



### OUR NATIONAL ENTOMOLOGIST



#### PROF. DR. WASEEM AKRAM

Chairman, Entomology Department, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad HEC Approved Supervisor.

He brings over 33 years of experience in teaching, research, and academic leadership. He completed three postdoctoral fellowships in South Korea on climate change and mosquito-borne diseases. A key figure in public health, he advised the Chief Minister of Punjab during dengue outbreaks and remains a member of the Cabinet Committee on Dengue and DEAG Punjab. Internationally, he has served as a WHO Temporary Advisor and member of the Dengue Research Group, Singapore. He has numerous high-impact publications and has supervised over 100 MSc/MPhil and several PhD scholars. He established a modern entomology lab at UAF and led nationally funded research projects.

### PATHOGENIC RESPONSE OF ENTOMOPATHOGENIC FUNGAL STRAINS ON LARVAE OF FALL ARMYWORM (*Spodoptera frugiperda*)

The overuse and unjustified use of chemical pesticides pose a great threat not only to the environment and natural enemies in the agro-ecosystem but also to human health, such as cancer, skin, and respiratory disease. To avoid such an incidence, the use of alternative chemical pesticides is dire.

Using the green control method by using biopesticides is a safe and climate-smart method for insect control. In the current experiment, we observed the pathogenicity of different entomopathogenic fungal strains.

We found that fungal strains have potential and could be used against the tested insect "fall armyworm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda*" early larval instar to manage pest populations below the economic injury level. For this *Beauveria bassiana* strain (Bb885 & 86), *Cordyceps cicadae*, *Metarhizium anisopliae* strain (73&42) and *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* were observed.

We found that the *B. bassiana* strain (Bb885), *C. cicadae*, and *M.*



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*anisopliae* 73 were more lethal to larvae of FAW, with maximum spore concentration against early second instar larvae. However, further experiments are required to observe the fungal pathogenicity potential on different life parameters that would be more helpful in the management of FAW control in agro-forestry ecosystems.

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### KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA RECORDS FIRST DENGUE DEATH AMID RISING CASES

PESHAWAR — A 30-year-old man from Mardan has died of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever, marking Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first dengue-related death of 2025, according to the provincial health department. The patient, initially admitted to Mardan Medical Complex on September 30, had left the hospital against medical advice and later succumbed after his condition worsened during home treatment. The province has now recorded 3,236 confirmed dengue cases, with 2,990 recoveries and 245 active cases.

The province has now recorded 3,236 confirmed dengue cases, with 2,990 recoveries and 245 active cases. Charsadda remains the most affected district with 1,008 cases, followed by Haripur (301), Mansehra (299), Peshawar (294), and Mardan (253).

Officials said that the activities were supervised by Dr Mohammad Atif Khan, the deputy district health officer, Dr Anthony Alamzeb Feroz, the public health coordinator, and Dr Mussawir Manzoor, the deputy director of public health department. Free medical camps have been established in Sufaid Dheri, where dengue and chikungunya outbreaks were detected. Officials urged residents to eliminate mosquito breeding sites by covering stored water and maintaining proper sanitation to curb further transmission.

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### PEST INFESTATIONS HIT PAKISTAN'S COTTON CROP, SLASHING PRODUCTION BY 34%

Pakistan's cotton production has fallen to 6.8 million bales during the 2025-26 season—34% below the target of 10.18 million bales—according to the Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA).

Officials attributed the decline to pest attacks (notably whitefly and pink bollworm), Cotton Leaf Curl Virus Disease (CLCuD), climate change, unseasonal rains, and reduced cultivation area. Cotton was sown on 2 million hectares, about 11.5% less than planned.



The shortfall underscores ongoing environmental and structural challenges in Pakistan's cotton sector, which remains vital to the country's textile industry and exports.

### MANAGING WOOD-DESTROYING WEEVILS: PREVENTION AND CONTROL WOOD-DESTROYING WEEVILS

Like the Eastern wood weevil (*Hexarthrum ulkei*), thrive in damp, decaying wood and can cause serious structural damage if ignored. Though they don't harm humans directly, their presence often points to moisture problems that can weaken wooden structures over time.

These pests are typically found in basements, crawl spaces, and areas with leaks or poor ventilation. Dry, well-maintained wood is rarely affected, making moisture control the key to prevention.

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#### Identification:

Early signs include small beetles indoors, fine sawdust near wooden surfaces, or dead weevils on window-sills. The Eastern wood weevil is a small blackish beetle with a longout and grooved back, often mistaken for other wood borers.



Replace damaged wood with pressure- or borate-treated materials. Treat infested areas with borate-based or long-lasting insecticides to target larvae and prevent reinfestation. Fix leaks and improve ventilation to reduce humidity. Use treated wood during repairs to deter future attacks. Early signs, such as beetles and sawdust, signal the need for immediate action.

Article By: Dr. Mohammed EI

### KHAPRA BEETLE LARVAE DETECTED IN IMPORTED NAPPIES, THREATENING AUSTRALIA'S GRAIN INDUSTRY



Australian authorities have detected khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) larvae in imported nappies sold nationwide, raising biosecurity concerns for the \$18 billion grain sector. Officials are working with the importer and retailer to trace and treat affected

Agriculture Minister Julie Collins stated that the beetles, which feed on stored grains and render them unusable, likely arrived via a shipping container. "We have located approximately 1,500 of the 2,000 cartons, though a few remain in circulation.

Containment and eradication are our top priorities," she said. Its establishment could prompt trading partners to reject Australian wheat, barley, and sorghum exports, resulting in substantial economic losses.

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### NPMA UNVEILS NEW SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORM FOR PEST MANAGEMENT



The National Pest Management Association (NPMA) has launched a new Sustainability in Pest Management website — a dedicated resource designed to help pest management companies of all sizes integrate sustainable, environmentally responsible practices into their operations.

Developed by NPMA's Sustainability Task Force, led by Steve Nylund (Anticimex North America President), the platform responds to increasing consumer demand for eco-friendly pest solutions while supporting businesses in improving efficiency, reducing costs, and strengthening customer trust.

SMARTER PEST MANAGEMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- OUR STRATEGY**
  - Inspect Smart, Solve Right
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  - Long-Term Protection, Less Intervention
  - Targeted Treatments, Powerful Outcomes
- CUSTOMER BENEFITS**
  - Quicker Diagnosis, Better Results
  - Cleaner Environments, Safer Spaces
  - Less Pest Damage, More Peace of Mind
- OUR COMMITMENT**
  - Stay Proactive, Protect Health
  - Meet Food Safety & Hygiene Needs
  - Proven Results, Ensure the Future

NPMA

NPMA CEO Dominique Stumpf emphasized that sustainability is now a strategic advantage, enabling companies to lower risks, reduce operational costs, and stay competitive. The site is built around five core pillars — mobility, service efficacy, facilities, environmental impact, and technology — each offering practical strategies for measurable improvement.

**Share your ideas, work and biography for upcoming PES Newsletter.**

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