



International Symposium

on

DATE PALM:

**Domestication, distribution,
production and marketing**



Institute of Horticultural Sciences

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad-Pakistan

Faisalabad

Phoenix is an important genus in the family having 12 species, including the most fascinating *Phoenix dactylifera* L. The date palm belt stretches from the Indus valley in the east to the Atlantic in the west. Date palm originated in Persian Gulf countries like Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and North Africa. It is believed that date palm had been cultivated along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers in Iraq over 6000 years ago, and; therefore, most probably, the area of origin of the date palm was in or near what is now called Iraq. Date seed at least 5000 years old, were found in the storage godowns excavated at Mohenjo Daro, Sindh, Pakistan. Alexander the great harvested dates from Ketch valley of Balochistan and fed his soldiers travelling along Mekran coast in 4th century BC and at the beginning of the 8th century it was spread by the Muslim conquerer Muhammad Bin Qasim in Sindh, Pakistan. However, more recently, Chao and Krueger, argued that the exact centre of origin of the date palm is unknown.



Date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.) is one of the major fruit crops of Pakistan along with mango and citrus. Huge biodiversity in date palm can be seen in Pakistan. *Phoenix sylvestris* – a sister specie is still present here in wild form. It is believed that *Phoenix dactylifera* is natural hybrid of *Phoenix sylvestris*. Pakistan is one of the biggest players of dates in the international market as it ranks 5th among the date producing countries, but there is a lack of co-ordinated research activities pertaining to date palm and dates especially small growers need more attention of the researchers.



Hence Institute of Horticultural Sciences has planned a two days international symposium to cope with challenges in date production. In this symposium, research papers will be presented on acceleration of date palm research and development, history & evolution, gene flow of indigenous germplasm and its relationship with regional germplasm, trends and challenges in production technology, potential in value added marketable products and socio-economic and cultural aspects. Worldwide various research groups exist and their participation in this symposium will be helpful in strengthening research and development in Pakistan. The symposium will also yield international collaboration in terms of R&D and faculty and students training and exchange programs.



PROGRAM

April 4, 2011

Inaugural Session

08.30-08.35 am	Recitation from Holy Quran
08.35-08.45 am	Welcome address
08.45-09.15 am	Keynote address by Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan
09.15-09.35 am	Address by the Chief Guest
09.50-10.00 am	Vote of thanks
10.00 am	Tea

Technical Session I

Chair:

Dr. Adel Ahmed Abul Soad

Domestication, Distribution and Characterization

10.30-10.50	Biogeography of the genus <i>Phoenix</i> and domestication history of the date palm <i>Dr. Jean-Christophe Pintaud, Head of Palm Programme, IRD, Montpellier, France</i>
10.50-11.10	Structural modifications and distribution of genus <i>Phoenix</i> in Pakistan <i>Dr. Mansoor Hameed, Department of Botany, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan</i>
11.10-11.30	Collection and characterization of indigenous date germplasm from Dera Ismail Khan <i>Attiq-ul-Ahmad Ali Zai and Asif Latif Baloch, Agriculture Research Institute, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, Pakistan</i>
11.30-11.50	Physical characterization of date fruit during various maturity stages <i>Abdul Qayum and Imranullah, Agriculture Research Institute, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, Pakistan</i>
Propagation and Production	
11.50-12.10	Date palm in Egypt <i>Dr. Adel Ahmad Abul Soad, Horticulture Research Institute, Agriculture Research Centre, 9 Cairo Univ. st., Orman, Giza, Egypt</i>
12.10-12.30	Date palm cultivation and dates production in Iraq <i>Dr. Abdulbasit Oudah Ibrahim, Head of Date Palm Programme, The Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Syria</i>
12.30-12.50	Date palm in Pakistan <i>Dr. Ghulam Sarwar Markhand, Director, Date Palm Research Institute, Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan</i>
12.50-13.10	Root induction of un-rooted suckers of <i>Phoenix dactylifera</i> (Hilawi) <i>Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan and Dr. Muhammad Afzal, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan</i>
13.10-13.30	Root initiation in aerial offshoots of date palm by injection of rooting hormones <i>Muhammad Tayyab and Dr. Saeed Ahmad, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan</i>
13.30-13.50	Lunch and pray break

Technical Session II

Chair:

Dr. Abdulbasit Oudah Ibrahim

Postharvest & Value addition

13.50-14.10	Dates harvesting, Processing and Preservation at Sindh <i>Dr. A Qayoom Mahar, SALU, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan</i>
14.10-14.30	Physico-chemical properties of dates fruit of different cultivars of Date Palm of Khairpur <i>Shahzad Memon, Dr. G Sarwar Markhand and Dr. Adel Ahmed Abul Soad, DPRI, SALU, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan</i>

- 14.30-14.50 Synchronizing water activity level for enhancing dhakki date stability
Dr. Shahzada Asghar Saleem, Dr. Ahmad Khan Baloch, Dr. M. Mansoor and Ambreen Akhtar Sadozai, Agriculture Research Institute, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, Pakistan
- 14.50-15.10 Nutrious date bar – A value-added product of dates fortified with roasted gram
Dr. Shahzada Asghar Saleem, Dr. Ahmad Khan Baloch and Dr. M. Mansoor, Agriculture Research Institute, Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtun Khwa, Pakistan

April 5, 2011

Technical Session III

Chair:

Dr. Jean Christophe Pintaud

Biotechnology and Plant Protection

- 09.00-09.20 Commercial production of in vitro date palm plants in Pakistan
Dr. Adel Ahmad Abul Soad, Horticulture Research Institute, Agriculture Research Centre, 9 Cairo Univ. st., Orman, Giza, Egypt
- 09.20-09.40 Dates in Balochistan and problems of Dubas bug (Sherago)
Mukhtar Umer Baloch, Directorate of Agriculture Research, (Dates) Kech at Turbat, Balochistan, Pakistan.
- 09.40-10.00 Biology, Invasion history and IPM of Red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*): The situation in California (USA)
Dr. Mark Hoddle, University of California, Riverside, USA.
- 10.00-10.20 Etiology and management of sudden decline disease of Date Palm in Sindh
Mr. Wazir Ali Maitlo, Dr. G Sarwar Markhand and Dr. Adel Ahmed Abul Soad, DPRI, SALU, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan
- 10.20-10.50 Tea Break

Socio-economic impact & Marketing

- 10.50-11.10 Assessment of the potential of date palm for poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods in the marginal areas of Pakistan.
Dr. Babar Shahbaz and Muhammad Salman, Department of Agricultural Extension, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.
- 11.10-11.30 Assessment of the Problems of Date Palm Growers and their possible solutions
Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Ibopoto, Dr. G Sarwar Markhand and Dr. Adel Ahmed Abul Soad, DPRI, SALU, Khairpur, Sindh, Pakistan
- 11.30-11.50 A Set Matrix Approach of the Structure, Conduct and Performance Module in the Date Industry of Pakistan.
Dr. Muneer Ali Shah Rizvi, Greenwich University, Karachi, Pakistan
- 11.50-12.50 Concluding Remarks
- 12.50-13.20 Vote of thanks
- 13.20-13.50 Lunch and prayer break

Organizing Committee

Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan	(Convener)
Dr. Muhammad Amjad	(Member)
Dr. Asif Ali	(Member)
Dr. M. Jafar Jaskani	(Secretary)
Dr. Babar Shahbaz	(Member)
Dr. Mansoor Hameed	(Member)
Mr. Summar A. Naqvi	(Member)

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