

Personal Statement

Dr Azhar is basically trained in molecular plant breeding from various institutes locally and globally. He completed Masters from University of Agriculture Faisalabad and later moved to NIBGE, Faisalabad. His PhD work on CLCuD was of highest quality, and produced several publications published in peer-reviewed journals with good impact factor. During 2009, he joined the department as Lecturer, and his research interest continued with “Cotton Research Group”. In addition to teaching graduate and post graduate classes, he remained busy in screening segregating population, resulting in the development of several bulks. One of the bulks is named as PB-896 which produced on an average 2162 kg of seed cotton/acre in National Co-ordinated Varietal Trial (NCVT) during 2014-15, against CIM-573 (standard cultivar) and this increase is 38.66% higher than the standard. The same bulk (PB-896) stood first in NCVT during 2015-16 in Punjab province, and has produced 39% higher production than CIM-573. Recently this success story of Dr Azhar has been published in “101 Innovations Catalogue Technologies for Commercialization-2016” ISBN: 978-969-7705-16-0” published by UAF, Pakistan, and his research work was highly appreciated by Professor Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor of UAF. Recently he won research grant of US\$75000/- on “Genotyping and development of heat stress tolerant cotton germplasm with enhanced quality traits” in collaboration with WSU-USA. During the last three years, 11 M.Sc. (Hons) Agri and three PhD student had completed degree under his supervision. He also worked with Dr Lori L. Hinze and Dr Jame Frelichowsk during Norman E. Borlaug Fellowship-2014 at Texas A&M University and USDA-ARS. Recently Dr Azhar completed Postdoctoral Research from School of Biological sciences, University of Western Australia funded by Endeavour Fellowship. Due to his hard work and interest in research work, he has been appointed as Adjunct Lecturer at the School of Plant Biology, UWA.