

AWAIS ZULFIQAR

House # 6484 Al-Khaldiya
Hofuf, Al-Ahsa, 31982 Saudi Arabia. (Current)
House # 234 Jinnah Colony Bahawalnagar, 62300 Pakistan.
(Permanent)

Work # +966 (0)13589 9543
Cell # +966 (0)538265668
E-mail: azulfiqar@kfu.edu.sa
awais.zju@gmail.com

Career Profile

I have earned doctorate degree in Agriculture and got chance of working with different institutes in China, Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during and after PhD studies. During my professional education and employment period that spans of twelve years, I have always been inspired by the thought of using productive and protected agriculture in a sustainable way for achieving better quality produce. My research skills along with my professional experience helped me to find out ways of breeding crop plants for better traits, improving crop genetics for higher yield and protecting crops from losses caused by pathogens and diseases.

Career Objective

A talented, enthusiastic and self-motivated PhD graduate enhancing my skills and knowledge, to work in multicultural environment and to produce quality results.

Employment & Experience

- **Assistant Professor** **[March 2013 – to date]**
Biological Sciences Department, King Faisal University (KFU) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- **Assistant Professor** **[October 2011 – September 2012]**
Biosciences Department, COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) Sahiwal,
Pakistan
- **Research Fellow** **[October 2006 – March 2007]**
Cotton Research Institute, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Faisalabad,
Pakistan
- **Internship Trainee** **[April 2004 – June 2004]**
Cotton Research Institute, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Faisalabad,
Pakistan

Education

- **PhD Agriculture** **[September 2008 – June 2011]**
 - Institute of Biotechnology, College of Agriculture & Biotechnology, Zhejiang University, P.R. China
 - Research Project: Molecular characterization of begomoviruses infecting *Vernonia cinerea* and *Ipomoea indica*
 - Direction: Prof. Zhou Xueping
- **M.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture** **[September 2004 – June 2006]**
 - University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan
 - Thesis title: Index of Transmissibility of Irradiated Genotypes of Mungbean (*Vigna radiata* L. Wilczek)
 - Course work: Advanced Methods in Plant Breeding, Evolution of Field Crops, Cytogenetics of Crop Plants, Physiology of Crop Nutrition, Mutation Breeding, Hybrid Seed Production of Field Crops
- **B.Sc.(Hons) Agriculture** **[December 2000 – September 2004]**
 - University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan
 - Internship training at Cotton Research Institute
 - Course work: Soil Science, Agriculture Extension Education, Crop Ecology, Principles of Agronomy, Field Crop Production, Crop Physiology, Strategies & Skills for Effective Agriculture Extension, Breeding of Field Crops, Agriculture & Environmental Pollution, Agri. Business Management

Trainings Attended

- Course Report Workshop [30 November, 2015]
- Writing Academic Reports in KFU [20 -21 Oct, 2015]
- Assessment of Students Learning and Performance [10 -11 May, 2015]
- Symposium [8 November, 2014]
“Antibiotic Resistance: The Biggest Medical Problem We Face Today”
- The 5th Symposium [3-5 Nov, 2013]
“Date Palm entitled Biotechnology in date palm”
- Training on ProQuest and Ebrary Online Databases [7 May, 2013]

- 1st International Conference on Management & Economics [11-12 Feb, 2012]
- ToT Workshop on Test Item Construction Techniques [23-26 January, 2012]
- Conference on "Frontiers of Plant Pathology" [14-19 August, 2010]
- 7th Hangzhou International Symposium on Plant Pathology and Biotechnology
[22-25 Oct, 2009]
- Basic First Aid Training Course [26 May, 2003 – 2 June, 2003]
- Civil Defence Training Course [28 August, 2002 – 5 September, 2002]
- Basic Hiking Trekking & Mountaineering Training Course [17-23 Sept, 2001]

Research Projects Completed

- Molecular characterization of begomoviruses infecting *Vernonia cinerea* and *Ipomoea indica*. (PhD Project)
 - Funding Agency: Institute of Biotechnology, Zhejiang University. China.
- Index of transmissibility of irradiated genotypes of mungbean *Vigna radiata* L. Wilczek. (M.Sc. Project)
 - Funding Agency: Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics, University of Agriculture. Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Current Research Projects

- Assessment of genetic diversity and molecular characterization of begomoviruses and their associated DNA-satellites in Al-Ahsa region of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - Funding Agency: Deanship of Scientific Research, King Faisal University.
- Comparative studies on camels and human derived Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in eastern province of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
 - Funding Agency: Deanship of Scientific Research, King Faisal University.

Publications

- **Awais Zulfiqar**, Jie Zhang, Xiaofeng Cui, Yajuan Qian, Xueping Zhou and Yan Xie (2012). A new begomovirus associated with alpha- and betasatellite molecules isolated from *Vernonia cinerea* in China. Archives of Virology 157 (1), 189-191 (I.F 2.209)
- **Awais Zulfiqar**, He Ren, Jie Zhang, Jing Li, Xiaofeng Cui, and Yan Xie (2011). Molecular characterization of two isolates of Sweet potato leaf curl virus infecting *Ipomoea indica* in China. African J. of Biotechnology 10(45), 9061-9067. (I.F 0.573)
- Jianbing Wu, **Awais Zulfiqar**, Changjun Huang (2011). Infectivity of Euphorbia leaf curl virus and interaction with Tomato yellow leaf curl China betasatellite. Archives of Virology 156 (3), 517-521. (I. F 2.209)

Honor & Awards

- PhD Scholarship Award by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan 2008
- Annual Research Project Award by Deanship of Scientific research, KFU 2013
- Annual Research Project Award by Deanship of Scientific research, KFU 2014

Fields of Interest

- Host-virus interaction and role of cellular factors in viral infection
- Molecular mechanism of geminiviruses host entry and systemic infection
- Post transcriptional gene silencing (PTGS) by geminiviruses
- Construction of begomoviruses DNA Satellites as vectors
- Coronaviruses and zoonotic transmission

Professional Membership

- Pakistan Innovative Foundation (PIF)
- Society of Plant Breeders and Geneticists

References

- Will be furnished upon request