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News Bulletin

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**"You can cut all the flowers
but you cannot keep spring
from coming"**

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Edition's Highlights

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SDGs :

2: Zero hunger



3: Good Health and well being



9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure



12: Responsible consumption and production



17: Partnership for the goals



Highlights

- ▶ The festival witnessed a huge participation from various food service industries and more than 50 contesting teams.
- ▶ Freshco, Double Cheese, 14th Street and COTHM marked their presence by also setting up stalls for the event.
- ▶ Mr. Muhammad Salahuddin, GM Sales and Marketing SM Foods, Mr. Zaim Uzair, Quality Control Manager Freshco Multan, Mr. Hafiz Shakeel Ahmed, GM Sales and Marketing Baba Spices, Mr. Amjad Shafi Bhutta, CEO International Foods and Dr. Basit Ramzan graced and added to the prominence of the event.
- ▶ Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rajwana, Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM initiated the Festival by cutting the ribbon for the official launch of the competition.

Focus Area

The Festival aimed at

- ▶ Fostering strong connections among academia, researchers, students and the industry along with igniting a passion for culinary creativity.

GIBS PASTA FESTIVAL-MNSUAM

The GIBS PASTA FESTIVAL organized by the Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Food and Home Sciences at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, took place on March 7, 2024. The festival saw extensive participation from various food service industries and over 50 contesting teams. Freshco, Double Cheese, 14th Street, and COTHM also set up stalls for the event. Mr. Muhammad Salahuddin, GM Sales and Marketing SM Foods; Mr. Zaim Uzair, Quality Control Manager Freshco Multan; Mr. Hafiz Shakeel Ahmed, GM Sales and Marketing Baba Spices; Mr. Amjad Shafi Bhutta, CEO International Foods; and Dr. Basit Ramzan graced the event. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, inaugurated the festival by cutting the ribbon for the official launch of competition and commended the departmental activities. Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Dean of the Faculty of Food and Home Sciences, and Dr. Muhammad Shahbaz, Chairman of the Department of Food Science and Technology, highlighted the significant impact of the festival in fostering strong connections between students and the industry. They emphasized its role as a unique platform where students can showcase their creative abilities and gain valuable knowledge. The dignitaries appreciated the efforts of university to create a conducive environment for the students.



SDGs :

3: Good Health and Well Being



15: Life on Land



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor MNSUAM, along with the Deans, Directors, faculty members, and some dignitaries from business community, inaugurated the ceremony.
- More than 50 varieties of spring flowers were presented for display from educational and research institutions and various industrial groups of the city, which were placed in mounds and stalls.
- MNSUAM, the Floriculture Research Institute Multan, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Cantonment Board Multan, Patoki Nursery, and other organizations designed dozens of different flower arrangements, showcasing a plethora of colors and creative ideas as a befitting celebration of the spring season.
- Along with the flower show, a painting competition was also held, in which a large number of students participated.

Focus Area

- The two-day festival provided a platform for students, academicians, farmers, growers, and businesses associated with the floriculture industry to exhibit their finest produce and engage with flower enthusiasts.

SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL 2024-MNSUAM

The Department of Horticulture and Directorate of Estate Management, in collaboration with the Pakistan Society of Horticultural Sciences at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, organized a two-day flower show during the Spring Flower Festival on March 7-8, 2024, attracting a large number of flower enthusiasts. This event showcased flowers cultivated in Multan and provided a platform for students, academics, farmers, growers, and businesses in the floriculture industry to exhibit their finest produce and engage with fellow flower enthusiasts.



Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, along with deans, directors, and dignitaries from the business community, inaugurated the ceremony. Addressing the participants, Prof. Dr. Rajwana expressed that flowers convey a message of peace and harmony, emphasizing their role in dispelling darkness and fostering love and brotherhood in society. He highlighted the tradition of university to organize the annual flower show, which not only entertains but also provides students with opportunities to gain expertise. The festival, organized by MNSUAM, the Floriculture Research Institute Multan, Islamia University Bahawalpur, Cantonment Board Multan, Patoki Nursery, and other organizations, featured numerous flower arrangements showcasing a variety of colors and creative ideas, celebrating the spring season. Over 50 varieties of spring flowers were displayed, sourced from educational and research institutions as well as various industrial groups in the city, arranged in mounds and stalls.

SDGs :

3: Good Health and Well Being



15: Life on Land



17: Partnership for goals



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SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL 2024-MNSUAM

Concurrently, a painting competition attracted a significant number of students, with honorary shields awarded to those demonstrating exceptional skills. The grand festival received widespread acclaim and extensive media coverage from national networks such as Rohi TV, Express News, and PTV, among others. The event was also attended by Dr. Tanveer Ahmed, Chairman of the Horticulture Department, Mr. Tahir Saeed, Assistant Horticulturist at the Floriculture Research Institute Multan, Dr. Muhammad Amin, and numerous faculty members and students, further enhancing its significance and success.



SDGs :

13: Climate Action



15: Life on Land



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- ▶ MOU signing ceremony between OGDCL and MNSUAM for Miyawaki Gardens.
- ▶ Formal initiation of the project, titled "Establishment of a Miyawaki Urban Forest at MNS University of Agriculture Multan to Address Climate Change," also took place during the event.

Focus Area

The MOU aimed to

- ▶ Launch a collaborative plantation campaign focused on establishing "OGDCL growing pollinator-friendly Miyawaki Gardens."

MOU BETWEEN OGDCL AND MNSUAM FOR MIYAWAKI GARDENS

Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) and MNS University of Agriculture Multan (MNSUAM) joined hands in a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during a ceremony on March 18, 2024. The primary objective of this MOU is to launch a collaborative plantation campaign aimed at establishing "OGDCL growing pollinator-friendly Miyawaki Gardens." Under this initiative, OGDCL will provide funding support, while MNSUAM will act as the implementing partner responsible for tree planting activities. The project, titled "Establishment of a Miyawaki Urban Forest at MNS University of Agriculture Multan to Address Climate Change," was formally initiated during the event. Distinguished representatives from both organizations, including Mr. Tariq Rashid (Research Officer - ORIC), Dr. Muqarrab Ali (Project PI), Dr. Abid Hussain (Director External Linkages), and Mr. Rafiq Farooqi (Treasurer) from MNSUAM, along with Mr. Muhammad Tayyab (Regional Coordinator) and Mr. Abdur Raziq Khattak (General Manager CSR) from OGDCL, graced the occasion. The esteemed presence of Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, further underscored the significance of the event, emphasizing that this partnership will promote afforestation and ecosystem restoration.



SDGs :

3: Good health and well-being



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- Awareness about and control of the Congo virus in collaboration with MNSUAM.
- Awareness about the current status of CCHFV in Pakistan and mentioned the associated risk factors involved in the spread of the disease.
- Awareness about the effect of the Congo virus on dairy animals.

Focus Area

The Workshop aimed to

- Disseminate the findings of a research project on the Congo virus funded by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), United Kingdom.

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON EMERGENCE OF CCHFV IN ONE HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

A workshop on the emergence of the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV) from a One Health perspective was organized by the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Health Department of South Punjab, and Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) Lahore at MNSUAM on March 19, 2024. The workshop aimed to disseminate the findings of a research project on the Congo virus led by Dr. Aziz-Ul-Rahman as principal investigator (PI), funded by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (RSTMH) in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), United Kingdom. Additionally, the event raised awareness among students, faculty members, and personnel from the healthcare and veterinary sectors of South Punjab. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Vice-Chancellor of MNSUAM, Dr. Prof. Muhammad Asif Raza, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Dr. Mehboob Hussain Qureshi, Director of Vertical Programmes at the Health Department of South Punjab, Dr. Nida Shahid, JICA consultant, Dr. Furqan Shahid, scientist from VRI, and other faculty members graced the event. Prof. Dr. Rajwana highlighted the importance of the Congo virus and stressed on preventing its transmission among animals and humans, urging all faculty members to organize such awareness events for students and the community. Dr. Mehboob Hussain Qureshi elaborated on the current monitoring of infectious diseases including dengue, Congo, and tuberculosis in South Punjab, mentioning collaborative efforts with MNSUAM to control the Congo virus.



SDGs :

3: Good health and well-being



17: Partnership for goals



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ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON EMERGENCE OF CCHFV IN ONE HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Nida Shahid provided information on the current status of CCHFV in Pakistan and discussed associated risk factors in disease spread. Dr. Naheed Bano discussed the influence of climate change and the role of ticks in transmitting the Congo virus, while Dr. Furqan Shahid elaborated on its effects on dairy animals. Dr. Aziz-Ul-Rahman concluded the session by emphasizing the close relationship between the Congo virus isolated from ticks and humans. The workshop was attended by Dr. Shahid Ali, Dr. Hafeez-ur-Rehman Ali Khera, Dr. Rana Shahbakht, Dr. Ahsan Anjum, Dr. Usman Zaib, Dr. Memoona, Dr. Atif Rehman, and other faculty members.



SDGs :

13: Climate Action



15: Life on Land



Highlights

- ▶ The World Forest Day celebrations at MNSUAM, were marked by a series of impactful activities including Tree Plantation Drive, The awareness Walk, Awareness Seminar and Media interviews and Talks.
- ▶ In Tree Plantation Drive, students, faculty members, administrative staff, and volunteers joined hands to transplant 2500 plants of diverse array of fruit and forest tree species, including indigenous varieties well-suited to the local ecosystem.
- ▶ The awareness Walk witnessed participants embarking on a spirited march through the university campus to raise consciousness about the pressing issues being faced by global forests and foster a deeper appreciation for the natural world and a renewed commitment to environmental conservation.
- ▶ The Awareness Seminar educated the participants about the significance of tree plantation, proper tree care techniques, and the role of trees in mitigating climate change.
- ▶ The Media interviews and Talks conducted at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, in honor of World Tree Plantation Day were instrumental in amplifying the message of tree conservation and sustainability to a wider audience.
- ▶ Through collaborative efforts, education, and community engagement, the event succeeded in raising awareness about the importance of tree planting and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility among students, faculty, and the broader community.

WORLD FOREST DAY CELEBRATIONS AT MNSUAM

World Forest Day, observed globally on 21st March each year, aims to raise awareness about the importance of forests and trees in our ecosystems. At MNS-University of Agriculture Multan, the celebrations were marked by impactful activities organized by the Directorate of Estate Management in collaboration with the Department of Forestry. These initiatives aimed to promote tree plantation and environmental consciousness among students, faculty, and the community, aligning with the commitment of institution to environmental stewardship and sustainable development. The tree plantation drive, inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Asif Raza, Director of Estate Management at MNSUAM, was a cornerstone event conducted across various locations within the main campus and at the University Farm in Jalalpur Pir Wala. Participants including students, faculty, administrative staff, and volunteers joined efforts to transplant 2500 plants of diverse fruit and forest tree species, including indigenous varieties suited to the local ecosystem.



This initiative not only enhanced the campus greenery but also demonstrated the dedicated efforts of university to environmental sustainability. As part of the World Tree Plantation Day celebration, an awareness walk brought together students, faculty, and staff in a vibrant event dedicated to tree conservation. Participants, adorned in green attire and carrying banners advocating for tree protection, marched spiritedly through the university campus. The walk not only raised awareness about global forest issues but also instilled a sense of responsibility and renewed commitment to environmental conservation among participants.

SDGs :

13: Climate Action



15: Life on Land



Focus Area

World Forest Day celebrations aimed at:

- ▶ Raising awareness about the importance of forests and trees in our lives.
- ▶ Promoting the significance of forests in sustaining life on Earth and advocating for their conservation and sustainable management.
- ▶ Reminding the indispensable role trees play in providing oxygen, combating climate change, and supporting biodiversity.

At the MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan, this day is celebrated with fervor and dedication, aligning with the commitment of university to environmental stewardship and sustainable development.

WORLD FOREST DAY CELEBRATIONS AT MNSUAM

An informative seminar complemented these activities, educating attendees about the significance of tree plantation, proper tree care techniques, and the role of trees in mitigating climate change. Dr. Muqarrab Ali, Assistant Professor at MNSUAM, shared valuable insights and practical tips, empowering participants to advocate for tree conservation in their communities. Media talks held at MNS University of Agriculture Multan further amplified the message of tree conservation and sustainability on World Tree Plantation Day. Dr. Unsar Naeem Ullah, Additional Director of Estate Management, discussed the environmental benefits of trees and their role in combating climate change with Rohi TV. Similarly, Dr. Gulzar Akhtar, Deputy Director of Estate Management, emphasized the essential role of trees in oxygen provision, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity support during an interview with Pakistan Television (PTV) in Multan.



SDGs :

4: Quality Education

16: Peace, Justice and strong Institutions

Highlights

➤ Topic for Urdu Debate:

میرے وطن کے اداس لوگو
اتھو چلو اور وطن سنبھالو

➤ Topic for English Debate: Role of youth in shaping the future of our nation

A total of 52 students in both categories from different departments participated in the competition.

➤ Winners of Urdu Debate:

1st Position: Ayesha Latif

2nd Position: M. Tehseen

3rd Position: M. Muzamil

➤ Winners of English Debate:

1st Position: Aimen Shabbir

2nd Position: Alisha Riaz

3rd Position: M. Saqlain

Focus Area

The event aimed to:

- Foreground the historical significance and reinforce the ideology that marked the foundation of Pakistan.
- Highlight the importance of engagement of youth in shaping the future of Pakistan.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL DEBATE COMPETITION AT MNSUAM



To commemorate the historical significance and reinforce the ideology that marked the foundation of Pakistan, Debating Club organized an Interdepartmental Debate Competition titled "Izhar e Sukhan" under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmed Rijwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM. A total of 52 students from various departments participated in the competition. Addressing the audience, Dr. Usman Jamshaid, Senior Tutor at MNSUAM, and Dr. Umar Akram, Convener of the Debating Club, highlighted that Resolution Day commemorates the union of thousands of Muslims from across the subcontinent who gathered in Lahore with a singular vision, mission, and dream: Pakistan. They appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students and emphasized the importance of youth engagement in shaping the future of nation.



SDGs :

16: Peace, justice and Strong Institutions



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- ▶ Mr. Aftab Ali Shahid, Crime Scene Investigator, PFSA Multan delineated about the new intellectual horizons regarding all the domains of PFSA that can be explored in a comprehensive manner for the diverse audience.
- ▶ The procedures and services opted and delivered by the crime scene unit for the betterment of the society to control and detect crimes in a precise manner were explicated.

Focus Area

The seminar aimed to

- ▶ Emphasize the importance of modern domains of Science like Genetic Studies and Forensic Studies for the better understanding of social and cultural evils.

SEMINAR ON CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION, FINGERPRINTING & TOXICOLOGY-MNSUAM



The Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, MNS-University of Agriculture Multan, in collaboration with Punjab Forensic Science Agency, Unit Multan, organized a National Seminar on 'Crime Scene Investigation, Fingerprinting, and Toxicology'. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, chaired the event alongside Prof. Dr. Asif Raza, Dean of FVAS, and Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan, Chairman of Biotechnology. Addressing the audience, Dr. Sarmad Farogh Arshad emphasized the importance of modern scientific domains such as Genetic Studies and Forensic Studies in understanding social and cultural issues. Mr. Aftab Ali Shahid, Crime Scene Investigator in Multan, discussed the intellectual advancements within PFSA, offering comprehensive insights applicable to diverse audiences. He detailed the procedures and services provided by the crime scene unit to enhance societal security and crime detection accuracy, affirming PFSA's collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology on national-level awareness initiatives for crime scene investigations. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana commended the informative efforts of the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology and PFSA in raising public awareness and understanding of crime scene studies. The seminar concluded with the presentation of a souvenir to Mr. Aftab Ali Shahid, Crime Scene Investigator at PFSA, by Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana and Prof. Dr. Asif Raza. Dr. Muhammad Usman, Coordinator of the Biotechnology Program, extended gratitude to the students and distinguished guests for their interest and participation.

SDGs :

2: Zero hunger



8: Decent Work and Economy Growth



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- Dr. Alff presented geopolitical nuances of the Kazakhstan-China border area, shedding light on its historical, political, and economic significance.
- His talk explored the impact of Chinese development initiatives on local agricultural systems, elucidating strategies aimed at modernization and connectivity enhancement.
- Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM, lauded scholarly contributions of Dr. Alff and emphasized the importance of international collaboration in addressing agricultural challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Focus Area

The event aimed to

- Illuminate the complex dynamics of agricultural transformations in the Kazakhstan-China Borderlands, underscoring the imperative for interdisciplinary research and collaboration in addressing contemporary agricultural challenges.
- Serve as a testament to commitment of MNSUAM to fostering intellectual dialogue and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, both locally and globally.

SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE KAZAKHSTAN-CHINA BORDERLANDS AT MNSUAM

On April 15, 2024, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, hosted a seminar with an invited talk of Dr. Henryk Alff, Senior Researcher from Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Germany. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, attended as the chief guest. The event convened academia and experts to discuss agricultural transformations in the Kazakhstan-China Borderlands. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif Raza, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS), welcomed attendees and highlighted ongoing and upcoming university projects, emphasizing the significance of international partnerships in advancing agricultural research and sustainability. The presentation of Dr. Alff focused on the geopolitical nuances of the Kazakhstan-China border area, covering its historical, political, and economic significance, the impact of Chinese development initiatives, and the legacies of Soviet modernization efforts on local agriculture. The seminar drew active participation from professors, researchers, and students who engaged in lively discussions and posed insightful questions. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana commended the contributions of Dr. Alff and highlighted the importance of international collaboration in addressing agricultural challenges and promoting sustainable development. Contributions from Prof. Dr. Junaid Ali Khan, Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig, Prof. Dr. Nasir Nadeem, Dr. Tanveer Ahmad, and Dr. Umar Farooq enriched the depth of discussions.



SDGs :

2: Zero hunger



12: Responsible consumption and production



13: Climate action



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- Prof. Dr. Abdul khaliq, from Agriculture University Faisalabad, discussed the challenges and opportunities faced in the context of agricultural innovations in food security.
- Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean, FAES foregrounded the integrated and eco-friendly methods of agricultural pest control and explicated the success stories of experiments conducted at MNSUAM in this regard.
- Prof. Dr. Wajid Naseem Jatoi expressed that Pakistan is vulnerable to extreme climatic changes and unpredictable events, foregrounding that events like the Climate Change Conference would help scientists and farmers develop their own action plans to deal with the challenges facing agriculture due to climate change.
- Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM appreciated the appropriateness of timing of conference with the Baisakhi Festival and Farmers Day, which undoubtedly will be an effective platform for the dissemination of all the recommendations of this conference with the farming community in their local languages.

Focus Area

The conference aimed to

- Develop knowledge-based responses to climate change, environmental and broader sustainability challenges.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY-MNSUAM

The Department of Agronomy, MNSUAM, and Doaba Foundation jointly organized a national conference titled "Agricultural Innovations towards Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities" on April 24, 2024. Mr. Mazhar Iqbal, Deputy Program Manager, Doaba Foundation, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Chairman of the Department of Agronomy, provided an overview of the conference and thanked all organizers and sponsors. Prof. Dr. Abdul Khaliq from Agriculture University Faisalabad discussed challenges and opportunities in agricultural innovations for food security. Dr. Naveed Akhtar Siddiqui from Ayub Agriculture Institute, Faisalabad, highlighted essential agricultural measures for achieving food security. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed, Dean of FAES, emphasized integrated and eco-friendly agricultural pest control methods, citing successful experiments conducted at MNSUAM. Mr. Tanveer Zahid and Mr. Hamad Gadi proposed pathways to achieve self-sufficiency in food and nutritional security amidst changing climates based on agriculture. Prof. Dr. Wajid Naseem Jatoi noted vulnerability of Pakistan to extreme climatic changes and expressed hope that conferences like the Climate Change Conference would aid in developing action plans for agriculture. Dr. Asmat Malik addressed potential productivity concerns of pulse-based cropping systems in the context of climate change, while Dr. Khuram Mubeen presented experimental results on spate irrigation using water from hill torrents. Dr. Asif Khan discussed biotechnological advances for food security and sustainability. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor of MNSUAM, highlighted the efforts of the university in bridging gaps between industrial stakeholders, researchers, and agricultural institutions.



SDGs :

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12: Responsible consumption and production



13: Climate action



17: Partnership for goals



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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS FOR FOOD SECURITY-MNSUAM

He appreciated the timing of conference with the Baisakhi Festival and Farmers Day, noting its effectiveness in disseminating recommendations to local farming communities. MNSUAM continues to address farmers' challenges through conferences, seminars, and workshops. Prof. Dr. Nazim Hussain Labar concluded with future perspectives and acknowledged the efforts of MNSUAM and Doaba Foundation. Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar concluded the event with a vote of thanks, stressing the importance of developing knowledge-based responses to climate change and sustainability challenges. Certificates and shields were distributed to guests and speakers, recognizing the efforts of the organizing committee and the university.



SDGs :

2: Zero hunger



12: Responsible consumption and production



17: Partnership for goals



Highlights

- Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad Rajwana, Vice Chancellor, MNSUAM inaugurated the wheat harvesting and Baisakhi festival at Research Farm Jalalpur Peerwala of MNS University of Agriculture, Multan.
- Cultivation of high yielding hybrid wheat in addition to the traditional wheat.

Focus Area

- In line with its agricultural traditions, traditional Baisakhi Festival at MNSUAM aimed to encourage farmers to hope for a good harvest so they can meet the food needs of the nation.

BAISAKHI: CELEBRATING THE WHEAT HARVEST SEASON-MNSUAM

The Baisakhi festival was celebrated at Research Farm Jalalpur Peerwala of MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, held on April 25, 2024. During the inauguration, the Vice Chancellor MNSUAM, Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A. Rajwana emphasized the significance of wheat as a crucial cereal and staple crop in Pakistan. MNSUAM organized the traditional Baisakhi Festival to encourage farmers towards achieving bumper harvests to fulfill the dietary needs of whole nation. He underscored that increasing wheat production is imperative and achievable through hard work, attention, and modern production technology. He commended the efforts of the university in the wheat cultivation campaign. Addressing the gathering, Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Director of University Farms, described the challenges involved in developing the 500-acre farm at Jalalpur Peerwala. Despite these challenges, he highlighted the transformative impact achieved with guidance and support from university authorities, related offices, local and provincial governments, and the dedicated efforts of the farm management team. Within a few years, the farm now cultivates over 400 acres, with plans for further expansion. Additionally, approximately 42,000 trees of various species such as gum Arabic, lebeck, Indian lilac, Indian beech tree, moringa, pomegranate, guava, jujube, and fig have been planted along roadsides, water channels, and in areas with higher salinity, enhancing the greenery of the surroundings. Furthermore, in collaboration with WWF, 14,000 plants of guava, jaman, and jajuba have been planted on 25 acres of land. MNSUAM has also introduced high-yielding hybrid wheat alongside traditional varieties. The event saw a significant turnout of university faculty, farmers, and students.

