

Surgical strikes to destroy the Tarnab Farm

Agricultural Research Institute Tarnab is located 15 kilometers east of Peshawar City on Grand Trunk Road. Established in 1908, the Tarnab Farm is a premier institute of agricultural research and development in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Its research activities and services include development of fruit nurseries, quality seeds, olive orchards, soil and water testing, insect and disease control, germination and food processing.

The Tarnab Farm was established by Mr. Brown, an Australian who served as its first Director General until 1931. It is interesting to note that over a century ago Mr. Brown calculated that he would need at least 200 acres to start a decent agriculture research farm. The Tarnab Farm was thus established on an area of 200 acres from where the Farm has been delivering its excellent services till today.

Now fast forward to 2017. There is an outburst of mindless environmental destruction aimed at capturing every inch of green land, cutting every tree, mowing every bush and plucking every plant. Replace the orchards by conference rooms and food courts. Exchange the fruit nurseries by exhibition halls and convention centres. Let auditoriums, summit rooms, banquet halls and VIP helipads be the new alternate to agriculture research and development. Build sand and cement structures so as to make a quick buck today. After all, tomorrow is another country.

This is the Tragic story of the first phase of the destruction of the Tarnab Farm. On 24th May 2017, twenty five acres of the pristine 110 year old farm were brutally chopped off and handed over to builders and traders, to build a new Expo Centre at Peshawar.

Will all those interested in saving environment and the much needed agriculture research, raise their voice to put an end to this madness.