



# Consultative Session on Wheat Production Strategy- Season 2020-21

**Organized by:**

Faculty of Agri. & Env., Sciences &  
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Consultative Session

# "Wheat Production"

Season 2020-21

MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan  
[www.mnsuam.edu.pk](http://www.mnsuam.edu.pk)



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## Background

Wheat has always enjoyed a special policy emphasis in agrarian economy of Pakistan due to its strategic importance and importance in security perspective Pakistan. It is not only vital for food security but also important in our all rural livelihood perspective. Keeping in forth the current year shortfall in achieving wheat production targets has wheat production targets, Federal and provincial governments are working in close coordination to address the challenges in wheat production through coordinated efforts. Punjab, being the largest contributor in wheat production has been center of the focus with a special emphasis on the stakeholders from South Punjab.

A consultative session on wheat production for the cropping season 2020-21 was held in MNS University of Agriculture Multan on 27-09-2020. The session was chaired by Syed Husain Jahania Gardezi, Provincial Minister for Agriculture whereas Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister (MNFSR) was the Chief Guest. Large number of stakeholders including academia, industry, farmers and researchers participated in the meeting. The experts from academia, industry and private sector were also present for a diverse and comprehensive session outcome. The members form national media were also present for the coverage of this consultative session. List of participants' attached as Annexure – A.



## Proceedings

1. The session started in the name of Allah, **Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (VC, MNS-UAM)** welcomed the distinguished guests. He highlighted the importance of wheat in national economy and ensuring food security for a country with around 220 million population. He, with permission from the chair, opened the house for deliberations on the challenges and way forward for the coming wheat season so that sustainable supply of the wheat on affordable prices to the economy can be ensured without undermining the interest of farmers who are the key to maintain wheat production for such a huge population.
2. **Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel, Secretary Agriculture, South Punjab**, in his presentation explained the area and production trends of wheat and oil seed crops produced in the South Punjab. He shared the *wheat crop calendar* developed with the coordinated efforts of subject experts and partner institutions. He showed sanguinity towards its adoption right from the month of October so that higher wheat productivity can be ensured. He highlighted the need for promoting rust resistant wheat varieties coupled with a comprehensive crop management strategy. The role of print, electronic and social media was also highlighted a source of information towards farming community.  
**Syed Fakhar Imam (Federal Minister, MnFSR)** inquired about the *procurement of good quality seeds* of approved and rust resistant varieties. He was also interested to know about the strategies to increase area under wheat crop. Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel ensured that the agriculture department will make coordinated efforts to meets the target provided by the federal government for wheat productivity enhancement. The participants appreciated the efforts made by Mr. Ali Ateel in compiling the wheat calendar and sharing timelines for effective wheat cultivation in the south region specifically.
3. **Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali (Director, ORIC-MNSUAM)** presented the scope of wheat production enhancement through *Hybrid Wheat*. He highlighted the scope of wheat self-sufficiency through Hybrid Wheat program initiated at MNSUAM. He shared the progress made in including the results of hybrid wheat trials and multiplication plans. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali shared the statistics of yield at different trial sites with maximum yield upto 113 mounds per acre. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali in his description about project also shared with the house that hybrid wheat will stem a new era for wheat seed sector. The Pre-basic blue seed and Basic white sterile seed and Certified hybrid seed

will ensure the purity of seed to the farmers and will result in better performance in field. It was further pointed out that seed placement of wheat hybrids in the field may be done with an already tested wheat planter designed and developed at AMRI Multan.

**Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi** also lauded the efforts for the acquisition of *hybrid seed production technology* and advised that effective seed development plan be conceived for larger benefit of the farming community. He appreciated the purity trait of the hybrid seed and need of the time to feed the increasing population of the nation.

4. **Syed Hussain Jahania** opened the house for *discussion on general low productivity and high yield differentials across the farmers* within same agro-ecological region. He requested the participants to share their opinion to improve resource use efficiency including the management efficiency for improving productivity and reducing yield differentials in wheat crop.

In response to the query, **Dr. Abid Mahmood (D.G. Research)** added that main limiting factors of agriculture production depend on seed genetics, Inputs (quality and availability) and environmental fluctuations. He emphasized that availability of inputs on affordable prices must be ensured as being done in neighboring countries to increase per acre yield.

**Dr. Anjum Ali Buttar (D.G. Extension)** highlighted different problems faced by the farming community including varieties, input availability and procurement. He proposed that collective efforts of all departments is the way forward to achieve significant gains in productivity and management of field crops. He further emphasized to purchase best germplasm from the world resources to improve the genetic potential of wheat in the country.

**Dr. Asif Majeed (C.E.O., Kenzo AG)** emphasized the problem of lodging in wheat crop at the stage of maturity. **Dr. Iqbal Bandaisha (Director ORIC, IUB)** responded to the question by explaining major factors contributing in crop lodging. He described that apart from genetic characters, agronomical practices can reduce the lodging up to 10 percent whereas breakthrough can only be achieved through genetic improvements. **Dr. Javaid Ahmad (Director Wheat Research Institute)** explained the house regarding the Punjab 11 variety developed at AARI and its acknowledged performance internationally. He also added that the institute is striving to produce rust resistant varieties and requested that susceptible varieties be delisted from the approved list well before the start of sowing of crop so that losses can be minimized.

5. **Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi, Provincial Agriculture Minister** also inquired about the zoning details based on soil classification so that a proper subsidy policy may be proposed for effective use of fertilizer and other inputs. Dr. Anjum Ali Buttar (D.G. Extension) added in the discussion by putting up information regarding dissemination of effective knowledge to farmers. Proper plant population and effective methods of production were discussed among stakeholders.

**Mr. Syed Fakhar Imam** encouraged the participants to come up with a working paper entailing the dire need of development of wheat germplasm bank. This bank may serve as a source of information for further development and will keep track of the strains and varieties procured from external sources. He also encouraged the participants from the private sector to intensively bring up their breeding programs for a more competitive and valuable market output.

6. **Mr. Syed Fakhar Imam** appreciated Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel on his efforts and praised the contribution of MNS-UAM for arranging this consultative session. He acknowledged the efforts of all associated departments and ensured that his support will be readily available for the uplift and betterment of agriculture and specifically wheat crop in Punjab as it serves as the food basket for the whole country.

Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi thanked Mr. Fakhar Imam for his valuable remarks and appreciated his efforts in the field of agriculture. He also praised the efforts of all departments, that have been put forward to address the national cause of wheat production.



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## Conclusion

He concluded the session with following remarks:

- a. All stakeholders must put their collective efforts to meet the wheat production targets of the country.
- b. Agri. graduates/students from agriculture universities should be deployed in the field to communicate effective wheat sowing technologies alongside agriculture extension department to overcome the manpower constraints.
- c. He appreciated the development of wheat hybrids by MNS-UAM and added that hybrid wheat will open new horizons of wheat production in Pakistan even making it capable of addressing the food needs of neighboring countries and earning foreign exchange for national economy.
- d. Initiation of a germplasm bank is need of the time and we must secure the indigenous and local germplasm (honoring the work of national breeders/institutes) from which development can be sought at any stage of seed development.
- e. He directed DGA (Ext. & AR) to rationalize the demand of phosphatic fertilizer considering the soil and crop requirements. He assured that the matter will be taken up at higher forums to seek assistance in pricing of inputs for the wheat crop.
- f. He advised the forum that 30 November should be the cut-off date for wheat sowing and effective management of inputs such as weedicides and fungicides at proper time must be ensured by the agriculture extension department. This activity will help to improving farmer profitability and will enhance wheat production in the country.
- g. Finally, he assertively added that use of adulterated input at any stage will not be tolerated at all and culprits will be dispensed without any tolerance.

He also thanked the VC for his seamless efforts for south Punjab and appreciated the team for a very useful consultative session. Dr. Asif Ali thanked the participants and submitted reverences to Mr. Syed Fakhar Imam and Mr. Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi for their time and precious guidelines regarding upcoming wheat season. Dr. Asif Ali also thanked Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel for his support and positive vitalities. He appreciated all the presenters, discussants, and participants for their valuable contributions in the session.



1. Mr. Syed Fakhar Imam (Federal Minister, National Food Security & Research)
2. Mr. Syed Hussain Jahania Gardezi (Minister, Agriculture, Punjab)
3. Mr. Saqib Ali Ateel (Secretary Agriculture South Punjab)
4. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (VC, MNS-UAM/Project Director)
5. Mr. Khalid Khokhar (President, Kissan Ittehad)
6. Dr. Abid Mahmood (D.G Research)
7. Dr. Javaid Ahmad (Director, Wheat Research Station AARI)
8. Dr. Anjum Ali Buttar (D.G. Extension)
9. Prof. Dr. Iqbal Bandesha (Director ORIC IUB)
10. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig (Dean FoSS&H, MNS-UAM)
11. Prof. Dr. Shafqat Saeed (Dean, FAES, MNS-UAM)
12. Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali (Director ORIC, MNS-UAM)
13. Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem (Director QEC, MNS-UAM)
14. Mr. Imran Mehmood (Director P&D, MNS-UAM)
15. Mr. Asif Majeed (CEO – Kenzo Ag)
16. Dr. Shafiq Pitafi (CEO – Suncrop Pvt.)
17. Haji Atta ur Rehman (Chairman, Allah Din Group)
18. Mr. Shahzad Sabir (Director, Agri. Extension, Multan)
19. Syed Zafar Yab Haider (Subject Expert, MNSUAM / Ex. DG (PW&QC))
20. Mr. Naveed Asmat Kahlon (Information wing)
21. Rao Shahid Akhtar (PCPA)
22. Mr. Saad Akbar Khan (Director, Ali Akbar Group)
23. Representative from BASF
24. Representative from Crop Life
25. Dr. Usman Jamshed (Assistant Professor, MNSUAM)
26. Mr. Shoib Nasir (Lecturer, MNS-UAM)