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## Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Inaugurated National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), Aeroponics Complex at NARC

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Honourable Mr. Shehbaz Sharif, visited National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) Islamabad to inaugurate two ground breaking initiatives of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) and the Aeroponics Complex for virus-free seed potato production. The ceremony witnessed participation of several distinguished guests, including the Federal Ministers, Minister

for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, federal secretaries, ambassadors and high commissioners from various countries. Additionally, officials from provincial governments, provincial research institutions, universities, agricultural scientists, and representatives from the private sector were also present to mark this significant step towards advancing Pakistan's agricultural research and technology. In his address at the inauguration ceremony, the

Prime Minister highlighted pivotal role of science and innovation in shaping the future of Pakistan's agriculture sector. He stated, "Today marks a historic milestone and the Genomics and Biotechnology Institute will not only support seed potato production but will also revolutionize trait-specific varietal development of various crops." He emphasized the need for sustainable solutions to enhance food security, expressing his vision that "let this occasion stand as a symbol

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Honorable Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurating National Institute of Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) during his visit to NARC Islamabad. Federal Minister National Food Security and Research Rana Tanveer Hussain and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC are also present at the occasion on March, 24.

## Strengthening agricultural research is key to ensuring food safety and security: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: In his address at the inauguration ceremony, Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research stated, 'Today marks a significant step forward in strengthening Pakistan's agricultural sector and ensuring food security. The establishment of these state of the art facilities, in collaboration with the Korean government, will help us in achieving varietal development of various crops and will allow us to produce high-quality potato seeds locally, significantly reducing our dependence on imports and enhancing crop

yields. These initiative symbolizes our government's commitment to modernizing agriculture and securing a prosperous future for our farmers and the nation. The minister also appreciated PARC for formulating national seed and national agricultural biotechnology policies which are also in line with the initiatives of the present government. At the occasion, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, said, "Our commitment to revolutionizing the agricultural sector in Pakistan is reflected in our various research initiatives,



such as genome-based varietal development at NIGAB, Aeroponics facility, and speed breeding facility. He further added that PARC is fully committed to agricultural transformation in line with the Prime Minister's Green Pakistan Initiative.

## Pakistan and Korea Enhance Agricultural Ties with New Seed Potato Complex: Jaehan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Korea have strengthened their agricultural partnership with the inauguration of the Seed Potato Production and Aeroponics Complex. The event, attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and RDA Administrator Kwon Jaehan, marks a major step in Pakistan's agricultural self-sufficiency.

Mr. Jaehan highlighted the deep ties between the two nations and Korea's commitment to supporting Pakistan's agricultural advancement. The Korea Partnership for Innovation of Agriculture, established in 2020 in collaboration with the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), has played a vital role in this success. Its Seed Potato Project introduced aeroponics technology, increasing productivity sixfold. With a \$2.5 million investment from the Pakistan government, the project aims to produce 160,000 tons of disease-free seed

potatoes annually by 2028, boosting farmer incomes and the rural economy. Beyond potatoes, Korea and Pakistan are collaborating on genetic resource exchanges and livestock industry improvements. Korea's dairy expertise, which significantly increased milk production, is

expected to benefit Pakistan's livestock sector. Mr. Jaehan reaffirmed RDA's commitment to supporting Pakistan's agricultural innovation and strengthening bilateral ties. The newly inaugurated complex stands as a testament to the growing cooperation between the two nations.



Honorable Prime Minister, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurating Seed Potato Production and Processing Complex during his visit to NARC

## Picture Gallery



*Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC briefing about research activities to Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to NARC on March 24.*



*Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting the biotechnology lab at NARC, Islamabad, receiving a briefing on advanced research, accompanied by Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, and officials on March, 24.*



*Honorable Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif inspecting research activities at NARC, Islamabad, accompanied by Chairman PARC and officials on March, 24.*



*Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting an agricultural exhibition at NARC, Islamabad, inspecting locally produced organic products. Accompanied by officials on March, 24*



*Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, reviewing aeroponics seed potato production during his visit to agricultural exhibition at NARC, Islamabad on March, 24.*



*Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by Federal Minister for food security and research, Rana Tanveer Hussain and other officials, inspecting advanced aeroponics potato production technology on March, 24.*

## Picture Gallery



Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, presenting shield to Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC.



Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Inaugurating Seed Potato Production and Processing Complex during his visit to NARC on March, 24.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting an agricultural exhibition at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad, on March, 24. He is briefed on innovative crop science research and advancements in seed technology.



Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Addressing, PARC Scientists on inaugural session of NIGAB at NARC on March, 24.



Honourable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, accompanied by the Federal Minister, planting a tree at NARC, Islamabad, promoting environmental sustainability on March, 24.



Honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, presenting shelf to RDA Administrator Kwon Jaehan

## Picture Gallery



Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Aeroponics Complex and the National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB) at (NARC), Islamabad, on March, 24.



Honorable Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif received briefing on the Aeroponics Technology Complex for potato seed production at the National Agricultural Research Center in Islamabad on March 24,



Honorable Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif discussing advancements in modern agricultural technologies with researchers and experts.



Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali briefing Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif during his visit to the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) in Islamabad on March, 24. Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain and the Federal Secretary are also present.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visiting an agricultural exhibition at NARC, Islamabad, on March, 24. He is briefed on innovative crop science research and advancements in seed technology.



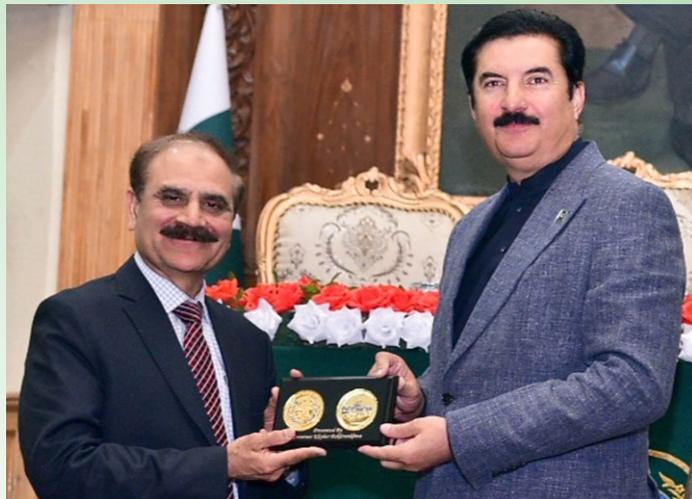
RDA Administrator Kwon Jaehan addressing the inauguration ceremony of the Aeroponics Complex at NARC, Islamabad, on March, 24.



## Picture Gallery



Honorable President Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari conferring the civil award of Sitara-e-Imtiaz upon Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC in recognition of his remarkable contribution in the agriculture research at a prestigious ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadar on March, 23.



Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Kareem kundi Presenting Soveenier to Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC



Federal Minister for Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain chairing the 48th meeting of PARC Board of Governors, held at NARC



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC chaired the inaugural session of two days training course on Potato Field Inspection, Seed Sampling and Testing Techniques organized by NIGAB-PARC and KOPIA Pakistan Centre.



A delegation from Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, PAEC, led by Dr. Aamir Manzoor, DG, International Affairs and Dr. Zahid Mukhtar, DG, Bio Sciences Division called on Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC to discuss ongoing and future collaboration in the domain of agricultural research



A delegation of Islamic Organization for Food Security called on Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC at NARC on February, 27.



## Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Inaugurated National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), Aeroponics Complex at NARC

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of progress, innovation, and international partnership." Reflecting on the collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Korea, he added, "Their technical expertise and unwavering commitment has played a pivotal role in turning this dream into reality." The Prime Minister urged all the stakeholders to "harness the power of genomics & biotechnology to not only meet our domestic needs but also position Pakistan as a key player in the global agricultural market. The Prime Minister appreciated researchers and scientists of PARC for their continuous dedication and hard work to promote agriculture. "We have to take strong steps

for storage and transportation of vegetables and fruits " he added. He also said that farmers should focus on value addition of fruits and vegetables. He also urged all stakeholders to focus on local production and manufacturing of agricultural machinery to including combined harvester. Prime Minister thanked South Korea for their support to establish seed potato Complex. National Institute for Genomics and Biotechnology (NIGAB) is a national institution, under the umbrella of PARC, dedicated to agricultural research, with the aim of enhancing food security, ensuring food safety, developing improved crop varieties through genome-

based varietal development, conducting biotechnology and molecular-based diagnostic testing, and improving livestock productivity.

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Korea are collaborating on the production of seed potatoes using Aeroponics technology. For this, PARC and KOPIA have established a state of the art Aeroponics complex at NARC which aims to enhance agricultural productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, promote on-farm processing, facilitate human resource development, and create substantial employment opportunities.

## Honorable Mr. Wang Jian Called on Chairman, PARC

ISLAMABAD: A high-level delegation, led by Honorable Mr. Wang Jian, Chairman of the Board of Directors of BGI Group, China called on Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali at NARC Islamabad to foster collaboration between both the organizations and discuss potential areas of mutual interest in agricultural research and innovation. Chairman PARC briefed the delegation about various research endeavors being carried out at PARC. The delegation also visited state of the art research laboratories at NIGAB, NARC. Mr. Wang Jian, a distinguished scientist and expert in the field of genomics, is credited with

several notable contributions to the field of genetic research. He holds advanced degrees in both traditional Chinese medicine and integrated Chinese and Western medicine. Subsequent to his academic pursuits, Mr. Wang pursued extensive postdoctoral research at reputable institutions in the United States. Notably, he established BGI Biotechnology in 1994 and played a pivotal role in facilitating China's participation in the Human Genome Project. His vision and leadership led to the founding of BGI in 1999, a premier institution dedicated to completing the research tasks assigned to China in the Human Genome Project.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC briefing Mr. Wang Jian, during his visit to NARC on Jan, 29.



Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC presenting shield to Mr. Wang Jian, Chairman, of the Board of Directors of BGI Group, China on Jan, 29.



## President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari awarded Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali with Sitara-e-Imtiaz at a prestigious ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad.

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), has been honored with the Sitara-e-Imtiaz for his outstanding contributions to the field of agriculture. In a prestigious ceremony held at Aiwan e Sadr, Islamabad, Honorable President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari awarded Chairman PARC with the Sitara-e-Imtiaz for his remarkable work in the field of agricultural research. Dr. Ali is currently serving as Chairman PARC and has achieved significant milestones in agricultural research and innovation. His tenure at PARC has seen him occupy several

pivotal positions, and his scientific contributions are underscored by over 360 publications in national and international journals.

Dr. Ali's innovative work has led to the establishment of transformative initiatives such as National Institute for Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology, NIGAB, the Department of Plant Genomics and Biotechnology, and the development of crop varieties through genome-based breeding strategies aimed at pyramiding multiple desirable genes. Notably, he pioneered Pakistan's first speed breeding facility to expedite varietal development and established the nation's first aeroponics

facility at NARC to produce virus-free nucleus seed potatoes.

Under his leadership, Dr. Ali has introduced several high-yielding and climate-resilient crop varieties. These include the rice varieties GM ALI-5, GM ALI-76, GM ALI-48, and KM-52, the wheat variety Wafaq-2023, and four banana varieties: NIGAB-1, NIGAB-2, NIGAB-3, and NIGAB-4. Additionally, he developed the early-maturing grape variety Razaqi and tested the first ginger variety in a farmer's field. Dr. Ali has also supervised numerous Ph.D. and M.Phil. candidates, further contributing to the advancement of agricultural science.



Honorable President Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari awarded Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman, PARC with Sitara-e-Imtiaz at a prestigious ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadar on March, 23.