

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

December 01 to 15, 2024



NICF GRADUATES 3rd COHORT OF STARTUPS

It is need of the hour to develop knowledge-based economy, strong academy industry linkages and to instill entrepreneur skills and innovative ideas among the youth for social and economic development, said Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan, the Vice Chancellor while addressing as chief guest on the occasion of graduation ceremony of 3rd cohort of the National Incubation Center, Faisalabad (NICF) established at the varsity.

Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan said that the youth must be equipped with innovative thinking and entrepreneurial skills so that they can become job provider instead of a job seeker. He said that the National Incubation Center and the University's Business Incubation Center are providing resources to students with unique business ideas to launch startups so that the wheels of the economy can be turned on scientific grounds and economic improvement can be ensured. He said that nature had blessed the young generation with excellent talents and there was a need to provide an environment to further develop their talents. He said that last week, seven students were provided with startup funds under the Business Incubation Center (BIC) UAF. Assistant Commissioner Dr Abid Mumtaz Khan said that innovative thinking is the guarantee of development. He said that we have to play our role for the uplift so that



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we can make the society a place of happiness.

Sayed Ahmad Masud, Chief Executive Officer, Change Mechanics, said that the National Incubation Center is unique in terms of developing entrepreneurial skills, by utilizing which students were able to start their own businesses and are now earning millions of rupees Senior Manager Fauji Fertilizer Raja Junaid Mujtaba said that by developing agriculture on modern lines, not only self-sufficiency can be made possible but also we can earn forex.



Project Director National Incubation Center Zeeshan Shahid said that 76 startup companies have been launched in the National Incubation Center Faisalabad so far, which has created more than a thousand jobs and generated 52 million in revenue. He said that this center is funding startup companies related to agriculture.

ORIC-UAF AND FCCI PLEDGE TO TRANSFORM RESEARCH INTO TECHNOLOGIES, GOODS AND SERVICES

The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) by constituting a Standing Committee on Industry-Academia Linkage, Policy Advocacy & Technology Development (SCIALPA&TD) has set a remarkable example of fostering collaboration, bridging the gap between knowledge and practice and applied research. In the 2nd meeting of SCIALPA&TD held on Friday, December 13, 2024, Mr Rehan Naseem Bharara, the President of FCCI & Dr. Habib Aslam Gaba, the convener of the committee emphasized that it was the high time to transform research lying in the book shelves in to tangible technologies, goods & services for the wellbeing of the civil society. The President FCCI appreciated the efforts & dedication of all the members of this standing committee. He anticipated that in the upcoming years, each university will share its Technology Plan for which FCCI will fund to the viable projects. Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC UAF informed the house that Innovation Catalogue of UAF was ready and will be shared accordingly. From UAF, Prof. Dr. Haq Nawaz Bhatti, Prof. Dr. Ijaz Ahmad



Bhatti, Prof. Dr. Amer Jamil, Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Mr. Umar Saeed Qadri, Dr. Abdul Rashid, Mr. Imran Munawar participated as Technical Experts of this Standing Committee.

Such meetings serve as a shining beacon of progress, promoting innovations and growth by aligning industry needs with academic excellence while FCCI through its visionary leadership, has taken a pivotal step in creating a synergy that will undoubtedly drive sustainable development and empower future generations. It was a unanimous opinion that such initiatives highlight the committee's commitment to strengthening the economy through meaningful partnerships and knowledge-sharing.

Key Details:

- Funding Scope: Climate and biodiversity initiatives.
- Eligible Applicants: Local organizations in ODA-eligible countries.
- Application Deadline: 15 January 2025.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to support impactful environmental projects.

For more information and to apply, visit the official page: [IKI Small Grants Website](#)
If you have any questions, you can directly contact the IKI Small Grants team at iki-small-grants@giz.de

UAF SHINES AT AFS VENTURE SPARK 2024

University of Agriculture Faisalabad shines at “AFS VENTURE SPARK 2024” organized by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan. UAF thrilled to announce that talented students from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad have once again made us proud by securing 2nd position (Under top ten category) at AFS VENTURE SPARK 2024 organized by Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM). The UAF Team, led by Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of the Business Incubation Center, participated in this event. For the project titled Remote irrigation, Shahzad Raosol from the category of Agri Engineering and Technology and Raees Ur Rehman in the category of Food Science and Technology for the project titled Royella Foods won the prizes.



UAF GETS REGISTRATION WITH SECP AS A CORPORATE COMPANY

We are pleased to inform UAF faculty that UAF’s company, Agri Connect Innovations (Pvt.) Ltd., has successfully been registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). This milestone marks a significant step toward fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture. Agri Connect Innovations aims to bridge the gap between academia and industry, focusing on developing cutting-edge solutions to advance agricultural practices, enhance productivity, and promote sustainability. We encourage faculty members to actively engage with the this company, collaborate on innovative projects, and contribute to transforming the agricultural landscape of the country. Together, let’s shape the future of smart agriculture. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the UAF team (Director ORIC, Director BIC, Registrar and manager Innovation & Commercialization, ORIC) for their dedicated efforts in achieving the successful registration of UAF’s company “Agri Connect Innovations (Pvt.) Ltd.”, with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP).



It is to inform that Higher Education Commission (HEC) after a long interval, is planning to launch a “Call for Research Proposal under National Research Program for Universities (NRPU)” at end of December, 2024. It is high time to be ready for submission of Research Proposals against this Call.

NRPU is a flagship Research Program of HEC for funding research grants on competitive/ merit basis for high-quality and promising scientific research projects that demonstrate strategic relevance and cast impact to the local industry and society. Principal Investigator (PI) should be a faculty member at higher education institution in Pakistan and encouraged to submit proposals that are collaborative in scope, with teams including junior and senior academic staff, both male and female researchers and appropriate sectoral/ industrial collaborators. Principal Investigators are also encouraged to include students as part of the project team who have worked on the academic research underpinning the NRPU proposal. ORIC will submit proposals after internal preliminary evaluation by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Kindly submit timely to avoid any unwanted situation.



National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE)
Higher Education Commission, Pakistan



Six Months Online Course on
"Understanding Research and
Academic Writing (URAW)"
in Collaboration with
RELO-U.S. Embassy Islamabad

National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE) is the national hub for the capacity building and continuous professional development of teaching faculty and management of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of Pakistan. The Regional English Language Office (RELO) supports public diplomacy outreach through professional development and English language learning opportunities for English language teachers and learners throughout Pakistan.

Those who are interested in attending the workshop may apply.
<https://forms.gle/GVB768ysv8E4UbGG9>

Training dates: January 06 – June 30, 2025

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Eubanks earned his Ph.D. in Slavic Languages from Princeton University in 2008. He has taught the history of Russian Theater, Russian and Soviet Cinema, American Cinema, and Academic Writing at Boston University, the Higher School of Economic and the New Economic School (Moscow, Russia), and the University College of the Cayman Islands. He has published numerous literary translations as well as research in English and Russian language venues. He has served on the editorial staff or board for several academic journals. He served as Editor in Chief of the bilingual Pushkin Review for eight years, during which time the journal was the world's premiere publication devoted to Russian poet, A.S. Pushkin. Dr. Eubanks has taught courses, seminars and workshops on academic writing for publication to advanced graduate students and research faculty all around the world in such countries as Pakistan, Russia, Mexico, Honduras, and Vietnam.





Higher Education Commission, Pakistan

coursera

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For Online Registration

eservices.hec.gov.pk

For More Information

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TECHNICAL SESSION ON NUTRIENT BUDGETING AT ENGRO LEARNING CENTRE



Engro Learning Centre UAF, in collaboration with the Soil and Environmental Division, NIAB Faisalabad, and the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, UAF, successfully organized a comprehensive session on Nutrient Budgeting (Micro and Macro). This session addressed the critical need for balanced nutrition in sustainable agriculture. Key resource persons included Dr. M. Akhtar, Deputy Chief Scientist from NIAB, and Dr. M. Saleem, Principal Scientist NIAB, along with their dedicated team. Prof. Dr. M. Naveed, from Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, UAF, also contributed as a resource person, enriching the session with valuable insights. The event was attended by prominent UAF faculty members, including Dr. Fahd Rasul, Assoc. Prof./In-charge Rotaract Club, and Dr. Imran Khan (Assoc. Prof ISES), along with researchers and post-graduate students. Participants highly commended the organizers for selecting this vital topic, emphasizing that nutrient budgeting is the need of the hour. They highlighted the importance of equipping farmers with knowledge about balanced nutrition to ensure improved crop productivity and sustainability.

WORLD SOIL DAY CELEBRATION AT ELC UAF

World Soil Day was marked in collaboration with the Inst. of Soil and Environmental Sciences University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) where an engaging event was organized to raise awareness about soil health and its role in sustainable agriculture. University students set up stalls showcasing innovative models that highlighted various aspects of soil management, erosion control, and sustainable agricultural practices. A panel of esteemed judges, including Dr. Abid Niaz, Principal Scientist at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad; Dr. Syed Shahid Hussain Shah, Deputy Manager R&D at Engro Fertilizers; and Dr. Ijaz Ahmad, Associate Professor at UAF—evaluated the exhibits based on creativity, accuracy, and educational value. Director Inst. of Soil and Environmental Sciences UAF and President Soil Science Society of Pakistan Prof. Dr. Zahir A. Zahir urged everyone to commit soil health by adopting scientific tools to measure its quality, monitor its change and implement effective management practice. This initiative underscored EFERT's and UAF's shared commitment to soil conservation and fostering innovation among students.



TECHNICAL SESSION ORGANIZED AT ENGRO LEARNING CENTRE

The training session was organized in collaboration with Dept. of Plant Breeding and Genetics (PBG) aimed to provide valuable insights into the role of Oilseed crops in agriculture, their economic significance, and effective strategies for nutrition management to boost productivity and sustainability. Hafiz Saad Bin Mustafa, Oilseed Scientist from Ayub Research Faisalabad representing the government, graced the session and highlighted the role of oilseed crops in enhancing food security and reducing dependency on imported edible oils. He discussed on economic significance and potential of oilseed crops to boost farmer income. The session emphasized raising awareness about oilseed crops alongside major crops to ensure balanced agricultural practices and informed decision-making among future agricultural leaders.





FULBRIGHT



APPLY NOW FOR GRADUATE STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES

FULBRIGHT 2026

About the Fulbright

Fulbright is the flagship scholarship program of the U.S. Government. The Fulbright scholarship is managed by the United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) under Fulbright policies and regulations.

The scholarship funds graduate study in the United States for a Master's or PhD degree, including tuition, required textbooks, airfare, a living stipend, and health insurance.

Pakistani Fulbrighters are studying at universities all over the United States.

Application Process

For more information on eligibility and to download an application form, visit www.usefp.org

Complete application with all the required documents must be submitted online. Paper applications will not be considered.

Applicants from underserved communities and/or with diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

- Pakistani citizens with strong academic histories, residing (throughout the scholarship process) in Pakistan and committed to returning to and serving Pakistan, are welcome to apply.
- All disciplines are eligible except clinical medicine. People in the fields of energy, water, agriculture, health, education, environment, and climate change are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Eligible Master's applicants will have a four-year Bachelor's degree or a Bachelor's and Master's combination (16 years of formal education) and PhD applicants will have a Master's, M.Phil., or a comparable degree (18 years of formal education) from an accredited university.
- The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required for all applicants.
- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) will be required for all the selected candidates.
- Applicants should be prepared to complete grants without accompanying dependents, if need be.

Plagiarism, fraudulent publications, or other misrepresentation will lead to disqualification at any stage of the program. The use of generative artificial intelligence software to write Fulbright application essays is prohibited.

DEADLINE
March 5, 2025

ORIC ORGANIZES TRAINING WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATION WITH CABI & HEC



The Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) organized “One Day Training Workshop on CABI-HEC Cooperation and Digital Resource Sharing with Academia in Pakistan” in collaboration with CAB International (CABI) & Higher Education Commission (HEC) under the agreement of Cooperation to Enhance Learning in Agriculture and Biosciences in Pakistan by Utilizing CABI Digital Tools with Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan on December 11, 2024 at CAS-AFS Auditorium-UAF.

As a follow up and initiating a pilot project under Letter of Intent (LoI) signed on December 11, 2023 between CABI and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) with the aim to integrate CABI's digital knowledge resources into Pakistan's higher education institutions for transforming concepts into impacts resultantly 1.9 million digital records and courses from CABI have been successfully configured into the HEC Digital Library Portal and are now accessible at HEC Digital Library. As part of the next step, under the directive of HEC, ORIC-UAF invited CABI to sensitize UAF faculty members and PhD scholars regarding how to harvest this opportunity where more than 70

nominees from diverse agricultural disciplines participated in workshops to learn how to access and utilize these resources effectively. These sessions were aimed to build capacity among academia and students, focusing on topics such as plant health systems and practical pest and disease management solutions.

Dr. Sabyan Honey, Deputy Director, Business Development, Dr. Muhammad Naeem Aslam, Country Coordinator PlantwisePlus Program CABI Pakistan, provided in-depth knowledge and insightful presentation on the utility of CABI's digital resources. Question answer session was impactful and productive for the other participants. Dr. Abdul Rashid, Associate Professor/Additional Director ORIC appreciated the efforts of HEC and CABI for this initiative under the arena of digitalization and anticipated that in future, even more precisely with ample time duration, CABI will schedule such series of workshops. Dr. Abdul Rashid, Associate Professor/Manager Research Management, and Dr. Khuram Zia, Assistant Professor /Manager Innovation & Commercialization were the host of this session.

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Vice Chancellor

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