



NEWS BULLETIN

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1st April Celebrated as "April Cool"

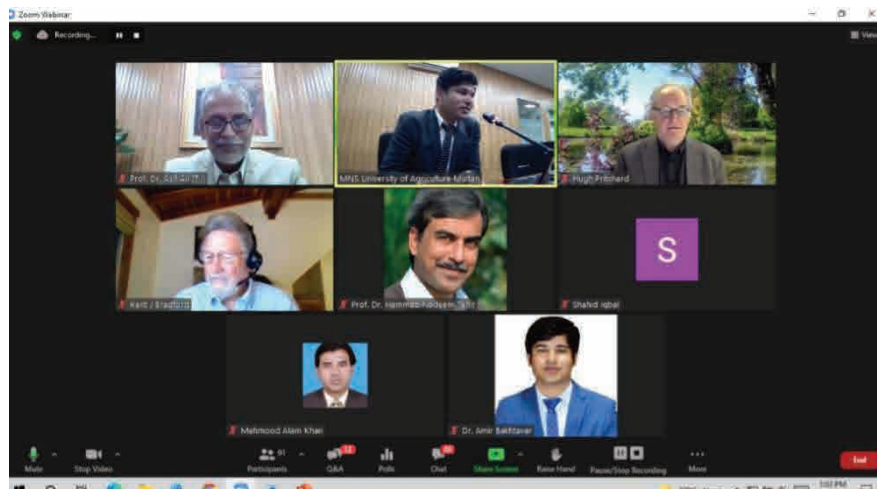
An April Cool Day event was organized at MNSUAM on the occasion of 1st April with the joint efforts of Literary Club and Plant for Life Society in which about 200 plants were planted by the students and teachers of the University. MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) especially participated and appreciated the tree planting campaign. He said that MNSUAM recognizes the strong connection between a healthy planet and healthy people. With the thought of fostering a green environment where people can thrive and breathe easy, we have launched the 'April Cool' campaign. He urged all teachers, staff and students of the University to plant trees as a fulfillment of their national duty. To mark the event, an awareness walk was also organized. On this occasion, Convener Literary Club, Dr. Unsar Naeemullah highlighted the importance of plants with a poem by legendary poetess Parveen Shakir. He said that cutting of trees is not only destroying our environment but is a major cause for climate change and global warming. If we want to survive, then we must stop cutting trees in the name of urbanization. The students created a mystic spell of literature by presenting ghazals and poems on trees, optimism, and affection for plants. Chairman, Department of Horticulture, Dr. Tanveer Ahmed said that our mission is to make the MNSUAM green, whether it is Jalalpur Pirwala or the main campus. It is the duty of everyone, including the students, to plant trees and protect them. Dr. Muqrrab Ali, Convener, Plant for Life Society, apprised the audience of the commitment to plant trees and Green Pakistan. At the event, all the participants pledged to work together to make Pakistan clean and green.





Seed Longevity and Storage Management Webinar

Webinar on Seed Longevity and Storage Management was organized by Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, MNSUAM on April 5, 2022. Dr. Kent J. Bradford, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Seed Biotechnology Center, University of California Davis talked about the importance of seed storage for provision of high-quality certified seed to the farmers. He explained modern seed storage techniques along with "Dry Chain Technology" for commercial seed storage. Prof. Hugh W. Pritchard, Head Seed and Stress Biology, RBG Kew, Wakehurst, UK shared his experiences on longevity of seeds in genebank storage. He briefed about the different techniques for germplasm conservation including cryopreservation and highlighted the importance of genebank storage for conservation of biodiversity. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor MNS University of Agriculture Multan expressed his views that seed storage is the key for food security, and it is the need of hour to adopt modern seed storage techniques both for commercial and genebank storage. Finally, Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem Tahir, Director, Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology thanked all the speakers and participants of the webinar and expressed the hope that this event would lead to the introduction of modern storage methods within Pakistan and further improve country's agriculture.





Activities Kick Started for Mango Festival

The MNS University of Agriculture, Multan has started preparations ahead of the upcoming Mango Festival-2022 to celebrate the arrival of the king of fruits and to devise in-time and effective strategies for smooth conduct of these events. A meeting was held in connection with Mango Festival-2022. It was chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM and the following strategy was tentatively approved. In 2022, four Mango Festivals will be held in Multan, Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad. The participation of mango growers from all over Pakistan and Azad Kashmir will be ensured in these festivals. This year's biggest festival will be held at DHA Multan and will be the largest mango variety show ever in the history of Pakistan and more than 50 stalls will also be set up. Women Mango Growers will be specially invited to participate so that their services can be highlighted at home and abroad. All mango growers will be given full media coverage and Pakistani mango will be promoted as national fruit in order to increase our exports and benefit the country and mango growers. Director Business Incubation Center Prof. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Manager Industrial Linkages, Dr. Abid Hussain, and Mr. Asif Hayat Tipu were present on the occasion.



International Water Expert Visited MNSUAM

Dr. Mohsin Hafeez, Country Head, International Water Management Institute accompanied by his team visited MNSUAM. He is an accomplished water resources specialist and has more than 25 years of water management experience. On the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) gave a detailed account of the agricultural research conducted at the University, agricultural policies and discussed that the challenges pertaining the judicious use of water and fish farming on alkaline lands and shrimp farming. He said that we need to work together on agricultural policies related to fish farming in South Punjab as significant foreign exchange can be earned in this sector. Rational use of water can protect us from adverse effect of



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climate change and will also increase our food production to meet future needs, he further added. Dr. Mohsin Hafeez expressed consent to work with the MNSUAM on opportunities such as fish production on alkaline lands and admired the achievements of the University and the quality of ongoing research.





Visit of Chinese Delegation

MNS University of Agriculture, Multan is working with Chinese counterparts in various fields of education and research. A delegation from China led by Prof. Kai Jinbao visited MNSUAM. On this occasion, MNSUAM Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that MNSUAM is working closely with many foreign institutions, but our major international collaboration is with China in the field of agriculture especially for cotton crop. We are working closely with China in many fields, such as the Sino-Pak Conference and various language courses. Furthermore, it would be a great initiative to work closely with the Jiangxi University, China. Government of Pakistan is working together on many initiatives with China, among which CPEC is noteworthy. Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmed Baig said that MNSUAM is working on double degree programs in collaboration with China. Director External Linkages, Prof. Dr. Hafiz Mohammad Mohkam Hamamd informed the delegation that MoUs of MNSUAM with international universities and institutes are welcomed for the development in the field of agriculture. The delegation from China applauded the MNSUAM and expressed commitment to chalk out framework for future research collaboration and student exchange.





Celebration of World Earth Day

World Earth Day was celebrated on April 22 every year. On this occasion, events are held around the world to raise awareness of environmental protection. The day was first observed in 1970 and is now celebrated annually in more than 192 countries under the auspices of the Earth Day Network. In this regard, Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences hosted the Earth Day. A walk was also organized on the occasion, which was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Chairman of the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Dr. Tanveer-ul-Haq, other teachers and a large number of students. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali said that all such days are of great importance, and as our lives are directly and indirectly connected with the earth, we must do our best to protect the earth. He laminated that environmental pollution and irresponsible use of land resources have created numerous problems around the world. The purpose of celebrating world earth day to spread awareness about the damage caused to the earth by environmental pollution and to create awareness among the people for the environment. He said that environmental pollution and Climate change are major challenges. He appreciated the efforts of the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences and reiterated the need for a discussion forum of all stakeholders for land conservation. Prof. Dr. Tanveer-ul-Haq in his address said that earth is our common home and the purpose of celebrating this day is to raise awareness globally that a better ecosystem is essential for life and stability on earth. He said that factors affecting the natural environment must be overcome for a better quality of life. He added that the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences has included the need and importance of all such days in the updated curriculum. At the end, the audience and guests reiterated the environmental protection efforts of MNSUAM and intended to continue such initiatives in future also.





Memorandum of Cooperation between House of Rockville (Private) Limited and MNSUAM

The MNSUAM is very keen to establish liaisons with national and international organizations having potential for capacity building and holding a strong background of research and development. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between MNSUAM and House of Rockville Pvt. Limited on April 24, 2022. The main objective of this MoC is to promote good organic crop production practices for sustainable agriculture. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I) said that organic farming could be a good source of valuable foreign exchange in the emerging markets which are projected to grow at 4-12% per annum by 2027. Chairman House of Rockville, Mr. Saad Khan said that we will grow various commodities at MNSUAM under modern technology and for this; we will hire the services of the students at the university at reasonable wages. On this occasion, Senator Rana Mahmood Al-Hassan was also present. He appreciated the mutual cooperation and said that we should all work together for the service of the country and the nation.





Seminar on Road Safety

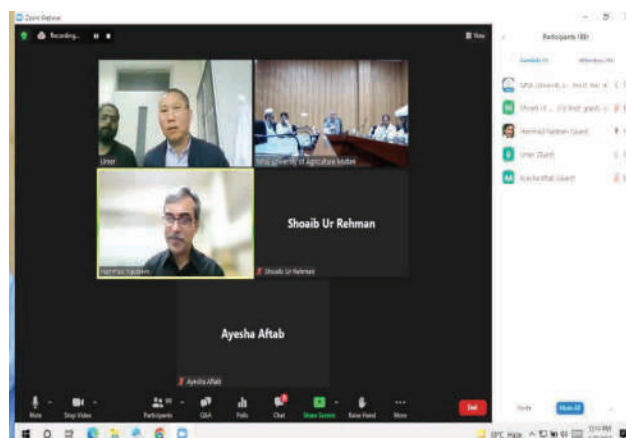
A seminar for awareness on 'Road Safety' was organized by Transport Officer Maj. (R) Safdar Hussain in collaboration with Students Affairs and National Highway Police. The special guest of the seminar was DIG Motorway, Chaudhary Muhammad Saleem, while Ch. Nadeem Ashraf Waraich, Superintendent Police/Sector Command N5 Central II, Multan was the key speaker of the event. The seminar aimed at enlightening the students on importance of safe driving by following traffic rules and basic principles of road safety. Addressing the participants, Chaudhary Muhammad Saleem said that reducing the alarming rate of human casualties on the roads is the responsibility of all road users. From today, we have to make a commitment to obey the traffic laws in the context of taking care of the lives of all human beings, including our lives, especially while driving. Avoiding over speeding and fastening seat belt can saves human lives. Mr. Nadeem Ashraf Waraich said that we must always follow the instructions given on road-signs while driving a vehicle. Motorbike is a two-person vehicle; it should not be ridden by three people. Females should also wear helmets while riding a bike. Don't over speed and if someone troubles you while traveling, dial NHA helpline 130 immediately. Turn your headlights dim during night time. The NHA Police regularly imposes fines on those who don't follow traffic rules in order to teach them a lesson. He said that human life is very precious; therefore, we must take acute care while driving on road. He informed the audience that there was a Fatwa issued in Saudi Arabia that not following the road signs is against Islamic teachings. Motorway officials gave a detailed presentation on road safety measures and emphasized on not using cell phones while driving. They informed that most of the accidents now-a-days have occurred due to use of cell phones while driving. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Vice Chancellor added that students' safety is our first priority and this seminar is specially organized for their education on road safety. He mentioned that taking small precautions while travelling can avoid fatal accidents. He added that accidents are increasing day by day due to violation of traffic rules and improper speed. Furthermore, we should realize our collective responsibilities and follow the driving rules ourselves and take care of others as well. A large number of faculty and students attended this event. At the end, safety helmets were distributed among students.





Webinar on Application of Omics in Modern Plant Breeding

Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, MNSUAM organized an international webinar entitled “Application of omics in modern plant breeding; recent trends and future prospects” under the project “National Crop Genomics and Speed Breeding Centre for Agriculture Sustainability” on April 27, 2022. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I), Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM in his inaugural address highlighted the importance of Webinar and said that the use of modern technology is essential especially for the betterment of cotton. He proposed that mutual cooperation of scientists and technology transfer is very important for crop improvement. He also briefed the audience about the National Genomics and Speed Breeding Center being established at MNSUAM. Prof. Dr. Fang Liu (Institute of Cotton Research, CAAS-China) talked about the origin and evolution of cotton. Dr. Shoaib Ur Rehman (IPBB, MNSUAM) discussed the application of SNP-based markers in developing breeder’s friendly genotyping platforms. Dr. Muhammad Jawad Umer (Institute of Cotton Research, CAAS-China) highlighted the potential role of Multi-omics-based identification and functional characterization of Gh_A06G1257 for drought tolerance in cotton. Prof. Dr. Hamad Nadeem Tahir thanked the audience and speakers and hinted to sign MoU with Chinese partners and appreciated the efforts of the organizers.





Special Talk on Social Impacts of Ramadan

A special sermon on 'The Month of Ramadan and its Social Impacts' was held April 22, 2022. The objective was to highlight the significance of this Holy month and its impact on human lives and the society as a whole. It was part of the consistent efforts projecting the teachings of 'Quran and Sunnah' through educational pursuits and by holding seminars. As a keynote speaker, Mr. Rasheed Ahmad (Lecturer, Islamic Studies) said that Islam has made comprehensive and integrated systems to train human beings so that they can play a pivotal role in the society. Ramadan is a chance to purify our souls and spirit of fasting must be reflective in an individual's acts and deeds. He asserted that keeping a check on physical needs and desires leads to spirituality and sympathy for the deserving and needy sections of the society. He urged the need to highlight the equality and brotherhood among Muslim Ummah to pass on the true spirit of Islam and Ramadan. A large number of faculty members, administrative staff and students benefited from the talk.

Social Activity

Cleanliness Volunteer Force Society MNSUAM organized an activity at SOS (Children's valley Multan) on April 21, 2022. The purpose of this activity was to distribute the Eid gifts among orphan children. This activity was organized under the supervision of Senior Tutor (Dr. Usman Jamshaid) and Club Incharge (Dr. Shakeel Ahmad). Mr. Kamran Yousaf (Director, SOS Children village Multan) acknowledged the efforts of students.



Thesis Defense

Ms. Farzana Ashraf (Reg. No. 2017-uam-924), PhD Scholar of PBG in the Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Asif Ali will defend her PhD thesis on June 1, 2022 (Wednesday) at 11:00 am online in MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan. The title of her thesis is "Comparative Transcriptomic Analysis of Contrasting Cotton Interspecific Lines for Fibre Traits". All interested persons are invited to participate.



Opportunity for Studentships Department of Agronomy MNS University of Agriculture Multan

Applications are invited for the “Studentships” under the Research Project No. **NRPU-I/16808 (R&D)** entitled **“Thinking beyond the Herbicide Efficacy Box: Appraising Herbicide Resistance, Leaching, Persistence and Carryover in Cotton-Wheat Cropping System”** funded by Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The details and eligibility criteria are given below:

Name of post	No. of posts	Qualifications	Pay Package	Contract Period
Ph.D Studentship	1	M.Sc. (Hons.)/MS in Agronomy/Soil and Environmental Sciences (Preferably enrolled at MNSUAM and having the expertise in conducting bioassays, analytical work pertaining chromatography)	Rs. 32000/- per month	One Year
M.Sc. (Hons.) Agri. Studentship	1	B.Sc. (Hons.) in Agronomy/Soil and Environmental Sciences (Preferably enrolled at MNSUAM and well versed with bioassays and analytical work and statistical analyses)	Rs. 8333/- per month	One Year

General Information:

- Application along with copies of C.V. (including detailed marks and percentage), transcripts, two recent photographs, CNIC and other relevant documents should reach within 10 days in the office of “Dr. Amar Matloob, Assistant Professor, Department of Agronomy, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan”.
- MNSUAM has the right to cancel this post at any time, without assigning any reason
- No TA/DA will be admissible for test or interview
- Contract can be extended subject to satisfactory performance

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