



CABI News Bulletin Asia

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• Working Together

PlantwisePlus programme launches to help improve food security in Pakistan.



CABI in Pakistan has officially launched the PlantwisePlus programme to help improve food security in Pakistan through more sustainable approaches to food production. The CABI-led programme will help the Pakistan Government and smallholder farmers predict, prepare and prevent plant health threats to help reduce crop losses and increase livelihoods.

CABI in Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agriculture Departments of Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Governments in September to strengthen collaboration for the PlantwisePlus programme.

Pakistan is one of six PlantwisePlus countries that will effectively serve to 'prove-the-concept' for the programme in its delivery of digital innovations that also include expansion of its network of plant clinics and plant doctors who help farmers diagnose and remedy their plant health issues.

This includes the use of the CABI Horizon Scanning and Pest Risk Analysis tools as well as the control of the insect/pests by biological control agents. The supply of safe and nutritious food will also be increased through enterprises driven by women and youth.

https://www.cabi.org/news-article/plantwiseplus-programme-launches-to-help-improve-food-security-in-pakistan/

Products and Resources

CABI supports study, practice and professional development through our array of publishing products, research services and support tools.



	Product	More information
Core Database and ebooks	CAB Abstracts www.cabdirect.org 	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/cab-abstracts/
	Global Health www.cabdirect.org	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/global-health/
	Global Health Practitioner Interface www.cabdirect.org/globalhealth	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/global-health/
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Internet Resources	AgBiotechNet www.cabi.org/agbiotechnet/	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/agbiotechnet/
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	Environmental Impact www.cabi.org/EnvironmentalImpact	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/environmental- impact/
	Forest Science https://www.cabi.org/forestscience	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/forest-science- database/
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	Nutrition and Food Sciences https://www.cabi.org/nutrition	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/nutrition-and- food-sciences-database/
	VetMed Resource www.cabi.org/vetmedresource/	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/vetmed- resource/
Compendia	Animal Health and Production Compendium www.cabi.org/ahpc	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/animal-health- and-production-compendium/
	Aquaculture Compendium • www.cabi.org/ac	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/aquaculture- compendium/
	Crop Protection Compendium www.cabi.org/cpc	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/crop-protection- compendium/
	Forestry Compendium ■ www.cabi.org/fc	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/forestry- compendium/
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	Invasive Species Compendium www.cabi.org/isc	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/invasive- species-compendium/
Full Text	CAB Reviews www.cabi.org/cabreviews/ 	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/cab-reviews/
	Distribution Maps of Plant Pests ■ www.cabi.org/dmpp	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/distribution- maps-of-plant-pests/
	Distribution Maps of Plant Diseases www.cabi.org/dmpd 	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/distribution- maps-of-plant-diseases/
	Descriptions of Fungi and Bacteria www.cabi.org/dfb/	https://www.cabi.org/publishing-products/descriptions-of- fungi-and-bacteria/

News and Updates



EAST ASIA



The International Symposium on the Joint Management of Cross-border Crop Pests in China and Southeast Asian countries. sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), was held in Kunming, Yunnan Province from 7-9 November, 2022. It was organized by the Department of International Cooperation and the Institute of Plant Protection of CAAS, and co-organized by Yunnan Agricultural University and other institutions. The Symposium focused on the collaborative prevention and control of transboundary crop pests to ensure biosecurity and food security in the region. The event was attended by more than 300 representatives from the region, both virtually and in-person. The event ended on a group discussion where participants exchanged thoughts on the occurrence and damage status of major crop pests, rules of cross-border

migration and diffusion, monitoring and forecasting programmes, joint management technologies and products. In addition, the attendees explored novel management mechanisms and policy measures conducive to inter-governmental cooperation. A platform for international exchange and cooperation for the participants was also discussed.

 A training workshop was jointly organized by Maasai Mara University (MMU) in Kenya and the Dryland Farming Institute, Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China on 19-23 November, 2022. The event was attended by key stakeholders from 14 countries including Lanzhou University, Gansu Agricultural University, Gansu Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Gansu Society for Agricultural, and Grassroots Academy of Agricultural Sciences. CABI's Dr Hongmei Li gave a presentation on the organization's Decision-Support Tools for precision agriculture.

Session 5: Nematodes and Fungi



29 September 2022

(D) CABI

 A workshop on Nematodes and Fungi, jointly organized by the ASEAN FAW Action Plan Secretariat and CABI, was held on 29 September, 2022. CABI's Hongmei Li and Keith Holmes delivered presentations on "Green direct control of pests – Usage of beneficial nematodes: Case Studies in Rwanda" and "Entomopathogenic Nematode Production Technology Transfer" respectively.



Meeting on plant protection collaboration between CABI and Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences

The 2nd Shandong Plant Protection Youth Forum was held in Jinan, China on 19 August 2022. Drs Feng Zhang and Jinping Zhang from CABI took part in the workshop and presented on "Theory and Practice on International Collaboration in Plant Protection Science and Technology: using CABI as an example" and "Biological control of brown marmorated stink bug", respectively. The event attracted more than 50 delegates from 18 institutions. The CABI team also visited the Institute of Plant Protection, Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and attended a meeting to discuss collaboration on biological control research and technology development.

SOUTH EAST ASIA



Group photo of CABI delegation with Mr Faizal Harun (central), CABI LO, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Malaysia

- The ASEAN Secretariat organized the 4th ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Research and Development Forum to discuss adaptive approaches to research and development on 12 September, 2022. The forum – held via video conference, was convened on the theme of strengthening climate resilience with private sector engagement and nature-based solutions. CABI's Dr Feng Zhang took part in the event and presented his views on nature-based solutions for sustainable agriculture, based upon improving advisory services through the PlantwisePlus approach to strengthening plant health systems. Furthermore, he talked on the issue of advocacy for more safer-to-use and environmentally friendly biological control products to fight crop pests and diseases.
- Dr Feng Zhang visited Malaysia between 2-15 October. Together with CABI's Dr Chubashini Suntharalingam and Dr Muhammad Faheem, he held a series of meetings with key partners in Malaysia. These included the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI), Malaysian Agriculture Research and Development Institute (MARDI), Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities (MPIC), Faculty of Agriculture, University Putra Malaysia (UPM), and Malaysia Cocoa Board (MCB). All the parties showed a strong interest to further develop partnerships with CABI and work together in areas of mutual interest.
- The ICC (International Coconut Community)

Session & Ministerial Meeting was held between 28-30 November 2022 to discuss, deliberate and take policy decisions on upcoming activities for the sustained development of the global coconut sector. Dr Feng Zhang represented CABI at the event. This was the third consecutive time that the meeting was held virtually.

The 58th session of the meeting began with the launch of Cocopest. Developed by CABI and financially supported by the ICC, this new information portal was launched by Dr Jelfina Alouw, Executive Director of the ICC. Cocopest is an easily accessible portal to help coconut producers maximize their yields and profitability.



Virtual participations at the Plantwise+ PNG kick-off meeting, 25 November 2022

 A kick-off meeting was held virtually between CABI, the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the National Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) on 25 November, 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how PlantwisePlus could help Papua New Guinea (PNG) smallholder farmers grow more and lose less to crop pests and diseases.

During his presentation, Mr Warea Orapa, Acting Director General of NARI, and CABI Liaison Officer, said that PNG) is keen to collaborate with CABI to address serious threats to agriculture and the environment. This includes some invasive species of major concern not only for PNG, but also regionally. The session ended describing how the PlantwisePlus programme will help strengthen the country's plant health system and better prepare it for early detection and response to pest outbreaks and invasion events. It will also increase the supply of higher quality and safer food, contribute to trade in agricultural products, and thereby improve socio-economic conditions in PNG.



CABI's Dr Sathis delivering her talk at the 50th International COCOTECH conference and exhibition

 The 50th International COCOTECH Conference and Exhibition is the largest technical conference dedicated solely to coconut development. It was organized by the ICC in association with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries Government of Malaysia on 7–11 November 2022 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Center, Malaysia. The theme for the conference was "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for a Resilient and Sustainable Coconut Agroindustry". CABI's Dr Sathis Sri presented on the topic of 'Developing a Monitoring and Reporting System of Pests and Diseases of Coconut to Prevent Economic Yield Losses.'



Farmer group study activities in An Giang province, Vietnam



Farmers having group discussion during field activities under the PlantwisePlus programme

 Under the PlantwisePlus programme, farmer group study activities were conducted in An Giang province, Vietnam from 29 November to 2 December 2022. The purpose was to involve smallholder farmers in the project cycle including a SWOT analysis and creating an organizational chart. There were also interviews with members of cooperatives in An Giang, and farm visits were held. The key activities comprised a series of meetings with local stakeholders and partners from the Plant Protection Department, An Giang University and Loc Troi Group, and training of enumerators. These activities were helpful in understanding the mechanism of local cooperatives.

SOUTH ASIA

- The CABI team in India submitted a policy guidance document to the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) in Nepal for review on 11 December 2022. The primary objective was to include Plantwise activities as part of a national programme.
- In Nepal, the Plantwise programme, in collaboration with International Development Enterprises (iDE) has established networks of locally owned plant clinics, run by community business facilitators (CBFs) trained as plant doctors, who provide practical plant health advice. A new study examines how gender is integrated into the Plantwise programme in three selected study districts of Nepal. It presents the experiences of farmers, the challenges they faced in accessing plant

health services through a gender and social inclusion lens. It also identifies strategies and lessons for development of gender responsive plant health programmes. Staff from CABI's centre in India drafted a study report on the CBF model and submitted it for review.

 Gathering evidence and knowledge from YBI member organizations, the young entrepreneurs they work with, and other relevant sources, the research papers provide learning and recommendations to improve the programmatic and organizational effectiveness of the youth entrepreneurship sector. For this, CABI drafted a study report on youth led business models and submitted it to YBI for review.



Group photo of Pest Risk Assessment workshop particiapnts, Kathmandu, Nepal

- CABI delivered technical support to a writeshop meeting on Pest Risk Assessment in Kathmandu, Nepal on 21-22 December 2022. The Plant Quarantine and Pesticide Management Centre, which serves as a National Plant Protection Organization of Nepal, organized the meeting. CABI facilitated the session as a part of their continued support for the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) Tool and Horizon Scanning Tool (HST).
- CABI has promoted its suite of online tools which, combined with the need for farmers to adhere to social distancing rules, has seen an increase in the use of its digital tools and information resources within the Plantwise Knowledge Bank. A regional workshop was conducted on "CABI suite of Digital learning, decision making and advisory tools" on 24 December in Kathmandu, Nepal. PlantwisePlus digital tools were presented in the workshop.

- A satellite-based monitoring algorithm, was developed and tested using the Google Earth Engine to monitor fall armyworm (FAW). Based on this, CABI developed a research proposal for monitoring FAW with partners in a consortium, led by CHAP. The proposal was submitted to the FCDO country desk in India and was accepted.
- The Plantwise programme in Bangladesh was launched with the training for module one (Field Diagnosis and Plant Clinic Operation) and module two (Introduction to Plant Healthcare) for extension officers in Dhaka in November and December, 2022.
- To support sustainable, regenerative farming, the Rainforest Alliance calls on farmers to adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which involves different cultural and biological practices to monitor and control pests, while minimizing the use of pesticides. The second IPM meeting with Rainforest Alliance was held on 28 October 2022 in Assam. The use of Indigenous Technical Knowledge was also discussed during the seminar.
- The Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of Canada, and the Entomological Society of British Columbia hosted their 2022 Joint Annual Meeting on 13– 16 November, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The theme was 'Entomology as Inspiration: Insects through art, science, and culture'. Staff from CABI's centre in India presented a paper entitled "Advances in the Integrated Pest Management of FAW in India".
- CABI organized a 'Lunch & Learn Knowledge Feast' event in Hyderabad on 29 November 2022 at the Hotel Marigold and in Bangalore, on 30 November at the Welcome ITC Hotel. There were 45 participants across the two events including faculties and principal scientists from affiliates of ICAR. Presentations were given on CABI's product portfolio and an open discussion was held on how CABI's publishing resources can support agriculture education and research.
- A virtual webinar was organized on 30 November for plant quarantine officers, entomologists and plant pathologists

of the National Institute of Plant Health Management (NIPHM) and Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage (DPPQS & NPPO). Around 60 participants were physically present at NIPHM during the virtual webinar. The participants were trained on how to make the best use of the CABI publishing resources, including the Crop Protection Compendium (CPC), HST and PRA tools. NIPHM and DPPQS have subscribed to the CPC for five years.

CENTRAL & WEST ASIA



Farmers are being briefed about the agricultural mechanization by the project team.

- Under the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) programme, a series of refresher workshops were conducted for field facilitators and producer unit managers based in the Mirpurkhas and Matiari regions on revised production principle and Criteria on 27 – 28 and 31 October to 1 November 2022. The workshops aimed to improve the knowledge of field staff on climate change mitigation strategies and good agricultural practices.
- Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Technical Assistance (TA) Officer Ms Noriko Sato visited Pakistan and two meetings were conducted in Islamabad. During these meetings, discussions were held on the extension of ADB TAs TA-9838 and TA-6663 and a draft proposal was submitted for both projects to ADB. on 31 October, ADB approved extension of both TAs.
- As part of the 'Enhancing technology based agriculture' project, field demonstrations, and literacy training activities took place in Okara, Pakpattan and Hafizabad. These activities

were attended by almost 2,000 farmers. There were demonstrations on maize harvesting cob pickers, and a combine harvester for rice.

- H. E. Henny Fokel de Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Pakistan, visited the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) to meet with project collaborators and to receive updates on the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) funded potato project in Punjab. She also interacted with the district master trainers and UAF students.
- The Karachi Cotton Association (KCA) recognized the need to boost the capability of the Pakistan cotton sector. In this regard, a two-day training workshop on "Cotton Quality for Supply Chain" was held in Lahore on 21–22 October 2022. The training was co-organized by KCA and the International

Cotton Association (ICA). Organic cotton experts from CABI included Dr Saif Ali, commodity value chain expert and Dr Yusuf Zafar, advisor to CABI, participated in the event. Attendees included researchers, brokers, ginners, cotton consultants, spinners, traders, and textile groups. The main aim of the training was to establish means to enhance cotton production and strengthen trade effectiveness.

 CABI in Pakistan has officially launched the PlantwisePlus programme to help improve food security in Pakistan through more sustainable approaches to food production. It will include the expansion of its network of plant clinics, and plant doctors who help farmers diagnose and remedy their plant health issues. So far, four plant clinics have been established in Gilgit Baltistan.



Above and Beyond in the Line of Duty



CABI is keen to acknowledge its staff who perform their tasks with a passion. We are confident that their insights and skills will greatly benefit our organization and partners. We look forward to them developing their skills and making an impact in their respective areas.



Dr Min Wan Senior Coordinator Min received congratulations on serving with CABI for 20 years in April 2022. We greatly appreciate her consistent work and excellent work attitude. We would like to acknowledge her valuable contribution towards delivering high-quality projects including Plantwise and PlantwisePlus.



Chubashini Suntharalingam

Agricultural Value Chains Coordinator East and South-East Asia Chubashini has been proactive in seeking and exploring value chain and trade engagements, and implementing PlantwisePlus activities with relevant stakeholders within SEA to deliver project objectives and simultaneously meet donors' requirements.



Muhammad Faheem Integrated Crop

Management Advisor Muhammad Faheem successfully implemented the STDF Safer Spices project in Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao. Furthermore, he completed the Trichogramma Rearing Facility (TRF) and training of MARDI experts on mass rearing and quality control processes and developed a manual on "Standard **Operating Procedures** (SOPs) for Mass Rearing of Trichogramma".



Kausallia Balasuppiah

Administrative Assistant Kausallia has provided additional support to the scientists and lab coordinators by helping with their data entries, record keeping and insect culture maintenance.



Xin Chen

Administrative Assistant

Xin has made valuable contributions towards the CABI East Asia center and the MARA-CABI Joint Laboratory. She actively supports the preparation of promotional material alongside other administrative and financial tasks. Her commitment and perseverance in accomplishing the tasks are highly commendable. Her organizational and professional skills helped in developing cordial relationships with our partner organizations. We appreciate her outstanding performance and dedication to her work.

Meetings/Events



EAST ASIA

 CABI's centre in Switzerland will be co-hosting the 15th MARA-CABI Joint Laboratory for Bio-safety Steering Committee Meeting with the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAAS) in the first quarter of 2023.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

- CABI's team in Malaysia has planned a follow-up meeting with MARDI to extend the MARDI-CABI MoU and use the MARDI-CABI Joint Lab as an open platform to enhance the collaboration.
- CABI's centre in Malaysia is looking forward to signing an MoU between CABI and Vietnam Academy of Agriculture Sciences (VAAS) with the aim to strengthen strategic partnership for further collaboration.
- Under the project "Engagement with Asia and Regional Economic Communities to promote alignment of MRL standard setting bodies", CABI's centre in Malaysia is planning to conduct a series of stakeholder meetings and farm visits in Vietnam and Indonesia.

SOUTH ASIA

- The Agribusiness Development Project involves accelerating the growth of the agribusiness sector through increased private sector (including public-private partnership) investment in Sri Lanka. CABI is planning to conduct internal meetings in Sri Lanka to assess the potential of agro-dealer certification.
- CABI participated in a roundtable organized by the Bharti Institute of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad in its first annual Public Policy Dialogues from 4–6 January, 2023 in Hyderabad.

Researchers and practitioners learned from shared experiences and insights to generate new visions for policy development. The event brought together researchers and practitioners from the public and private sector, academic institutions and think tanks, as well as civil society organizations. These stakeholders addressed critical issues in public policy in India. CABI was represented in both the panel discussion as well as in a poster presentation.

CENTRAL AND WEST ASIA

- Two meetings with the Director General and Directors of the Field Wing of Punjab Agricultural Department (PAD) will be conducted at Lahore. A Technical Assistance (TA) Officer visit to Pakistan is expected mid-January 2023 where a series of meetings with PAD and Field Wing are planned. The design and monitoring framework for a feasibility study was also finalized.
- To monitor the training sessions and proper implementation of approved activities of the BCI Sindh project, a refresher workshop for Producer Units (PU) managers and women staff will be conducted.
- Under its Strengthening Food Security
 Post Covid-19 and Locust Attacks project,
 CABI's centre in Pakistan is going to liaise
 with Department of Plant Protection (DPP),
 Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
 Agriculture Departments to conduct sanitary
 and phytosanitary workshops for its staff
 members.

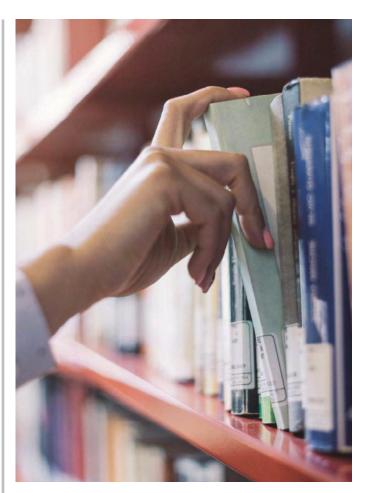
Explore Our Recent Publications



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New Yunnan-CABI Laboratory to help ensure greater food security in Southwest China



CABI facilitates Pest **Risk Assessment** writeshop in Nepal



'Plantwise approach' to promote nature-based solutions for sustainable agriculture in South East Asia addressed at ASFAN forum



PlantwisePlus boosts crop health in Bangladesh



Papua New Guinea's food security to be strengthened further through PlantwisePlus programme



'Sowing the seeds' of better potato production in the Punjab



New information portal launched to help in fight against pests and diseases of coconut



CABI partnership equips cotton growers to mass produce ecofriendly bioprotection products



Can beneficial insects control parthenium weed in Pakistan to safeguard crops?



Changing minds, empowering women as part of the GRAST validation workshop



'Whole family' approach supports value chain development through improved gender inclusion



Acknowledgment

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We would also like to acknowledge the CABI teams working on projects throughout Asia who contributed to this News Bulletin.

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