

Personal Statement of Dr Muhammad Tehseen Azhar

I am interested in the development of high yielding cotton lines with enhanced fiber related traits. Because per acre yield of cotton is getting reduced due to adverse effects of several abiotic stress *i.e.* heat, drought and salinity. These natural calamities not only effect yield but also affect fiber related traits which is important for trading to international market, which lead the significant losses to the economy of a country because of non-viability of climate resilient genotypes of cotton. These situations warn to the plant researcher for the development of climate smart genotypes of cotton. Besides the availability of conventional methods; various genomics techniques may be utilized for the exploitation of genetic variability if one cannot find this genetic variation through conventional methods. Keeping in view these issues, I have developed several advanced lines of cotton during 2009-2021 at the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (Pakistan). The potential of these cotton lines has also been assessed where these lines have produced 30-36% more yield of seed cotton than standards in addition to having outstanding fiber quality traits. In addition, he has completed couple of research projects of cotton funded by national and international agencies. I am more interested in internationalization and always in search of opportunities for learning of new, as I worked with Dr Lori L. Hinze and Dr Jame Frelichowsk during Norman E. Borlaug Fellowship-2014 at Texas A&M University and USDA-ARS. I have completed Postdoctoral Research from School of Biological sciences, University of Western Australia funded by Endeavour Fellowship, later on appointed as Adjunct Lecturer for three years at the School of Plant Biology, UWA, likewise got appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor for five years in the School of Agriculture Sciences, Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou-450000, China. Previously served as Co-Chair of Germplasm and Genetic Stocks workshop from 2017-19 and contributed in the conduct of Biennial ICGI conference May 28 to June 1, 2018, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, and promoted to Chair (2019-21). During these four year, I have made several international research collaboration with reputed cotton workers from USA, China, Turkey for the betterment of cotton community. Recently I am promoted to Associate Professor in the institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan-Pakistan. Whereas, Multan is hub of cotton breeding programs and I am lucky to be in this region of the country, where I can learn more about cotton plant.