

## PREFACE

Citrus is leading fruit of Pakistan and of the world as well. Out of 90 million tons of world production Pakistan contributes merely two million tons and similarly in \$ 8 billion's international trade only \$ 16 million, and stands at 10<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> position respectively in the world. Citrus fruits are well adopted under the local climatic and edaphic circumstances but due to lack of technical knowledge and managerial skill, the production per unit area is not enough. It is indeed a need of the day to enhance production to feed the ever increasing local population and for export to earn foreign exchange. The local citrus industry has potential to meet both the challenges if properly harnessed. Moreover, in the forthcoming scenario of WTO, horticultural production in general and citrus production in particular could prove a big resource in international trade.

The present conference which is second of its kind after 1991 when the first seminar was held was planned with almost similar objectives. Since knowledge is rapidly improving about each subject including this field and was desired that the same may be updated here too. Therefore the effort was made to invite speakers from different lands but because of short time and technicalities for getting visa, the international speakers could not participate. However there was a good number of local participation and a wide spectrum information was gathered which is being compiled in this manuscript. I believe if included the informations of the previous seminar too, there seems no deficient corner left as regard citrus production, protection and post harvest handling.

The presentations in the conference continued for two days and the third day was spent in the field and industrial units' visits by the participants. The presentations were made in five sessions. The each session was chaired by renowned scientists as mentioned in the proceedings. The conference was held under the sponsorship of The Horticultural Foundation of Pakistan (Regd.). The president of the Foundation Dr. Saeed Ahmad who is a renowned horticulturist inspired and supported the holding of the conference and the preparation and printing of the proceeding in this form as well.

I am thankful to Dr. Bashir Ahmad, Vice Chancellor whose continuous advice, support and inspiration made this event extremely successful. I am also thankful to Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khan, Director, Institute of Horticultural Sciences who extended unconditional support and leadership. The task could have not been completed if Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture would have not extended his full cooperation. Last but not the least, I am thankful to Mr. Raheel Anwar, Associate Editor whose untiring work on computer for correspondence made this event timely possible. He worked hard even during preparation of the proceedings to put the research papers submitted in different styles, according to a prescribed format.

The efforts were made to rectify the errors after repeated editing of the papers. If the errors are still left those may be ignored please. Suggestions from the authors are welcomed to improve some next event of similar importance.

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