

# Abstract Book



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## RICE PLANTHOPPERS: PROBLEM IN PAKISTAN

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Rice planthoppers are notorious pest of rice crop causing a serious economic loss and lead to complete crop failure in case of severe attack. In Pakistan, there were two species of rice planthoppers reported i.e., white backed planthopper *Sogatella frucifera* and brown planthopper *Nilupervata lugens* stal. In the years 2016, 2017 and 2018, a new pattern of off-season occurrence has been observed in Sialkot, Gujranwal, Hafizabad, Sheikhpure, Narowal, Okara and Bahawalnagar districts posing threat to rice crop. The samples have been collected through field visits net sweeps and light trap catches. The planthoppers have adopted to the alternative hosts and early sown crop has also facilitated planthoppers upsurge. The incidence of planthoppers have also been observed in March, April in 2017 as compared to 2016 and population collection doubled on light trap from 8524 in 2016 to 17596 in 2017. White-backed Planthoppers have been observed on *Trifolium alexandrinum* L. (Barseem), *Zea mays* (maize), *Medicago polymorpha* (Burclover), *Sorghum bicolor* (Sorghum), *Cynodon dactylon* (Khabbal grass) and *Helianthus allus* (Sunflower) after spring in 2017 and 2018 in Sheikhpura, Okara, Depalpur, Yousufwala and Bahawalnagar. Besides, these *Trifolium alexandrinum* L. (Barseem), *Leptochloa chinensis* (Ghora Ghas) and *Medicago polymorpha* (Burclover) have been recorded as new

alternate hosts for white-backed planthoppers. Among chemicals, no effective insecticides has been introduced for BPH management that could keep it below ETL in case of pest outbreak, however, chemicals are found effective for WBPH management in granular and other formulations.