17th Convocation of PMAS-AAUR will be held in April, 2016
17th Convocation of the PMAS-AAUR is expected to be held in April, 2016 at Convention Centre Islamabad. The Governor of the Punjab / Chancellor will be the Chief Guest of this August occasion. In this convocation 2260 successful candidates will be awarded degrees including 718 Graduates, 1589 Postgraduates and 53 PhDs.

PMAS – AAUR Ph.D Club Swells to 309
Consequent upon the fulfillment of all requirements under the regulation of the University and on the recommendation of the external examiners, Ummay Amara D/o Abdul Hameed, Regd. No. 03-Arid-120, Department of Soil Sciences SWC, Faculty of Crop & Food Sciences has passed the final examination for the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy (2016). The Vice Chancellor is pleased to sanction her admission to Degree of Doctorate of Philosophy. The title of his PhD research was “Molecular and Biochemical Characterization of Plant Growth Promoter Rhizobacteria for Enhancing Crop Yield.” Now the number of PMAS-AAUR PhD club has been raised to 309.

Result of PhD Comprehensive Examination (Written), Fall Semester 2015-16 Has Been Announced
The office of the controller of Examination vide Notification No. PMAS-AAUR/CE/1389 dated 18-02-2016 has announced the result of PhD comprehensive Examination (written) held in Fall semester 2015-16. As per notification 64 PhD Students of Various faculties appeared in the examination and 61 qualified it. The Student(s) who have qualified/passed may appear in the oral part of the comprehensive examination as per University rules. However, the student(s) who have failed to qualify this examination as a 1st chance may appear again, but only once in the examination to be held as per rule in the next consecutive semester.

PhD Synopsis / Thesis Defense
The following PhD students from various faculties and departments defended their synopsis in the month of Feb, 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name &amp; Regd. No.</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bilal Javed (09-arid-1473)</td>
<td>Botany</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rehana Bibi (11-arid-04)</td>
<td>Entomology</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Majid Ullah (12-arid-667)</td>
<td>Forestry &amp; Range Management</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Rana Muhammad Ammar Asghar (09-arid-1831)</td>
<td>Soil Science &amp; SWC</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Aniq Batool (13-Arid-25)</td>
<td>Environmental Sciences</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Muhammad Rehan Zaheer (08-arid-111)</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
</tr>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Adil Hussain (15-arid-467)</td>
<td>Agronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Hussain Bakhsh (07-arid-56)</td>
<td>Entomology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Sumbal Khalil Chaudhary, Reg. No. 08-arid-858 PhD student, Department of Botany will defend her thesis on 22-03-2016 at 11am in the LT. No. 7, 2nd floor, Seminar Room. The title of her thesis is “Association Mapping for Drought Tolerance of Diverse Bread Wheat Germplasm”.

Internship Opportunities for Livestock & Agri Graduates
The Agri Tech Company of Pakistan has offered internship opportunities for Livestock & Agri graduates. The company seeking for “Dairy Science Intern” and “Intern in Agricultural Sciences”. Educational requirement for “Dairy Science Intern” is Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and for “Intern in Agricultural Sciences” is B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture. Interested candidates should send their updated CVs on the following e-mail address: hr@farmers.pk
HEC Awarded Seven Projects to the University Scientists

Prof. Dr. Tariq Masud,
Chairman Department of Food Technology has been awarded a project entitled “Screening for the Selection of Exopolysaccharide - Producing Strains for Yoghurt Making” of worth Rs. 8.058 million.

Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid, Chairman Department of Environmental Sciences has been awarded a project entitled “Biotreatment of Tannery Wastewater and Its Application for Biomass Production of Energy Crops” of worth Rs. 13.769 million.

Dr. Anwaar Ahmad, Associate Professor Department of Food Technology has been awarded a project entitled “Characterization of Nutraceutical Potential of Buckwheat and value Addition of Cereal Products” of worth Rs. 5.78 million.

Dr. Muhammad Akmal, Associate Professor of Soil Science & SWC has been awarded a research project entitled as “Evaluation of Biochar from Different Sources to Control Heavy Metal Toxicity to Soil Microorganisms and Plants” from Higher Education Commission (HEC) under National Research Program for Universities (NRPU). The cost of this project is Rs. 2.235 million.

Dr. Muhammad Farooq, Chairman Department of Sociology has been awarded a project to write the text book on “Principles of Sociology” for graduate students under “Textbook & Monograph writing scheme”. He has been directed by HEC to write the manuscript within six months.

Dr. Touqueer Ahmed, Assistant Professor Department of Horticulture has been awarded a project entitled “Somatic Hybridization for Citurs Improvement: a Way Towards a Low Input Sustainable Citrus Culture in Pakistan” of worth Rs. 12.51 million.

Dr. Saad Imran Malik, Assistant Professor Department of PBG has been awarded a project entitled “Improvement of Host Disease Resistance in Tomato through Genetic Transformation” of worth Rs. 3.669 million.
Three Renowned Professors have been Retired from the University Service

Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali, Dean Faculty of Crop & Food Sciences has completed his superannuation in 2015 and has been retired from the University Service. Presently he is working as subject specialist / Director Academics of the University in addition to the duties of Director Institute of Hydroponic Agriculture. He served the University from 1st October 1980 to 14th September 2015 in various capacities. He performed the duties of Chairman Department of Soil & Soil Water Conservation, Dean Faculty of Crop & Food Sciences, Hostel Warden, Principal Officer Transport & Principal Officer Estate & Security. Prof. Dr. Safdar Ali is being considered the live history of the Barani Agriculture College & Arid University.

Prof. Dr. Azim Malik has been retired from University Service after completing his superannuation on 19th June, 2015. Now-a-days he is serving the University as Subject Specialist / Director University.

Research Farm at Koont (Mandra / Chakwal Road) Gujjar Khan. He served the University from 24th Feb 1982 to 19th June 2015 in various capacities from Farm Manager to Professor & Chairman Department of Agronomy. He also performed his duties as Chairman University Sports Board, Principal Officer (Students Affairs) from 2005 to 2010 and as Acting Vice Chancellor from 18th August 2012 to 23th January 2013. He contributed a lot in Academic & Administrative spheres.

Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Dean Faculty of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife has been retired from the University service w.e.f. 31-05-2015. Dr. Hussain possesses PhD Degree from Reading University, England. He started his career from PARC as Scientific Officer in 1982 and served their till 2007. He remained the National Coordinator under National IPM Program from 2004 to 2007 at PARC.

When the PMAS-AAUR started the Faculty of Forestry, Range Management and Wildlife in 2007, he joined the Department of Wildlife Management as a 1st Professor & Chairman. He was selected as Tenure Track Professor in May, 2010 and served as Dean Faculty of Forestry, Range Management & Wildlife from Dec, 2013 to May 2015. Presently he is serving PMAS-AAUR as Subject Specialist/ Director Pak Korea Capacity Building Centre.

Prof. Dr. S. M. Saqlain Naqvi served as Visiting Professor at Charles Sturt University, Australia

Prof. Dr. S. M. Saqlain Naqvi has joined his duties as Dean, Faculty of Sciences w.e.f. 11th January 2016 after his 9 months visit to Charles Sturt University, New South Wales, Australia. Dr. Naqvi was given status of visiting Professor in School of Biological Sciences. He worked on identification, isolation and characterization of *Nigella sativa* protease inhibitor. He also assisted in development of an ACIAR project, “Increasing productivity and profitability of pulse production in cereal based cropping systems in Pakistan”.

Educational Scholarship 2016 Under Benevolent Fund

Applications are invited for the award of Educational Scholarship for the year 2016 under Benevolent Fund from the employees of the University. Applications duly filled in on prescribed Performa (being made available at the University Website and Photostat Shops in the Campus) should reach in the Office of the Registrar by March 31, 2016.

March - April, 2016
Participation of University Academicians in International Conferences/Symposiums

Prof. Dr. Jehangir Khan Sial visited Global Forum for Innovative Agriculture (GFIA) at Abu Dhabi from 15-18 February 2016. Dr. Sial attended the moot of international researchers who had exhibited their innovations. This activity of innovative exhibitions cum seminar was attended by scientists from all over the world. The event is permanent, annually held and welcomes scientists with innovative ideas for exhibition. Prof. Sial plans delivering a lecture on the new horizons of modern agriculture by inviting faculty and students.

Professor Dr. Arfan Yousaf, Chairman Department of Clinical Sciences, attended “Pakistan One Health Career Development Symposium” held from March 1-4, 2016 in Dubai, UAE. The symposium was organized jointly by US National Academy of Sciences and Pakistan Academy of Sciences. The symposium was arranged as a first step towards building a 1-H research network in Pakistan. Experts from human and veterinary fields both from USA and Pakistan attended the symposium. During the symposium Professor Dr. Arfan Yousaf presented his project proposal entitled “Occurrence of Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC) strains of public health significance from slaughtered animals in Pakistan”.

Farid Asif Shaheen, Assistant Professor, Department of Entomology presented his research paper entitled "COMPARATIVE APTNESS OF PLANT PRODUCTS WITH CHEMICAL BASED STANDARD GRAIN PROTECTANT AGAINST CALLOSOBRUCHUS CHINENSIS L. ATTACKING CHICKPEA GRAINS IN STORAGE" in 2nd Kuala Lumpur International Agriculture, Forestry and Plantation Conference 2016, held on 20-21 February, 2016 at Hotel Putra, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The travel grant to attend this conference was provided by Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad.

Prof. Dr. Asif Ahmad attended and presented a paper in 12th Annual Fulbright & Humphrey Alumni Conference at the National University of Science & Technology (NUST) Islamabad from 4 – 6 December 2015. Theme of the conference was Innovation for Development – Towards a Sustainable Future. Conference was a great mix of entrepreneurs, scientists, writers, artists and policy experts, all connected through the Fulbright Program. American Ambassador to Pakistan David Hale was the Chief Guest at this occasion during inaugurating session.

Practical Training of BS Forestry Students

The Department of Forestry arranged a practical training session for capacity building of BS forestry students on March 03, 2016. Dr. Young-Goo Park from Korean Academy of Science and Technology (KAST) was the key trainer. Dr. Park is an expert in forest breeding and genetics. Prof. Dr. Sarwat N. Mirza (Chairman), Dr. M. Irfan Ashraf and Ms. Sabeeqa Malik were facilitating the session in Nursery Production Unit. Dr. Park practically demonstrated grafting in Pinus roxburghii.
Launching of Research Journals and Extension Magazine at PMAS-AAUR

As per directive of the Worthy Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad two Research Journals (International Journal of Social Sciences-Footprint, Journal of Applied Agriculture & Biotechnology) and an extension magazine quarterly BARAN have been initiated at PMAS-AAUR. The following professionals have been assigned the duties of editorships of these publications.

International Journal of Social Sciences-Footprint

Dr. Abdul Saboor (Chief Editor)

It is a bi-annual research journal published (online and print version) by the University. The basic aim of this publication is to promote latest research innovation, information related to the Social Sciences. It will focus on the applied as well as pure aspects of research. Prof. Dr. Abdus Saboor, Chairman Department of Economics & Agri Economics has been assigned the duties of Chief Editor, International Journal of Social Sciences-Footprint. The first issue of this Journal will be launched soon.

Journal of Applied Agriculture & Biotechnology (JAAB)

Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid (Chief Editor)

This is a bi-annual research journal published (online and print version) by PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Pakistan. The aim of the journal is to publish latest research achievements and promote the integration and cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sciences. It mainly addresses applied research (but not restricted to) in agriculture and biotechnology.

Prof. Dr. Azeem Khalid, Chairman Department of Environmental Sciences has been assigned the duties of Chief Editor Journal of Applied Agriculture & Biotechnology (JAAB).

Quarterly BARAN Magazine

Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Salik (Chief Editor)

This Magazine has been initiated with the aim to disseminate the modern Agricultural Technology, information and output of research among the farming community of Pakistan specially in Potohar Region. Mr. Muzaffar Hussain Salik, Deputy Registrar PRP has been assigned the duties of Chief Editor of this Magazine. 1st issue of BARAN (Jan – Mar 2016) “Wheat Production Technology” has been published with the sponsorship of Ali Akbar Group Pakistan and has been distributed among the extension workers, policy makers and Agri. related personals on gratis basis.

New Assignments / Additional Duties

Prof. Dr. Ata ul Mohsin has assumed the charge as Chairman, Department of Entomology w.e.f. 06-02-2016. Dr. Mohsin is also performing the duties of Director External Linkages of the University and member Administrative Committee Quarterly Baran Magazine.

Dr. Muhammad Azam Khan has assumed the charge of the Director Advanced Studies.
Previously he was working as Deputy Registrar (Gazetted Branch). Dr. Azam is also member of Finance & Planning Committee & the University Syndicate.

Dr. Ghulam Hussain Babar, Assistant Professor Department of Islamic Studies has assumed the charge of Senior Tutor of the University. Dr. Babar is also doing the duties of Deputy Director Students Affairs. He is an active and innovative personality of the University. It is hoped that he will serve the student community in a better way.

16th International Congress of Soil Science was held at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi from 15-17 March, 2016. The theme of the congress is “Healthy Soils for Food Security”. This international event is being organized by Soil Science Society of Pakistan and PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi. Federal Minister for Defense Production Rana Tanveer Hussain was the chief guest at the inaugural session while Dr. Muhammad Ashraf Chairman Pakistan Science Foundation, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad Vice Chancellor PMAS-AUR, MNA Shizra Munsab were also present. Faculty members of PMAS-AUR and more than 300 hundreds scientists include federal & provincial policy makers, education, agri. Extension & industry from Pakistan and abroad are attended this congress. Dr. Tariq Siddique & Prof. Dr. Khalid Saif Ullah Khan were the organizers.

World Wildlife Day & Wetlands Day 2016 observed at PMAS -AAUR

Department of Wildlife Management, PMAS AAUR celebrated the World Wildlife Day on 3rd March 2016 by developing and displaying posters at the campus. World Wildlife Day 2016 was celebrated under the theme “The future of wildlife is in our hands.” African and Asian elephants were main focus of the Day.

World Wetlands Day was celebrated on 2nd February, 2016. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed was chief guest. Prof. Dr. Maqsood Anwar, Dean, Forestry, Range Management and Wildlife welcomed the distinguished speakers and participants. Mr. Umeed Khalid, Conservator Wildlife, Ministry of Climate Change and Dr. Ejaz Ahmad, Senior Director, WWF-Pakistan gave a comprehensive overview of management of wetlands for sustainable livelihoods in Pakistan. Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmed appreciated the department’s efforts and presented his vision on importance of wetlands and conservation of water. A walk was arranged for the awareness of this event.