

AGRO-PATHOLOGY BULLETIN

A Biannual Newsletter of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab , Lahore

A Message from the Department



Welcome to the latest edition of the Agro-Pathology Bulletin. As we navigate the evolving landscape of agricultural sciences, the Department of Plant Pathology remains committed to pioneering research and sustainable solutions. This issue captures our recent academic milestones, faculty achievements, and our ongoing dedication to protecting plant health for a food-secure future.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE

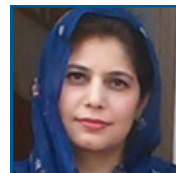
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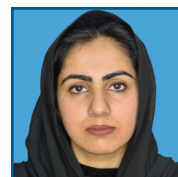
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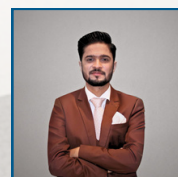
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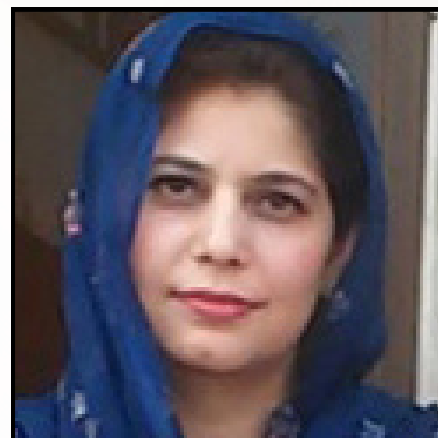


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Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib
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Message from Chairperson

Agro-pathology bulletin is a platform to share the activities, achievements, and voices of our academic community, bringing together students, faculty, and departments across the university. By highlighting academic progress, research updates, events, and student initiatives, it strengthens communication and a sense of belonging. For our students the future plant pathologists, this bulletin is also a space to grow, reflect, and be inspired. Your curiosity, discipline, and dedication will shape the future of plant health and sustainable agriculture. Every achievement shared here represents effort, learning, and progress. I encourage you to take pride in your work, engage actively, and contribute with confidence. Together, Agro-pathology bulletin becomes not just a record of news, but a reflection of our collective commitment to learning, collaboration, and excellence.

Honoring a Legacy of Excellence: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider Retires

Department of Plant Pathology extends heartfelt gratitude and deepest appreciation to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider, Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, on the occasion of his meritorious retirement. During his 27-year academic career Prof. Dr. Haider provided visionary leadership and made outstanding contributions to agricultural education and research. His achievements include establishing 8 academic departments and 3 research centers, launching 13 academic programs, supervising 30 Ph.D. and 70 M.Phil. scholars, publishing 200+ research papers, leading internationally funded research projects, and playing a key role in securing QS World University Rankings recognition for Agricultural Sciences.

A distinguished scholar, mentor, and leader, his legacy will continue to inspire future generations. We wish him good health, happiness, and a fulfilling retirement.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANT PATHOLOGY, FACULTY OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF THE PUNJAB, LAHORE.

Seminars, Workshops and Conferences

Department of Plant Pathology Participated in National Plant Health Networking Workshop at UAF



University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) on August 29th, 2025 hosted a high-level workshop titled “National Plant Health Networking, Building a Resilient Future,” organized under the Centre for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security (CAS-AFS) in collaboration with the USDA, University of Florida, and UC Davis.



National and international experts, including Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib, Prof. Dr. Uzma Bashir, Dr. Tariq Manzoor, and Mr. Numan Ali discussed critical plant health challenges such as climate change and invasive pathogens. A key outcome was the groundwork for establishing Pakistan’s first National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) to strengthen early detection, rapid response, and agricultural sustainability.

Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib Leads Department of Plant Pathology Delegation to Pakistan Agro Show 2025



Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib, Chairperson of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, led a delegation to the Pakistan Agro Show 2025 at the Expo Centre, Lahore on September 10th, 2025. Accompanied by faculty members Prof. Dr. Uzma Bashir, Prof. Dr. Shazia Shafique, Dr. Tariq Manzoor, and students Numan Ali, Mahnoor Shahid, and Mahrukh Akram, the team visited stalls including Sun Way Agrochemicals, Mukammal Biofertilizers, and FMC. They engaged with industry experts and explored innovations in agriculture. The visit underscored the department's commitment to fostering academia industry collaboration for sustainable agricultural development in Pakistan.



Successful Seminar on Erasmus Mundus & Fully Funded International Master's Opportunities

Department of Plant Pathology, organized an informative seminar titled "Erasmus Mundus & More: Fully Funded Opportunities to International Master's." on September 23rd, 2025. The event attracted more than seventy enthusiastic students eager to learn about international scholarship opportunities.

The seminar featured Mr. Muhammad Sajid Farooq, a distinguished alumnus of Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore and two-time Erasmus Mundus Scholarship winner. He also holds credentials from prestigious programs including IMSOGLO and DAFM, shared his first-hand experiences and guidance on how to successfully apply for international master's programs.

The seminar provided students with crucial information on how to pursue fully funded international education, encouraging them to broaden their academic and professional horizons.



1st International Symposium on Current Trends in Microbiology and Plant Pathology



The Department of Plant Pathology, hosted the “1st International Symposium on Current Trends in Microbiology and Plant Pathology” on November 3rd, 2025, organized by Dr. Adnan Akhter Assistant Professor at Department of Plant Pathology. The event gathered national and international experts to discuss innovations in microbiology and plant health. Keynote speakers included Dr. Mujahid Rasool (Leibniz Institute, Germany) on sustainable plant protection, Dr. Sohail Akhter (UAF) on future directions in plant pathology, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aamer Mehmood (GCUF) on algae-based carbon recycling, and Prof. Dr. Kausar Malik (CEMB) on Bt cotton technology. The symposium concluded with acknowledgments and shield presentations. and the presentation of shields to distinguished speakers.



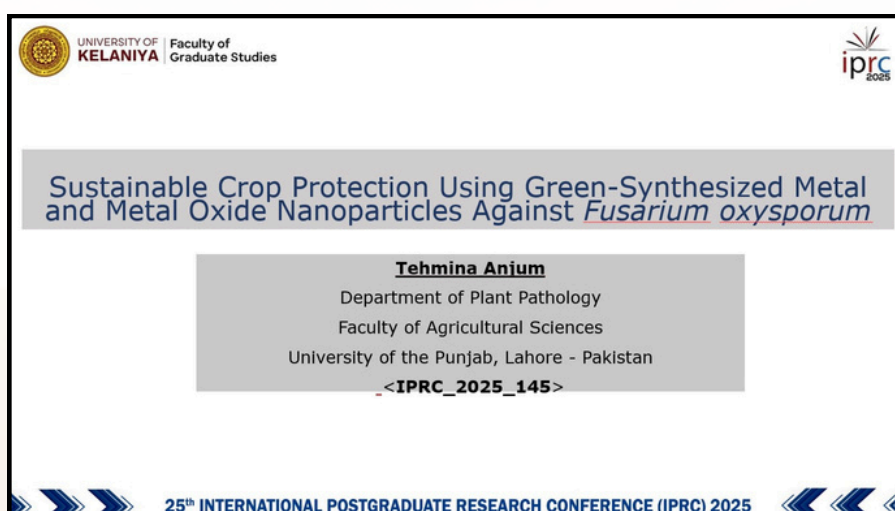
3rd International Conference on Recent Approaches in Plant Sciences (RAPS-2025)

Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum delivered a talk on “Eco-Friendly Nanoparticle Approaches for Managing Fusarium Wilt with Reduced Pesticide Use” on November 12- 13th, 2025 at the 3rd International Conference on Recent Approaches in Plant Sciences, University of Education, Lahore, .



Oral Presentation by Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum at IPRC-2025

Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum Presented presented on “Sustainable Crop Protection Using Green-Synthesized Metal and Metal Oxide Nanoparticles Against *Fusarium oxysporum*” on November 13th, 2025. at the 25th International Postgraduate Research Conference (IPRC-2025), organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.



Participation of Department of Plant Pathology in 9th International Conference of Pakistan Phytopathological Society (9-ICPPS, 2025)

Faculty members of Department of Plant Pathology including Prof. Dr. Tehmina Anjum, Dr. Zill-e-Huma Aftab, Dr. Adnan Akhtar, Dr. Waheed Anwar, Dr. Tariq Manzoor, and students attended the 9th International Conference of the Pakistan Phytopathological Society (9-ICPPS) held at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, from 16-18th November 2025. The participants presented their research through oral and poster sessions, and engaged in expert-led discussions and panel sessions, contributing to the exchange of knowledge on current trends in plant health and sustainable agriculture.

Graduate and postgraduate students also actively participated, presenting their work on emerging plant diseases, disease management strategies, and crop protection technologies, both in oral and poster sessions. Students benefited from mentoring programs and networking opportunities provided during the conference, aimed at supporting early-career researchers and fostering professional development.

The conference featured keynote lectures, technical sessions, workshops, and panel discussions, focusing on pressing issues in plant pathology, sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient crops, and food security. Participation of the Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, not only highlighted the department's strong research culture but also reinforced its commitment to advancing plant health sciences and promoting collaborations at both national and international levels.

2nd day of 9th ICPPS, 2025



3rd Day of 9th ICPPS, 2025



Minhaj University Lahore Hosts the 4th Seafood Festival Under the Judging of Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib

Minhaj University Lahore, organized the 4th Seafood Festival on November 24th, 2025, featuring a range of competitive activities including cooking, painting, letter writing, speech, and poster presentation. The poster competition was organized around thematic colors symbolizing sustainability, awareness, innovation, and environmental challenges.

The competition was judged by Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib from the Department of Plant Pathology, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore, and Dr. Mohammad Irfan Bhatti from the University of Management and Technology. The displayed posters effectively highlighted the nutritional importance of seafood while raising awareness about marine pollution and sustainable practices.

The judges appreciated the participants' creativity, innovation, and strong sense of environmental responsibility, acknowledging their efforts to promote sustainability through visual communication.



Department of Plant Pathology Delegation Shines at Algae-Biotechnology Symposium: Mr. Abubakar Siddique Wins Best Poster Award

Dr. Adnan Akhter Assistant Professor at the Department of Plant Pathology, led a delegation to the Algae-Biotechnology Symposium on December 1st, 2025 held at Government College University, Faisalabad. The event brought together experts and researchers to share knowledge on the latest developments in algae biotechnology.

Mr. Muhammad Abubakar Siddique, a member of the delegation, won the Best Poster Award for his research presentation. This achievement highlights the department's commitment to innovative research and academic excellence. Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib, Chairperson of the Department of Plant Pathology, congratulated Dr. Adnan Akhter and Mr. Muhammad Abubakar Siddique on their achievement.

The symposium provided a platform for knowledge sharing and networking among researchers, scientists, and industry experts. Dr. Adnan Akhter's mentorship and the team's participation underscore the department's focus on advancing plant pathology and biotechnology research.

The Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab Lahore, congratulates Mr. Muhammad Abubakar Siddique on his achievement and looks forward to continued excellence in research and innovation.



A Few Glimpses from the Algae Biotechnology Symposium



Field Visits

Educational Field Visit to Bular Seed Corporation by the Department of Plant Pathology



Department of Plant Pathology, organized a one-day educational field visit to Bular Seed Corporation, Nankana Sahib, on October 10th, 2025. The visit was supervised by Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib, providing academic guidance and oversight throughout the activity. Faculty members and graduate students actively participated in hands-on field diagnostics of rice and sorghum diseases, where they closely examined disease symptoms, assessed field-level disease incidence, and collected representative samples for subsequent laboratory identification and confirmation.

During the visit, students gained practical exposure to real-time disease diagnosis, learning about symptom differentiation, sampling techniques, and preliminary management strategies under commercial field conditions. Interaction with field experts further enhanced students' understanding of integrated disease management practices and the role of seed quality in crop health. The visit proved to be an enriching learning experience, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, and strengthened students' competence in disease identification and management in agricultural production systems.

Educational Field Visit to Bular Seed Corporation by the Department of Plant Pathology



Educational Field Visit Enhances Students' Skills in Potato and Onion Cultivation at Izhar Farms

Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, organized a field visit to Izhar Farms on October 22nd, 2025 for BSc (Hons.) (7th Semester) and MSc (Hons.) (1st Semester) students to gain hands-on experience in potato and onion cultivation and disease detection. Students accompanied by Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib (Chairperson), Prof. Dr. Uzma Bashir, and faculty members, were welcomed by Mr. Yaqoob Izhar, Managing Director, and Mr. Rashid Awan. Experts demonstrated seed selection, variety identification, sowing, and crop management, while students actively participated. Prof. Dr. Shoaib and Prof. Dr. Bashir thanked the farm team, highlighting the importance of practical learning.



Industry-Academia Linkage

Plant Pathology Delegation Explores Research Collaboration at Rice Research Institute

A delegation from the Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, visited the Rice Research Institute, Kala Shah Kaku, on September 30th, 2025, where they were warmly welcomed by Dr. Ayesha Bibi. The visiting team comprised Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib, Prof. Dr. Uzma Bashir, Dr. Tariq Manzoor, Mr. Numan Ali, and Mr. Fahad Saleem from the Department of Plant Pathology.

During the visit, a constructive discussion was held on strengthening future collaboration in research, diagnostic services, and plant health management, with a particular focus on addressing emerging challenges in rice production. The interaction highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts to improve disease management strategies and support sustainable rice production and food security.



Evyol Group Conducts Recruitment Drive at Department of Plant Pathology

Evyol Group of Companies held a recruitment drive at the Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab. This aimed to connect academia with industry by providing final-year students and graduates with employment and internship opportunities in agriculture. A written test assessing knowledge of plant pathology, crop protection, pest management, and modern technologies was conducted, with about 45 students participating enthusiastically. Evyol representatives briefed students on the company's operations and career prospects. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interviews next week at the Evyol Group office. The initiative strengthened university industry collaboration and enhanced students' career readiness.



A Delegation from Pakistan Crop Protection Association (PCPA) Visited the Department of Plant Pathology

A delegation from the Pakistan Crop Protection Association (PCPA), led by Executive Director Muhammad Sarwar Rahi and Vice President Farhan Aziz, visited the Department of Plant Pathology to discuss strategies for reducing excessive pesticide use in Pakistan's agriculture. In a meeting with Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib, Chairperson, key challenges related to pesticide overuse including resistance development, residue concerns, farmer safety, and environmental risks were reviewed. Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib highlighted the role of biological control, biopesticides, and integrated pest management (IPM) as sustainable alternatives to conventional chemicals. The delegation also toured departmental laboratories and was briefed on ongoing research in biocontrol, biopesticide formulation, and plant-microbe interactions. PCPA emphasized the need to strengthen industry-academia linkages and announced support for internships and field placements for final-year students. Faculty members including Prof. Dr. Uzma Bashir, Dr. Tariq Manzoor and students were present.



Strengthening Industry–Academia Links: PCPA Visits Department of Plant Pathology



Department of Plant Pathology Signs MoU with Bular Seed Corporation

Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bular Seed Corporation to strengthen collaboration in research, innovation, and sustainable crop protection. The partnership aims to support joint field trials, experiential learning opportunities, and problem-driven research addressing critical challenges faced by growers and the agricultural industry.

The MoU will enable students and faculty to actively engage in hands-on field research, including crop disease diagnostics, integrated pest management, and evaluation of sustainable crop protection practices. Emphasizing the value of practical learning, Prof. Dr. Amna Shoaib noted that such initiatives “connect classroom knowledge with real-world agricultural practices and prepare students to meet future challenges in plant health management.”



Department of Plant Pathology Signs MoU with Bular Seed Corporation

Through this collaboration, the department and Bular Seed Corporation seek to bridge the gap between academia and industry, providing students with exposure to innovative agricultural technologies, seed management strategies, and crop protection solutions. The initiative reinforces the department's commitment to equipping students with practical skills, fostering research innovation, and contributing to sustainable agricultural development in Pakistan.



Department of Plant Pathology Signs MoU with Izhar Group of Companies



Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, signed an MoU with the Izhar Group of Companies on December 16th 2025, to strengthen industry-academia collaboration by providing internships, training, and expert lectures in agriculture. Through its Green Revolution initiative, Izhar Group is introducing modern, science-based agricultural technologies in Pakistan, offering students valuable exposure to innovative practices, applied learning, and career development.



Student Chronicles

Saba Khursheed Appointed as Principal at The Renaissance Education System (TRES)

Saba Khursheed, former Ph.D. student of the Department, has been appointed as Principal at The Renaissance Education System (TRES), a project of The City School, effective July 1st, 2025. The department of Plant Pathology extends its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for her continued success in this new leadership role.



Ghulam Nabi Appointed as Agriculture Officer at Agrilift



Ghulam Nabi, a postgraduate of Department of Plant Pathology, University of the Punjab, has joined Agrilift as an Agriculture Officer. In his new role, he will contribute to agricultural operations, crop management, and sustainable farming initiatives, applying his academic knowledge and practical experience to support the company's mission. The Department of Plant Pathology congratulates him on this achievement and wishes him success in his professional endeavors.

Umair Raza Joins National Bank of Pakistan as Agriculture Finance Officer

Umair Raza, M.Sc. (Hons) Plant Pathology (Session 2023–25), has joined the National Bank of Pakistan as an Agriculture Finance Officer (OG-III). He conducted his research under the supervision of Dr. Adnan Akhter. The Department of Plant Pathology congratulates him on this achievement and wishes him success in his professional career.





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