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Doctoral Candidate at A&M

Pakistani Botanist Makes Grain Sorghum Discovery

to the United States to learn Bhatti's application to use in grain more about plant breeding, has sorghums is considered a major made a discovery that promises to step forward toward their improveincrease grain sorghum yields for ment.

didate in the A&M Department of means sterility. plant developed from a cross be- atory conditions. tween a grain sorghum and Tunis

count in his new sorghum. Colchicine has been used in the past

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A Pakistani botanist, who came in altering other plants, but

Texas farmers and provide food for millions of his own people. While doubling chromosomes often results in some form of gi-A. Ghafoor Bhatti, doctoral can- gantism, Godbey says, it often

Genetics, has succeeded in in- One of the most important feacreasing grain size, by doubling tures of Bhatti's new grain is its the number of chromosomes, in a fertility-93 per cent under labor-

Bhatti says he chose to work at A&M because of the international His plant has grains 25 to 50 reputation gained by A&M Sysper cent larger than those of tem scientists in production of present-day commercial sorghums.

Calchicing Used

Grant Sorghum hybrids. The first of these new hybrids went into Prof. C. B. Godbey, head of A&M's Department of Genetics, says Bhatti used the drug colchicine in doubling the chromosomes count in his new sorghum. Colworld-wide and more than half the sorghum acreage in Texas was planted to them this year.

Spectacular Import

Impact of the new grain sorghum hybrids on Texas agriculture was shown in a spectacular manner last year, when Texas farmers produced more than 270,-000,000 bushels, worth \$23,000,000 more than the 1957 crops. Average for the ten-years preceding 1957, was about 90,000,000 bushels, and '57 is generally considered the year the new hybrids went into big scale production.

Next To The Campus Theatre



A. Ghafoor Bhatti ... Pakistani Botanist Studying at A&M

in work done by A&M System sci- Bhatti says. entists in producing grain sorghums with yellow grains. The sity, Bhatti came to the United yellow headed varieties, now in States two years ago under an experimental production, are de- International Cooperation Adminsigned to get carotene into sor- istration exchange contract beghum in quantities comparable tween Punjab University and to corn, increasing the nutritional Washington State College. He

value of the sorghum. will grow economically in vast cause of the outstanding record areas of the world that are too of sorghum breeders of the A&M dry for good corn production like West Texas or Central India age and production in the state. -has also given impetus to Bhatti's work.

Staple Diet in Pakistan

"You see, in Pakistan sorghum is the staple diet of many of the into their own sorghum research. poor. It is very, very important, and if we can improve this grain, and increase the size, and get it food supply of good quality, im-

Bhatti is particularly interested | portant in many parts of Asia,"

A graduate of Punjab Univerwas allowed to select Texas for The fact that grain sorghum research studies on sorghum, be-System and the tremendous acre-

Bhatti's work with colchicine has led plant breeders of the A&M System to plan incorporation of further studies along these lines

Scholar, Hard Worker The Pakistani scientist, characterized as an outstanding scholenough carotene, we will have a ar and extremely hard worker, has been specifically concerned with interspecific hybrids in sorghums, a cytogenic problem, in which field he has been advised by Dr. R. G. Reeves and Dr. John E. Endrizzi, both of the A&M faculty, and both internationally recognized cytogeneticists.

Bhatti, who has been offered a position in the United States as a plant scientists, has declined the offer. He intends to return to his family in Rawalpindi this September. He also plans to continue his work as a grains scientist in Pakistan,

can help; where there is a great need for more food," he says.

GRASSHOPPER SHOW

FORT MORGAN, Colo. (AP)-The grasshoppers got so bad in Colorado a local theater decided to have a grasshopper matinee. The theater admitted every youngster bringing a pint jar of grasshop-pers free for a whole week.

> Rubber Base Paint \$3.75 Gal. 7" Paint Roller and Pan \$1.29

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