

# NEWSLETTER

**BALUCHISTAN AGRICULTURE COLLEGE, QUETTA.**



**Vol: 02 2016**



# MISSION STATEMENT

To impart quality education, knowledge & skills to the agriculture professionals for meeting the future developmental needs & challenges of diversified agriculture.

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is rapidly growing as most important tool for rural development in third world countries where most of the people are adopting these technologies for agriculture and education development. ICT in the revival of social organizations can give a new impetus to the social organizations and productive activity of agriculture which, if nurtured effectively, could become transformational factors. The 'knowledge' itself will become a technology for overall agricultural development. Agricultural extension, in the current scenario of a rapidly changing world, has been recognized as an essential mechanism for delivering knowledge/information and advice as an input for modern farming.



However it has to escape from the narrow mindset of transferring technology packages to transferring knowledge or information packages. If this can be achieved, with the help of ICT, extension will become more diversified, more knowledge-intensive, and more demand driven, and thus more effective in meeting farmers' information needs.

ICT has many potential applications in agricultural extension. It can bring new information services to rural areas where farmers, as users, will have much greater control than before over current information channels. Access to such new information sources is a crucial requirement for the sustainable development of the farming systems.

However, in Balochistan, majority of rural people still lack of basic communication infrastructure in accessing crucial information in order to make timely decisions. Studies show that farmers in Balochistan obtained agricultural information through old ICTs (Radio & Television). Lack of mobile coverage and internet facility in the remote areas, illiteracy, lack of knowledge about use of ICTs and poor economic condition are the main reasons for non-adoption of ICTs by the farmers. For the improvement of ICTs in the province, ICT literacy programs should be launched among the farmers to highlight the benefits of ICT for increasing their income and eventually improving their living standards.

**Prof. Amjad Ali**

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## **GOVERNMENT APPROVES 100 PH.D. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RESEARCHERS / EDUCATIONISTS OF THE PROVINCE**

It is a matter of great pleasure that Government of Balochistan has approved 100 Ph.D. scholarships for researchers / educationists of the province. The faculty staff of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta which has already been upgraded to Agriculture University and agriculture researchers of the Agriculture Research Wing of Agriculture & Cooperatives Department will undertake Ph.D. to enhance their capacity of teaching / research work. This program is estimated to cost of Rs. 195.6 million which has been approved by the Government of Balochistan. The initiative has been taken to celebrate 2015-16 as the year of Agriculture by the provincial government.

It is decided to send college faculty and researchers in 4 batches to do Ph.D. from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad or PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi. During the fiscal year 2016-17 first batch is anticipated to undertake their Ph.D. program.

To review the eligibility criteria, allied conditions and other cardinal requirements with university authorities, Prof. Muhammad Aslam Khan Niazi, Principal and Mr. Lutfullah Khoso, Acting Registrar visited University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi.

100 Ph.D. scholarships will result in a highly skilled workforce in the province comprising of devoted and mission oriented agriculture professionals which is considered one of the vital building blocks of any agricultural organization. Today's agricultural scientists must master of very vast array of specific strategies designed to promote and facilitate learning. As knowledge expands and the need for a competent professional workforce increases, teaching and research work is becoming more demanding and complex. It is therefore imperative that professionals of the province be trained through Ph.D. program to get their knowledge updated regarding advancement in their respective disciplines.





## **GOLD MEDALISTS GET RECREATIONAL VISIT**

Two staff members from Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta namely Mr. Atta Muhammad Babar, Assistant Professor and Mr. Arsalan Raza, Assistant Computer Operator got selected among the position holders from Universities from all over Balochistan. They were honored by the invitations from Pakistan Army, Government of Balochistan and Government of Punjab. They met Governor Balochistan Mr. Muhammad Khan Achakzai and Core Commander Southern Command Mr. Aamir Riaz. They visited Army Headquarters, Infantry School Quetta,

Balochistan Assembly, Civil Secretariat Balochistan, Governor House, Punjab Assembly, Wagha Border Lahore, different universities of Lahore and CM House Punjab.

They were awarded souvenirs by Chief Minister Balochistan and Chief Minister Punjab.

This recreational visit program / study tour of selected students of Balochistan was organized in the month of May, 2016 by the Headquarter Southern Command under Youth Forum of Balochistan. The aim of the program was to promote exposure of promising youth of the province through interaction with Pak Army, Government of Balochistan, University of Punjab, LUMS & Government of Punjab.





## **COLLEGE STANDS 2nd IN IG FC FIRING SHOOTING COMPETITION 2016**

Youth Firing Competition was held under the sponsorship of FC Balochistan in April 2016 to encourage youth to show their talent and skills. Male & female students from 7 universities participated in the competition. Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta participated in Youth Firing Competition first time and demonstrated marvelous skills. The students of the college took part in various categories of shooting and got 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the competition.





## **COLLEGE BECOMES MEMBER OF SUNAR NETWORK, PAK**

Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta has been selected as Interim Executive Council Member of Scaling Up Nutrition Academia and Research Network Pakistan (SUNAR, Pak). Advisory Group has selected the college keeping in view thematic expertise and geographic representation. Among various categories the college portrayal falls in Agriculture and Food Sciences Group.



SUN Academia & Research Network Pakistan (SUNAR, Pak) is an indigenous effort of Pakistan with the support of Micronutrient Initiative (MI) that aims to organize and utilize the expertise of academia and researchers for scaling up nutrition in the country.

Pakistan will be the first country globally to have such a network. SUNAR, Pak will promote sustainable improvement in nutritional status of the people of Pakistan by creating a strong, coordinated and vibrant research & academia forum. Pakistan joined the Global Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in 2013.

Prof. Amjad Ali, being the representative of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta has participated in the launching ceremony of SUNAR, Pak on May 30, 2016 in Islamabad. He has attended 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Council (EC) Meeting of SUNAR on August 15, 2015 in Islamabad. In the meeting strategic priorities of SUNAR, Pak for 2016-17 have been formulated.

## **PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION STRATEGIC REVIEW**

The Planning and Development Department organized a provincial consultation on Food Security and Nutrition from 31<sup>st</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 at Quetta Serena Hotel. The aim of the event was to inform the Strategic Review on Food Security and Nutrition which started in Pakistan under the leadership of the Government of Pakistan and is supported by the United Nations.

Prof. Amjad Ali, Chairman Department of Agricultural Extension participated in the Provincial Consultation. He represented the focus group on Agriculture. In discussion, civil society organizations, local associations and academia, line departments and relevant government organizations have come up with policy lines.



## **PROMOTION / POSTING OF COLLEGE FACULTY**

2016 has been tremendous year for the academic staff of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta in terms of their promotion / posting. On the recommendation of Provincial Selection Board, the Government of Balochistan has promoted the following faculty against the posts as mentioned below:

1. Prof. Muhammad Aslam Niazi,  
Promoted to the rank of Principal.
2. Mr. Asad Khan,  
Promoted to the rank of Professor,  
Division of Basic Sciences.
3. Mr. Abdul Razzaq,  
Promoted to the rank of Professor,  
Division of Crop Production.
4. Dr. Muhammad Sharif,  
Promoted to the rank of Assistant Professor,  
Department of Soil Science.



With prior approval of the competent authority, the Government of Balochistan, Agriculture & Cooperatives Department has transferred and posted the following Lecturers as Assistant Professor:

1. Mr. Zulfiqar Ali,  
Department of Plant Pathology,  
Division of Crop Protection.
2. Mr. Sikander Shahzad,  
Department of Physics & Computer Science,  
Division of Basic Sciences.

3. Mr. Muhammad Saleem,  
Department of Food Technology,  
Division of Horticulture & Crop Improvement.
4. Mr. Atta Muhammad,  
Department of Agriculture Economics,  
Division of Social Sciences.
5. Mr. Ajmal Khan,  
Department of Botany,  
Division of Basic Sciences.
6. Mr. Nasrullah,  
Department of Mathematics,  
Division of Basic Sciences.
7. Mr. Saqibullah,  
Department of Statistics,  
Division of Social Sciences.
8. Mr. Ahmed Jan,  
Department of FRW,  
Division of Social Sciences.
9. Mr. Attaullah Lashari,  
Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics,  
Division of Horticulture & Crop Improvement.



## **PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY IN TRAININGS / SEMINARS**

Mr. Mansoor Rasheed, Mr. Attaullah Lashari, Mr. Suleman Aziz & Mr. Muhammad Yousaf, Lecturers have participated a day long workshop on “Importance of Statistics in Agriculture Research & Technical Writing” for research scientists on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 under the project titled “Production Enhancement of Field Crops through Research Innovation in Balochistan” at Agriculture Research Institute, Quetta.

Mr. Atta Muhammad & Mr. Sikander Shahzad, Assistant Professors have attended two days training course on Result Based Monitoring & Evaluation (RBME) at Balochistan Agricultural Research and Development Center, Quetta in the month of April, 2016. The training course was organized by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad under the Capacity Building Program of the scientists / researchers on Result Based Monitoring & Evaluation Framework which PARC has developed and adopted with the help of International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal. This training was arranged under the Agricultural Linkages Program (ALP) of PARC.

College faculty attended “One Day Seminar on Bio safety and Quality Assurance” on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering & Management Sciences (BUIITEMS), Quetta organized by Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Life Sciences & Informatics.

Dr. Muhammad Sharif Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science has attended three days Hands on Training Workshop on “Agricultural Production Systems sIMulator (APSIM)” from August 30 – September 01, 2016 organized by Climate Change Chair, U.S.-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The objective of the workshop was to train and provide information on the use of APSIM for evaluating vulnerability and adaptation to climate in agriculture sector. It was great opportunity for the young faculty to learn about impact assessment of climate change and to improve the productivity of agricultural systems using APSIM.

Mr. Muhammad Suleman Jaffar Associate Professor, Mr. Atta Muhammad Assistant Professor and Mr. Saqibullah Lecturer have attended “Two Days Training on SPSS (Statistics Software)” on 24-25<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at Balochistan Agricultural Research and Development Center, Quetta organized by CIMMYT.

Mr. Atta Muhammad & Mr. Sikander Shahzad, Assistant Professors have undertaken “One-day Consultative Workshop on Policies for Research Commercialization” on 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at University of Balochistan, Quetta. The event was organized by Pakistan Council for Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology).

### **PARTICIPATION IN LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF AIP E-Pak Ag WORKING PAPER**

Prof. Amjad Ali has attended the launching ceremony of the AIP e-Pak Ag working paper entitled “Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Agricultural Extension in Pakistan: Findings and Proposed Next Steps” on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at NARC, Islamabad. The paper summarized the findings of the series of workshops that have been conducted throughout the country by combining them with observations from many other ICT meetings that E-Pak Ag have been involved in.

The Agricultural Innovation Program (AIP) is a USAID (United States Agency for International Development) -funded initiative that is managed by CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center) and implemented in partnership with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), the International Livestock Research Institute, (ILRI), The World Vegetable Center, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the University of California, Davis. The University of California, Davis significantly contributes to AIP by effectively managing and directing the following essential components: 1) Perennial Horticulture; 2) Human Resource Development; 3) Vocational training; and 4) e-Pak Ag.



## **MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL FOR 21ST PPS INTERNATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC CONFERENCE**

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and on my own behalf, I congratulate Prof. Dr. Ghulam Rasool and his organizing committee for holding 21<sup>st</sup> PPS International Psychiatric Conference at Quetta from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016. I wish them all the best in their pursuit of psychological and social issues.

It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction to note that significant improvement has been made in the sphere of mental health. Steps taken in this direction are commendable. I am confident that efforts to excel in the field of psychiatric disorders will continue in future with a great zeal.

Mental health disorders are common in Pakistan, and each year substantial population suffer from one or more disorders. Maintaining emotional health can be a challenge for anyone, but is even more difficult for those who are in health profession. When we are free of depression, anxiety, excessive stress and worry, addictions, and other psychological problems, we are more able to live our lives to the fullest. Peace of mind is a natural condition, and is available to everyone.

Excessive anxiety and stress can contribute to physical problems such as heart disease, ulcers, and colitis. Anxiety and stress can also reduce the strength of the immune system, making people more vulnerable to conditions ranging from the common cold to cancer.

Psychological problems also increase the likelihood that people will make poor behavioral choices which can contribute to medical problems. Smoking, excessive alcohol or drug use, poor eating habits, and reckless behavior can all result in severe physical problems and the need for medical services.

Mental health is associated with higher productivity, better performance, more consistent work attendance, and fewer workplace accidents.



Keeping in view the modern trend to overcome psychiatric disorders, I am confident that the proceedings of conference will assist health department and facilitate to develop the professional skills and moral maturity essential in balanced and productive citizens in our society.

Furthermore, the findings can be incorporated in existing curriculum of medical professions' degree program which will help our young doctors and paramedics to adopt in their future line of duty.

## **COLLEGE BECOMES MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON RE-ORIENTATION OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH**

As per directive of Prime Minister of Pakistan, the Ministry of National Food Security & Research has initiated a consultative process to improve Agriculture Research System of Pakistan through an integrated frame-work for Agriculture Sector. The college got its place as member in the committee constituted for this purpose. To work on each of the proposed goals, the committee will develop proposal on diversification, revitalization of research institutes, re-orientation of agriculture research and for research funding mechanism. The committee is in a process to re-vitalize and re-orient Research Institutes of Agriculture on the proposed framework. First meeting of the committee has been commenced on 21-03-2016 at NARC, Islamabad.

## OATH TAKING CEREMONY OF BACASWS

An oath taking ceremony was held on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at Millan Hall, Quetta. All the elected members of Balochistan Agriculture College Academic Staff Welfare Society (BACASWS) took an oath to be active and responsible member of the Welfare Society and abide by all the rules and regulations of the society. The elected cabinet pledged to uphold the society code of conduct with a promise that they would carry out their duties with integrity, faith and excellence. The event was presided over by Sardar Muhammad Aslam Bazinjo, Minister for Agriculture. Worthy Secretary Agriculture and Cooperatives Department Mr. Abdul Rehman Buzdar, Director General Agriculture Extension, Principal Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta, cabinet members of Balochistan Agriculture Graduate Association and dignitaries from all wings of Agriculture Department were also present in the ceremony.

Honorable Minister awarded badges and souvenirs to the elected members and urged them to fulfill their duties with commitment and sincerity. He congratulated the office bearers and expressed his hope that the office bearers will work for the good of the college. Worthy Secretary encouraged the cabinet members to carry out their responsibilities to the best of their ability. At the end, the oath taking ceremony concluded with a note of thanks by Prof. Muhammad Aslam Khan Niazi, Principal Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta.

The cabinet members are as following:

1. Mr. Saeed Ahmed (President)
2. Mr. Muhammad Saleem (Vice President)
3. Mr. Muhammad Akram (General Secretary)
4. Mr. Zia-ul-Haq (Joint Secretary)
5. Mr. Attaullah Lashari (Press Secretary)
6. Mr. Arshad Ghani Khan (Finance Secretary)
7. Mr. Muhammad Azhar (Auditor)





## **SPORTS WEEK HELD AT BAC**

Sports and games impart a sense of discipline, fellow-feeling and togetherness. The spirit of competition is inculcated in most cases by sports and games. The greatest educational value of the sports and games is to provide stimulation for study and for hard work. Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta's sports week held at its campus. Indoor and outdoor sports like badminton, table tennis, football and cricket were played during the sports week. Both male and female students of various semesters took part in different games and events. Principal, Prof Muhammad Aslam Khan Niazi was chief guest at different events of the sports week. At the end of week, the prize distribution ceremony was held. Principal distributed prizes among the winners.



## **BEEF SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH GRANT**

The following students of M.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta were awarded with Balochistan Education Endowment Fund (BEEF) for financial year 2015-16:

1. Muhammad Basharat  
Department of Plant Pathology
2. Raheem ud Din  
Department of Plant Pathology
3. Chaker Ali  
Department of Plant Pathology
4. Mairajud Din  
Department of Horticulture
5. Saad Ullah  
Department of Soil Science

The above named students were selected on all province merit basis in the sector of Agriculture. They were given cheques for research grant in the ceremony held in University of Balochistan, Quetta by worthy Vice Chancellor.



## **COLLEGE FACULTY IN THEIR PERSUIT TO PH.D.**

Sardar Waseem Baran, Associate Professor, Horticulture, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Lashari, Assistant Professor, PBG and Miss. Zobia Jabeen, Lecturer, Plant Pathology are pursuing their Ph.D. from PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi.

Mr. Muhammad Amin, Assistant Professor, Entomology is doing his Ph.D. from University of Poonch, Rawalakot, Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Mr. Rehmatullah, Lecturer, Agricultural Extension is doing his Ph.D. from The University of Agriculture, Peshawar. Mr. Naeqebullah, Lecturer, PBG is in his pursuit to Ph.D. Degree Program from International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), USA.

They have completed their prescribed course work and started research. After completion of their degree program they will better serve the college as well as the Province.



## **ESTABLISHMENT OF AGRICULTURE COLLEGE AT D.M JAMALI**

Here is a great news for the people of Balochistan in general and for the people of Dera Murad Jamali in particular. The National Economic Council (NEC), Government of Pakistan has approved the establishment of Agriculture College at Dera Murad Jamali, Nasirabad under Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) 2016-17 as a new project of Higher Education Commission for Balochistan. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 500 million out of which Rs. 150 million has been allocated for the year 2016-17.

## **TRAINING WORKSHOP AT AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, FAISALABAD**

A hands-on training workshop was organized by the Biotech Chair of US-Pakistan Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture / Food Security, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. The title of the workshop was “Biotechnology for Crop Improvement: GM Crops Production, Challenges and Opportunities.” The following faculty staff of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta attended the training workshop.

1. Ms. Zahida Nawaz,  
Lecturer  
Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics
2. Muhammad Baseer Shah,  
Lecturer  
Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics.



## **FACULTY ATTEND WORKSHOP AT SINDH AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, TANDOJAM**

A four days' workshop entitled "Agricultural Production Systems Simulator (APSIM) Modeling" was organized from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2016 at Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam under DFAT-CSIRO Indus Pakistan Project. Dr. Arif Shah Kakar, Dr. Sadiq Agha, Dr. Noorullah, and Ms. Zahida Nawaz of Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta attended the workshop. The subject workshop (APSIM) aimed to simulate biophysical processes in farming systems, particularly as it relates to the economic and ecological outcomes of management practices in the face of climate risk. APSIM is structured around plant, soil and management modules. APSIM has been used in a broad range of applications including: support for on-farm decision making, farming systems design for production/resource management, assessment of the value of seasonal climate forecasting, risk assessment for policy making, and as a guide for research and educational activities.

The faculty requested the Principal Investigator of the Project Dr. Tasneem Khaliq for arrangement of APSIM workshop at Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta, he assured that they would discuss



the matter with the donor and would try to conduct workshop at BAC Quetta very soon.



## **PPO RETIRES FROM SERVICE**

On completion of 25 years qualifying service, Mr. Ghulam Mujtaba Shah, Planning and Progressive Officer, Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta has been retired from Government Service with effect from 01-9-2016. He was one of the hardworking and dedicated employees of the college. The administration and faculty wish him a successful life ahead.



## **THESIS DEFENSE PRESENTATIONS**

A formal thesis presentation ceremony was held in the conference room of the college on 21-7-2016 and 23-7-2016. The students of M.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture Session 2014-15 Batch-V majoring in the following disciplines defended their research:

- Department of Entomology
- Department of Horticulture
- Department of Plant Pathology



## **Participants of 22<sup>nd</sup> MCMC Conduct Simulation Exercise in BAC**

The National Institute of Management (NIM), Quetta is conducting 22<sup>nd</sup> Mid-Career Management Course (MCMC) from 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 for Grade-18 officers. Twenty four officers belonging to the Federal and Provincial Government and autonomous bodies are attending the course. A group of four participants of 22<sup>nd</sup> MCMC have conducted their simulation exercise in Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2016. The exercise is an integral part of their training program. During exercise the participants of the course are expected to carry out research work and make presentation on given tasks. In the conducted simulation exercise the group worked on the topic of "Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta" with reference to Agriculture Sector in Balochistan: Issues, Challenges and Way-out. The participants visited the college and collected primary data / information about the college. Besides, they also interviewed faculty staff and students.

The event was supervised by Prof. Amjad Ali, Director Advanced Studies & Research and presided over by Prof. Muhammad Aslam Khan Niazi, Principal. The faculty and students participated in the presentation. Among them supervisors and members of the supervisory committees attended the ceremony. Members of Board of Advanced Studies & Research, Prof. Hafeezullah and Prof. Qamar Raza were also present in the presentation. After each presentation question answer session was conducted. The sessions were administrated by Dr. Saeed, Dr. Zahid Hafeez, Dr. Arif Shah, Dr. Muhammad Sharif, Dr. Syed Sadiq Agha and Mr. Imran Ali Sani.





## RESEARCH AT ARI

One of the faculty members of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta Mr. Muhammad Nauman Irshad, Lecturer Department of Agronomy who is also a student of M.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture session 2015-16 has conducted his research at experimental field of Agriculture Research Institute (ARI) Sariab, Quetta during 2016. His research topic was "Evaluation of Brassica (*Brassica napus* L.) for suitable sowing time under Agro-climatic condition of Quetta." The study investigated to evaluate best time for *Brassica napus* under ecological condition of Quetta, so that its best sowing time could be utilized in future to have its maximum potential regarding yield and its other agronomic attributes. It is anticipated that the findings of his research will help to find out the best time sowing of Brassica for high yield and oil contents, and to find the economic benefit of Brassica with respect to sowing time(s) in upland cropping system of Quetta.

In turn, the findings will have significant impact in obtaining high yield of Brassica with maximum amount of oil contents. Mr. Nauman has completed his research work under overseeing of his supervisor Dr. Zafarullah Malghani, co-supervisor Syed Noor-ud-Din Shah and member Dr. Muhammad Sharif. Mr. Nauman has also successfully completed his prescribed course of work with satisfactory grading. He is now in the process of finalizing his thesis which is expected to be defended in couple of months.



## **ARRIVAL OF PROFICIENT SCHOLAR AS NEW FACULTY**

Dr. Syed A.Sadiq Agha has joined Balochistan Agriculture College Quetta on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016 as Associate Professor, Department of Agronomy. Previously, Dr. Sadiq has served in Agriculture Extension Department on various positions and attained immense experience both in the field and office management. He acquired Ph.D. from BUITEMS Quetta in Biotechnology & Informatics, whereas he possessed M.Sc. and B.Sc.(Hons) degrees in Agronomy from Agricultural University Peshawar. His research interest areas are; Dry land farming, Plant Nutrition, Post-Harvest Management and Molecular Biology.

Dr. Sadiq Agha has 9 research papers on his credit published in various journals having national and international repute, while two research papers have been submitted to Journal of Botany for publication. Besides, his book entitled “Coal-derived Humic Acid; Functions & Significance for Crops” has recently been published in collaboration with Lambert Academic Publishing (LAP) Germany. The book is available online. He has also attended numerous foreign and in-land agriculture related trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences.

Dr. Sadiq Agha has won a two years research project entitled “POST HARVEST MANAGEMENT IN DECIDUOUS FRUITS OF BALOCHISTAN” amounting PKR. 3.895 million funded by Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) under Agricultural Linkages Program. The specific objectives of the project are: to investigate the effects of different edible coating treatments on the quality and shelf life of Apple & Grapes, to impart on-farm trainings to apple & grapes growers on modern post-harvest fruit technologies, and to make aware the fruit growers regarding cold chain and value chain of apple and grapes.

As Balochistan, covering 44% of the total area of Pakistan, produces a variety of fruits, wherein apple and grapes are the important cash crops but due to insufficient innovative research work, lack of technical know-how, poor post-harvest management, and uneven marketing a noticeable quantity of these fruits (approximately 30%) is lost before reaching the prime markets.



This project aims at reducing post-harvest fruit losses through conducting research and capacity building of fruit growers. Two MS fellows will be engaged for conducting the proposed research and evaluation processes associated with post harvest handling and management as part of their thesis work and achieve the project's objectives smoothly. It is expected that this project will provide opportunities to the growers to improve their fruits' shelf life and market value consequently they would be able to receive handsome prices of their produce.

## **DEPUTATION**

After completion of three years deputation service period as Senior Scientific Officer, RRI, NARC, Islamabad, Mr. Raheel Babar, Associate Professor has re-joined college on 05-07-2016. He has been assigned duty of Head, Department of FRW as well.





## **USDA-SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED SPS TRAINING/PROJECT IN PAKISTAN**

In order to increase the technical capacity of animal and plant health officials and scientists in Pakistan, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), CABI and Texas A & M University (TAMU) started training courses in SPS measures to meet both Pakistani and international needs.

Approximately 30 Department of Plant Protection officials and other agricultural professionals from across Pakistan participated in this training course to support the Government of Pakistan's efforts to expand agricultural trade.

Dr. Arif Shah Kakar (Associate Professor) among the first officials from Balochistan who has completed 145 hours course in the sanitary and phytosanitary program. On course completion The College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences at Texas A & M University issued certificates to the successful trainees

The training aims to increase Pakistani exports by informing officials how to comply with international plant health standards. Dr. Kakar said that this training serves the dual purpose: The information/knowledge gained during the training can be utilized at academic level and dissemination of the SPS based knowledge to the staff working in plant protection /extension/research shall also carry benefit regarding the capacity building.

Similarly the SPS-based knowledge can be passed on to the growers for use during their day to day plant protection activities at field level and plant products marketing. Extension and advisory services play a vital role in the growth and development of agriculture. So service provider/traders may also benefit from the outcome of the training by improving the standard of services to be offered to the farmer and consumer. Phytosanitary (bio-security) measures at regional, national and international level can help in preventing the establishment and spread of invasive pests & diseases and as result bio-security risk associated with agro-based trade would be reduced.

## **APPOINTMENT OF RESEARCH FELLOW**

A Departmental Selection Committee's Meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016 under the chairmanship of Principal, Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta for appointment of Research Fellow under US-PCAS-AFS-UAF funded research project for the Department of Soil Science of the project entitled "Production of Sustainable Soil and Crop Management Practices under Climate Change Scenario in Upland of Balochistan." The members of Departmental Selection Committee included Head Division of Social Sciences, Head Division of Crop Protection and Principal Investigator of the project. The committee after thorough deliberation and interview has appointed Mr. Muhammad Nasir Khan as Research Fellow for a period of 3 years. He is young and dedicated scholar graduated from Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta majoring in Soil Science. He has obtained his Post-Graduate Degree from University of Poonch, Rawalakot, Azad Jammu & Kashmir.





## **TOWARDS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

The following faculty staff of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta have been nominated against 100 Ph.D. Scholarships for researchers / educationists of Balochistan Province as 1<sup>st</sup> batch for the academic year 2016-17:

S. No.	Name	Designation	Department
1	Mr. Atta Muhammad	Assistant Professor	Agricultural Economics
2	Mr. Attaullah Lashari	Assistant Professor	PBG
3	Mr. Ghulam Yaseen	Assistant Professor	Agricultural Extension
4	Mr. Nanak Khan	Assistant Professor	Agronomy
5	Mr. Ahmed Jan	Assistant Professor	FRW
6	Mr. Babar Khan	Lecturer	Food Technology
7	Mr. Muhammad Akram	Lecturer	Food Technology
8	Miss Tahira Nisa	Lecturer	Plant Pathology
9	Mr. Saeed Ahmad	Lecturer	Agronomy
10	Mr. Azhar Sahfiq	Lecturer	Entomology
11	Mr. Zia-ul-haq	Lecturer	Soil Science
12	Miss Zahida Nawaz	Lecturer	PBG

The faculty will undertake their Ph.D. Degree Program from PMAS Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. The academic staff and administration of the college congratulate them for their journey to success.

## **COLLEGE STUDENTS PERFORMED STUDY TOUR**

Educational trips can give students exposure to places they might not otherwise visit. Educational trips provide valuable educational opportunities away from the classroom, without using textbooks and other tools used in a normal college setting. Students on educational trips can often learn while having fun in a more informal environment. Taking students into a new environment gives them the experience of traveling in a group and teaches them to be respectful of the locations they visit. Study tours have always been on the top priority list of the college activities.

The students of the college performed study tour from 25-08-2016 to 09-09-2016. They were led by Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman, Lecturer of Soil Science Department. The students visited various agriculture universities and organizations of the country to get an insight into educational and research activities. They also visited famous historical places. Students took keen interest in exposure visit and described it as a fabulous study tour. This exposure visit was a great opportunity for our students to witness major ongoing activities of various renowned agricultural organizations of the country and to mould their experience in line with interests and goals.



## **CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE PROJECT UNDER US-PCAS-AFS-UAF**

Land degradation in consequence of soil erosion, less vegetation cover due to water scarcity and longer drought, weak soil aggregation due to low contents of organic matter, dust storm and mismanagement of natural resources are the most serious challenges in the up-land cropping system of Balochistan and that converting the green land into a desert. Climate change is another global issue that also affecting the Balochistan regions by rising atmospheric temperature and fluctuation in rainfall is causing hot summer, longer drought and even some time floods. There are also opportunities to improve soil properties and mitigate climate change through conservation practices by soil carbon sequestration.

Currently there is a research project of Conservation Agriculture (CA) running in the field area of Balochistan Agriculture College, Quetta under Principal Investigation of Dr. Muhammad Sharif Buzdar, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, funded by US-Pakistan Centre for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security University of Agriculture Faisalabad (US-PCAS-AFS-UAF). The success of CA depends on their long term adoption and it is not easy to conduct a long term experiment. The computer based model is a robust and a cheap decision tool to estimate long term effects of CA on soil properties and crop yield. The CENTURY carbon model is one of the most widely used in developed countries for prediction of long term effects of different soil and crop management practices on soil properties and crop yield. The objective of the research project is to predict sustainable soil and crop management practices to mitigate climate change and soil desertification in an up-land cropping system of Balochistan. The research project involves conservation agriculture practices i.e Chisel Plough (CP) and Zero Tillage (ZT) and in comparison with existing conventional tillage (CT) under fallow-wheat and sorghum-wheat cropping system and its simulated long term impacts on soil properties and crop production by computer based model.

The parameters under investigation are the concentration of different form of soil organic carbon, basic soil characteristics and crop production under conventional and conservation farming system for calibration, validation and long term simulation of CENTURY carbon model. There are encouraging results observed under conservation tillage and it is expected that this project will helpful to identify resilient land management practices to combat desertification in Balochistan and to mitigate climate change by carbon sequestration also will provide a decision tool for future strategies of soil and crop management.







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