

MANGO
MISSION
2030

Center of Agricultural
Sustainability for South Punjab
(CASS)



MNS University of Agriculture, Multan (Pakistan)

Ph.:+92 61 9201680, +92 61 9200224, +92 61 9201682

URL: www.mnsuam.edu.pk

2ND ONLINE WEBINAR ON MANGO 2020 UNDER COVID19 PANDEMIC

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Prof. Asif Ali recited few verses from Holy Quran and welcomed all the participants. In his inaugural remarks, he briefed all the participants about the objectives of the mango online meetings. He explained that purpose of the meetings was to provide a platform for stakeholder's dialogue to discuss, develop policy notes for advocacy and resolve the issues faced by the mango industry under the prevailing conditions of COVID-19 pandemic. These include developing SOPs for mango labour involved in picking to packing and logistics, export and domestic marketing, postharvest processing and value addition. Prof Asif Ali indicated that the webinar series has been appreciated by many other stakeholders and there are many who want to participate. Mango growers, processors, exporters, researchers, extension workers and academia from Punjab and Sindh participated in the webinar.

3rd May 2020 at 11:30 am online zoom cloud hosted by MNS-UAM

EXPORT UNDER COVID-19 LOCK DOWN, TARGET MARKETS AND ITS MECHANISM

Syed Mehmood Nawaz Shah, mango grower from Sindh and Chairman 'Sindh Abadgar Board' briefed that currently Pakistan ranks at 6th and 8th position with respect to mango production and export in the world, respectively. He added that under COVID-19 pandemic, Pakistani mango export can be managed by negotiating charges of per kg mango with the operating air freighter as they have doubled the charges from last year. Further, the curtailed export of the mango can also be compensated through alternative land routes, if the Govt. keep the borders of Iran and Afghanistan open for two days a week. Moreover, he suggested that Pakistani mango exporters should target the European markets, as these markets currently lack their Indian mango or mangos from other competitor countries. "There is need to target export of mango pulp and individually quick frozen (IQF) mango under the changing consumer trends but we lack the infrastructure" he added.

Major Tariq Khan, Mango exporter highlighted the various challenges during the export of mango specially peel colour development and cosmetic quality of mango cultivar 'SB Chaunsa'. He suggested that under the scenario air freight operators especially PIA should reduce per Kg charges of mango export. He emphasized the involvement of all the players of mango supply chain for mango puree and pulp processing.

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NOTE. 2

QUARANTINE MEASURES FOR LABOUR IN ORCHARDS UNDER COVID-19

Dr Waqar Ahmad, Director-Agri Technologies USAID, described in detail various SoPs of farm labour health and hygiene under COVID-19. He was of the view that it is the obligatory duty of farm owner or farm manager to ensure the health and hygiene of labour handling mango from harvest to export. For this purpose, a daily roster proforma should be maintained indicating body temperature, blood pressure and any signs of chest infections. The labour should be segregated in group of five from harvesting to packhouse and cold storage. Each group can wear shirts of different colours or display different colour badges. Every labour person should have access to potable water, toilet and first aid box, further, frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizers should be encouraged. Under the current situation, all these measures are only adoptable subject to upgradation of utensils and PPEs including thermal guns, N95 mask, hand sanitizers, tools disinfectants, plastic gloves etc. 'Farm visitors SOPs should also be displayed at each farm and entry of any visitors/ workers with ailments should be restricted. Further he suggested to compose 3-5 minutes video clip as a guideline for labour. **Dr. Irfan Baig** presented the Urdu version of farm labour SOPs. He divided the pamphlet into three scenarios i.e SOPs and management for available farm labour, management and SOPs for alternate labour force and under partial deficiency of labour force. He further added this pamphlet will also be translated in 'Sindhi' language as well.

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NOTE. 2

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTION OF MARKETING UNDER COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Prof. Dr Aman Ullah Malik, value chain expert from UAF explained in detail mango supply chain management and presented innovative solution of marketing under COVID-19 pandemic. He shared some useful posters and equipment for ensuring labour health and hygiene. He highlighted the code of practices of mango harvest and postharvest management encompassing mango fruit maturity, harvesting, transportation, sorting, de-sapping, hot water dip, grading, packing pre-cooling, fruit ripening to export transport. He also shared the URLs of these mango code of practices. He quoted some examples of initiatives taken by India, Thailand, and Zimbabwe to promote the produce sale under the current pandemic including online home delivery through post and use of mobile fruit store in cities. He also cited example of Ivory Coast where Govt. has allowed movement of Agri. Labour with approved SoPs. He further suggested to create Pakistan Mango Industry Association consisting of growers, processors, exporters, research experts and extension workers.

POLICY
NOTE. 2

FURTHER DISCUSSION ON EMERGING ISSUES UNDER COVID-19

Mr Abdul Moeed, Agro Processing Facility, Multan briefed about the demand of fresh mango for pulping with the view that the demand of fresh mango has been drastically curtailed for pulping while demand for 'Dusehri', 'Langra' and 'Ratool' is at almost zero level. He suggested to approach ban the chemical and synthetic pulping through Punjab Food Authority (PFA) to improve the sale of fresh mango pulp. Dr Waqar, however, disagreed.

Madam Rabia Sultan asked about banning of chemical pulping. She was briefed that only PFA can ban such chemical pulping which uses carcinogenic chemicals like sodium meta bisulphite

Mr Asif Hyat Tipu, Mango consultant put forward the suggestion of representative of PHDEC that the export of mango should be started from June1, 2020 instead of May 20, 2020. Syed Mehmood Nawaz was not agreed with the suggestion and was of the view that the fruit maturity is not delayed from that of last year. He was of the view that harvesting of early variety has already been stated in lower Sindh. So, there is no reason that the export should be delayed.

Dr Zulfiqar Yousafani, Sindh Abadkar Board briefed the participants that their request to get permission for translocation of skilled labour from Punjab has been turned down by the Sindh Govt cabinet and still banned.

Madam Rabia Sultan, suggested to pursue the federal Govt. which is very serious to promote agriculture sector, for promoting and subsidizing fresh and processed mango exports to the destinations of Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asian States (through Land routes) under the COVID-19.

Follow up Plan

1. Preparation and dissemination of precautionary protocols for mobility and working conditions of the labour in local language
2. MNS University of Agriculture will take the lead in preparing a short video demonstrating safety guidelines for labor movement, farm operations observing health advisories and decent working conditions. Dr. Waqar Ahmad will extend technical cooperation in this regard. The video will be completed within next week for broader circulation. The forum will approach Federal government for extending rebates to promote mango export to Iran and Afghanistan through land routes.
3. Rana Asif Hayat will lead the work on preparation of SoPs for promoting online sale of the mango as an alternative and to promote branding. MNS-UAM agreed provide e-commerce platform for such activities.
4. Dr. Aman Ullah will present a model (including SoPs) of creating a platform which can formally be used to bring industry and other mango stake holders together.
5. A team comprised of University experts (including Dr. Kashif Razaq, Dr. Sami Ullah and expert from FST), AFP and Food Authority will prepare a working paper for evaluating the case of use of chemical pulping. The report will be shared with all house before disseminating to policy makers.
6. Markets / stakeholders in Central Asian States will be contacted to explore the potential of frozen pulp / dried mango in smart packing. A proposal to MnFSR will be communicated separately on these aspects

List of Participants:

1. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, VC, MNS-University. of Agri. Multan
2. Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, VC, UAAR
3. Prof. Dr. Iqrar A Khan, Ex-VC, UAF
4. Prof. Dr. Aman Ullah Malik, IHS, UAF (Supply Chain Expert)
5. Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq A Rajwana, Pro-VC, MNSUAM
6. Mr. Noor Muhammad Balouch, DG Research Sindh
7. Madam Rabia Sultan, Mango Grower, M. Garh
8. Major Tariq Khan, Mango Grower & Exporter, Multan
9. Malik Zafar Mahay, Mango Grower, Multan President MMGA
10. Syed Mahmood Nawaz Shah, VP, Sindh Abadgar Board & Director PHDEC
11. Dr Zulfiqar Yousufani General Secretary Sindh Abadgar Board
12. Kashif Naveed, Mango Grower, Kabirwala
13. Mr. Ghazanfar Khan, mango Grower, Mian Channu
14. M. Waqas Zafar Bucha, Mango Grower Multan
15. Nawab Muzaffar Khakwani, Mango Growers
16. Mr. Yusuf Khan, Mango Grower
17. Mr. Jahanzeb Dharal, Mango Grower
18. Mr. Jamil Ghouri, Multan
19. Abdul Moeed , AFP, Multan
20. Dr. Waqar Ahmad, Director-Agri Technologies USAID
21. Dr Mubashar Mehdi, Supply Chain Expert, UAF
22. Mr. Zafaryab Haider, Consultant Horticulturist
23. Dr. Irfan Baig Dean Agri. Economics MNSUAM
24. Dr. M. Amin, MNS-University. of Agri. Multan
25. Dr. Kashif Razzaq, MNS-University. of Agri. Multan
26. Dr. Sami Ullah, MNS-University. of Agri. Multan
27. Dr Basharat A. Saleem, Agri Extension, Punjab
28. Dr. Azher Nawaz, Lecturer University of Sargodha
29. Mr. Allah Baksh, Nestle Pakistan
30. Mr. Javed Iqbal, MRI Multan
31. Rana Asif Hayat Tipu, Mango consultant, Multan