

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

July 01 to 31, 2024



UAF AND ADB HOLD AN EXCLUSIVE DIALOGUE ON WHEAT CROP SCENARIO

A consultative meeting on Wheat Crop Scenario 2024-25 was jointly organized by University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and The Asian Development Bank on July 26, 2024. The key policy experts from various organizations such as Ms. Florence Rolle (Country Rep, FAO, World Bank), Ms Noriko Sato, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Asian Development Bank), Mr. Asmat Raza (Senior Agriculture Specialist, USDA), Dr Nadeem ul Haq (VC, PIDE), UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Dr. Akmal Siddique (Ministry of National Food security and Research), Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali (Chairman PARC), Dr Abid Qaiyum Suleri (SDPI), Prof Dr Asif Ali (Chief Executive Seed Regulatory Authority), Mr. Amir Aziz (CEO Agri Services, HBL), Mr Mohsin Rose (World Bank), UAF team members including Prof. Dr. Babar Shahbaz (Dean Faculty of Social Sciences) and Prof. Dr. M. Jafar Jaskani (Director ORIC), Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran Director, Policy, Law and Governance and others participated.

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan in his opening remarks discussed the current scenario of wheat and forecast



results of gap in demand and supply of wheat.

The policy dialogue was organized in the backdrop of direction from the Government of the Punjab, seeking UAF to conduct a detailed analysis of wheat crop scenario, and growers' perception about the wheat support price, and cultivation for the next year. Prof. Dr. Babar Shahbaz explained the findings of the preliminary research conducted by the faculty of Social Sciences. The findings of the study showed the projections of production, cultivated area, national and international price of wheat and farmers perception about wheat cultivation, perceived response to future minimum support price

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announcements and preferred sale destinations in prevailing trust deficit situation in government procurement system. Dr. Babur Wasim Arif, Asian Development Bank reviewed few studies related to wheat. The panelists discussed the pros and cons of minimum support price, role of government in wheat procurement, free market etc. The panelists further emphasized the role of governance in the wheat system. There was a general consensus that the public procurement is inefficient and is one of the reason for poor wheat market development. The panelists overwhelmingly opposed policy of procuring wheat by food department for subsidized sale to flour mills resulting in misallocation of subsidies and huge welfare loss. The strategic wheat reserves were supported by majority of the panelists subject to rationalization of the reserves on scientific basis and putting in place an efficient procurement system for the strategic reserves. The panelists also underscored the importance of enhancing production efficiency through better agronomy and enabling technology use in agriculture sector in general and wheat in particular. The dialogue concluded to make use of existing rich knowledge on wheat market and procurement and build insights from long term national and international data for wheat and other domestically produced and imported agriculture commodities for a system approach to tackle the crisis and shift thinking from mere forecasting to foresight to convert the crisis into opportunity. The dialogue was streamed on MS Teams and was well-attended by members of national and international organizations including Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization of Food Security, Australian National University, UAF, and Mehran University of Engineering & Technology, Sindh etc.



UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM RECOGNIZES UAF EFFORTS



The Ecosystems Division, of UN Environment Program has appointed the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), Pakistan, as a member of the GPNM Steering Committee. In a letter to Dr. Tariq Aziz,

Associate Professor at constituent college of the varsity at Depalpur Okara and focal person to represent the University on this Committee, Ning Liu, the Program Management Officer Secretariat of GPNM Source to Sea Pollution Unit Marine and Freshwater Branch Ecosystems Division United Nations Environment Program has congratulated the University and the focal person on embracing this global achievement.

In accordance with the Charter of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and related regulations, a member of the steering committee would be responsible to attend and actively participate in Steering Committee meetings either via virtual teleconferencing or in person, contribute to the review of Steering Committee minutes,

and make inputs toward finalization as required, advise the wider Partnership on relevant policy and technical issues and priorities on sustainable nutrient management, serve on special task teams and regional platforms based on specific area of knowledge and experiences in support of the work of the partnership, contribute to development, review, adoption and implementation of work plans of the partnership and any changes thereto, in accordance with partnership mandate and vision, assist in the conceptualization and development of proposals for funding targeted initiatives in sustainable nutrient management on behalf of countries and/or regions and their implementation, identify, evaluate and approve potential new funders and partners, serve as GPNM representatives in various fora (meetings, conferences) to promote awareness of and represent the partnership, review and provide inputs to GPNM policy and technical documentation in a timely manner, guide the GPNM Secretariat in setting agenda and holding of periodic global and regional meetings in mobilizing opinion and actions for addressing nutrient challenge, and to make decisions on the removal of partners from GPNM, in the case that the partner continues to act against the interests of the partnership.

ADB HOLDS WORKSHOP ON LOW CARBON AGRICULTURE IN PAKISTAN

A workshop on low carbon agriculture in Pakistan: piloting alternate watering and drying and greenhouse gas emission measurements for Rice in Punjab was arranged at Center for Advanced Studies Auditorium, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan (HI, SI) presided over the session while Senior Natural Resources Specialist Asian Development Bank Ms. Noriko Sato, Babur Arif from ADB, Dr Thi Bach from IRRI, Dr Ando Radanielson from IRRI, Dr Wyn Elis, Dr Abdul Wakeel, Dr Sultan Habib Ullah, Dr Muhammad Jafar Jaskani Director ORIC, and other spoke on the occasion.



BIC ORGANIZES A SESSION ON E-COMMERCE

As per vision and directions of the Vice Chancellor Business Incubation Center, UAF organized a session on "Building Your E-commerce Brand From Scratch" with the dynamic Co-Founder of Simply The Great Food (STGF) Mr. Daniyal Ali Iqbal, held on July 23, 2024. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director Business Incubation Center, UAF, welcomed the participants and highlighted the initiatives of BIC, UAF along with objectives of today's session. Mr. Daniyal Ali Iqbal shared invaluable insights into digital marketing, branding, and supply chain management for food E-commerce businesses. He also shared ups and downs of the journey of his startup. His expertise and practical tips left a lasting impression on all attendees.

Prof. Dr. Amer Jamil, Dr. Khurram Zia, Manager Academia Industry Linkages, ORIC. Mr. Farooq Hassan, BIC and faculty members alongwith postgraduate students from main campus as well as Burewala and Depapur campus participated in the session. Mr. Imran Munawar from the Business Incubation Center, UAF hosted the event. The session was attended by a good number of enthusiastic students, budding startups, food industry professionals, and dedicated faculty members, all eager to learn and grow.



BIC ORGANIZES A SESSION ON TRANSFORMING RESEARCH INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS

As per vision and guidelines of Vice Chancellor, Business Incubation Center, UAF in collaboration with National Incubation Center, Faisalabad, hosted an enlightening session for the UAF faculty and researchers on "Transforming Research into a Thriving Business" at the New Senate Hall, University of Agriculture Faisalabad. This session provided valuable insights and guidance to all attendees. Over 65 faculty and researchers along with more than 110 students attended this session. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC, welcomed the participants and emphasized on taking advantage of initiatives taken by the Vice Chancellor for the faculty member to transform their lab. research into viable commercial enterprises.

Afterwards, Mr. Zeeshan Shahid, Project Director NICF, shared detailed information about the NICF application process and the various services being offered by NICF for the researchers. He encouraged researchers and faculty members to apply for the upcoming cohort. He highlighted his thoughts about how to bridge the gap between groundbreaking research and commercial success, identifying the business potential hidden within research innovations, developing a winning business plan to attract investors and customers, and access to resources and support for launching your venture.



Call for Research Proposals

PERIDOT Research Programme Phase-XI



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.

PERIDOT is the Franco-Pakistani Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) Programme, providing opportunities to Pakistani and French researchers to interact for joint research activities. The programme is implemented in Pakistan by HEC and in France, jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Development (MAEDI) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR). The objective of this programme is to develop new scientific and technological cooperation between French and Pakistani higher education institutions (HEIs)/research laboratories by supporting the mobility of researchers from both sides.

Priority Areas

HEC invites joint research proposals for mobility grant from Pakistani faculty members of public and private universities in the following three areas:



Sustainable Energy, Environment
and Climate Change



Agriculture, Food Security
and Health



Entrepreneurship, Humanities
and Social Sciences

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

How to Apply

Applications should reach HEC no later than **October 1, 2024** till 1600 hours (Pakistan Standard Time). Online portal is now open for applications.

Please note that a joint application (in collaboration with a French faculty member) that has been submitted to Campus France is a mandatory pre-requisite for applying to this grant.

Any further information about the programme can be viewed at:

<https://www.hec.gov.pk/site/PERIDOT>

Research &
Development
Division



Higher Education
Commission, Pakistan

www.hec.gov.pk

VEC APPROVES ONE WHEAT AND TWO QUINOA VARIETIES

The Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC), Plant Sciences Division at Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has given formal approval to one wheat and two Quinoa varieties of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and recommended them for irrigated & rain-fed areas of the country. The VEC at its 4th meeting which was chaired by its convener Dr. Imtiaz Hussain and attended by its members. Chairman PARC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali welcomed the participants of the meeting and acknowledged their efforts for productivity enhancement of wheat in Pakistan.

The wheat variety Chenab Pasta-24 was jointly submitted by MNS Agri University Multan and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad whereas Quinoa (*Chenopodium quinoa* Wild) UAF-QS and UAF-Q29 were submitted by UAF. The new varieties got recommendations for cultivation in irrigated / rain-fed ecologies at national level based on average grain yield (02 years NUYT) should be higher in comparison with

the average yield (02 years NUYT) of better/higher yielding check in rain-fed/irrigated ecology. The VEC also acquired that the candidate line must show resistant reaction for yellow and leaf rusts in both years.

On Quinoa, the VEC is of the view that Quinoa is minor/underutilized/ neglected crop having high protein and gluten free. The VEC considered the results of adaptability trails for recommendations.

Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, while extending his felicitations to the breeders Dr. Rizwana Maqbool and Dr. Irfan Afzal, hoped that this momentum will be augmented and more varieties which are under consideration would get recommendations and approval shortly.



A Series of

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS



For Early Career Researchers (Assistant Professors & Lecturers) regarding Research Management, and Research Commercialization

Organized by:

July 30-31 and August 01, 2024

New Senate Hall, UAF

Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC), and Business Incubation Center (BIC)

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