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National Nematological Research Centre graded to ISO certified Institute

National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC) University of Karachi arranged the program of certificate distribution ceremony on the successful completion ISO certification requirement of (ISO 9001: 2015).

Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi, Prof. Dr. Ajmal Khan was the Chief Guest while Dean Faculty of Science, Directors, Chairpersons, teachers and students attended the program.

Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC in her welcome address briefed the guests about the quality policy of NNRC that include the diagnostic and advisory services, agricultural research and educational programs with the highest levels of skill, professionalism and ethical practice. Mr. Engr. Zahid Shoaib Kambho, Chief Executive (ACE Management System Consultant) talked about the significance of the ISO certification and its execution in all disciplines of life.

In this context NNRC has also arranged the awareness session for ISO certification. Participants belonging to different disciplines took keen interest how to upgrade their departments, institutions for ISO certification. Later on Vice Chancellor, University of Karachi expressed his feelings and conferred good remarks. In the end, VC distributed the certificates to the participants. Afterwards, Vice Chancellor and other guests visited the different labs of the NNRC while Dr. Shahina Fayyaz in brief narrated the achievements of the Centre to them.

Glimpses of ISO certificate distribution ceremony and labs visit.

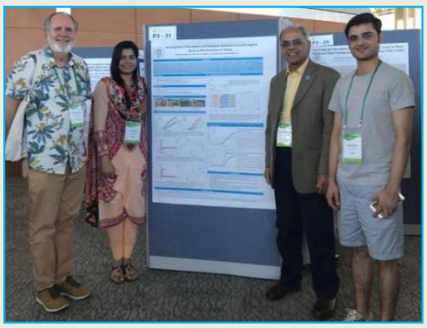
CONFERENCES ATTENED

IRAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The 1st international Exhibition and Festival on New Urban Technologies (ICS 2017) was held at Isfahan University, Isfahan during 4-6 August, 2017. Number of countries participated in the conference, displayed their products and shared their ideas and knowledge. Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, President, ECOSF and Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN), Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz, Director, NNRC, Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanam, Research Officer and Mr. Sagir Hussain, a Ph.D. scholar from National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi attended the conference. During the exhibition NNRC demonstrated its innovation of Entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) as Bio-pesticides for the biocontrol of insect pests of agricultural crops. The purpose of this conference was to share the new technologies and nano technologies all over the world.

2017 Asian Conference on Plant Pathology at Jeju, South Korea

Prof. Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, President ECOSF attended the "2017 Asian Conference on Plant Pathology (ACCP)" held during 13-16 September, 2017 at Jeju, South Korea. The conference was organized by Korean Society of Plant Pathology in collaboration with Asian Association of Societies for Plant Pathology covering over a vast area like Plant Pathology, from diagnosis to biotechnology. Dr. Soomro represented Pakistan and delivered the country report entitled "Status of crop disease management in Pakistan.



6th International Conference on "Plant Health for Sustainable Agriculture", Multan

Pakistan Phytopathological Society arranged the 6th International conference on "Plant Health for Sustainable Agriculture" A focused approach for food security under changing climate at Department of Plant Pathology, Bahaudin Zakariya University (BZK) Multan, and Central Cotton Research Institute (CCRI) Multan during 20-22 November, 2017. During conference national and international Scientists and Researchers participated and presented their research findings through oral presentations and posters. From National Nematological Research Centre University of Karachi Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz (Director, NNRC), Dr. Tabassum Ara Khanum and Mr. Sagir Hussain also participated in the conference by their oral presentations on different topics. Root-knot nematode: threat to sustainability of agriculture" was the topic of the talk of Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz. Dr. Tabassum presented her research on "Usage of biological control agent for improving plant health for sustainable agriculture" and Mr. Sagir Hussain shared his research findings on the topic of "Occurrence and distribution of *Qunisulcius capitatus* from different districts of Gilgit-Baltistan" with the participants.

6th International Conference on "Plant Health for Sustainable Agriculture", Multan

VISITS TO NNRC

- Dr. Sohail Ahmed, Director Atomic Energy Pakistan (AEP) and Dr. Saddaf National Institute of Blood Disease (NIBD), visited NNRC. Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz and her staff welcome them and arranged the visit of different labs of the centre. Prof. Dr. Shahina talked and discussed on matters of mutual interest.
- Mr. Tamoor Khan Qamberani Assit. Prof. HoD, Plant Protection, Lasbela University of Agriculture Water and Marine Science, Balochistan visited NNRC with their student. Dr. Nasira Kazi and Dr. Tabassum briefed them about nematodes problems and their damage in different crops. Students were also shown the different molecular techniques used in the molecular identification of entomopathogenic nematodes.
- Miss Durr-e-Shehwar, Campus Incharge and Miss. Sabeen Fahad, Science teachers of Suffa Saviour School with their students visited NNRC on 12 December, 2017. Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz well come them. Dr. Salma Javed and Dr. Nasir Kazi briefed them about nematodes and arranged the videos of nematodes. They visited to different labs of NNRC.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

National nematological research centre University of Karachi (NNRC) facilitated the internship and workshop programs for the Scientists, Researcher, Students and farmers of the country and international level about nematodes. Different Universities students came and completed these knowledge able programs for the fulfillment of the degree.

Two students of Final year Biotechnology department University of Karachi, Ms.Sidra Asgher and Ms. Muneba Urooj and two students of 3rd year Agriculture Department, Plant Pathology came to NNRC for internship to the fulfillment of the Master degree. Dr. Nasira Kazi and other staff assisted them during the internship program.

SURVEYS

National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi conducted and arranged regularly the survey programs for different locations of agricultural field crops, marine and sea sites of Pakistan. In this connection following sites were surveyed:

- A team of NNRC visited to survey the cotton growing areas of different districts viz., Tando Allayar, Umercot, Mirpurkhas, Mathyari and Sangard, Sindh Pakistan, during 12- 15 October, 2017. Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed (Ph.D) student along with Mr. M. Naseem and Mr. M. Yasir collected the soil and root samples.
- Two students of Biotechnology, Sidra Asgher, Muniba Urooj along with Mr. Sagir Hussain Ph.D student NNRC and Mr. M. Faizan Lab attendant survey the vegetable growing area of Syed Abad, Baldiya town Karachi on 11th October 2017. Sidra Asgher working on the plant parasitic nematodes of maize plants while Muneba Urooj on the plant parasitic Nematodes of spinach plants.
- Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyay, Director, NNRC visited Jamshoro Agricultural University Sindh, Pakistan on 24th November 2017 for the viva of a Ph. D student and Mr. M. Faizan, Lab attendant also accompanied her for sampling of cropping areas of University.

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **27-28 March, 2018**

Ecosystem and Habitat Management: Research, Policy, Practice at: Worcester University, UK

- **11 - 13 April, 2018**

Advances in Plant Virology at: Jurys Inn, Birmingham, UK

- **22-23 May, 2018**

Soil Improvement: Impact of Management Practices on Soil Function and Quality at: Game and Wildlife Trust, Loddington, Leicester UK

- **29 July - 3 August, 2018**

International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) on "Plant Health in a global economy at Bostan", USA.

- **9-13 September, 2018**

European Society of Nematologists will organized a conference during 9-13 September, 2018.