

**AGRITECH**

Profitability of intercropping in autumn planted sugarcane

Sugarcane is a profitable cash crop in Pakistan and plays an important role not only in agriculture but also in industrial economy of country. Pakistan ranks 5th in the world inf.....

**AGRITECH Pg2**

Endoparasitic threats to layer industry in Punjab

During the last few decades, poultry production has become an important sector of the livestock economy worldwide. In Pakistan, every rural family and almost every 5th urban family is associated with poultry production. According to a survey report, about 66 per cent of Pakistan natives are deficient in their proteins diets, whereas, the available proportion is 61.69 g/person/day, which is far behind the actual protein requirement (102.7 g/person/day). Ever increasing prices of mutton and beef encourage the poultry production.....



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**AGRITECH Pg5**

Eating poison thru food in Pakistan

I love food but recently, I started becoming scared of food as well, especially after reading the World Bank report of Pakistan strategic country environmental assessment, 2009. Healthy food not only offers our body the energy and regulates nutritional requirements that a body needs to function, rather provide some side-by



health benefits as well. For a healthy life span, we need definitely healthy food. But the question arises; do we take healthy meals regularly? With all the required.....

**ENVIROTECH Pg5**

Why Pakistan is a weak environmental performer?

Are we Pakistanis aware to evaluate our environmental performance? Are we living in a green land country which is famous due to its large mountainous ranges and diverse topography? Are we putting our plans and policies for getting a sustainable environment? Can we think about a vision of our



future environment by holding nonfunctional analytical monitoring units due to non-funding? The answer is simple; unfortunately we are a weak environmental performer. Traditional environmental issues like.....

## Experts call for strategic approach on environment impact assessment

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** South Asian environment experts have said that the negative impacts of climate change in the region can be lessened only after developing a structured as well as collective approach through strategic environmental impact assessment. They emphasized to also take all stakeholders along in devising an effective policy to ensure environment protection which is costing especially Pakistan heavily.

The speakers were expressing these views at a two-day South Asian Environmental Assessment Conference (SAEAC13) recently held in Islamabad which was attended by a large number of experts and delegates from South Asian and other countries.

The conference, jointly organized by the Government of Pakistan and IUCN, also came up with a declaration calling for a shift from solely looking at Environmental Impact Assessments on individual projects to the idea of Strategic Environmental Assessment which builds environmental assessment into a nation's policy and programmes.

The event was a major initiative of the National Impact Assessment Programme (NIAP) - a joint programme of the government of Pakistan and IUCN that aims to contribute to sustainable development in Pakistan by strengthening EIAs and introducing the concept of SEA into Pakistan's development planning process. The programme is being funded by Embassy of Netherlands and technical assistance is being provided by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). SEA helps ensure that environmental considerations play a more effective role in policy development.

"Because the linkages between environmental, social and economic



factors are better understood and addressed, policies, plans and programmes have a greater likelihood to contribute to sustainable development," they elaborated.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the chief guest, Sartaj Aziz, Adviser to the PM on National Security and Foreign Affairs, said, "The most important challenge is to strike a balance between rapid development and maintenance of environmental integrity while use of environmental impact assessment is one such important step."

He said, "Pakistan took this step some 30 years ago by making it into a law. In addition, we are a party to many international treaties and conventions related to the environment. And for implementing these treaties

and conventions, we have enacted appropriate legislations, and established and strengthened many institutions ranging from basic research to applied technologies."

Citing the Strategic Country Environmental Assessment Report of 2007, an expert said, "The estimated that environmental degradation is costing the Pakistan's economy 6 per cent of the GDP or 365 billion rupees per annum - with greater likelihoods the figure has increased since then."

Speaking on the occasion, Zahid Hamid, Minister for Science and Technology, underscored the need for focusing on climatic issues, and added, "This conference has ignited considerable interest in the subject of environmental assessment, and today we are reaffirming our pledge to work

more strategically and more responsibly towards shaping our future development." He said that one of the key objectives of the Conference was to create the right enabling conditions for cross-fertilization.

In his remarks, Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative of IUCN Pakistan, said that Pakistan is early in introducing mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment at a national level, "and we hope that we will also be the ones with the support of the government to help introduce the Strategic Environmental Assessment at the policy level."

South Asia is home to approximately 1.6 billion people most of whom live in diverse communities and are reliant on the environment and ecosystems for sustenance.

## PTA directs cellular companies to shut immoral night packages

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has directed the mobile companies to discontinue night packages which are considered against the norms of social structure and moral values of the society.

"The issue of foreign SIMs has been referred to the provincial governments and the Ministry of Interior is also considering taking measures against them," said Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shaikh Aftab Ahmad informing the National Assembly during the question hour.

He said that a number of complaints had been received against these packages from various quarters.

Cellular Mobile Operates (CMOs) have offered differ-

ent kinds of packages for general public and mostly these packages are offered for day and night time.

The minister said that during the night the availability of network is usually more as compared to day. Therefore, in order to gain maximum, CMOs offered more attractive packages during the night.

Sheikh Aftab said that the packages include both voice as well as data packages. However, it was observed that these packages are objectionable.

He further said that in this regard the PTA also received a number of complaints from various quarters including Human Rights Cell of Supreme Court of Pakistan, Standing Committee.

## More efforts needed on climate change, energy

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** Experts from Pakistan and India have called for promoting low carbon energy sources, conservation of biodiversity, enhanced water-use efficiency and building resilient communities and networks to cope with the threat of climate change.

They were speaking at a plenary session titled "Indo-Pakistan Dialogue on Climate Change and Energy" organised by the SDPI and HBS in Islamabad.

The experts were of the view that governments and civil society in both countries must work together to cope with the escalating pressures of climate change by turning the challenges into opportu-

nities at policy level.

Environmentalist Dr Shaukat Hameed Khan while talking about the energy crises in Pakistan and India suggested that both the countries need to work together to ensure universal access to sustainable and affordable energy.

Scientist Ali Tauqeer Sher said that though climate change is a global issue, policymakers eschew making it a priority on their domestic agendas.

Zeenat Niazi from New Delhi, who has been working on development alternatives for the past three decades, stressed on the need to explore alternative energy sources at local level to replicate it in other parts of the country.

## More investments in IT sector needed

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** Pakistan is lagging behind from other countries of emerging economies vis-a-vis investment in information technology (IT), as due investment is not being made here with regard to automation and IT sector as an industry.

"With the issuance of 3-G license in Pakistan in March 2014, there will be visible impact on transformation. Naveed further said the Punjab government is moving in right direction vis-a-vis adoption of latest technology," said Naveed Siraj Country Manager Intel Pakistan Corporation, while talking to media.

While briefing media persons on Thursday, Naveed maintained that although efforts are underway to move ahead in the field of information technology but still much more is needed to achieve growth and increased productivity.

He was of the view that automation of transport sector in Punjab would also bring positive results both for the convenience of public and

increasing revenue through introduction of e-ticketing.

"Not only Punjab Chief Minister is very responsive to the modern day needs but there is will and commitment at official levels to introduce



new technologies. The patronage of Punjab government in this regard is much better when compared with other provinces," he said.

In 2013 Intel made smarter, faster and more secure computing possible through the integration of revolutionary technology

## Telecentres to be set up to provide e-services in rural areas

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** The establishment of Telecentres across the country is direly needed in order to serve the neglected and unprivileged population of rural areas in all provinces. These Telecentres would offer many services such as E-learning, E-commerce, E-agriculture and verification/registration of SIM cards, ID cards through NADRA. E-health services would also be provided to the people of rural areas subsequently.

Minister of State for IT Anusha Rehman said this while chairing a recently held meeting in order to review the proposals regarding establishment of Telecentres in rural areas.

She further stated that Telecentres would offer local community with state-of-art computer equipment and broadband facility but also be able to generate employment.

## PRAC rises to get increase in crop production

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** The Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has retrieved the coordination system for research and development among the public

presiding over a meeting of "Oilseed Crops Cooperative Units" at here PARC HQs.

Oilseed crops experts from various federal and provincial research organisations par-



research institutes at federal and provincial levels, private sector, academia and NGOs for high crop production for the betterment of farmers and rural community.

"PARC will extend all possible coordination to NARS for the improvement of oilseed crops in the country through germplasm acquisition and distribution, holding of planning meetings, travelling seminars and capacity building of the NARS partners," said Dr. Munir Goraya, Member (Plant Sciences Division) PARC, while

participated in the meeting and shared their knowledge and experience.

Dr. Goraya urged the scientists to have in depth discussion on the constraints and issues, highlighted by participants during meeting and devise national collaborative strategies to address them.

Dr. Azeem Khan, Director General NARC highlighted the issues of availability of certified seed of varieties/hybrids. He urged to have co-ordinated efforts to enhance the supply of certified seed.

## Mobile banking poses operational risks: SBP

**STAFF REPORT KHI:** Mobile banking creates a heightened level of potential operations risk due to which the banking system despite its major transformation remains restricted in its outreach.

"Solutions that work in wired networks may not be sufficient to address risks for application in a wireless environment and the transfer of information from a wired to a wireless environment can create additional risks to the integrity and confidentiality of the information exchanges," said Ashraf Mehmood Wathra, Deputy Governor SBP, while speaking at the 8th International Information Security Conference recently held in Karachi.

The conference was organized by Total Communications in collaboration with PISA.

There are five key principles guiding technology risk management in Mobile Financial Services: confidentiality, integrity, availability, authentication, and non-repudiation, he explained

adding, "These have been embedded in our regulatory framework for branchless banking."

"In a population of 185 million, there are only 32 million deposit accounts and 6 million borrowers. On the



contrary, the number of mobile phone subscribers has crossed 130 million across all economic and geographic segments," he said.

Ammar Jaffri, President of PISA, in order to counter and compete with criminals, we need to create warriors in Pakistan as well, as the developed and developing world is doing.

## Nature lovers clean Margalla Hills trail

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** More than 100 nature-loving students from different departments of the NUST have recently collected garbage from the Margalla Hills Trail-3.

This exercise was part of the celebrations of the 'Mountain Eco-friendly Walk' organised in connection with the 3rd Pakistan Mountain Festival, an annual advocacy and awareness raising festival by the DEVCOM-Pakistan to commemorate the International Mountain Day.

The day is an opportunity to create awareness about the importance of mountains to life, to highlight the opportunities and constraints in mountain development and to build partnerships that will bring positive change to the world's mountains and highlands.

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AGRITECH

# Profitability of intercropping in autumn planted sugarcane

By Mubashar Nadeem, Ehsanullah, Shakeel A. Anjum, Mohsin Tanveer and Umair Ashraf



Mubashar Nadeem

**SUGARCANE** is a profitable cash crop in Pakistan and plays an important role not only in agriculture but also in industrial economy of country. Pakistan ranks 5th in the world in terms of area under sugarcane, 11th by production and 60th in yield. It provides employment to nearly 1.5 million people. Its share in GDP and value addition is 0.7 per cent, 3.2 per cent respectively, while per capita sugar consumption is 25-30 kg/year. Its production was reported 62.5 million tons for the year of 2012-13.

Average size of land holdings of Pakistan farmers is decreasing day by day due to constant increase in human population. Therefore, in order to meet the ever-increasing food demand such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, sugar is of major importance. This is long duration crop which occupies the land for more than 12 months from sowing to harvesting; in this situation medium and small farmers cannot afford to wait for such a longer period due to the poor economic conditions as well as higher pressure for food to feed their families. Consequently, they tend to reduce the cultivation of sugarcane and increase per unit area for other crops.

Since increment in the area under these crops is not

feasible due to limited availability of agricultural land, the only option is to increase the crop productivity on the existing land. In this modern era of quick and substantial technological change in the production systems of both in irrigated as well as in rain-fed areas of Pakistan.

Moreover, the evinced intercropping has one of the most efficient and profitable production systems throughout the sugarcane growing areas and particularly for medium and small land holders with minimum land disturbance and inputs resources.

Intercropping has been recognized as a potential system for the augmentations of productivity over space and time in subsistence farming situations. There is generally a trend toward high yield under intercropping. The productivity of land could be improved significantly by growing intercrops in the space left between sugarcane rows. There will be a greater opportunity to grow successful intercropping during the early growth stages of cane. Because sugarcane crop remains in the field for more than 12 months and the space between sugarcane rows range from 50 to 90 cm providing sufficient possibility for plentiful weed growth which draws huge amount of nutrients and moisture from the soil. Hence, more space and availability of sunlight for a longer period in the early phase of sugarcane crop provides an opportunity to grow successfully intercrops without any negative impact on sugarcane which not only suppress the weeds

capturing the incoming sunlight more effectively so minimum sunlight radiation will be available for germination of weeds.

September sown sugar-

rif seasons. Autumn-planted sugarcane is very appropriate for intercropping because of its slow growth rate during the winter due to occurrence of low temperature. This

Food legumes (pulses) are the big source of vegetable protein in Pakistan. While per capita consumption of legume in Pakistan is found 15.7 kg per annum. Major

15 billion per annum. There is a continuous increase in the import of food legumes.

Lentil ranks second as food legume in winter after chickpea in Pakistan. Mostly grown in all provinces but major contributing province is Punjab. The production as well as area under production has been decreased which is about 40 per cent mainly due to shifting of farmers from main lentil areas to other crops. The area under cultivation of lentil during 2012-13 was 19.6 hectares while the yield was 9.7 tons. Total area under major food legumes in the country is about 1.5 million ha. The lentil cultivated on 5 per cent of the total area under food legumes and contributes 5 per cent to the total pulses production.

Lentil could be a best option for intercropping in autumn planted sugarcane. The total area under sugarcane is approximately 1 million hectares out of which one-fourth is autumn planted. This autumn planted sugarcane has great potential for intercropping of lentil. So, lentil crop as intercrop in autumn planted sugarcane can not only increase the output per unit area, but also can provide mid-season income which eases the burden on the already depleted income of the farmers and can provide them with an option for better input management for remaining sugarcane growing season.

The authors are associated with the Agro-Biology Laboratory, Department of Agronomy, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.



**There is generally a trend towards high yield under intercropping. The productivity of land could be improved significantly by growing intercrops in the space left between sugarcane rows. Because sugarcane crop remains in the field for more than 12 months and the space between sugarcane rows ranges from 50 to 90 cm providing sufficient possibility for plentiful weed growth which draws huge amount of nutrients and moisture from the soil**

cane plantation occupies more area as well as more duration compared to February sown so farmers have no chance to grow any other crop both of the rabi and kharif

period can safely be utilized for growing appropriate rabi intercrops which can mature at the end of April without causing damage to the main sugarcane crop.

food legumes of Pakistan are chickpea, lentil, mash bean and mung bean. Currently Pakistan is importing 0.336 to 0.52 million tons of food legumes worth of Rs. 12.7 to

By Dr. Tabassam Fatima and Dr. Muhammad Sohail Sajid

AGRITECH

# Endoparasitic threats to layer industry in Punjab



Dr. Tabassam Fatima

(5 million) breeding stock. Out of 32 million layers, 61 per cent is in Punjab, 32 per cent in Sindh, 5 per cent in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa while 2 per cent is in Baluchistan. At present, poultry production is sharing 1.1 per cent in the total GDP, while 4.8 per cent in agricultural GDP. During the past year (2011-2012), meat production from poultry was estimated as 834 million tons of the total meat produced in the country in which share of commercial birds was 75.7 per cent while that of domestic birds was only 25-28 per cent. Total egg production was 13144 million in which shares of commercial and domesticated layer birds were 58.4 per cent and 41.6 per cent, respectively. More than 1.5 million manpower is engaged with this industry in Pakistan to run their families.

Gastrointestinal (GI) parasitism (caused by helminths and/or protozoa) is a potential threat in layers (Gallus domesticus) causing huge economic losses in terms of impeded growth, reduced weight gain, lowered egg production, loss of meat production, waste of feed, cost of labor, equipment as well as control, treatment and eradication measures. Clinical picture of GI parasitism includes: loose droppings, intestinal obstruction (heavy worm burden), anaemia, lowered blood haemoglobin concentration, cachexia and nervous manifestations. Necropsy examination of infected birds reveal nodular, hemorrhagic and ulcerative enteritis, atrophy of villi, formation of granulomas in the duodenum and desquamation of epithelial cells.

Among helminths, cestodes are the most prevalent (52 per cent), followed in order by nematodes (16 per cent) and trematodes (less than 1 per cent). Infections with protozoa are common in poultry that may range from mild to severe resulting in the disease. Among GI tract protozoa, coccidia are of unquestionable significance.

Other well-documented protozoa of GI tract in layers includes: Histomonas meleagridis; transmitted by cecal worm Heterakis gallinarum causing black head disease in turkeys.

An overall prevalence of all kinds of parasites in the

Epidemiology of parasites changes from time to time. Recently, a descriptive epidemiological study was conducted to investigate the spread of parasitism in layer birds for a period of one year (from March 2012 to Febru-

ary 2013) in the department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. More-over, information collected on the associated risk factors may be helpful in providing a sustainable preventive regimen for the small holder layer farmers of the district according to its geo-climatic

birds in soiled feeders, dusty feed and grains having developmental stages of parasites, watering the birds in soiled waters, open housing with soiled floor and lack of biosecurity measures have been found positively associated with the disease occurrence in the layer birds of district Faisalabad.

Following are some recommendations to the farming community in order to reduce the risk of GI parasitism:

1. Short-Term Recommendations
  - i. Use of anthelmintics before the start of summer and mixed coccidiostats in the feed for endoparasitic control to prevent the horizontal transmission of infection (if any).
  - ii. Drinkers and feeders should be clean, better to use automated systems. Try to adopt floor rearing in closed housing.
  - iii. Birds should be kept separate according to their age groups. Litter material should be dry. Maintain recommended humidity and temperature in the shed according to age of birds.
  - iv. Susceptible birds must be screened for as early as possible.
  - v. Culling of infected flock as early as possible and clearing of shed.
2. Long-Term Recommendations
  - i. Attention on vaccination development and implementation of regimen against parasitic diseases. Personnel having expertise should be hired to work on this specific aspect.
  - ii. Wide-scaled awareness campaign for sustainable parasitic management.
  - iii. Loans should be given to small holders to run large scale farming.
  - iv. Regular monitoring of government farms is necessary.

The writers are associated with the Department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.



**An overall prevalence of all kinds of parasites in the indigenous and exotic layers was investigated which ranges from 1 per cent to 85 per cent. Factors associated with GI parasitism include the species, rearing system, climatic conditions and the geographical location. Diversity of intermediate hosts in the transmission of helminth infections in layer birds necessitates the taxonomic identification of the parasitic diversity over a period of years for planning specific control measures**

indigenous and exotic layers was investigated which ranges from 1 per cent to 85 per cent. Factors associated with GI parasitism include the species, rearing system, climatic conditions and the geographical location. Diversity of intermediate hosts in the transmission of helminth infections in layer birds necessitates the taxonomic identification of the parasitic diversity over the period of years for planning specific control measures.

ary 2013) in the department of Parasitology, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. Of 1996 birds of different farming systems screened, 746 (37.37 per cent) were found infected with GI parasitism (helminths and/or protozoa). Four species of parasites were procured; Ascaridiagalli, Heterakisgallinarum, Reillitnatetragona and Eimeriatenella. The results of this study provide the diversity of endo-parasitic fauna in the layer population

conditions. On the basis of the results driven, it was concluded that: 1. GI parasitism is prevalent in the layer bird population of district Faisalabad. 2. Laying birds (25-72 weeks) are more prone to GI parasitism in study area. 3. Higher incidence of GI parasitism was observed during the summer with a peak in July. 4. Different husbandry practices including manual method of feeding the

EdTweet

Exploiting the ECOSF potential!

Science and technology cooperation among the Muslim states has never been a new phenomena, especially since the inception of Western approach to keep the developing (Muslim) states at bay in this important sector, irrespective of the fact that most of the world renowned personalities in the fields of science, technology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, mathematics etc. are from the Muslim world. The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), whose charter was formed under the Izmir Treaty 1997 with its Secretariat in Tehran, has proved to be an important body of the ten Muslim countries of the Central Asian Region. However, its mandate is confined only to taking a number of steps to the benefit of the people of these countries by designing ways and means to pool up the technical and financial resources for such benefits. The science and technology development is at a fast track especially in the developed world which has prompted the Muslim states to establish a platform where they could pool up their scientific and technical resources for their own development. ECO Science Foundation, formed a couple of years back with its headquarters in Islamabad, has emerged as a potential platform for the Muslim countries, where they could promote and encourage science and technology, research & development activities and exchange relevant experiences as well as knowledge. With Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as its members, the ECOSF can also provide a solid base for sustainable and wider cooperation which the Muslims hardly achieved in the last century. Pakistan, which is fast exploring all available resources to promote science and technology in addition to ICTs, can play a leading role in imbibing the required spirit among the ECOSF member states. Since the ECOSF is not at its full operations right now, there is a dire need to ensure that it come into practical phase with full potential and in this regard, the all available assistance on the part of the government of Pakistan would be a major factor. Though Pakistan has set a bench mark for enhancing integration among ECOSF members through improving regional collectivity, co-operation and interaction by road and rail links, however, it needs to do more on science and technology promotion in ECOSF states. The Muslim world has a lot of potential in almost all development sectors, the point is to inculcate their relevant experiences and knowledge and need to arrest the opportunity available in the shape of ECOSF.

EdMail

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The opinion and views expressed in these letters are purely of the public and do not necessarily reflect the policy of the newspaper.

Blocking websites and cyber technology

IN THE past few years, increased taxes and poor law and order situation in the country has resulted in losses for cellular network operators, while the ban on Internet contents has also decreased revenues of ISPs and submarine fibre optic cable operators in the country.

Much has been said about all this and other challenges facing the telecommunications industry but the nation has another challenge awaiting, and that is cyber crime law.

Pakistan must align its relevant local laws and collaborate globally. Individuals, private corporations and government organisations are becoming targets of cyber crimes.

At the international level, we know that that America's National Security Agency (NSA) was spying on Pakistan through the Internet and on-line communication.

Our Senate Committee on Defence and Defence Production has also identified cyber warfare as a new, non-military security threat to the country. In short, technology and deep penetration of Internet usage has introduced problems spanning from petty cyber crimes to grave international issues.

Moreover, YouTube, now banned in Pakistan, was once widely used for educational purposes. Google has very little to lose from the ban of YouTube since the revenue it derived from Pakistan's digital marketing is comparably insignificant.

It is Pakistan that loses out and suffers. On top of all that, the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority (PTA) deployed the grey traffic monitoring system that detects illegal international voice calls and automatically blocks the

IPs not in PTA's white list. Now white-listing of IPs is being done across the country but this process has also been reported to be causing problems for telecommunications companies and their customers.

On its transparency report webpage, Google discloses the information regarding requests received from governments and actions it takes in response to such requests.

Google's community guidelines and violation of local laws usually form the basis of content removal. However, the government is finally working on new legislation to deal with cyber crimes.

The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications has taken up the long pending cyber crime bill to finalise it. This brings us the opportunity to define our local laws keeping in view the present and future challenges. This will pave the way to deal with issues at the international level.

Google states that 47 YouTube videos from India were restricted from local view because they violated local (Indian) laws. Objectionable content that we are unable to filter, a specific webpage or a particular video, can be removed by Google given that our local laws are streamlined in the light of such challenges.

In a press statement, Google had declared it an objective to offer local versions of YouTube but for that they look at local laws. We need to take the correct measures rather than blocking websites and IPs.

We need to define laws that cater for future challenges and provide an atmosphere for investment. Legislation is the need of the hour; transforming challenges into opportunity is a choice.

AMMAR KAZI Islamabad



By Dr. Hussain. H. Rizvi

AGRITECH

# Eating poison through food in Pakistan

I LOVE food but recently, I started becoming scared of food as well, especially after reading the World Bank report of Pakistan strategic country environmental assessment, 2009. Healthy food not only offers our body the energy and regulates nutritional requirements that a body needs to function, rather provide some side-by-health benefits as well. For a healthy life span, we need definitely healthy food. But the question arises; do we take healthy meals regularly? With all the required nutrients? Contamination free? Unfortunately, the food we use to take every day is contaminated with poison (pesticides). We are not only threatened by their toxicity but unaware too, as we use it without thinking about the whole processes by which it is prepared and brought to us; they not only deteriorate our health but also the natural resources (soil, water) and ecosystem. There is no ambiguity that if we are taking unhealthy food that will diminish the quality of life which sometimes really make difficult to live in severe conditions.

A very simple and common disease caused is cancer, it's quite difficult to verify whether the food is healthy or not at the time of purchasing. Visibility of the food cannot assure its contents. Besides, one thing can be sure and that is the source. Source elucidate that the food come from conventional agricultural practices or organic methods.

Now days, the purpose of agriculture farming is to provide more yield in shortest time rather than quality of the product. To attain the maxi-

mum yield, excessive number of pesticide sprays has been done in almost every crop. Especially in Pakistan there is no quality control department that assures maximum residual level (MRL) for pesticides before they arrive in the market for the consumers. So farmers seek to get maximum yield for which they commonly apply number of pesticide spray sometime before sending it to the market.

In 2050, 9-10 billion people are expected to live on this planet. While the soil we plant our staples in or try to feed our live stock is going to be depleted of its nutrition will further erode. Besides this, due to pesticide runoff, the ground water is getting contaminated seriously that will pose adverse problems for drinking purpose and agriculture use.

Pakistan is facing a severe problem of high prices chemical fertilizers in national market. The raw material like rock phosphate is depleting at faster rate. The high prices synthetic fertilizers are beyond the purchasing power of poor farmer of Pakistan and this situation is further augmenting. Hence, it is need of the time to introduce alternate farming technologies which are cost effective and sustainable for both productivity and fertility (NARC, Islamabad). It has been argued that agricultural production has to increase globally to supply the food required for the estimated over nine billion people by 2050. Increasing supply logically has two axes: either via intensification (increasing output over the same area) or via intensification (bringing more land into agricultural

production). With agricultural intensification and land-use change being the major drivers for biodiversity loss, this will undoubtedly have a heavy impact on wildlife and the environment.

Organic farming is widely regarded as a more sustainable farming system than conventional agriculture because it produces food while conserving soil, water, energy and biodiversity, although 'sustainability' is a concept defined in many ways and with multiple currencies (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, synthetic inputs, land use and biodiversity). Organic yields are globally on average 25 per cent lower than conventional yields according to a recent meta-analysis, although this varies with crop types and species and depends on the comparability of farming systems. Hence, it is questionable whether the environmental performance of organic farming is still better if related to the unit output per area.

Pesticides are synthesized to kill the pests that harm different crops but the mode of its action is not specific. Sometimes, these pesticides harm the beneficial pests of crops and humans too. The pesticide exposure is dangerous in many ways for human beings. Residues of pesticides in common food (acute) can cause many problems equally in infants and adult human beings. Direct exposure to pesticides can cause serious health damages (asthma, allergies, hypersensitivity, cancer and hormones disruption).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are three million cases of pesticides poisoning each year

and up to 220, 000 deaths primarily in developing countries. Different pesticides have different effects in their mode of action, uptake by the body, metabolism and toxicity to humans. World health or-

ganization in 2001 classified different pesticides according to their toxic effects as Class-I (Extremely hazardous), Class-II (Slightly hazardous) and Class-III (slightly hazardous).



**Purpose of agriculture farming is to provide more yield in a shortest time rather than quality of the product. To attain the maximum yield, excessive number of pesticide sprays has been done on almost every crop. Especially in Pakistan there is no quality control department that assures maximum residual level for pesticides. So farmers seek to get maximum yield for which they commonly apply number of pesticide spray sometime before sending it to the market**

ganization in 2001 classified different pesticides according to their toxic effects as Class-I (Extremely hazardous), Class-II (Slightly hazardous) and Class-III (slightly hazardous).

Pakistan is an agriculture based country, however, lack

of knowledge, careless attitude and appalling safety practices in handling of pesticides pose a serious health risks to our farmers. Pesticides residues including Cypermethrin, deltamethrin, diazinon, mono-

the agro-ecosystem but also increases the bio-diversity, biological cycles, and micro-organisms activities thus help in leading to the sustainable agriculture.

Organic farming is one

improve soil moisture and nutrient retention. The food and agriculture organization (FAO) proposed "The World Food Summit Plan of Action (1999)" in recognition of the importance of alternative sustainable agriculture practices such as organic farming. Organic farming is an integrated farming system which involves both technical aspects (soil, agronomy, weed and pest management) and economic aspects (input, output and marketing as well as human health). In developing countries, the contribution of organic farming is increasing to reduce their problems of food security, health of farmers and valuable and pesticide residual free products that could be accepted in international market. Organic farming is rapidly increasing in the world with total area of 1,798,395 ha and Asia is at the highest level (619,439 ha) among Africa (549,958 ha), Europe (291,451 ha), Latin America (315,889 ha), North America (16,659 ha) and Oceania (14,138 ha). In Asia, Pakistan is at 7th position in context of organic farming's area (249 ha) and China at the top with 19,00,00 ha while India at the 2nd position with 10842 ha.

According to the World Bank study of 2009, the urgency of addressing Pakistan's environmental problems has probably never been greater. Conservative estimates suggest that environmental degradation cost of the country is at least 6 per cent of GDP, or about Rs 365 billion per year. The most significant causes of environmental damage identified and estimated in this study are (i) illness and premature mortality caused

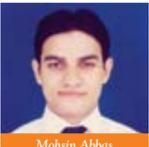
by air pollution (indoor and outdoor), (almost 50 percent of the total damage cost); (ii) diarrhoeal diseases and typhoid due to inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene (about 30 percent of the total), and (iii) reduced agricultural productivity due to soil degradation (about 20 percent of the total). The highest cost is from inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene (Rs. 112 billion) followed by agricultural soil degradation (Rs. 70 billion) and indoor air pollution (Rs. 67 billion). Urban air pollution (particulate matter) adds another Rs. 65 billion.

Regarding this latest survey, it is highly recommended to promote the organic farming in Pakistan by awareness and delivrance of knowledge of organic farming to the concerned communities on urgent basis, any delay or ignorance could affect the economy of Pakistan by losing our share in international market. As far as the scenario in Pakistan is concerned, majority of the farmers emphasize on quantity rather than quality of the products due to lack of information about demand and price of the organic products. Therefore, the present study is designed to explore the hidden truth for farming community, NGOs, researchers, government agencies and policy makers after comparing benefit cost ratios of organic and inorganic rice crop production in Punjab Province. So, the time has arrived when everyone should have to recognize critically the food they are giving to us in order to assure our health.

By Mohsin Abbas

ENVIROTECH

# Why Pakistan is a weak environmental performer?



Mohsin Abbas

ARE WE Pakistanis are aware to evaluate our environmental performance? Are we living in a green land country which is famous due to its large mountainous ranges and diverse topography? Are we putting our plans and policies for getting a sustainable environment? Can we think about a vision of our future environment

management, land pollution, deforestation and loss of biodiversity in the headlines of our free media. But where is the calculation and evaluation of these issues. As we know that our environment now in the provincial hands after the devolution of federal environment ministry but we need consistent and strong hands for our future sustainable environment.

Pakistan emerged as a weaker performer in terms of key parameters of environment in the most recent 2012 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) published by the Yale Center for Environmental Law and

Pakistan ranked 72nd in the Trend EPI in "little to no change" category. The Trend EPI ranks countries on the change in their environmental performance over the last decade.

The EPI and the Pilot Trend Environmental Performance Index (Trend EPI) ranked countries on 22 performance indicators spanning ten policy categories and among all countries Pakistan ranked as (Environmental Health 116, environmental burden of disease 115, water effects on human health 97, air pollution effects on human health 129, air pollution, ecosystem effects 65,

The performance regarding environmental health effecting due to higher level of air pollution, water pollution and environmental burden of disease to human health. The encouraging and positive news is that the Trend EPI score is low rather than EPI score. But the bad news is that Pakistan is marching towards negative effects due to air pollution, water resources, biodiversity & habitat, forests, fishers and climate change effects for ecosystem vitality getting 86 trend EPI score which is more than EPI score of 82.

According to 2012 EPI report, Pakistan having environmental performance index ranking similar to the ranking of Nigeria, Ghana, Myanmar, Peru and Togo. But for trend performance score which evaluates the environmental performance over the last decade (2000-2010) Pakistan ranked among Israel, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Tunisia and Austria. According to the Pakistan Economic Survey 2012-13, Pakistan like other developing countries is also facing environment problems mainly due to the demographic growth, lack of public awareness and education, catastrophic mismanagement of water and other natural resources and ill-planned urban and industrial expansion. Therefore, the strategy to realize accelerated GDP growth cannot afford to neglect the environment and climate change impact on the economy.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the centerpiece of development efforts of the government of Pakistan. Forests in Pakistan cover 4.224 million hectares, 5.2 per cent of the total land area of 87.98 million hectares which has slightly shown an increase. Over 150,000 ha of former forestlands, since converted for non-forestry purposes have also reduced the forest cover. The MDG 2015 set targets for 2015 as 6% Forests cover including

State and private forests/farmlands.

The area protected for conservation of wildlife is 11.5 per cent and MDG 2015 targeted 12 per cent. About 2800 thousands of petrol & diesel vehicles using CNG fuel but MDG 2015 targets reduction up to 920,000. Urban air quality in Pakistan is alarming as 90 per cent of total emissions of hydrocarbons (smog and carbon monoxide) due to vehicle emissions.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics report, Pakistan Standard Living Measurement (PSLM) 2011-12, access to drinking water is 89 per cent with MDG 2015 targets of 93 per cent. Access to sanitation is 72 per cent for total population within the country with MDG 2015 targets of 90 per

cent.

According to Environment Section, P&D Division, we just have one federal air pollution monitoring stations, 5 Environmental Pro-



tection Tribunals, 7 Fixed Air Quality Monitoring Stations, 3 Mobile Air Quality Monitoring Stations, 5 Analytical Laboratories. But all

stations are nonfunctional due to non-funding and there is no MDGs 2015 targets which is unfortunate for environmental performance measurement aspect.

So what we need now for Pakistan to become a stronger environmental performer? Incentive base environmental programmes will be help-

ful for the involvement of public. The Pakistan government should introduce the concept of green investment and green jobs. We should formulate an updating environmental database for academic research. We need political ownership for the implementation of proposed mitigations of environmental problems. But Pakistan cannot be a strong environmental performer by keeping accuses of nonfunctional environmental analytical laboratories and air quality monitoring stations due to non-funding.

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**The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are the centerpiece of development efforts of the government of Pakistan. Forests in Pakistan cover 4.224 million hectares, 5.2 per cent of the total land area of 87.98 million hectares which has slightly shown an increase. Over 150,000 ha of former forestlands, since converted for non-forestry purposes have also reduced the forest cover. The MDG 2015 set targets for 2015 as 6 per cent forests cover including state and private farmlands**

by holding nonfunctional analytical monitoring units due to non-funding? The answer is simple; unfortunately we are a weak environmental performer. Traditional environmental issues like polluted air, dirty water, solid waste

Policy, Yale University. Pakistan ranked 120th among 132 countries in "weaker performer" category of Environmental Performance Index (EPI) report and this low rank is a wake-up call for our provincial authorities. Also

water resources ecosystem effects 123, biodiversity & habitat 69, forests 127, fisheries 81, agriculture 26 and climate change 48) reflecting facets of both environmental public health and ecosystem vitality.

Advertisement for PPSO (Pakistan Standard Living Measurement) 2011-12. The ad includes the PPSO logo, the title 'پاکستان اسٹیٹ آف لائیو کمپنی میٹریڈ', and a table showing the results of the survey. The table has columns for 'نمبر شمار' (Serial Number), 'پری کو الیکشن ہائل' (Pre-election Hall), 'دستور حیات کا حصول' (Attainment of Quality of Life), and 'دستور حیات کی تاریخ' (Date of Attainment of Quality of Life). The results show that 13-12-2013 is the date of attainment for 13-12-2013, and 04:50:00 is the time taken. The ad also includes a list of objectives and a contact number for PPSO: 021-99203720.

## Nokia launches new app for Asha 501

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** Nokia has rolled out a new software update for the Nokia Asha 501 with some big changes to the OS to offer a better all-round experience. What the phone users need to do is just turn on their Nokia Asha 501 for

update. It's now possible to remove individual apps and items from the users feed, so they can keep Fastlane simple, uncluttered and filled with the features they truly love the most.

The users can also choose which items appear on your



first time after installing the update, check out the menu, and one of the first things they will notice is a new icon - WhatsApp - providing a feature that plenty of Asha 501 owners have been asking for over the past few months.

The changes run a lot deeper than that, though, and Fastlane is one of the biggest beneficiaries of the

Fastlane list, picking from: Alarm, calendar, calls, installed apps, messages, music, new photos, notes, radio, recent apps, recent web page, Bluetooth sharing and social networks.

The options are more intuitive than before, and it's a lot easier to get to grips with if the Nokia Asha 501 is your first smartphone.

## Demand for big data services to grow: Intel

**STAFF REPORT KHI:** The shifts in computing technology have taken place at an enormous pace in 2013 and Asia-Pacific remained a hotspot for technological innovation, according to Intel Pakistan's marketing head.



The chip-making giant says it sees an increased connectivity that will boost the economy in 2014.

"As more people get connected, demand for big data services will grow," said Asma Aziz who is Marketing for Intel Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Intel Pakistan, in its year-

end media briefing, looks at the technological shifts and advancements in the outgoing year and gives predictions for the upcoming year.

In Pakistan, the use of data and connectivity is higher compared to many other markets in the world, Aziz said, adding the demand for big data services will grow in years to come.

For Intel, the main highlights in 2013 were the release of Intel's 4th Generation Core Processors, Intel's Silvermont micro-architecture and Intel Atom Processor Z3000 series - which has been designed for tablets and smartphones.

The company predicts 2014 will bring rapid increase in emerging technologies as well as the emergence of a whole new sector for home entertainment as more and more TV shows, movies and content will be created for mobile devices.

People's interaction with technology is changing every year, resulting in emergence of all kinds of computing devices, such as all-in-ones, two-in-ones, convertibles and detachable, Asma said.

## Pak-Italy project to develop environmental park

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** The Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP), the largest protected area in Pakistan spread over 10,000 sq. km covering four districts in Gilgit Baltistan province, could well be the country's most charming and sustainable tourist desti-



nation if a community-driven programme of conservation gets its way.

According to Raffaele Del Cima, Country Operation Manager and Project Director of the Pakistan-Italy government-funded project Social, Economic and Environmen-

tal Development (SEED) for the CKNP, 40 per cent of the area is covered by glaciers and it has a unique environment with rare flora and fauna.

The project focuses on villages on the boundaries of the park and they are a doorstep to the CKNP, dubbed a park between the earth and the sky. It has some of the most remote and economically deprived communities living off the land and the multitude of medicinal plants there.

The main idea behind this initiative was to attract tourism to the area and engage the people who are not mountaineers.

According to the World-wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Pakistan, in 2011, communities living in 23 valleys around the park had over 400,000 heads of cattle.

The park is spread over four of the seven districts of Gilgit Baltistan - Ghanche, Skardu, Gilgit and Hunza Nagar.

## Seminar calls for projecting civic responsibility

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** A one-day seminar titled "Promoting Civic Responsibility" was held by the Centre of Policy Studies (IPS), COMSATS Institute of Information and Technology (CIIT) Islamabad in collaboration with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF).

On the occasion, Director of Centre for Policy Studies, COMSATS Khalid Saeed, highlighted the fact that civic responsibility was an important issue facing the society and needed looking from various aspects.

He added that the centre was trying to conduct seminars involving scholars and practitioners by suggesting practical measures and im-

plementable policies for decision makers.

Kristof Duwaerts, Resident Representative of HSF urged on the role and salience of civic education in building post- World War II Germany.

Prof. Dr Najma Najam, Vice Chancellor Karakorum International University, Gilgit, in her video presentation in "Defining Civic Responsibility" highlighted the definitional aspect of civic paradigm based on her experience in professional life and empowerment of youth and women and suggested a paradigm shift in attitudes and behaviour in building a healthy civic society.

## U Microfinance, SSGC join hands for e-payments

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) and U Microfinance Bank Limited have signed a facilitation agreement that will enable SSGC customers to make online payments at thousands of Upaisa payment points (powered by Ufone).

This latest collaboration will add a new dimension for SSGC customers in terms of 24/7 bill payment solution.

SSGC continuously strives to add value to its customer-centric approach through well-rounded bill payments including facility of digital payments.

Commenting on the agreement, Arif Sirhindi, President and CEO U Microfinance Bank said that this agreement is a major milestone in implementing U Microfinance Bank vision of serving the unbanked and under-banked customers in the country.

## E-commerce, e-education pre-requisites to progress

**STAFF REPORT KHI:** E-commerce is an innovative and fast services which is boosting the economy, but at the same time the country also needs e-education and e-governance, a pre-requisite to rapid development on the part of the young generation.



"Although there are environmental, security and legal limitations in Pakistan, e-banking in particular is growing speedily in the country," said former Sindh minister Asad Ali Shah while speaking as chief guest at a seminar on the future of e-commerce in Pakistan. The seminar was organised by students

of the Department of Computer Science of the Sindh Madressatul Islam University (SMIU).

He said that besides e-commerce, m-commerce, i.e. business through mobile technology, was also growing rapidly, giving a boost to economic and commercial activities in the country.

"E-governance is essential for effective governance and administration," said Shah, who was a provincial minister in slain prime minister Benazir Bhutto's second tenure.

Vice Chancellor SMIU Dr Muhammad Ali Sheikh said that e-commerce is the future of the country.

In the past, Pakistan had witnessed two big revolutions - telecommunications and satellite television channels - that had changed the old Pakistani society. Now e-commerce is taking root in society, but there were also some obstacles that must be removed, he added.

## Zong inaugurates modern contact centre

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** Zong has launched its state-of-the-art Contact Centre in Chak Shehzad Islamabad which was inaugurated by Minister for Information Technology Anusha Rehman, Chariman PTA, Dr. Ismail Shah, Secretary IT, Akhlaq Tarar and other dignitaries also graced the occasion.

This Centre will allow Zong to get closer to the consumer pulse and address their needs more promptly. Additionally, it will also create more job opportunities in Pakistan hence making a positive contribution to the economy.

The minister appreciated any endeavour that adds value to the local IT & Telecom industry.

As the fastest growing cellular network of the country, Zong is playing a key role in providing better telecom services to Pakistanis through its innovative initiatives and driving the industry wide growth. With such focused initiatives, Zong has undoubtedly become a benchmark for other Pakistani telecom operators.

"Our latest Contact Cen-

tre will create stronger bridges between us and our valued customers so we stay aware of their changing needs and can adapt our solutions around them. That is the key to success for us at Zong," said Fan Yunjun, CEO of Zong.

With heavy investments



made in the Pakistani market earlier, Zong focuses on delivering upon its promise of inspiring and empowering the people of Pakistan with innovative technology that keeps pace with today's fast evolving culture.

## Quality seed to boost agriculture production

**STAFF REPORT RWP:** The speakers at a seminar stressed that the seed sector should be focused as an important element of agricultural policy to improve Pakistan's productivity of crops.

The quality seed could play a major role in bridging the gaps of productivity in crops and under favorable conditions this can increase 20 to 25 percent yields per acre, they said this while speaking at a seminar titled "Strengthening Informal Seed Supply System Through Participatory Technology Transfer" at the PMAS-AAUR.

The event focused on on-farm quality seed production, processing, storage and packing for maintaining its purity, quality and viability based on scientific principles and techniques.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rai Niaz Ahmad, who was the chief guest, highlighted the importance of seed as one of the major inputs for better crop production and food security. He further said that quality seed production should be increased within the country and there was a dire need to develop human resource in seed technology in Pakistan.

On the occasion, Dr Abdul Rauf Bhutta, Director Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department, and other experts also highlighted the importance of informal seed production of different agriculture crops, which could fulfil the increasing needs of the farming community of Potohar along with increased yields of their crops ultimately making them prosperous.

The experts appreciated the seed production and supply system of wheat and groundnut launched by Dr Abdul Razaq, Associate Professor and his team members.

## Physical work on Thar coal to start in 2 months

**STAFF REPORT LHR:** The physical work on Thar Coal Power Project will start within next two months even before financial close while power generation is expected to start in 2017, earlier than any other project currently being envisaged.

"The project is now in the phase of contractor finalization and world class Chinese companies have given proposal for execution as well as financing both debt and equity," said Sindh Engrco Coal Mining Company (SECMC) CEO Shamsuddin A Shaikh while presiding over a meeting of the company.

The financial closure is expected by mid-next year and the project will start its commercial

operations within three and half years of the financial closure.

In his remarks, he appealed for joint efforts by Sindh and federal governments to make the project happen. He requested the federal government to list Thar Coal Project among the "Priority Projects for Pakistan" as this is not included in the list of priority projects despite the fact that Pakistan's power sector suffers from shortage as well as expensive energy mix.

He also mentioned that lenders have linked their firm commitment with provision of requisite infrastructure among which transmission line from Thar to Matari is a key requirement.

## Roots International devises RPGCE programmes

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** Owing to its commitment to elevating educational standards within the country, Roots Academy for Professional & Intellectual Development (RAPID) has conducted a thorough needs analysis for a customized PGCE programme for Pakistani teachers.

The PGCE is a world known programme that equips fresh graduates with the tools and techniques of professional teaching.

The results of the study indicate a huge gap in public and private sector teaching methodologies that needs to be filled by such trainings. The Roots International, and robust collaboration with British Universities, RAPID has devised the first ever PGCE programme customized for teachers in Pakistan.

## Zong gets another milestone in post-paid sales

**STAFF REPORT KHI:** Zong has achieved the highest sale in postpaid segment by passing 17,000 post-paid sales in month of November 2013 show statistics recently released by Zong.

This is industry's leading performance considering the fact that the country is shut off for more than a week. This also indicates that Zong BizXcess brand is becoming vibrant for users of Pakistan, which has been positioned strategically as high end dedicated services for its postpaid users and businesses.

"Zong aims to create new standards of performance in the industry and consumers continue to rely on its reliable network for their telecommunication needs," said Niaz A Malik, an official of the company, while commenting on this achievement.

He said that this is the highest record in Zong's history for post-paid sale and highest sales recorded in

month of November for any operator in the industry.

During Pakistan CIO summit 2013, he stated, the fact that Zong brand equity con-



tinues to rise and CMPAK continues to take a leadership position as its sales are consistently on the rise due to expansion of its network, customer satisfaction and reliability which is helping Zong to become the obvious choice for businesses of Pakistan.

## Warid to launch mobile services with Bank Al-Falah

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** Pakistan's Warid Telecom will soon launch its mobile financial service in collaboration with Bank Alfalah.

The Bank has been granted the license by the State Bank of Pakistan to operate its branchless banking services across Pakistan and Warid Telecom is facilitating the bank with its wide network mobile coverage.

Warid and Bank Alfalah's joint mobile financial services aim to provide financial services to all segments of the society. This service will provide unbanked customers with a secure channel for money transfer and utility bill payments.

Warid Telecom and Bank Alfalah have finalised all the ground work required to start their mobile financial service. Now with the State Bank of Pakistan's go-ahead, these two industry giants will soon come into the local market with their much anticipated mobile financial service with full potential.

## Getting education more vital than training

**STAFF REPORT IBD:** From colonial times, we are being trained with the purpose of gaining specific skills but not educated to further our knowledge and develop our intellect, said noted scientist Prof. Dr. HR Ahmad from JMDC Medicare Campus and Aga Khan University, Karachi, while delivering a lecture on Research Pathways

thinkers and philosophers.

He also said that patient care and teaching were well established components of a medical career, however, with the passage of time the component of research had started to influence the medical culture.

"Research is the re-charger for the batteries of teaching and patient care otherwise both become routine work



to a jam-packed hall of medical students and faculty at the University of Health Sciences (UHS).

Referring to Thomas Macaulay's conscious policy of liquidating indigenous culture in the subcontinent via the education system, Prof. Ahmad said that the system tended to marginalise inherited learning and has uprooted academics and research from traditional modes of thought to the extent for no space for people's

with the passage of time," he emphasised.

Prof. Ahmad further said that the research activity of an institution is directly proportional to the number of qualified and committed PhD scholars.

He maintained that an inspiring infrastructure, laboratory facilities and libraries are pre-requisites for a research culture to grow in order to sustain the generation cycle of an institution.

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