeting were reviewed. Revisions in curriculum of different departments/Institutes were discussed for further necessary action. Research titles of various postgraduate students were also discussed and approved. An agenda on HEC policy for new admission was reviewed by the house. Rules of Business for conduct of the meetings of the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) were discussed and approved. Chair thanked all the members to attend the meeting and for their valuable inputs.



## Selection of MNSUAM Student for Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program UGRAD 2022 at USA

Ms. Dua Asghar, a student of B.Sc (Hons.) Agri 4th semester, has been selected for the U-Grade American Exchange Program. She is the first student from MNSUAM who won the award of Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program UGRAD 2022 offered by United States Education Foundation (USEF) Islamabad. Ms. Dua Asghar has fulfilled her dream of doing something positive for the deprived people of the society, especially those belonging to transgender community- a respectable citizen of the society. The VC expressed good wishes for Dua Asghar and prayed for her future success. He informed that University students are making a name for themselves not only in Pakistan but also in the world.



# Visit to Research Farm of Tara Group

Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I; Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM) flanked by Dr. Sagheer Ahmad (Director Cotton Research Institute, Multan) and Dr. Mubashir Mehdi (Associate Professor, Agri. Business and Applied Economics, MNSUAM) visited research farm of Tara Group Pvt. Ltd. at Lodhran on August 25, 2021. Team visited the ongoing research trials and also witnessed single, double and triple gene technology and germplasm imported from China. They were briefed that Tara Group has gene pool comprising of 300 entries. Syed Nasir Shah (Director, Tara Group) and Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz (Deputy General Manager Research, Tara Group) informed that our focus is on developing and introducing cotton seeds of BT varieties. This would help in revolutionizing the per acre yield of cotton and ensure increased income for local farmers. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali admired the research initiatives undertaken by Tara Group administration. He said that revival of cotton crop is responsibility of all of us, and everyone whether from academia or industry, should play a vital part to sustain crop production in an era of dwindling natural resource base and climate change.



# Geographical Indications as Intellectual Property Rights for the Economic Growth

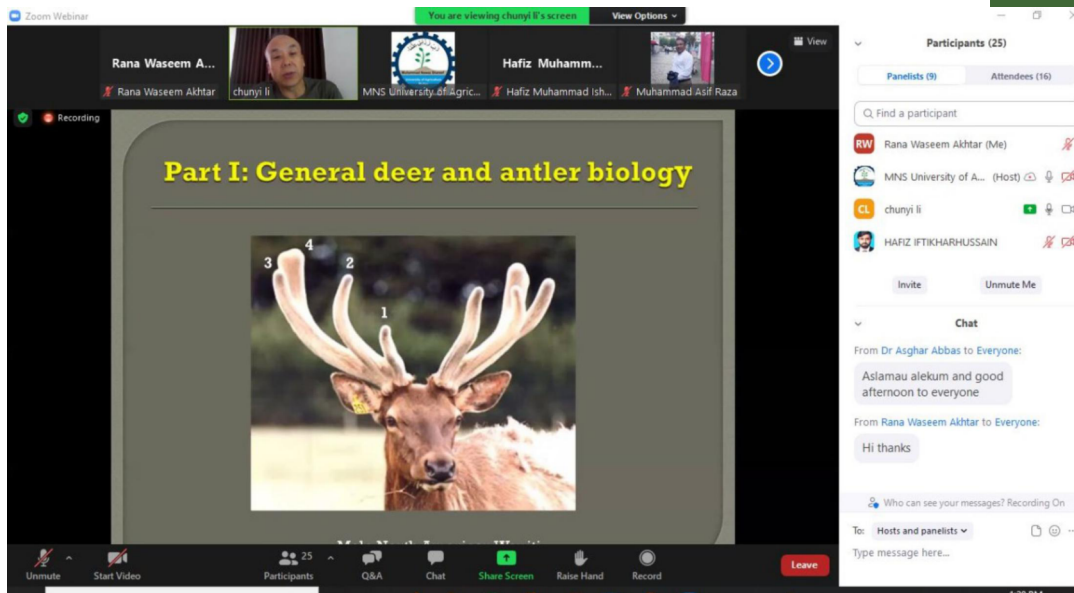
Intellectual Property Organization (IPO) experts advised attaching Geographical Indication (GI) to products to win special status and penetrate lucrative international markets to attract premium price in much needed foreign exchange. They expressed these views at a seminar held on August 26, 2021 organized by MNSUAM in cooperation with IPO Islamabad. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed (Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences) presided over the seminar. Mr. Muhammad Ismail (Director, IPO) attended the seminar as special guest, while IPO Pakistan consultant Ms. Nadia Zubair Shah was there as resource person. Ms. Nadia Shah gave a detailed insight of getting GI for products. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed reiterated University's commitment to promote Multani culture and heritage at international level as per vision of the Vice chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali. Mango producers and academics including Syed Zahid Hussain Gardezi, Major (Retired) Tariq, Asif Hayat Tipu, Abdur Rahman, Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem, Dr. Umar Farooq, Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Dr. Muhammad Asif Raza and other faculty members were also present.



## Webinar on Deer Antlers as Source of Medicine

Antlers of deer can be used in grinding form for medicines to treat bone related diseases, disclosed Dr. Chen Yali during a webinar held at MNSUAM on August 17, 2021. Speaking as a guest speaker, he informed that they are manufacturing medicine by using antlers after testing it on rodents. The academician stated that the medicine would be sent to Pakistan after its final trials in New Zealand. He said that he had been working on antlers of deer for the last twenty-five years, adding that the medicine would be useful for patients

with bones problems. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM stated that the Varsity had recently set up a veterinary hospital to cure animals free of charge. South Punjab is known for its animals and the Varsity had established the hospital for research on them and their treatment. Chairman of Veterinary Department, Dr. Asif Raza extended vote of thanks to the participants.



## Stakeholder Workshop under ACIAR Funded Project

Under the Umbrella of ACIAR funded project "Adapting to salinity in the Southern Indus Basin", a workshop on farmer Integrated Learning Model was organized by MNSUAM and Society of Facilitator and Trainers (SOFT) from July 26-27, 2021. This project has been launched in Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan provinces and carried out in collaboration with various universities and research institutions of these provinces. The project aims to develop and investigate adaptation options and strategies with people managing and living in salinity affected agricultural landscapes in the southern Indus Basin. The aim of this workshop was active engagement of the relevant government departments, policy makers, farmers and other institutions for locally and collaboratively determined adaptation planning and action to cope with salinity. The event was attended by 40 farmers from salt affected areas who shared their problems and learning experiences with the experts as part of participatory approach.



# Synopsis/Thesis Defense

- Mr. Muhammad Arslan Khalid, Reg. No. 2017-uam-905, from Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology will defend his Ph.D. thesis "GA-sensitive Rht gene(s) mediated phenotypic alterations to enhance drought tolerance in wheat" on August 10, 2021 at 01:00 PM in GRC at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan. All interested faculty, students and researchers are invited to participate.
- Ph.D. Synopsis defense of Ms. Sadia Hakim, Reg. No. 2014-uam-02, student of Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali is scheduled online through ZOOM on August 30, 2021 at 1:30 PM. The topic of her synopsis is "Exploring Genetic Diversity of Wheat and Sea-buckthorn for Water use Efficiency and Biofortification".
- Ms. Farzana Ashraf, Reg. No. 2017-uam-924, Ph.D scholar of Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology will defend her Ph.D. Thesis online on August 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM. The title of his thesis is "Comparative Transcriptomic Analysis of Contrasting Cotton Intraspecific Lines for Fibre Traits".