

# ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

August 1<sup>st</sup> to 15, 2023



## INTERIOR MINISTER RANA SANAULLAH KHAN GIVES AWAY LAPTOPS UNDER PM YOUTH LAPTOP SCHEME

Prime Minister Youth Laptop Scheme -2023 is a testament of upholding of merit, nurturing the talent and gearing up IT exports as due to youth laptop scheme back in 2011, the country's IT exports swelled from merely 400 million USD to 5.0 billion dollar in 2023, said federal minister for interior Rana Sanaullah Khan while giving away PM Youth Laptops to 25 students from 4 universities of Faisalabad here at Iqbal Auditorium. The event was organized by Directorate of Financial Assistance & University Development (DFAUA) wherein Rana Sanaullah Khan was participating as Chief Guest. He while congratulating the laptop recipients said that today Information Technology has emerged as a driving force behind economic growth, youth empowerment, foreign exchange earnings and development of the country as it has transformed the way businesses operate and have opened up new avenues for employment generation.

He said during last few years, IT exports have proven to be a catalyst for economic growth and by participating in ITC, nations can tap into global markets, expanding their reach beyond domestic borders. He said that government is mulling to set up Danish Schools at every tehsil of the country thereby to nurture the merit and talent at grass root level adding that kids those were admitted in the Danish Schools back in 2010, are now been entered in a promising and shining professional life.

He admitted though there is very tricky and complex fund allocation mechanism at HEC but vowed (if given a chance to serve the nation again)



Upcoming

## EVENTS

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Entry Test for undergraduate Degree Programs  
Sunday August 06, 2023
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Entry Test for Postgraduate Degree Programs  
August 26 and 28, 2023
- Interviews for PhD admissions  
Wednesday September 13, 2023

to bring reforms in it so that universities be enabled to run their R&D activities in a comfortable manner. Describing the outcomes of PEEF Scholarship programs worth 20 billion rupees as soothing and sustainable, he told the participants that putting more money in PEEF is also on the cards that would create more fiscal space to provide funds to the deserving universities to propel and expand their activities.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan (SI) told the participants that under different phases of the laptop program there are 30600 students of this institute would get benefit of the scheme. He said that scientists of the university are vigorously working on R&D activities and would bring forth short duration wheat and cotton varieties shortly, that would, he anticipated create more space for soybean and other crops to reduce the import bill. He said there are 10 universities and hundreds of colleges giving agriculture degrees at par with UAF but it receives everyday questions and criticisms of low performance of agricultural sector, that we acknowledge with open hearts and burning the midnight oil to come up with such goods and services for brining agricultural transformation. He said data sciences, artificial intelligence and communication technologies offer precision applications to combat weather challenges, so traditional and generalised cropping schemes like wheat/cotton or wheat/rice need to be replaced with a diversity of crop choices. Talking about potential of soybean, he said that across the country UAF has 130 soybean trials in place ready for harvesting in the months of June/ July and genetic collection coupled with agronomic research show that different varieties are suited to different locations/ times of the year. He said that soybean experiments offer a wide range of data to devise a Climate Smart Agriculture platform. In addition to yield and disease resistance, it is important to breed wheat for nutritional value (protein, zinc/ iron fortified wheat), he added. He advocated a policy prescription for vertical yield growth of wheat and cotton is essential for any transformative change in the agricultural landscape.

During the ceremony, 26 students from UAF, GCUF, FMU and NTU received laptops from the chief guest. Later, the chief guest also acknowledged the participation of farmers in soybean trials and took part in a tree plantation campaign of UAF.

## SAMPLE ANALYSIS FACILITY BY HEC AND PCSIR

**Research scholars, students of MSc/MS/MPhil/PhD  
can benefit from this program**

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has announced the provision of financial support to the research entities in the country for instrumental access under "Access to Scientific Instrumentation" and "Data Repository of Scientific Instrumentation" respectively. Maximum funding available for sample analysis to each applicant is **Rs.200,000/year** (i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> July to June 30 by HEC) and upto **Rs.500,000/-** PCSIR.

Research scholars, students of MSc/MS/MPhil/PhD or equivalent in the field of Natural/Applied Sciences enrolled in a public or private university recognized by the Higher education Commission and researchers working in Research and Development organizations can benefit from this program.

The application can be submitted including a summary or description of the research proposal, a copy of the approved research synopsis or proposal, a consent letter obtained from the service provider and a brief profile of the research supervisor through ORIC UAF after endorsement.

### DEADLINE

There is no deadline for these initiatives, researcher can apply through out the year.

Please visit HEC website:

<https://ehsaasprogram.pk/hec-scientific-instrumentation-programme/>

Please visit PCSIR website: [www.pcsir.gov.pk](http://www.pcsir.gov.pk)

## PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BOARD

*Technologies for the Prosperity of Agricultural Stakeholders*



### INVITATION FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

**PUNJAB AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
BOARD (PARB) INTENDS TO SOLICIT  
RESEARCH PROPOSALS THROUGH  
COMPETITIVE GRANT SYSTEM (CGS)**

Projects under Competitive Grant System (CGS), purely applied in nature, with clear-cut deliverables on the following key-identified themes and high-priority research areas: - a) Enhance productivity with the sustainability of major cropping systems b) Promote diversification & commercialization in agriculture c) Conserve resources & protect environment d) Increase competitiveness by value addition e) Cross cutting and knowledge-based agriculture policies.

The proposals having clear-cut deliverables, linkages with agro-based industry, and commercialization components will be given priority. Any scientist in a public sector institution/university related to Agriculture Research (crops, plants, Livestock & Dairy development, poultry, fisheries, forestry, wildlife, ecology, range management, agricultural engineering, and water management) within the province of Punjab can submit a proposal on the concept clearance proforma/template present on the PARB website (<http://parb.aaripunab.gov.pk>) under the tab "Advertisement". However, the collaborators in the project can be from any public or private sector organization from any part of the world. Detailed high-priority research Themes and sub-themes are available on PARB website.

The hard copies of the project concept papers should be submitted in quadruplicate through proper channels (ORIC-UAF) addressed to the Chief Executive, PARB, 72-G Block, Johor Town Lahore.

A soft copy must be emailed to [parbproposals@gmail.com](mailto:parbproposals@gmail.com)

**Last date for receiving the proposals is**

**August 30, 2023**



## PAKISTAN, CHINA ADVANCING COLLABORATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

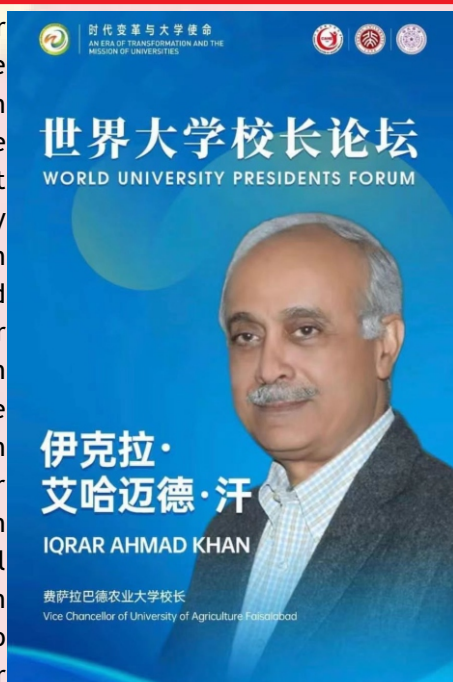
China's higher education has made great progress in recent years and the overall development momentum is very strong. Cooperation between China and Pakistan in higher education has been deepening, and the cooperation in technology transfer and transformation of technological achievements in universities needs to be strengthened for a closer shared

future, said Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI) during his address to World University Presidents Forum themed "an era of transformation and the mission of universities" hosted by Chinese Association of Higher Education, Peking University and Tsinghua University in Beijing last week.

Lauding China's higher education system, Dr. Iqrar said that China's commitment to education has been evident through its continuous investment in R&D, infrastructure and faculty development. "China's HR and infrastructure falls in the highest category globally. The best part now is its global outreach and diversity and its linkages with industry for problem solving and commercialization of knowledge which is worth learning."

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan noted that with 65 selected heads of universities sharing their views and 500 participants from 36 countries and regions, this was a unique opportunity to understand the current higher education landscape across the globe and emerging future. On the occasion, Ding Zhongli, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, stressed China's willingness to exchange and share development experiences with universities around the world and contribute to the building of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Focusing on innovation, quality and internationalization, China has been making significant strides in higher education development, attracting students and scholars from around the world. Prof Dr Iqrar said that the number of Pakistani students studying in China stood at 26,000 with over 1,000 postdocs and visiting scientists.



Pak-China higher education collaboration has brought mutual benefits in terms of bilateral relations, economic opportunities, knowledge exchange, human resource development, and education system improvement. By attracting Pakistani students in China, China can boost its soft power and influence in Pakistan. These students can act as cultural ambassadors, promoting language, culture and values of both countries, noted Prof Iqrar. He added that "although there are continuous senior level Chinese experts and language teachers visiting Pakistan, the number of Chinese students studying in Pakistan is relatively small. Efforts are being made to increase the presence of Chinese students in Pakistani universities."

Under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), educational cooperation has emerged as a key area. The collaboration encompasses a wide range of initiatives, including student exchange programs, joint research projects, and the establishment of academic institutions.

UAF has completed more than 50 joint projects with China and has more than 20 projects in the pipeline. In the past two months, UAF has signed three new joint laboratories for horticulture, pest management and ecology with Chinese higher institutions. The Confucius Institute continues to conduct a rich and colorful series of cultural exchange activities and international Chinese teacher scholarship seminars.

The Federal government has notified UAF as a Special Technology Zone (STZ) and the Punjab government is investing in technology. "We expect Chinese higher education institutions to open campus or research center in Pakistan and replicate the experience of transforming technological achievements in Chinese universities to Pakistan to foster innovation and entrepreneurship," Prof. Dr. Iqrar concluded.

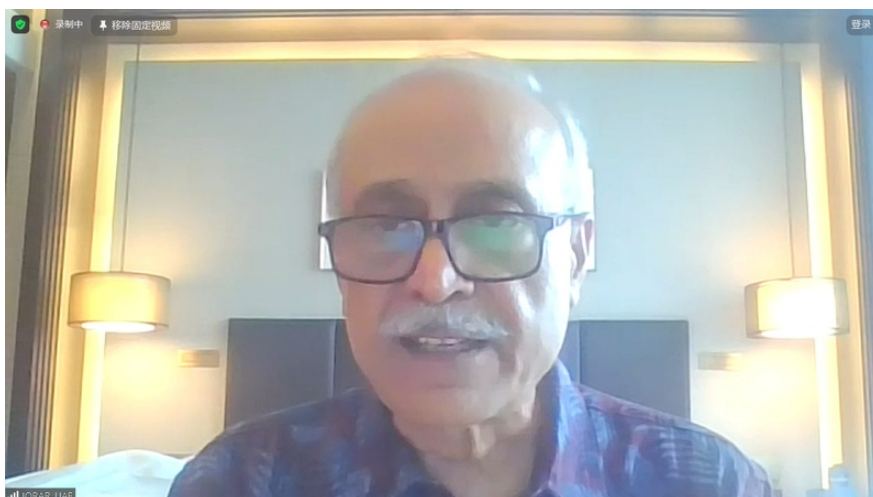


## UAF SIGNED A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH SHENYANG NORMAL UNIVERSITY, CHINA

The university delegation, during its last leg of China visit, signed a cooperation agreement between UAF and Shenyang Normal University, China under inter-university joint laboratory of "ecosystem restoration and sustainable development" in the multi-functional hall on the third floor of the Institute of International Education of the host Chinese university. The UAF delegation led by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani Director ORIC comprising Prof. Dr. M. Jalal Arif Chairman Entomology, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saqib Director External Linkages, and Dr. Abid Ali of Entomology Department. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan (SI) attended the ceremony online. Vice President Tong Yuping and heads of relevant departments attended the ceremony. The ceremony was presided over by Zhang Wei, Director of the International Exchange and Cooperation Department.

Vice President Tong Yuping said that through this exchange, it will build a bridge between our university and Faisalabad Agricultural University in various fields, promote in-depth cooperation between the two sides in education, science and technology and culture, deepen the beautiful friendship between China and Pakistan, and jointly promote the high-quality development of China and Pakistan. The Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that through this visit, the Pakistani delegation has established substantive cooperative relations with our university, built an inter-university joint laboratory, and deepened the friendship and cooperation between China and Pakistan. It is hoped that China and Pakistan will actively carry out more innovative cooperation projects in ecosystem restoration and sustainable development in the future, deepen scientific research cooperation, and jointly promote the high-quality development of "Belt and Road" education cooperation, and wish the friendship between China and Pakistan for a long time.

At the meeting, Vice President Tong Yuping and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan signed inter-university cooperation agreement online and offline, and Professor Zhang Yang, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, and Professor Muhammad Jalal Arif jointly unveiled the Inter-university Joint



Laboratory of "Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Development". Vice President Tong Yuping presented visiting professorship letters to Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Dr. Muhammad Saqib, Dr. Abid Ali and Dr. Zeeshan Ahmed. Subsequently, the first bilateral academic conference of the Inter-University Joint Laboratory of "Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Development" was held, which was co-chaired by Dean Zhang Yang and Associate Professor Abid Ali. At the meeting, a total of four representatives from China and Brazil held academic discussions on ecosystem restoration and sustainable development. During this visit, UAF delegation also visited the facilities of the School of Life Sciences and the Liaoning Paleontological Museum.





## PAKISTAN-CHINA JOINT LAB TO BE SET UP FOR CROP PEST MANAGEMENT

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (IPPCAAS) signed a Lol in Beijing for establishing the Pakistan-China joint laboratory for crop pest management.

The two sides will kick start the operation of the joint laboratory and carry out tests, demonstrations and joint research on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern, as well as technical personnel training and personnel exchange and training.

Pakistan suffers a lot from the pest problem. For example, the white fly is affecting cotton, citrus, guava, etc. When our fruits and vegetables are being exported to different Middle East countries, sometimes they are rejected due to the presence of these fruit flies and pesticide residues. Out of the 1,300 molecules of the pesticides registered in Pakistan, not a single molecule is able to control the white fly.

Prof. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Chairman, Entomology said that Pakistan is also facing the issue of economic threshold level and economic injury level. When we decide to manage or control any pests, we must go by pest scouting, pest monitoring, and assessment of pest population. When they exceed a certain number, we decide the pesticide application, which helps our different equipments, and tools. In the last 75 years, we have an old threshold and injury level, which should be revised to meet the challenges. Prof. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director, ORIC said this collaboration is part of Pakistan's efforts towards climate-smart agriculture. It would be good to secure the food for the future generations. So genetic change, use of biotechnology are the tools which can make the food secure in both countries, he said.

The collaboration with UAF holds national significance for Pakistan. Faisalabad is the city of textile. The presence of a special economic zone calls for augmented research to underpin its industrial development. We also have Confucius Institute that has cultivated 6,000 students who have passed different levels of Chinese language, culture and can act as a bridge between the two sides of the cooperation. Located in the center of Pakistan, it is easy for us to reach farmers in different places in the country, said Dr. Abid Ali from Department of Entomology.







PAKISTAN SCIENCE  
FOUNDATION (PSF)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO  
TRANSFORM RESEARCH  
INTO COMMERCIALIZABLE  
PRODUCT/SERVICES

## Call for Concept Papers

Pakistan Sciences Foundation (PSF) is a premier Funding Agency, striving for scientific development in the country through funding R&D projects in different scientific fields.

**Natural Sciences Linkage Programme (NSLP)** is an Endowment Fund of PSF which is aimed at increasing agricultural production and socio-economic uplift of the farmers. Concept Papers are invited under NSLP in line with National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy-2022 to support the use of emerging technologies in Agriculture, Drought Resistant Seed Production, Food Technology, Livestock, Animal Reproduction, Poultry, Aquaculture, Oilseed, Pulses, Environment, Water/irrigation, Energy, Chemicals, Enzymes, Flavors and Additives:

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Artificial Intelligence | 5. Material Science       |
| 2. Block Chain             | 6. Big Data / Data Mining |
| 3. Biotechnology           | 7. Green Technologies     |
| 4. Nanotechnology          |                           |

Concept ideas will be shortlisted and evaluated on the basis of expected outcomes including product/service development leading to import substitution, export enhancement and/or value addition of local raw materials which can be marketed to generate business and revenue. Ideas with ready-to-market prototype will be given priority.

Grant support is available to enthusiastic and active Scientists/Researchers of HEC Chartered Universities and Govt. R&D Organizations who intend to utilize their research results for economic uplift of the country. Concept Papers can be submitted through Research Grant Management System (RGMS) on PSF Website throughout the year.

DIRECTOR RESEARCH SUPPORT  
PAKISTAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
CONSTITUTION AVENUE, ISLAMABAD  
Ph: 051-9209664

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# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

by

**National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and  
Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)**



**Call is open between 14-07-2023 and 05-09-2023**

Under the Memorandum of Understanding between National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF), NSFC and PSF invite Universities, Research Centers and Institutes to submit joint proposals for R&D projects.

The call for Proposals for JoMt Research and Development Projects with National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) is open in the following priority areas:

- (1) Green technologies (mainly focusing development of green sources of energy generation w/ MA may have Industrial Implications).
- (2) Nanotechnology (based on the socioeconomic needs of Pak-China).
- (3) Computing Science (Limited to Augmented/Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing).

General Guidelines Proposal should be submitted online through Research Grant Management System (RGMS).

PSF will support the project up to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 Million and NSFC will support the project up to 2.00 Million RMB.

Please visit [www.psf.gov.pk](http://www.psf.gov.pk) for detailed call documents.

## For the technical queries regarding the joint call

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## For the queries related to RGMS or online submission of proposals

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## PARTIAL RESEARCH SUPPORT BY ORIC TO POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

The Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) is ensuring quality in research by supporting partial funding for consumables only. Prescribed form is available at ORIC website where copy of approved synopsis is mandatory. A committee will finalize the cases on the basis of merit or indispensability of need on quarterly basis. Postgraduate



OFFICE OF RESEARCH,  
**INNOVATION**  
& COMMERCIALIZATION  
*Transforming Concepts into Impacts*

A HIGH PRICED, HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED AND INNOVATIVE INSTRUMENT (ZEETASIZER, LITESIZER<sup>TM</sup>) HAS BEEN ADDED IN THE CENTRAL HI-TECH LAB.

To facilitate the researchers (Faculty and Students) for measuring, Particle size, zeta potential, and molecular mass, a high priced, highly sophisticated and innovative instrument (Litesizer<sup>TM</sup>) has been added in the Central Hi-Tech Lab. UAF Particle size, zeta potential, and molecular mass are determined by measuring dynamic light scattering (DLS), electrophoretic light scattering (ELS), and static light scattering (SLS), while the transmittance is determined by using light transmission. The Litesizer<sup>TM</sup> 500 offers the full suite of measurements and has three detection angles available, automates the adjustment of the sample's pH directly in the measurement cuvette, enabling the user to perform pH ramps in a simple and accurate manner.

#### Particle Sizer:

Measurement angles: three angles (15, 90, 175)  
Measurement angle selection: Automatic and manual  
Size Range: 0.3 nm - 10  $\mu$ m (diameter)  
Min. sample volume: 3 - 12  $\mu$ L  
Sensitivity: 0.1 mg/mL to 1 mg/mL  
Accuracy & Repeatability: Better than  $\pm 2\%$

#### Zeta Potential:

- Zeta Potential Range:  $> \pm 1000$  mV



- Measuring Angle : 15
- Minimum sample Volume: 50  $\mu$ L
- Conductivity Accuracy:  $\pm 10\%$
- Repeatability:  $\pm 3\%$
- Size range: 3.8 nm - 100  $\mu$ m (diameter)

#### Molecular Mass:

- Measuring range (particle size): up to 50 nm (diameter)
- Measuring range (mass): 980 Da - 20 MDa
- Measurement angle: 90°
- Repeatability:  $\pm 5\%$
- Accuracy:  $\pm 10\%$

This facility is available for UAF and other R&D organizations across the country including civil society at large. The rates for students and other researchers for this facility are available at [www.uaf.edu.pk](http://www.uaf.edu.pk)



UNIVERSITY OF WAH

## 8<sup>th</sup> Multi Disciplinary Student Research International Conference (MDSRIC -2023)



This conference is annually organized by the Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization, University of Wah (ORIC-UW). The conference will cover numerous topics from the areas of

Basic Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering,  
Management Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities

University of Wah feels the responsibility of promoting a healthy culture of research, enhancing the technical writing skills and nurturing the presentation capabilities of the students for a diverse audience. The conference is a step towards fulfilling this responsibility by bringing students of all disciplines together and providing them a platform to present and share their unpublished research that may be based on their final year projects, thesis or any other significant research work. This conference encourages students at all levels in general and at undergraduate level in particular, to participate actively. We would highly appreciate all the faculty members and their students to participate in this engaging, challenging and thought provoking event.

After completing the online Registration, all the interested students can submit one page abstract (200-250 words) of their research papers via [mdsrc@uow.edu.pk](mailto:mdsrc@uow.edu.pk) on or before 15th August, 2023. For more information and updates about the conference please keep in touch with our conference website.

#### Deadlines

Please don't miss out the following deadlines  
Abstract submission: August 15, 2023  
Full-length paper submission: Sep. 21, 2023

#### Useful links

Registration: <http://www.uow.edu.pk/oric/mdsrc/register>  
Website: <http://uow.edu.pk/oric/mdsrc/mdsrc23>  
Abstract Pattern: <http://uow.edu.pk/oric/mdsrc/papersubmisison>



# Call for Research Proposals

## PERIDOT Research Programme Phase-X



### Priority Areas

Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan invites applications from Pakistan's faculty members of public and private universities, for funding under the Pak-France PERIDOT Research Programme.



Renewable Energy,  
Environment and  
Climate change



Agriculture, Food  
Security and Health



Humanities &  
Social Sciences

**Note:** Projects on social challenges of environmental issues will be strongly encouraged. Maximum project duration is three (3) years.

For more information, visit [hec.gov.pk/site/PERIDOT](http://hec.gov.pk/site/PERIDOT)



## Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

Sector H-9, Islamabad | [www.hec.gov.pk](http://www.hec.gov.pk)

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