

## PREFACE

The international conference on “*Prospectus of Horticultural industry in Pakistan*” was held in the Institute of Horticulture Sciences University of Agriculture Faisalabad during 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The theme for the conference was *Future Challenges and Production Prospects*. Pakistan is a blessed piece of land with natural resources and suitable climate for growing of a variety of delicious fruits, vegetables and innumerable delicate flowers.

Thus, we are striving to improve the yield and quality of fruits, vegetable and flower produced in Pakistan. Among others, an important constraint is the lack of know-how and appreciation. The Horticulture in Pakistan and in the rest of world has gone through a revolution during 1960s and 1970s. The application of biotechnological tools in variety improvement, preventive control of virus and virus like diseases and rise of processing industry are the most significant diversions.

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.

The symposium was organized to gather available information to highlight the potential problems and risks to identify the resources and to disseminate the available information. The addition of solicited papers has enhanced the scope and utility of the manuscript.

The proceedings of the conference were divided into several sessions and conducted under the chairmanship of one of our renowned scientists from across the globe or personalities listed in the panel of chairmen. Every paper presentation was followed by a discussion session and authors were asked to incorporate the points raised during discussion.

I am thankful to Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmad (*Izaz-i-Fazeelat*), Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad for his support and encouragement. The task could have not been completed without financial help from Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC) in general and in particular with the help of 4B Fertilizer, Pak Arab Fertilizers (Pvt.) Ltd., Pakistan Horticulture Development & Export Board (PHDEB), Alrahim (Pvt.) Ltd., Pakistan Science Foundation, Engro Chemical Pakistan Ltd., Lahore Compost (Pvt.) Ltd. and Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) which were instrumental in the organization and conduct of the conference as well for the publication of this proceeding.

I am also thankful to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Aslam Pervez, Director, Institute of Horticultural Sciences who extended unconditional support and leadership. The task could have not been completed without his full cooperation. Last but not the least, I am thankful to Prof. Dr. M. Mumtaz Khan for his untiring work for correspondence to made this event timely possible. I am much thankful to Mr. Raheel Anwar for his hard work during preparation of the proceedings to put the research papers submitted in different styles, according to a prescribed format. Many students deserve conducive appreciation for their timely help to make the event successful.

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 readers are welcomed to improve some next coming event of similar importance.

**Dr. Waqar Ahmad**  
Secretary  
Organizing Committee