



A beetle behind the losses: Pakistan's struggle with rice weevil infestations



Pakistan, one of the world's leading producers of wheat and rice, is battling a serious storage pest: the rice weevil (*Sitophilus oryzae*). Though only about four millimeters long, this tiny beetle causes major post-harvest losses across the country. Unlike secondary pests, the rice weevil is a primary pest that bores into whole, healthy grains.

The female lays eggs inside the kernel, where larvae develop and feed unseen. Within 4–6 weeks, a new adult emerges, leaving the grain hollow and nutritionally depleted. Under Pakistan's hot and humid conditions, multiple generations develop rapidly, causing exponential infestations.

Pakistan's vulnerability stems from traditional storage methods, humid climate, limited farmer awareness, and overuse of chemical fumigation leading to resistance.

To address this threat, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) with proper drying (moisture below 10%), airtight storage, hygiene in warehouses, and supervised fumigation is essential.

IPM PROFESSIONAL in PAKISTAN



Mr. Saeed Alam

General Manager of Pestex, Lahore

He brings over 25 years of extensive experience in urban and industrial pest management. He has collaborated with renowned multinational organizations, including Novartis, DowAgro, Jaffer Brothers, FMC, and Truly Nolen International across Pakistan, the UAE, and Oman, gaining strong exposure to international standards and regulatory frameworks.

His expertise includes Integrated Pest Management (IPM), structural termite proofing, and the implementation of HACCP, GMP, FSSC22000, and Halal Food Management Systems - ensuring safe, compliant, and sustainable pest control solutions.

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PhD Graduate Research Assistant – Applied Insect Ecology

Project Overview:

The lab focuses on the population ecology of fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*), examining strain-level differences in dispersal, host use, and management responses. Students may also pursue independent projects on other insect systems.

Funding & Start Date:

Funding is fully guaranteed for 3 years, covering tuition, a competitive stipend, and health insurance. The expected start date is August 1, 2026.

Application Details:

Application review begins February 13, 2026, and continues until filled. Applicants should submit a CV, a brief research statement, transcripts, and three references to acm1161@msstate.edu

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The FAOPMA Pest Summit 2026, organized by the Federation of Asian and Oceania Pest Managers Associations, will be held 15-17 July 2026 at the New Zealand International Convention Centre in Auckland, New Zealand.

Under the theme "FutureProof: Smarter Pest Solutions for a Rapidly Changing World," the summit will feature keynote talks, technical sessions, and an industry exhibition on modern pest management, monitoring technologies, sustainability, and public health. Experts including Michelle Dickinson, James Ross, and Partho Dhang will deliver presentations, with networking opportunities for professionals across the Asia-Pacific region. For more details, please visit the official FAOPMA website.

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