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OUR NATIONAL ENTOMOLOGIST

Mr. Azhar Javaid is a National Entomologist specializing in eco-friendly pest control strategies, plant physiology, and organic agriculture. His expertise includes enhancing abiotic stress tolerance in crops. Previously, he served as a Senior Scientific Officer at the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) and as the Principal Investigator for organic certification at the National Institute of Organic Agriculture (NIOA).

ISLAMABAD - Months after catastrophic monsoon rains and floods submerged a third of the country, Pakistan is now confronting a severe secondary crisis: a dra matic surge in pests and disease-carrying insects.



PAKISTAN GRAPPLES WITH SURGING PEST POPULATIONS IN WAKE OF **DEVASTATING FLOODS**

The stagnant floodwaters, which have taken months to recede in provinces like Sindh and Balochistan, have created ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes, flies, and other vermin. The combination of standing water, humid weather, and compromised sanitation systems has led to an explosion in populations that officials warn could

exacerbate the spread of disease. A Public Health Emergency Unfolds Health clinics in affected regions are reporting a sharp increase in cases of vector-borne diseases. "We are seeing a significant uptick in malaria, dengue fever, and viral conjunctivitis," said Dr. Faria Hussain, a physician working in a relief camp in Dadu, Sindh. "The mosquito population is unlike anything I've seen in years. Families sleeping under open skies or in temporary tents are extremely vulnerable, with limited access to mosquito nets or repellents."

The World Health Organization (WHO) has supported the Pakistani government in dispatching millions of rapid diagnostic tests and anti-malarial medications to the region.



TOBACCO BEETLE - A DEVASTATING PEST

Lasioderma serricorne, commonly referred to as the cigarette beetle or tobacco beetle, destructive insect that poses a significant threat to stored products, especially those derived from plants. It is a notorious pest in the tobacco industry, cigarette factories, warehouses, and domestic households across the globe.

Appearance: Small (2-3 mm), reddish-brown, with a humpbacked shape. Damage: Larvae bore into and consume products, causing contamination and significant economic loss. Reproduction: Under ideal conditions (30°C, 70% humidity), it can complete its life cycle in just over a month, leading to multiple generations per year.



Management & Control: An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is essential. Monitoring: Use pheromone traps (e.g., Serrico traps) for early detection. Sanitation: Clean regularly to remove food debris. Storage: Use airtight containers

and control temperature. Fumigation: For severe infestations, fumigant like phosphine is the industry standard.

Conclusion: Continuous monitoring and strict hygiene are critical to controlling this resilient and costly pest. Article condensed from original text by Prof. Dr. Muhammad

Saeed, Professor of Agricultural Entomology.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SUBTERRANEAN TERMITE JULY 20, 2025

Termites are most common in tropical areas, with their distribution closely linked to temperature, rainfall, and humidity. As the climate changes, especially with rising temperatures, termite activity and spread are expected to increase. Research shows termite foraging is strongly influenced by temperature. For instance, Reticulitermes hesperus prefers soil temperatures between 29-32°C, showing how climate conditions directly affect their behavior and range.



In summary, climate change and human expansion are making termite control more complex. Understanding how environmental factors influence termites is key to managing future risks and protecting structures from damage.

Article condensed from original text by Dr Partho Dhang, Independent consultant. Belarmino Street, Makati City, Philippines

A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

We invite you to contribute your ideas, research breakthroughs, articles, and notable achievements in the fields of Integrated Pest Management and Entomology for our upcoming newsletter.





<u>DENGUE OUTBREAK IN MURREE'S GHAIL: DISTRICT</u> HEALTH AUTHORITY STEPS UP RESPONSE

The District Health Authority (DHA) has intensified dengue control efforts after 34 confirmed cases were reported, including 20 in Rawalpindi and 14 in Murree's Union Council Ghail, which has been identified as the epicentre of the outbreak. District Health Authority CEO Ehsan Ghani confirmed and urged for higher community engagement & awareness over precautionary measures.

As of August 4, hospitals screened over 4,000 patients, detecting 3,819 suspected cases, while no deaths have been reported. Control rooms have been set up in Murree hospitals and Basic Health Units to ensure efficient patient management.



THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY & RESEARCH HAS MERGED TWO KEY DEPARTMENTS

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of National Food Security and Research has merged two key departments — the Department of Plant Protection (DPP) and the Animal Quarantine Department (AQD) to form the National Agri-Trade and Food Safety Authority (NAFSA), aimed at modernising Pakistan's agricultural trade infrastructure in line with global phytosanitary and food safety standards.

The DPP was originally established under the International Plant Protection Convention, while AQD was tasked with preventing the entry of foreign animal diseases. Their integration into NAFSA is intended to create a modern, scientific, and data-driven body capable of ensuring compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements while also facilitating access to quality agricultural inputs to promote surplus production and national food security.



No Copy Paste, Original Work Required

PKR 10,000

1ST PRIZE

PKR 5000

2ND PRIZE



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