



Muhammad Shees

ORIC as business Hub, MNS-UAM celebrated World Bee Day.

Prof. Dr. Asif Ali is leading MNS University of Agriculture as Vice-Chancellor. He believes in this that Youth must play a pivotal role in society. He is of the view that Pakistani Youth may fulfill responsibilities more accurately if the chance is given for small Businesses. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali wants to see Pakistan's economy strong and stable by involving the Youth of our society.

ORIC MNS-UAM is working as a harbinger of positive change among the lives of Young entrepreneurship. ORIC is a platform where Youth of MNS-UAM visit and tender their innovative ideas to start a small business. It would be wise enough to call the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization ORIC of MNS University of Agriculture Multan indispensable source of harvesting entrepreneurial activities within the campus and out of campus. Business Incubation Centre of ORIC MNS-University of Agriculture Multan provides a range of training to have startups and small businesses to be a useful citizen of Pakistan. ORIC is closely working and coordinating with the Agriculture Volunteer Society to promote entrepreneurial activities within the campus. ORIC is honored to have a partnership with divergent sister organizations to educate Youth of Universities on how to be a business king.



Prof. Dr. Asif Ali
VC MNS-UAM



Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Director
ORIC

Muhammad Shees, student and member of 'AGRICULTURE VOLUNTEERS' at MNS-UAM celebrated May 20th a special day, declared by The United Nations as "WORLD BEE DAY," so that the people of the world could recognize the vital role played by BEES in agriculture towards sustaining the food supply, particularly for fruits, that we have. The world needs more BEES, while the indiscriminate application of Pesticides in agriculture is destroying the BEES.

We, at the "AGRICULTURE VOLUNTEERS" came to know of the UN declaration, just Two days before this May 20 BEE DAY, but we could not let it go for next year, and decided to do

something on that day, even if modest. Our objective of recognizing this day, here at MNS University of Agriculture Multan, was to draw the attention of my fellow students, the public, and the decision-makers to the importance of protecting BEES, in our region, and to try to increase the bee population. We realized that by simply proclaiming WORLDS BEE DAY, does neither help the bees nor increases the BEE population. So, we sprang to action, as this WORLD BEE DAY offered an opportunity, which could not be wasted.

Given COVID-19 circumstances, students away, and no public transport, we still managed a small gathering at the university, to talk and discuss BEES, so that we could latter spread the word virtually to the faculty, staff, the students of the university and possibly the public. This was arranged in the committee room of MNSUAM, in which our Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, few students, and a Honey Bees enthusiast and Beekeeper Mr. Chaudry Ihsan came from Jatoi to join us. We gathered, by still keeping the social distancing and taking preventive measures.

Luckily for "AGRICULTURE VOLUTEERS" few of our members had started honey beekeeping, for the last two years, that we already had recognized the importance of Honey BEES. Since then, we also gained some experience in hot weather beekeeping. So, our discussions were more meaningful, useful, and practical towards Honey Bees. In the meeting, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali highlighted, how Honey Bees play a vital role in the Agriculture production and that there is desperate need to save the bees, before these may become extinct from the region, or just remain a transient short period guest for the people bringing it from the North. He also shared the steps, that the university is taking to save the bees and to promote growth. Mr. Ihsan, shared his experience, from the business point of view, that honey beekeeping is a good business proposition for establishing in the rural areas. It can be started with very little initial cost and can be expanded from the profits, shortly thereof. It also saves the biodiversity. Moreover, he was of the view, that beekeeping could easily be handled by the rural women with very little extra effort, from their daily routine. Our Honey Bee Keeper group member students also shared their stories and issues, as part-time Bee Keepers.

We, as agriculture students know about pollinators, and that bees, especially play a very important role, being predominant pollinator. Bees pollinate the World flowers, which leads to the source, that provides the world with fruits and food. There is in saying, attributed to Einstein, "If the Bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, men would only have four years left to live." This could indeed become a reality, and it could happen, in our region, given the heavy use of chemicals, that is increasing day by day in the crops, which also kills the beneficial insects, including our little BEES.

My students friends at the university, took Honey Bee Keeping rearing as an entrepreneurship off-shoot of AGRICULTURE VOLUTEERS, with support from ORIC (Office of Research and Innovation), and our mentor, Mr. Arshad Jamil, with whom we have a unique relationship of remote mentoring from the USA, and periodic visits. Somehow, the arrangement works, probably because, he is a hard taskmaster. Samiullah Siprawas the first student at MNS UAM, initiated apiculture for the very first time in this region. He is our pioneer and has been quite successful, despite being a fulltime student. He has, since, expanded, has more Hives and selling MULTAN FRESH, a brand of honey, that we are promoting. Now, that he is graduating, he is taking it a full-time business and encourages others towards beekeeping.

There has been a little hiccup, with two other students taking it, but it was bad timing of hot summer, which failed the venture. Since, then, there has seen development of a much better three-storied Ventilating type Hive, and more students have taken interest and started Honey Bee Keeping. Asif Shahzad, from Duniapur District Lodhran, is impressed with this business, as it also relates to some biodiversity savings and profits. He started this with one HIVE, and expanded to Four Hives, just in one season. Another student, Mubashir from Shujabad, came to know about this from the platform of Agriculture Volunteers and started bee Keeping. He has also an interest to develop a honey extractor, as his apiary is giving good production. Waqar Haider, from Kabeer Wala, also heard this from the same platform and now getting his first production of Honey. Haseeb Habib is right from Multan, has taken up honey beekeeping, and wants to start a Carpentry shop for making the high-quality Hives. To all new students, Mr. Ihsan from Jatoi, has been excellent support, in helping out with Queen Bees, Bee colonies, and tips for beginners. These are the examples of how AGRICULTURE VOLUNTEERS at MNS-UAM has been working for saving the bees and saving this biodiversity. We, on our own, take it very seriously, as our responsibility to plant, the bee-friendly trees, to provide better pasture for bees and other pollinators and increase the varieties and quantities of the fruits, the vegetables, and the food on our tables. Post Script: Beehives could also be kept in the city, over the rooftop. Bees fly quite a bit. People do it as a hobby, and for good quality Fresh Honey, in many cities of the world.

About Writer

The writer student of MNS University of Agricultural Multan and Chairperson of Agricultural Volunteers Society.