



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

From Bioarcheological Research to Capacity Building in the Indus Basin: The MAFBI training programme in Pakistan

DIDIER A. ^{1,2*}, *AYOOB KHILJI A.* ⁴, *MASHKOUR M.* ³, *SARMIENTO-CASTILLO D.* ², *TENGBERG M.* ⁵

¹ CNRS - UMR 7041 Archlogies et Sciences de l'Antiquité Nanterre, France

² Mission Archlogique Française du Bassin de l'Indus, Nanterre, France

³ CNRS - UMR 7209 Archzoologie et Archbotanique : Soci, Pratiques et Environnements, Paris, France

⁴ PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Pakistan

⁵ MNHN - UMR7209 Archzoologie et Archbotanique : Soci, Pratiques et Environnements, Paris, France

*Corresponding author

Abstract

Since 2015, the French Archaeological Mission in the Indus Basin (MAFBI) has been conducting large-scale excavations at the Indus Civilization site of Chanhu-daro (Sindh, Pakistan), combined with a fieldwork school that has welcomed more than 70 trainees. They participated in excavations, material documentation and curatorial activities, including the treatment of zooarchaeological and archaeobotanical remains. In Pakistan, the bioarchaeological disciplines are still underdeveloped in local university curricula. The subsistence practices of past societies are most often addressed as part of international cooperation programmes. The MAFBI specialists thus play an active role in raising awareness of this interdisciplinary approach, offering a field/lab training, and helping to create interactions between local departments of archaeology and departments of life and earth sciences, particularly those specialized in agricultural studies and animal sciences. The MAFBI collaboration with the SBBUVAS University, Sakrand, allowed to initiate the first animal bone reference collections used in archaeology. Other initiatives are developed in other provinces of Pakistan. The aim is to add (to the scientific frame) an objective of capacity building and education towards university scholars and young professionals in agreement with the local stakeholders from Government, Culture and Higher Education institutions, and to provide human resources in these disciplines.

Keywords

Pakistan, Bioarchaeological studies, Training, Capacity building, French Archaeological Mission

Session

6. Life and death: Human behaviour and practices

Workshop

A16697MM - Development in South West Asia (SWA) of local initiatives in bioarchaeological practices and trainings.

Type of paper

Oral presentation