



ORIC NEWS



Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
Transforming Concepts into Impacts



MOU SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND BOP



The University of Agriculture Faisalabad and The Bank of Punjab inked a Memorandum of Understanding on September 14, 2021, at the Syndicate Room, UAF.

The Scope of this MoU is to establish a working relationship between the parties to benefit fresh Agri graduates.

The MoU will provide the following benefits:

- Provision of finance facilities to fresh graduates/farmers associated with UAF

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- Paid internship to selected University graduates by BOP
- BOP Agri Credit Job offerings on a priority basis to UAF Graduates
- Sponsorships for Startup Competitions
- Clean Financing to Small Farmers

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (S.I) Vice-Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad highlighted access to finance as one of the major challenges faced by small farmers. The collateral requirement by the financial institutes was a big hindrance towards easy access to finance.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasized on the need to motivate young population for getting involved in Agriculture. He expressed that Agri-Entrepreneurship was the way forward and suggested BOP to introduce a clean financing scheme that could help early-stage Agri-Startups. He said these kinds of diverse partnerships were crucial for benefiting the rural communities.

Ms. Alia Zafar, Group Head People, and Organizational Excellence Group, BOP said that Financial inclusion was an important step towards inclusive growth. It helps in the overall economic development of the rural population.

Mr. Asif Riaz, Group Head Retail and Priority Sector Lending, BOP introduced innovative products of BOP that were currently benefiting small farmers and rural communities.

Mr. Sarfraz Hussain, Head Agriculture Credit Division, BOP said that subject collaboration could be beneficial for both organizations.

Prof. Dr. Anas Sarwar Qureshi Pro-Vice-Chancellor, UAF and Prof. Dr. Khalid M. Chaudhary, Social Sciences also graced the occasion.

Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Director ORIC, Dr. Abdul Rashid (Associate Prof, ORIC), Dr. Abdul Naveed (Associate Prof., ORIC), Dr. Khurram Zia (Assistant Prof., ORIC), Ms. Aisha Arshad (Assistant Prof, ORIC) Mr. Sarfraz Rizwan (Accounts Officer, ORIC), Muhammad Imran Munawar (Incharge, BIC), Mr. Farooq Hassan (BIC) and other notables witnessed the occasion.

NEW SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI) POLICY 2021 FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In line with the Prime Minister's Vision, the Ministry of Science & Technology has prepared the Draft National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2021 accumulating the inputs from the STI Policy expert working group, leading national experts, and other relevant stakeholders. The Policy is placed on the MoST website www.most.gov.pk for sharing of input/views, of the experts, the input can be shared at syed.zaheer@most.gov.pk till or before September 30, 2021. Valuable and productive input will be appreciated by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) has announced Post-Doctoral Fellowships in the following areas:

- AI, Intelligent Secure System
- Membranes and Water Security
- Smart Mobility and Logistics
- Refining and Petrochemicals
- Nanotechnology
- Renewable Energy
- Macro/Micro-Economics

For more details, please visit:
<https://postdoc.kfupm.edu.sa>

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES BY MITACS GLOBALINK

The Mitacs Globalink has announced a 12-week research internship program for top-ranked undergraduate students to develop their research

expertise, professional skills and gain international experience under the supervision of a Canadian university faculty member.

The selection process for the session of summer 2022 has started. The Mitacs has decided to run a fully-funded pilot program this year for Pakistani undergraduate students. From next year, the partner country will be required to bear one-third of the cost (\$3000 CAD).

For further detail, please visit:

https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/globalink/globalink-research-internship?gclid=CjOKCQiWk4vGBhDQARIsACGfAeu51L3DVW-pZ-YwIkxYsg0P7CkoPu2Le8SoAD54XUz1HIEUaP3pM0aAhYDEALw_wcB

Please note that Pakistan is not yet listed on the website. It will take some time for the revision of the site while Pakistan has been included in the list.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER LOCAL CHALLENGE FUND (LCF) BY HEC

The Local Challenge Fund (LCF) is an initiative of HEC supported by the World Bank with a prime focus to support research projects that address locally relevant socio-economic issues and may also address topics associated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- UAF is a research extensive university at: <https://hec.gov.pk/site/PRA>
- SDG priority areas available at: <https://www.sdgpakistan.pk/web/sdgs>

Closing Date: October 01, 2021.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Endowment Fund Secretariat (EFS) supports agricultural activities through:

**Technology Transfer
Product Commercialization
Research & Development**

Closing Date: October 01, 2021.

ORIC STARTED FOUR-WEEK PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (RESEARCH WING)

Four-week professional training on Finance, Administration, Management and E-Governance for the officers of Agriculture Department Punjab (Research Wing) commenced at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) arranged by ORIC. It is the fourth batch of the series of trainings. In the fourth session, as many as 79 participants were being capacitated through handout training. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan(SI). He urged the agricultural scientists to work with dedication and come up with valuable research work to address the agricultural problems especially troubleshooting for the small farmers in order to increase the agricultural productivity. He said that skilled manpower was a prerequisite to face the challenges of the modern world. He was of the opinion that the import bill of the country was to be reduced through untiring efforts of the Agri. Scientists while feeding the ever-growing population was another challenge. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Director General/Chief Scientist, Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) highlighted the expectations of the Govt. as well as the Institute from this training. He said that hard work had no substitute. Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Director ORIC/Focal Person welcome the participants and briefed them about the modules, contents and outsourced resource persons from different parts of the province.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND SCIENTIFIC EVENT (IGNITE NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY FUND)

This grant scheme launched by Ignite National Technology Fund is aimed to train manpower and strengthen R&D institutions working in the fields of science and technology relevant to national needs.

Priority Areas:

- Funds should be provided to either completely or partially subsidize the training programs and to buy equipment/software that the institution cannot afford.
- From this grant, medium-sized scientific equipment can also be purchased with strong justification and cost-benefit analysis.
- Funds should not be spent on brick and mortar.
- The details of training and/or experiments that will be performed and the goals that will be achieved should be clearly stated.

For more details please visit:

<https://ignite.org.pk/human-resource-development>



NOTIFICATION:

The Board of Directors, Endowment Fund in its meeting held on 01-09-2021, approved to grant remuneration to the project executing staff/evaluators as under:

Investigators/Scientists:

University Faculty Member	Scientist/experts of other organization	PI/Co-PI	Amount, Rs.
Professor	21	PI	100,000/-
		Co-PI	50,000/-
Associate Professor	20	PI	90,000/-
		Co-PI	45,000/-
Assistant Professor	19	PI	80,000/-
		Co-PI	40,000/-
Lecturer/Research Officer	18 & 17	PI	70,000/-
		Co-PI	35,000/-

Note: The rates will be applicable for all either working on BPS/Tenured/TTS or special pay packages.

Evaluators:

Evaluation	Experts Nominated by	Amount, Rs.	No. of Experts
Project Proposal	Chairman BoD	50,00/-	3
Project Annual Report	Chairman BoD	7,000/-	2
Final/Completion Report	Chairman BoD	10,000/-	2

The rate given at Sr. No. 1, 2 & 3 will be effective for the new batch of projects received against the advertisement in 2021.

Supporting Staff:

1.	The engagement of supporting staff as per policy of Host Institution on the recommendation of PI, for maintenance of registers, assistance to PI in office work/purchasing and billing etc.	Rs. 15, 000/- per Annum (after submission of annual financial report)
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NOTIFICATION:

The Board of Directors, Endowment Fund in its meeting held on 01-09-2021, has approved to take the following measures in case of non-compliance by the PIs of the project.

- The honoraria of the executing team may be withheld.
- Next release of funds should not be processed.
- The new proposals from such PI and other scientists belonging to the department/Institute may be banned/discouraged.
- A letter may be written to the head of the institution, treasurer and director, ORIC of the concerned institute for taking appropriate action.
- The controlling officer/competent authority may be requested to record comments in the ACRs of the concerned PI.
- Project completion certificate should not be issued to the PI.

The Board advised further to include the above clauses in the agreement.



**Vice-Chancellor, UAF
(Patron in Chief)**

**Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir
Director, ORIC, (Chief Editor)**

Editorial Board:

Dr. Abdul Rashid	Associate Prof.
Dr. Abdul Naveed	Associate Prof.
Dr. Khuram Zia	Assistant Prof.
Ms. Aisha Arshad	Assistant Prof.
Mr. Imran Munawar	Incharge-BIC

