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Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Vows to Establish Endowment Fund for Agricultural Research

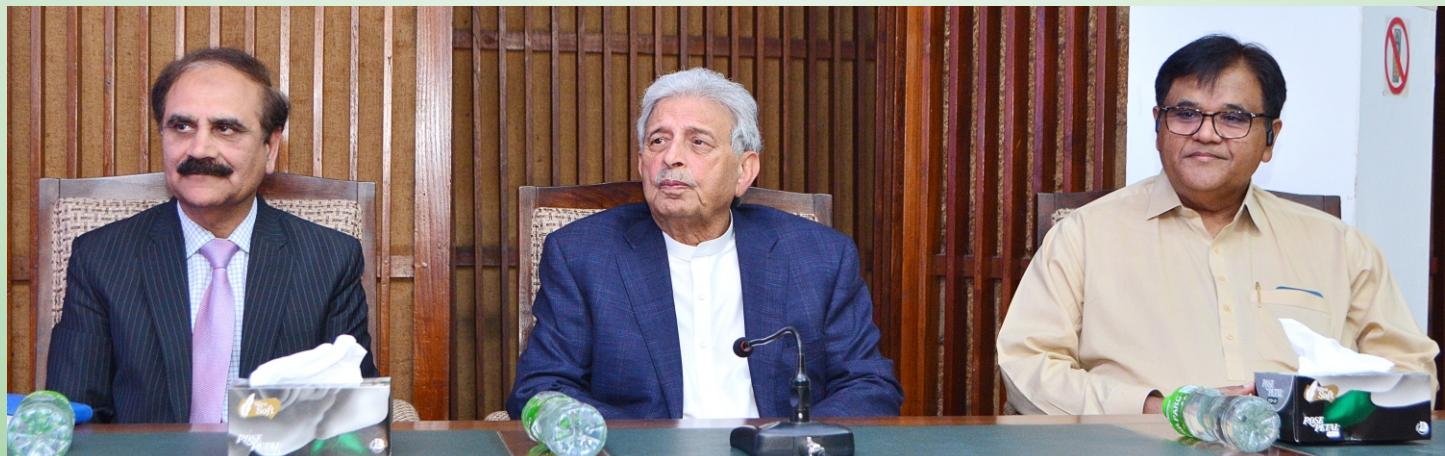
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, paid a visit to the National Agricultural Research Centre to gain insights into the cutting-edge research facilities at NARC and have a valuable interaction with the agricultural scientists of the council. The Federal Minister commended Chairman PARC and PARC's pivotal contributions to safeguarding food and nutritional security. He underscored the historical resilience of agriculture in boosting national economy during periods of economic turmoil. The Minister affirmed that the current government is steadfast dedicated to transform the agricultural landscape of Pakistan, emphasizing ongoing initiatives to support agricultural research and technological advancements in agriculture sector to enhance crop

productivity, as in the past. Recognizing food security as a global imperative, the Minister highlighted the significance of Agricultural research institutions in addressing the critical challenges of climate change. He emphasized the indispensable role of continuous financial support to research in driving technological progress and innovation, not only in agriculture but in other sectors as well.

Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali expressed gratitude to the Federal Minister, members of the media, and scientists for their proactive involvement in promoting food and nutritional security. He highlighted the fundamental role of research as the cornerstone of scientific advancement, technological innovation, and emphasized the necessity of investments in research endeavors. Dr Ali said

that the facilitation of researchers and scientists is crucial to optimizing the potential of young researchers. It is imperative for young agricultural scientists to engage in collaborative efforts with international institutions and researchers to enhance their knowledge base. Chairman also highlighted PARC's comprehensive presence across all ecological zones in alignment with varying climatic conditions.

During his visit, the Minister was briefed on the innovative research initiatives being undertaken at NARC, including the National Institute of Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), Wheat Speed Breeding, and the Plant Genetic Resources Institute. Members from PARC's Board of Governors, distinguished agricultural scientists, and media personals were also present at the occasion.



Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research sitting on stage along with Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC and Mr. Arif Niaz Arain, Member PARC Board of Governors during his visit at NARC



PARC is Striving to Achieve Self-reliance in Pulses, Dr. Ali

ISLAMABAD: Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) meeting of Pulses held at the PARC concluded with the unanimous recommendation of ten high-yielding pulses varieties poised to revolutionize agriculture in Pakistan. Pulses play a crucial role in global food security and nutrition of the country. Pakistan needs 1.56 million tons of pulses annually. We have become self-sufficient in mung production during 2021-22 which was 0.263 million tons against the total requirement of 0.180 million tons. Now the country is focusing on increasing the production of other pulse crops, such as chickpea, lentil and mash bean. The meeting was attended

by representatives from the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSC&RD), Ministry of National Food Security & Research, as well as scientists from pulses research institutes across the country. Member Plant Sciences Division, PARC, Dr. Imtiaz Hussain presided over the VEC meeting. Dr. Muhammad Mansoor, National Coordinator Food Legumes, PARC, Islamabad presented 10 candidate varieties before the committee. After detailed deliberations, VEC recommended 10 pulses varieties that included 05 chickpea and 01 mung bean variety of NIAB, Faisalabad, 01

lentil and 01 mung bean variety of Pulses Research Program, NARC, Islamabad, 01 mung bean variety by Pulses Research Institute, AARI, Faisalabad and a mung bean variety of NIFA, Peshawar. This achievement is due to the consistent backup support by PSDP, Pulses Project "Promoting Research for Productivity Enhancement in Pulses" to its research components throughout the country.

The Chairman VEC, in his concluding remarks, stated that high yielding, disease and climate resilient varieties play an important role in improving pulses productivity.

PARC-KOPIA Organized a Three-Day International Training Workshop on Modern Breeding Technologies in Cattle

A three-day international training workshop on modern breeding technologies in cattle was organized at the Animal Reproduction & Genetics Program, ASI, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad. This workshop was jointly organized by PARC and KOPIA (Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture) under the patronage of Dr. Ghulam

Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC, as part of the futuristic project entitled "Breed Improvement through Efficient Artificial Insemination Services by using Korean Holstein Sexed Semen in Cattle".

The workshop aimed to advance the knowledge and train human resource in modern breeding technologies for cattle vis-a-vis controlled breeding, artificial

insemination, in vitro embryo production and transfer, DNA microarray, genome editing, and ex situ conservation.

The technical sessions of the three-day workshop featured lectures and practical sessions led by world-renowned Korean expert Dr. Sung Jong Oh, Director of KOPIA, Uzbekistan, and Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi. The sessions

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Dr. Cho Gyoung-Rae, Director KOPIA-Pakistan Centre, Dr. Shehzad Asad, Director General, NARC, Dr. Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Member Animal Sciences Division, PARC, Dr. Aish Muhammad, Project Coordinator KOPIA during an international Training Workshop on Modern Breeding Technologies in Cattle jointly organized by PARC and KOPIA at NARC

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Two-day Hands-on Training on Milky and Rishi Mushroom Commercial Business Farming

A comprehensive two-day hands-on training was held from June 5 to 6, 2024, at FQSRI, PARC-SARC, Karachi in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology, (FUUAST), Karachi, aimed to spread awareness and provide practical training on the spawn production and cultivation of milky and rishi mushrooms. Dr. Uzma Sitara, Senior Scientific Officer, FQSRI, PARC-SARC, served as the Training Resource Person.

The primary objective of the training was to educate faculty members, students and interested growers about the techniques and business prospects of mushroom farming. The focus was on two types of mushrooms, milky mushrooms and rishi mushroom known for their nutritional value and medicinal properties respectively. Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri (DG, PARC-SARC) and Mr. Parwaiz Ahmed Baloch (Director, FQSRI, PARC-SARC) during the inauguration session extended their thanks to all participants and organizers for making the event a

success. They reiterated the potential of mushroom farming as a sustainable and profitable venture and encouraged ongoing participation in future training programs. All trainees actively participated in various activities, including substrate preparations (utilizing wheat straw and sawdust) with chemical and non-chemical treatments, tissue culture, autoclaving, inoculation, spawn preparation, growth room management, and mushroom harvesting.

The event concluded with a formal ceremony, Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri and Mr. Parwaiz Ahmed Baloch extended their gratitude to the participants, organizers, and the chief guest for making the event successful. Dr. Zakir Hussain Dahri, appreciated the collaborative efforts of PARC-SARC and FUUAST. He emphasized the potential of rishi mushroom farming as a commercial crop commodity and highlighted its dual benefits, generating income for farmers and

enhancing dietary practices with its medicinal properties. Additionally, Mr. Mohd Rafeeq and Miss Neeha Ashfaq, two growers who completed a two-week mushroom training course at PARC-SARC, shared their insights with participants, with plans to initiate commercial mushroom farming in Karachi. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zahid, Dean of Science and Technology at FUUAST, and Dr. Sajid Jahangir, Registrar of FUUAST, expressed their gratitude to the participants, organizers, and management teams of PARC-SARC and FUUAST. They highlighted the importance of introducing mushroom farming in both urban and rural areas of Sindh province. They also pledged their full support to uplift agri-business-related activities. The event underscored the potential for Rishi and Milky mushroom farming to become a significant agricultural venture in the region, promoting economic development and improved dietary practices.



Two-day Hands-on Training on Milky and Rishi Mushroom Commercial Business Farming 5 & 6 June 2024

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mainly focused on estrus synchronization, artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, multiple ovulation and embryo transfer, DNA microarray technologies, ex situ conservation in cattle. The workshop also included inter-active sessions among the participants and

experts regarding genetic improvement of non-descriptive cattle in Pakistan. The way forward of this workshop emphasized the dire need to devise strategies to improve the genetics of non-descriptive cattle through short and long-term planning with the application of modern breeding

technologies in particular artificial insemination and embryo transfer. The short-term strategy should involve crossbreeding non-descriptive cattle with exotic high-producing cattle, while the long-term strategy should be focused on the development of composite dairy cattle breeds.



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Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC addressing the National Consultation Workshop on Adopting Food Systems Transformation into Curriculum as Chief Guest. The workshop was jointly organized by GAIN, NAEAC and HEC.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC addressing the Annual Rice Research Planning & Review Meeting at NARC



Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali in a meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Kohsar University, Murree, Dr. Syed Habib Bukhari to discuss matters of mutual interest at PARC HQs Islamabad on 25-06-2024.



A group photo of chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali alongwith the participants of the Mid-Career Management Course from National Institute of Management, Lahore and senior scientists & researchers of PARC at NARC Islamabad on 25-06-2024.



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali Presenting PARC Shield to Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain During his Visit to NARC Islamabad.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC in a meeting with honorable Member, National Assembly of Pakistan, Dr. Nafeesa Shah during her visit at NARC. Dr. Shehzad Asad, Director General, NARC Dr. Ishaq Mastoi, Director, Planning and Research Monitoring Cell are also present in the meeting.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC addressing Training workshop on Enhancement of Agricultural Productivity by Different water efficient Techniques at NARC, Islamabad on 20-05-2024



Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali chaired the National Seminar on "Validation & Establishment of Intensive Production Packages for High Value Fishes" at NARC, Islamabad. DG NARC Dr. Shehzad Asad, Member Animal Sciences Division, Dr. Syed Murtaza Hassan Andrabi, Director ASI, Dr. Zia ul Hassan and Senior Scientific officer, ASI, Dr. Rehama Kausar, also present at the occasion on 29-05-2024.