

O-75 (264)**HORTICULTURE RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ' A CASE STUDY FROM PAKISTAN**

Dr. Munawar Raza Kazmi, Country Manager, Australian Centre for, International Agricultural Research, Australian High Commission Pakistan, D.E.1 , Islamabad , Pakistan;

Munawar.Kazmi@aci-ar.gov.au (Presenting author)

Aman Ullah Malik, Director Institute of Horticulture, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Faisalabad, Pakistan; malikaman1@gmail.com

Sohail Ayyaz, PhD Scholar, Tasmanian Inst. of Agriculture, University of Tasmania, Private Bag 98 , Hobart TAS 7001 , Hobart, Australia; sohail.ayyaz@utas.edu.au

Assist. Prof. Muhammad Amin, Horticulture, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan; aminuaf42@yahoo.com

Prof. Ray Collins, Emeritus Professor, School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland, Queensland, Australia; ray.collins@uq.edu.au

Australian R&D institutions have provided significant and resilient horticulture research and capacity development skills which have had a positive impact in developing countries. There is definite comparative advantage to Australia in the field of horticulture and that advantage has helped developing countries. This paper presents a case study of a horticultural project in Pakistan funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The horticulture sector in Pakistan is significant, both domestically and for export production. Crop management practices are often suboptimal and losses along the value chain are high. Australian intervention led to the adoption of a value chain approach by Pakistani smallholders to increase the productivity and competitiveness of their produce along with building the capacity of researchers and extension workers in using the value chain approach. In examining the impact of the this paper 1) demonstrates the small investment in research and capacity building which brought major change in an industry; 2) identifies some of the major issues associated with the implementation of these activities; and 3) highlights progress to date, major successes and major lessons learnt. The success achieved has been the result of ACIAR's particular way of working. The ACIAR approach, which is based on brokering relations between Australian expertise and developing country institutes, is unique and has been very effective in Pakistan. There are significant opportunities for future involvement of Australia's horticultural research capacity and expertise in overseas development assistance programs (ODA).

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