INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SIGNIFICANCE OF POTASH USE IN PAKISTANI AGRICULTURE

NOVEMBER, 24-25, 2016
Institute of Agricultural Sciences
Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization
University of the Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
How does potassium important for balance fertilization?

The over and ever increasing population of Pakistan is continuously exerting a pressure on agricultural resources for their basic necessities. As a response it becomes the need of time to enhance agricultural production horizontally as well as vertically. Owing to soil, water and climatic problems, a further increase in cultivated area is almost impossible and the only option left behind is to increase yield per unit area. Such a production revolution is not possible without linking the agriculture with advanced knowledge of science and technology.

Potassium (K), along with nitrogen and phosphorus, is one of the three essential plant macronutrients, and is taken up by crops from soils in relatively large amounts. Potassium increases yields and improves the quality of agricultural produce, and enhances the ability of plants to resist diseases, insect attacks, cold and drought stresses and other adverse conditions. It helps in the development of a strong and healthy root system and increases the efficiency of the uptake and use of nitrogen and other nutrients. In addition, K has an important role in livestock nutrition. Vegetal tissues contain an average of 2 to 10% of K, therefore, it is required in large quantities by the growing plant.

Potassium not only increases yields, but also enhances crop quality. It improves the nutritive value of grains, tubers and fruits by increasing the contents of protein and oil in seeds, of starch in tubers and seeds, and of vitamin C and sugar in the fruits. With an adequate supply of potassium, cereals produce plump grains and strong stalks. Potassium also improves the flavor and color of the fruits and increases the size of tubers and fruits. In addition, it increases the resistance to various injuries during storage and transportation, thus extending shelf life. According to recently published reports, about 40% Pakistani soils are deficient in plant available potassium and most of the other agricultural lands are at the margin. Therefore it is very essential to highlight the significance of use of potassic fertilizers in Pakistan for better yields, high quality and sustainable agriculture.

Keeping in view the bright future of agriculture in Pakistan, particularly in relation to job opportunities, University of the Punjab is continuously playing its role in the most important sector of the country. The Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAGS) at University of the Punjab is an extraordinary blend of renowned faculty, laboratories and cooperative staff providing a unique environment for learning and technological advancements. Two days International Conference on “Significance of Potash use in Pakistani Agriculture” explains the importance of potassium in plant nutrition and the diet of humans and animals, and describes the role of potassium based fertilizers in Pakistan’s agriculture.

International Conference on Significance of Potash use in Pakistani Agriculture

November, 24-25, 2016
Venue: Institute of Agricultural Sciences, University of the Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam Campus, Lahore Pakistan.

Tentative Program

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Potassium Focus Issue of IJAB

Selected papers will be published in a potassium focused issue of International Journal of Agriculture and Biology (IJAB) after peer review. However for papers to be published in IJAB, advanced submission (before 30th October, 2016) of full-length papers will be preferred.

Conference Language

Language for oral presentations, poster presentation and professional discussions will be English. However cultural event be mixed with Urdu/Punjabi.

About Lahore

Lahore is the capital city of the province of Punjab, the second-largest metropolitan area in Pakistan and with a population of 10,052,000 people, it is the 15th-most-populous city in the world. It is an important historical centre in South Asia. With a rich history dating back over a millennium, Lahore is a main cultural centre of the Punjab region and Pakistan, and is the largest Punjabi city in the world.

Lahore is referred to as the cultural heart of Pakistan, as it hosts most of the arts, cuisine, festivals, music, film-making, gardening, agriculture and intelligentsia of the country. The city has always been a centre for publications where 80% of Pakistan’s books are published, and it remains the foremost centre of literary, educational and cultural activity in Pakistan. It is also home to hundreds of temples, mosques, churches and shrines. The city is credited is home to some of Pakistan’s leading universities including the University of the Punjab, Government College University, Forman Christian College and LUMS.

Weather

In November the weather is quite mild and the average night temperature is 9°C and average day temperature is 25 °C. Please take comfortable light winter cloths.

How to Reach Lahore?

Lahore is well-connected with other major cities of Pakistan via rail, air and road. There
are daily flights from almost all international destinations to Lahore.

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

**Patron in Chief**
Prof. Dr. Mujahid Kamran (Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore)

**Patron**
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem Haider (Director, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, University of the Punjab, Lahore)
Dr. Sajid Ali (Conference Secretary)
Prof. Dr. Sajid Rashid Ahmad (CEES)
Dr. Abdul Wakeel, UAF
Mr. Hillel Magen, IPI, Switzerland
Dr. Shinawar Waseem Ali
Dr. Hafiz Azhar Ali Khan
Dr. Rashid Mahmood
Dr. Muhammad Bilal
Mr. Adnan Zahid
Ms. Mehreen Hassan
Mr. Moazzam Anees
Mr. Nadeem Shad
& Faculty members, IAGS

**Registration**
All the participants need to register for participation in the conference. The registration fee will include conference kit, day time lunches and mid-session refreshments. Registration Fee is:

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Participant</td>
<td>2000 PKR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foreign Participant</td>
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<td>Foreign Accompanying Guest</td>
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November 15, 2016, is the registration deadline however on-site registration may be opened depending upon available slots.

**Accommodation**
Accommodation to all participants will be made available from 2-4 star hotels on their preference (expenses are to be borne by the participants themselves; however, conference management will help to make necessary arrangements). Rates may vary from 20-300 US$ per night.

**VISA**
Foreign participant can contact Pakistani Embassy and consulate in their respective countries for their visa. Invitation letters will be provided on request. For any assistance please e-mail icsppa2016@gmail.com

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**CONTACT DETAILS:**

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