Accommodation and Transport

Interested participants requiring accommodation are requested to inform in advance to the conference secretariat for necessary arrangements. Accommodation will be available near to conference venue. A limited number of rooms are available at the University Rest House. The three star hotels cost about US$ 100 to 300 per night for economic to deluxe category. At limited scale, free accommodation is also available in students' hostels. Free transport facility will be available for participants from nearest airport to conference venue or hotels.

Electric System

Electricity output is 220 volts. It is suggested to always check your power supply before using the devices. Type ‘C’ and type ‘D’ electric outlet plugs are commonly used in Pakistan.

Visa

International participants may need visa on valid passport before entering into the Pakistan. Please contact conference secretariat to obtain invitation letter for visa application purposes. Participants are also encouraged to contact Pakistan Embassy in their respective countries to get specific instructions on visa application. For further information, please visit http://www.pakistan.gov.

Currency Exchange

Local currency is Rupees (PKR/Rs.) and one US$ is nearly equal to PKR 103. Please visit the home page of State Bank of Pakistan at “http://www.sbp.org.pk” for the current currency rate for your country.

Host City: Faisalabad

Faisalabad is a city of textiles and hence is known as Manchester of Pakistan. It is situated South-West of the provincial capital of Punjab, Lahore, and well connected to capital city of Pakistan, Islamabad. A number of universities and several agricultural research institutes are situated in Faisalabad. National airport is also situated in the city but nearest international airports are Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore (LHE, 210km) and Benazir Bhutto International Airport, Islamabad (ISB, 320km) which are well connected to Faisalabad via a fast track motorway allowing a speed of 110-120 km per hour.

Climate

During February, climate is most pleasant with day and night temperatures 20-25°C and 15-20°C, respectively. Comfortable clothes are preferred during this season. Local weather predictions can also be viewed at http://www.accuweather.com.
Introduction

In agriculture enterprises, horticulture offers the best alternative for increasing food self-dependency, improve diet and ensure the generation of higher earnings and employments. Global horticulture industry has seen unprecedented growth during the past three decades. Adaptation of the scientific knowledge in improving production technologies, supply chain systems and postharvest management has greatly enhanced produce quantity and quality. But, there is still need to find answers to several other important issues. Biotic and abiotic stresses hamper food yield. Similarly, economic production of healthier foods, efficient energy and water use, reduction in postharvest losses and food security are few of the long-term challenges to world horticultural industry. Meeting these challenges in developing countries is even harder due to lack of resources, infrastructure and awareness in local growers.

Pakistan is bestowed with diverse climatic and soil conditions, which are suitable for the cultivation of many fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and medicinal plants. Fruit and vegetable production in Pakistan is 6.52 and 3.09 million tonnes, respectively, but their export is meager. Tropical fruits are cultivated around the Indus River, Singla and Baluchistan provinces. Uplands of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Gilgit Baltistan and Northern areas are suitable for the production of temperate fruits. Major fruits of Pakistan are citrus, mango, dates and banana. However, other 38 fruits are also being produced such as grapes, peaches, almond, apricot, pear, plum, olive, fig, pomegranates, etc. Potato, tomato, chilies, okra and onion are the major vegetable crops while roses, gladiori, narcissi, tuberoses, chrysanthemum, tropical palms and other ornamental foliage plants are extensively produced in different regions of Pakistan. The mountainous Northern areas are also enriched with mushrooms and medicinal plant resources. However, like other developing countries, Pakistan is also facing challenges in production and postharvest management of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and medicinal crops.

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) is the top ranking university of Pakistan with high academic status and international recognition. It ranks 3rd in Agriculture and Forestry as per QS World Universities Rankings; 97th in the world and 20th in Asia Pacific Region in Agricultural Sciences by NTU Ranking; and 25th best Green University as per UI Green Metric World University Ranking. UAF offers an array of more than 60 academic and professional programs at doctoral, masters, undergraduate and higher secondary levels in agricultural and allied sciences. Institute of Horticultural Science (IHS) is also a premier and top ranking horticultural institute in the country which is offering under and postgraduate degrees in pomology, olicultre, floriculture & landscape, biotechnology, medicinal plants, and postharvest horticulture. The UAF is transforming the community through real impact of its programs of teaching, research, technology development and outreach activities, which are essential for agricultural and rural development and producing manpower to meet future challenges of food security. For more details, please visit UAF official website www.uaf.edu.pk.

This international conference will provide a platform to the researchers, scientists, growers, processors, exporters and other stakeholders to share their novel ideas for food safety and security issues in horticulture production and postharvest management. Outcomes of the conference will certainly help to meet the future challenges of food security in the region in particular and globally in general. Specifically, this conference will also provide an opportunity to horticulture industry of Pakistan for improving the quality of their products and exports in addition to providing the nutritional security to rapidly increasing population of the world.

Advisory Committee

Prof. Dr. Iqbar Ahmad Khan (Sitara-e-imtiaz, Ordre des Palmes Academiques)
Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed (Chairperson, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Islamabad, Pakistan)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad (Tangha-e-imtiaz)
Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Amjad (Director, Institute of Horticulture Sciences (IHS), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad)

Prof. Saeed Ahmed (Chairman, Pakistan Horticulture Foundation (HPF), Islamabad, Pakistan)

Prof. Ifiikhah Ahmad (Chairman, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Islamabad, Pakistan)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif (Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), Islamabad, Pakistan)

Dr. Noor-ul-Islam (Chief Executive, Pakistan Agricultural Research Board (PARB), Lahore, Pakistan)

Dr. Abid Mahmood (Director General Agriculture (Research), Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad, Pakistan)

Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali (Director General Agriculture Extension & A.R., Agriculture House, Lahore, Pakistan)

Dr. Nazeer Hussain Shah (Director General Agriculture Research, Quetta, Balochistan)

Dr. Atta Hussain Soomro (Director General Agricultural Research, Tando Jam, Sindh)

Dr. Nazir Ahmad Khan (Director General Agriculture Research, Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Dr. Muhammad Bashir Butt (Director General Agriculture, Muzafarabad, Azad Jammu and Kashmir)

Prof. Dr. Aulif Ali (Director, Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad)

Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir (Executive Director, Endowment Fund Secretariat (EFS), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad)

Presentation Categories

The scientific committee invites abstracts on various subjects of Pomology, Olericulture, Floriculture, Landscape, and Medicinal plants as indicated below:

- Nursery management
- Biodiversity and conservation
- Breeding and biotechnology
- Protected cultivation
- Production and management
- Plant nutrient and water management
- Plant protection
- Stress management
- Postharvest management, processing and value addition
- Extension and commercialization
- Marketing and economics

Guidelines for Abstract Submission

Abstract should be composed in MS word with Times New Roman font and 12 pt size in single line spacing with single paragraph. Abstract paragraph must not exceed 300 words. It is mandatory to provide complete postal address of each author of the abstract. Presenter among the authors must be indicated with asterisk (*). “Presentation subject” (please see above) must also be mentioned at the bottom of the abstract. Abstract can be submitted to conference secretariat at ich212@uaf.edu.pk no later than October 31, 2015. Abstract received after the deadline will not be acknowledged/included in the scientific program.

For more detail, please visit http://www.pshs.org.pk/ICH2016.