The enhancement of citrus value chains production in Pakistan and Australia through improved orchard management practices

Citrus project team









Project Objectives

- 1. To improve nursery production practices and introduce germplasm to extend the marketing season
- 2. To demonstrate 'Best Practice' orchard management focussing on crop management and irrigation management
- 3. To enhance research, extension and production capacity of Pakistan citrus institutions and industry

Project sites in Pakistan

- 1. National Agriculture Research Centre, Islamabad
- 2. University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (Punjab province)
- 3. Citrus Research Institute (CRI), Sargodha (Punjab province)
- 4. Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Tarnab Peshawar (KP province)
- 5. Fruit and Vegetable Development Project (Extension – Punjab province)

Project Teams

Australia

Dr Tahir Khurshid (Project Leader)

- Steven Falivene (Crop management)
- Nerida Donovan (Nursery management)
- JeremyGiddings (Irrigation management)

Project Teams

Pakistan

Dr Dr Iftikhar Ahmad (Project Leader)

Dr Hafeezur Rehman (NARC) Dr Abdul Samad (ARI) Dr Ghulam Nabi (ARI) Mr Nisar Naeem (ARI) Dr M Jaskani (UAF) Mr Altaf ur Rahman (CRI) Mr Abdul Rahman (CRI) Akbar Hayat (CRI) Ahmed Raza (CRI) Asif Khan (FVDP)

Tauseef Tahir (Project officer, Punjab) Wajid Ali (Project officer, KP)

Objective 1

To improve nursery production practices and introduce germplasm to extend the marketing season

Vision/outcome – Expansion of harvest window with new varieties and to enhance industry efficiency and export opportunities

New Citrus germplasm

Problem : industry reliant on one variety with narrow production period

- Extend production season
 - Expand market opportunities domestic
 & export

The expansion of production window



Nursery Management

Problem : unhealthy trees at planting and mature tree dieback

- Insect proof screen house
- Nursery training: growing healthier trees

Screenhouse completed at 3 sites



- CRI Sargodha
- ARI Peshawar
- NARC Islamabad

NARC, Islamabad

Outcomes

- Propagation from mother trees in clean environment
- Industry nursery is based on clean budwood



Nursery management training (494 trained)









Nursery outputs and outcomes

- 7 new varieties & 8 rootstocks established
- 7 key private nurseries provided new budwood
- 8 mother blocks for varieties and rootstocks established
- 3000 planted/reworked at grower at properties, nurseries and mother blocks
- 3 GPUs in Punjab and KP were provided with germplasm from Australia
- 19 nurserymen/woman trained in Thailand and



Commercial Outcomes

Sultan Nursery Farms, Sargodha







Commercial Outcomes

Provide 50% discount for screenhouse construction

Fazal Malik Nursery Sherkhana, KP



Agri-business support fund (ASF; US Aid)

- Sohail Aftab, Kot Momin, Punjab (completed)
- Latif-ur-Rahim (KP) has submitted his application





Objective 2

'Best Practice' orchard and irrigation management

Vision/outcome – Improve yield and returns for growers

- Improved production practices to reduce fruit blemish and obtaining higher fruit prices
- Increase yield by raising plant density
- Improve irrigation management and reduce water stress

Crop phenology

Problem : lack of crop phenology knowledge and its application

 Phenology calendars developed; growers trained in phenology and posters distributed

Outcome

>15% growers has started to practice management practices in their orchard





Problem : Pruning is not a common practice

- Encourage new healthy branches
- Improve fruit quality for higher returns
- Reduce crop load and alternate bearing

Training provided in tree pruning

• Jan 2013 – Feb 2015



Pruning is being widely adopted among growers

> 498 growers trained



Fruit thinning

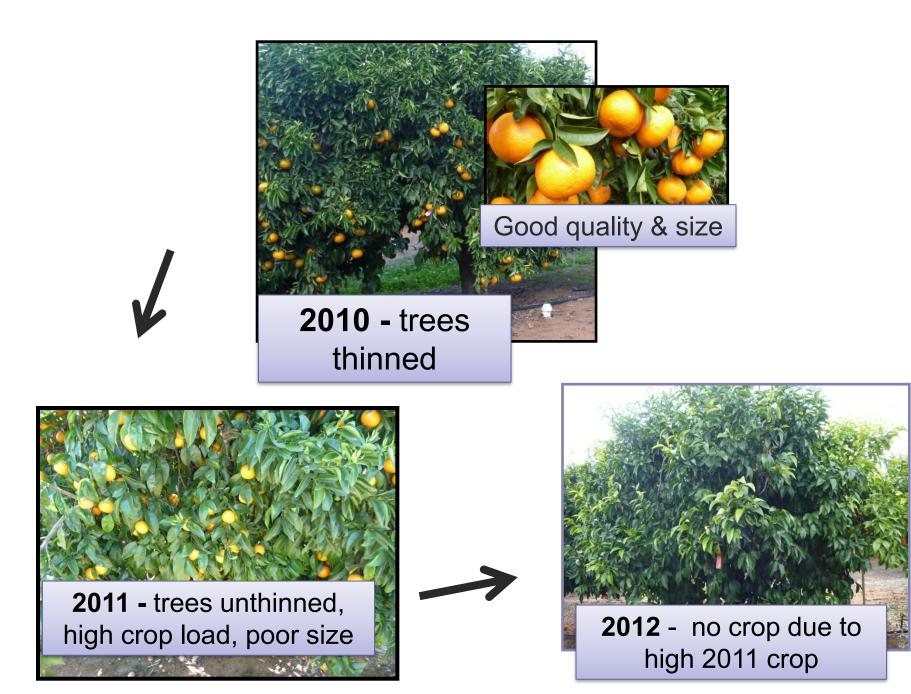
Problem : alternate bearing - high crop load of small fruit followed by low crop next year (low returns)

Reduce alternate bearing

- Thinning trials
- Crop load estimate training ARI & CRI

 Identify a high crop load to take action

107 trained





Problem : long time to change & assess new varieties

- Grafting new variety on a mature tree

- Quick to grow new tree for variety assessment and higher fruit production

Practical reworking workshop for growers





470 trained



Irrigation management

Efficient use of water to :

- Reduce water usage
- Reduce root disease (waterlogging)
- Short term : furrow irrigation
- Long-term : pressurised (sprinkler, drip)

604 trained

On-farm furrow irrigation





Flood irrigation

Treatment	Yield (kg)/tree	Mean fruit size mm	Gross returns/acre (Rupees)	Gross returns/T	Gross returns/T difference
Furrow	121	70	529,412	37,200	7200
Flood	98	66	344,272	29,900	7300

Nutrition management

Problem : Lack or poor knowledge of citrus nutrition

- Improve efficiency of fertiliser use and application (reduce costs and healthier tree)
- Improved soil salinity management (productivity)

Nutrition workshops





225 growers/ extension officers



High density orchards

Problem : Low tree densities and lower yields

Increase density will increase yield

Growers high density orchards at KP

Converted grower

From 288 (conventional) to 555 trees/ha
 Interplant trees

New orchard

494 trees/ha

High density site: Punjab





Established orchard converted to HDP



New Orchard

Growers high density orchards in Punjab

Site 1 - 440 trees/ha



Site 2 - 740 trees/ha



Best practice & quality payment

Aims

Increase farm gate returns to grower

- Produce more A grade quality fruit by improving crop management
- Paid on volume of quality fruit

Locations

3 X Punjab & 2 X KP





Best practice & quality payment

Method

 Best practice management on one ac grower block

Results

- 33% improvement in A grade fruit
- 25% increase in income (contract payment)
- 50% increase income (quality payment) > 1860

growers trained





Linkages to other projects and programs

- ASLP Social science project
- UNIDO
- Flood rehabilitation project (KP)
- Commercial nurseries in KP and Punjab
- ASLP Mango project Nursery
- Agriculture training institute, Sargodha
- Agri-business support fund (ASF)
- FSC&RD

Objective 3 Research, extension and production capacity of Pakistan citrus institutions and industry

Vision/outcome -

Trained personnel to continue the professional development of the industry

- Pakistani scientist and extension staff
- Research outputs extended to growers
- International training institute linkages

Project visits (2011-15)

- **11** Australian team to Pakistan
- 6 Pakistan staff to Australia, Thailand and Spain
- **55** Pakistan staff (Scientists, extension officers, growers, nurserymen, nurserywoman, postgraduates)



Publications/conference(2011-15) 12 papers presented at the ISHS, Brisbane 2 papers presented at the ISC, Spain













Farmer Field Days technology transfer

- 4 field days: 900 growers
- Mega field day (May 2012): 500 growers
- UAF field day : 200 growers





Citrus grower's conference, 9-10 May 2012





Day 1 : 200 participants Day 2 : 150 participants



10 Postgraduate students linked to citrus project



Fareeha Shirin



Nergis Fatima



Sadia Afzal



Waqar Shafqat



Arif Kamal



Muneer Rehman



Asfandyar Khan



Irfan Khan



Imtiaz Malik



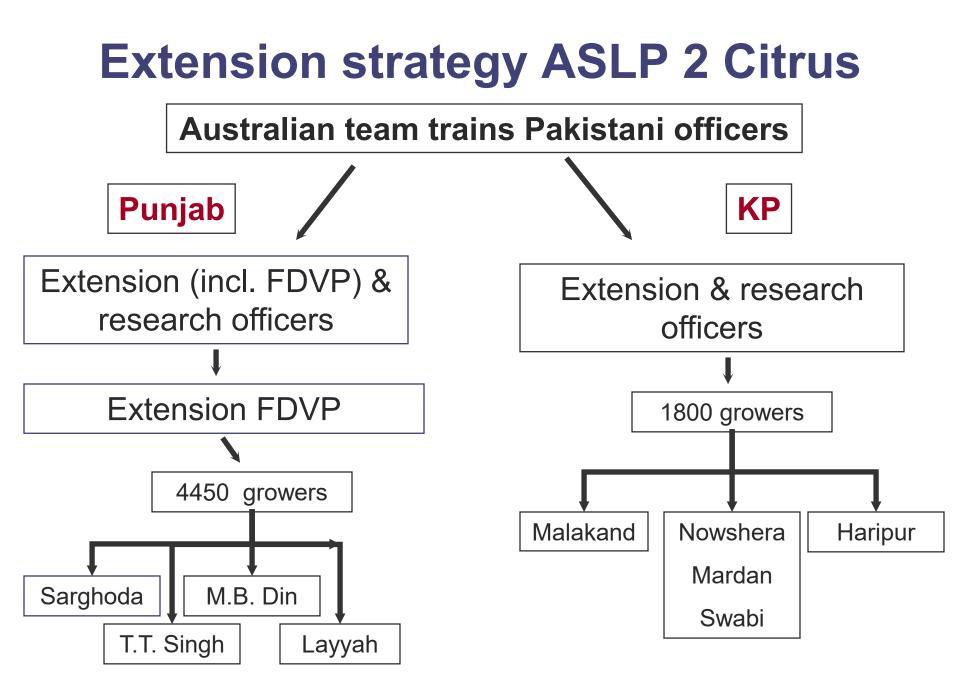
Rizwan Ullah

Postgraduate students linked to citrus project

 1 student has been awarded JAF for a PhD at Curtin University WA, Australia



Muneer Rehman



Project outputs and impacts

Training of FVDP extension staff







Capacity building through Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

- 4 sites, 177 schools/year, 4450 growers







Demonstration cluster sites

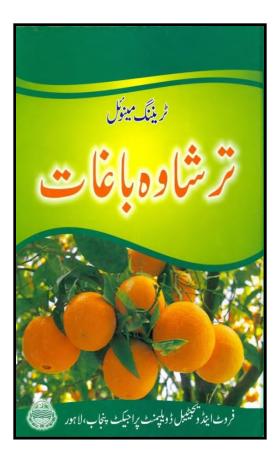
- 4 X Best management practices (BMP)
- 4 X High density plantation with high efficiency irrigation system.
- 4 X Canopy management of citrus orchard.



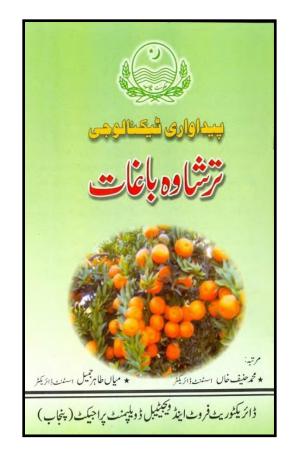


Distribution of technical material

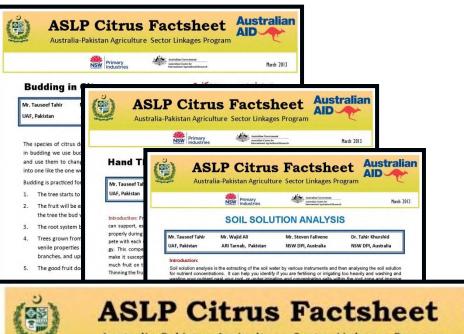
- 12 citrus training manuals
- 300 leaflets on BMP



ترشادہ پھلوں کے باغات کی دیکھ بھال میں عناصر صغيره كااستعال شاهم كرده: محمشيرافضل وزائج دْيْ دْائْرَيْكْرْا يْكْرِيْكْجِ، مارْيْكْجِير آفيسر روٹ اینڈ دیجیٹیل ڈویلیمنٹ پراجیٹ ٹویہ ٹیک سنگھ م . 046-9239021-9239022-9239023 Email: dda_ttsinngh@yahoo.com dda fvdp@yahoo.com

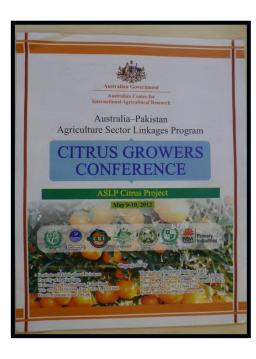


Posters, videos and newsletters







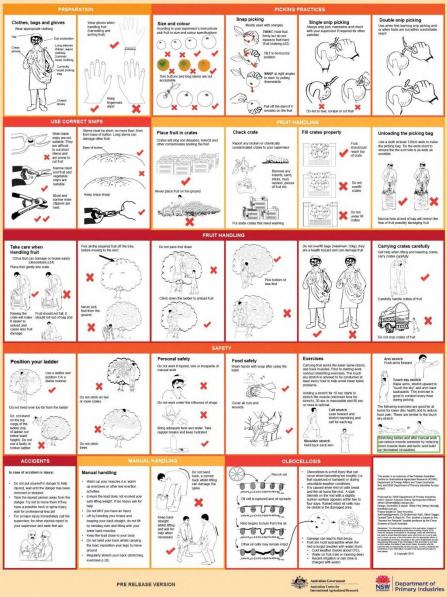




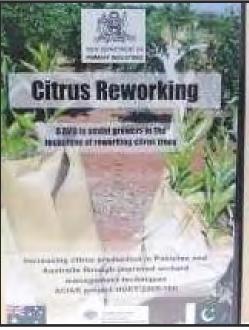
PAKISTAN EXPORT CITRUS HARVEST GUIDE

Australian

Aid Aid







9 project Newsletters were produced during the project life (Dr Jaskani) EProject PRODUCTION IN PAKISTA



anone sand the total tof Pakistan, Pakistan is cu

Implemented by ACIAR, funded by AusAID

ASLP Citrus Project

ENHANCEMENT OF CITRUS VALUE CHAIN PRODUCTION IN PAKISTAN AND AUSTRALIA THROUGH IMPROVED ORCHARD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

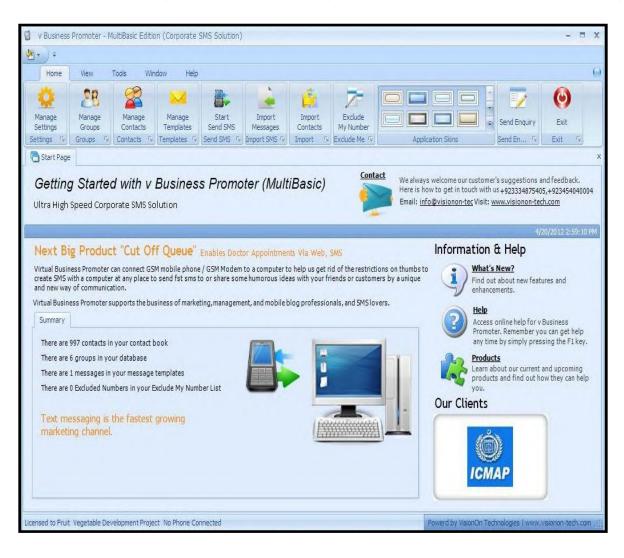
Objectives

1. To introduce germplasm and develop germplasm evaluation capacity to extend the marketing season and assist in improving nursery production practices for maintaining

Citrus is the one of the major fruit crops of Pakistan. Pakistan is currently an important global producer and increasingly, an exporter. Of the total citrus production, approximately 10% is exported, 2% is processed, 20-40% suffers from post harvest loss and the remainder is sold in the domestic market. Most of the citrus production in Pakistan is reliant on a mandarin type, cv. Kinnow, 95% of which is produced in the Punjab - C .1.

TION IN PAKISTA

- SMS best practice citrus production messages
 - 42 messages : 1150 growers/per message



• Fortnightly E-newsletter

- 43 E-newsletters sent to 399 growers

Monthly advice through FVDP website
 www.fvdp.gop.pk

- also regularly updated on Facebook & Twitter.





Radio extension

Radio Sursebz Pakistan (Live)

- 3 Jan 11
- 23 Jan 11
- 20 July 11
- 28 Jul 11
- 25 Aug 11
- 22 Sep 11
- 13 Oct 11
- 16 Feb 12
- 24 Jan 12 Voice of America
- 29 Mr 12 (Sabawon)
- Australian ABC Radio (Tahir)
- 24 Apr 12
- 26 Apr 12

There were radio programs in 2013, 14 and 15



TV Programs (27)

Dr Samad Dr Hafeez Dr Nabi Asif Khan Altaf-ur-Rehman



Crop management Reworking Fertigation High density orchards Fruit thinning Green Farms

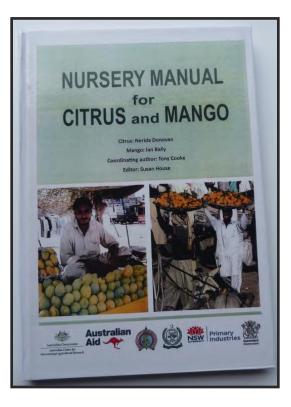


SUMMARY

- 7 new varieties to extend & expand marketing period
- Clean & healthy planting material
 - Training & screenhouse (established)
- Practice change to improve production efficiency
 - On farm adoption: pruning, thinning, nutrition & furrow irrigation
- Capacity building : growers & extension
 3050
- Quality marketing introduced
- Training packages

Launch of training Packages

Citrus Nursery Manual - Dr Nerida Donovan





Training packages

- Mr Steven Falivene
- Tauseef Tahir
- Wajid Ali

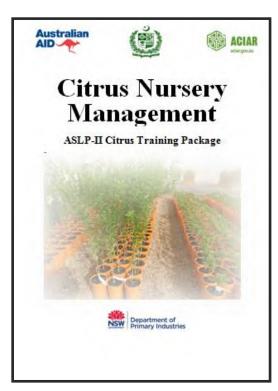


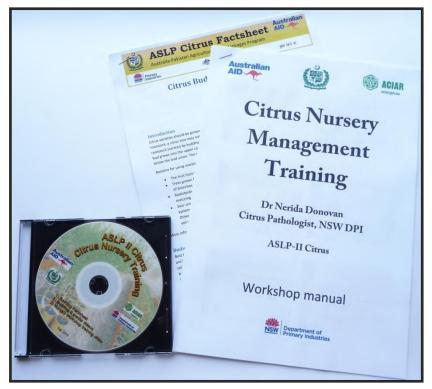




Training package 1 - Nursery Management

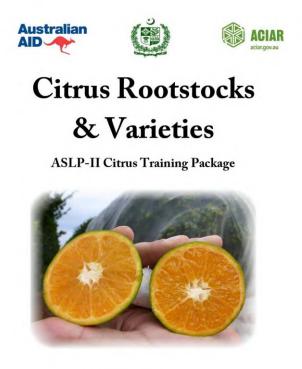
- Chip budding fact sheet
- Chip budding video
- 1 video on potting media preparation
- Nursery manual
- 4 videos on potting media preparation





Training package 2- Varieties and rootstock

- Variety fact sheets
- Rootstock fact sheets
- Training and in variety and rootstocks (powerpoints)







Training package 3 – Crop management adoption outcomes

- Crop regulation fact sheets
- Crop management calendar
- Phenology poster for Kinnow mandarin
- Phenology poster for Blood oranges
- Production Calender
- Harvest handbook
- 3 growers videos





Training package 3 – Crop management adoption outcomes ...

- Crop regulation fact sheets
- Crop management calendar
- Phenology poster for Kinnow mandarin
- Phenology poster for Blood oranges
- Harvest poster for harvesting techniques
- Harvest handbook
- 3 growers videos

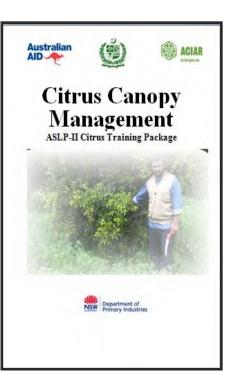


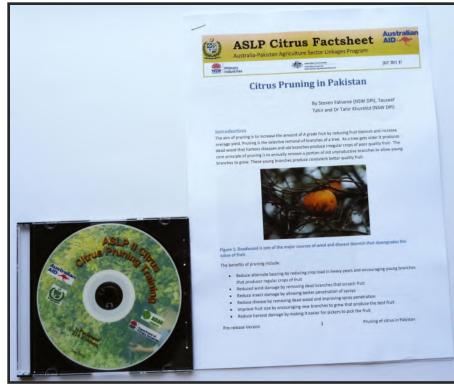




Training package 4 – Citrus canopy management

- 4 pruning videos
- Fact sheets on pruning citrus trees
- Powerpoint presentation (urdu)
- Powerpoint presentation (English)





Training package 5 – Tree Reworking

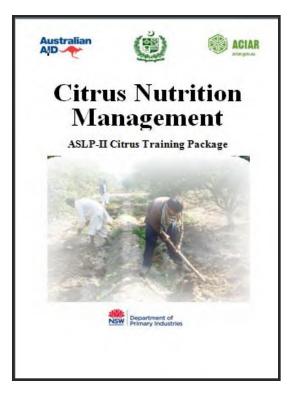
- Fact sheets on reworking techniques
- 4 Videos on reworking techniques
- Powerpoints

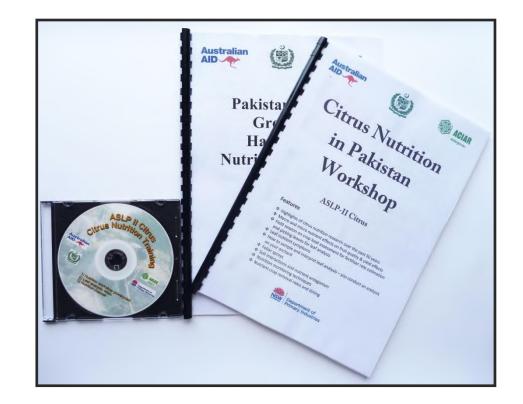




Training package 6 – Nutrition

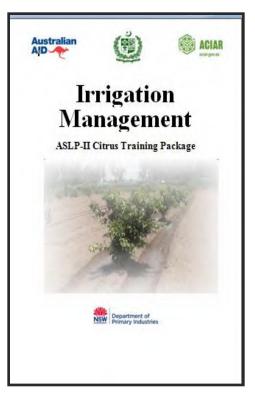
- Nutrition manual
- 8 powerpoints on citrus nutrition workshops
- Leaf analysis videos





Training package 7 – Irrigation package

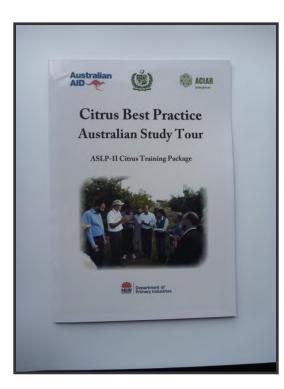
- Video on furrow irrigation system
- Irrigation in Pakistan fact sheet
- Tensiometer fact sheet

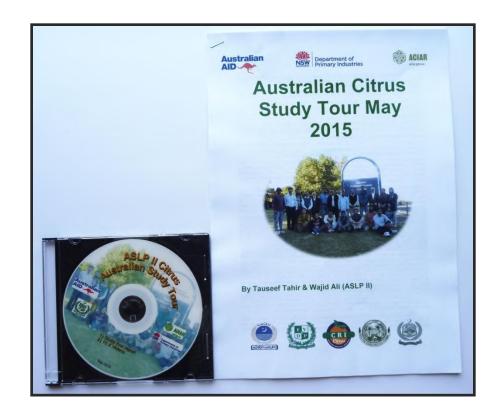




Training package 8 – The Australian study tour package

- Study tour report
- 10 videos





Conclusion by Dr Tahir Khurshid

Issues need to be addressed in ASLP 3

- Postharvest value chain reducing blemish and enhance quality
- Disease and quarantine pest issues
- Quality payment system

The end

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and a

Australian AID