

HYDERABAD: (Nov 21, 2017) -Chinese scholars and researchers in different fields representing South China Agriculture University (SCAU) on Tuesday showed keen interest to work together with Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tadojam and believe they have more opportunities for new cadre and graduates.

They shared this on the occasion of Pak-China international seminar on Agricultural Technology jointly organised by Sindh Agriculture University Tadojam and SCAU in the university premises.

The event brought together agriculture scientists, researchers, farmers, sugarcane experts, faculty members and students to share their experiences.

Prof M Ismail Kumbhar, a focal person of the SAU and Director University Advancement and Financial Assistance in his welcoming address attached the hope as the event has brought Pakistani and Chinese scientists, researchers and professionals to present their latest research results and ideas in different areas of agriculture with particular focus on mechanization, breeding, soil sciences and post harvest technology.

He said they wanted to develop linkages and sharing of technology in the field of agriculture. They will go ahead to strengthen relationship between industries, research institutes, governmental agencies, private sector and universities on the focal theme of agricultural technology, he added.

Yan Huichao, Director Researcher in science and technology, Prof Liu Qingting of College of Engineering, SCAU, Dr Zhang Zhike, College of Horticulture, Yuan Juhua, Deputy Director of International Relations, Prof Liao Zongwen of College of Natural Resources & Environment, China, Dr Zulfiqar Yousfani, representing Sindh Abadgar Board, Dr Aijaz Khonharo, Dean Faculty of Agricultural Social Sciences, Mr. Ashfaque Soomro, CEO RDF, Ms. Zahida Detho, CEO SRPO, Prof. Dr. Mehrunnisa Memon, Mr. Hadi Leghari, Agriculture Expert and other faculty spoke on the occasion.

In his detailed presentation about the SAU programmes, Ismail Kumbhar said the university has developed 10- year vision, carrying various research and academic programmes, focusing on emerging technology, water management, pre and post harvest management.

He said there is a plan to establish bio saline institute to deal with problems Sindh province is facing in terms of this major economic sector.

He said these kind of joint interactions with leading partners will enrich agriculturists and researchers with professional and technology innovations to make decisions about the applications of appropriate agriculture technologies. It will assist agricultural folks, public and private sector organizations in expanding their national agriculture technology strategies and capacities in the wider context of research for development, eradication of hunger and alleviation of poverty.

He said the university has already signed MoU with South China Agriculture University and further working to strengthen collaboration. He gave background of the agriculture in Sindh which started after establishing Sukkur barrage, which has been the backbone of the irrigation system. He gave a list of faculty members, who have got PhDs from China universities in different subjects and working in the SAU for better cause.

Dr. Zhang Zhike, College of Horticulture of SCAU briefed about the working relations and opportunity to sign MoUs with SAU, saying they have come to see the work this university is doing in the field of research. South China Agriculture University situated adjacent to Hong Kong was established in 1909. She gave presentation to brief the productivity of the university in terms of agriculture and environment. She said SCAU has 26 colleges on different subjects related to the university faculties, research and environment. She also portrayed initiative related to cooperation with Pakistan in different fields, mainly industrial and agriculture technology.

Ashfaq Soomro, executive director Research and Development Foundation (RDF) shared his experiences in agriculture practices said Sindh has two major crops seasons called Kharif and Rabi, covering almost all crops, grains and cash important products.

He said "agriculture institutionalizes our life, besides it is economic source and provides source of livelihoods to majority of rural population. We are agriculture economy, divided in different ecological zones mainly coastal, mountains, desert, indus river system."

RDF is working on irrigation system in different districts with farmer communities. He said presently Sindh is facing challenges regarding water scarcity, which affects the overall agriculture productivity.

He also portrayed the disasters like floods, droughts and cyclones, which have caused huge loss to agriculture besides and other infrastructure. He linked it to the climate change. When there is less rainfall the province in arid zones face drought-like situation, he added.

Prof Liao Zongwen of College of Natural Resources & Environment, China gave presentation on harvest technology in China introduced citrus production.

Speakers lauded the event, saying it is significant advancement in the field of agricultural. There is a strong impetus at present time to explore the blessings of agriculture and understand ways and means to apply these in agricultural sciences. They said it is a multifunctional approach and the integration of agricultural technologies with other non-agricultural innovative strategies that is vital for sustainable agricultural development.

They said it is a stock-taking exercise across different sectors, describing the current status and analyzing previous successes and failures in order to learn from the past and make recommendations for the future. Furthermore, experiences from both the public and private sector will be relevant.

Prof Liao Zongwen of College of Natural Resources & Environment, China in his concluding remarks said Pakistan and China has good relationship and this event will strengthen further cooperation through these two leading institutes.

Dr Mahrunnisa Memon of Department of Horticulture at SAU, Shahzad PhD scholar, who got higher education in research from China, Syed Nauman Ali, focal person scholarship- outreach communication alumni relations at SAU also shared his experiences about the agriculture Zahida Detho of Sindh Rural Partners Organisation (SRPO) gave their input, following their own learning in agriculture practices.