

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

July 1st to 15, 2023



UAF EXPERTS PARTICIPATE IN GREEN INITIATIVE SEMINAR AT ISLAMABAD

UAF experts led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan (SI) participated in National Seminar on Food Security Challenges & Opportunities at Jinnah Convention Center Islamabad wherein Prime Minister Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif along with COAS General Syed Asim Munir attended the event as Chief and Guest of Honor respectively.

Visiting UAF stalls at Agri. Expo, the Chief Guest and Guest of Honor were briefed about a range of adaptation and mitigation measures including climate smart agriculture (CSA). Shedding light on the latest R&D activities of the varsity, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan emphasized that immediate attention ought to be given to the application of technology for forecasting and decision



support systems. He told that UAF had made a collaborative effort of completing agro ecological zoning that enabled the government to declare 14 agro-ecological zones in the province. The new zoning, he added, can help farmers to rethink traditional crop choices and invite policy organs to relocate and facilitate the relevant industries in the region. 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. While talking about potential of soybean, he said that UAF has 130 soybean trials in place from Badin to Astore, 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. Replying to a question of COAS, he said that wheat yields remained stagnant for several years due to temperature spikes/ terminal heat causing poor grain filling that was reversed during the last harvest because of favourable weather. He underscored the need of introduction of heat tolerant varieties thereby to break the wheat yield stagnation and arrest the \$10 billion import of essential commodities. By doing this only, he anticipated, would reduce the area under wheat and allow the expansion of cultivated area under early cotton, oilseeds, pulses, and soybean. 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. The PM expressed satisfaction over the R&D activities of UAF.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINESE DELEGATION VISIT TO PAKISTAN



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS FROM CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL VISIT NICF



Ms Frantzie Saint Juste, Senior Program Manager, and Temur Aziz, Consultant of New Business Development from Chemonics International visited National Incubation Centre, UAF. They witnessed state-of-the-art incubation facilities, with a particular focus on Agritech, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Textiletech. During their visit, the Chemonics team engaged with talented founders working on climate-smart agriculture ideas, and they were truly amazed by the innovative solutions being developed by them. In an interactive session with esteemed faculty members and researchers from the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, the Chemonics team gained valuable insights into the current landscape of climate-smart agricultural solutions. The researchers shared fascinating research findings, compelling case studies, and best practices in the field of climate-smart agriculture. Together, the Chemonics and NIC Faisalabad teams explored potential avenues for collaboration and identified exchange programs. It was anticipated by both sides that in future collaboration will be strengthened many folds in diversified fields of mutual interest.

ICCIA DELEGATION VISITS ORIC



A delegation from Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agri. Business lead by Mr. Rustam Khan, Agri. Business Specialist and Syed Saad Ali Pasha, Business Development Manager visited ORIC. Dr. Abdul Rashid, Associate Professor ORIC briefed about the on-going R&D and entrepreneurial activities being carried out at ORIC. The prime focus of the meeting was business related start-ups and incubatee companies followed by technologies developed by UAF and their dissemination to the end-users. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saqib, Director External Linkages, Prof. Dr. Khalid Mushtaq, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Director IBMS, Dr. Khuram Zia, Ms. Aishia Arshad, and Mr. Imran Munawar Incharge BIC-ORIC were also present in the briefing. Later, the delegation paid visit to National Incubation Center (NIC) and enlighten by the management of the NICF.


PAKISTAN VETERINARY JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR CELEBRATED



Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI) participated in a celebration of success of Pakistan Veterinary Journal (PVJ) Impact Factor (2.3) with FVS faculty members. It is appreciable fact that under the current Editorial Team, PVJ has elevated its impact factor and credibility. ORIC felicitates PVJ team on its constant improvement in ranking and impact factor of PVJ.

UPCOMING CALLS FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS/FULL LENGTH PROPOSALS BY PARB

The Chief Executive PARB, Dr. Abid Mahmood in the meeting of stakeholders on July 13, 2023 at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) Jhang Road, Faisalabad has announced that PARB was planning to invite Concept Proposals/Full length proposals upto end of July 2023 or till mid August 2023. All the researchers at UAF are requested to kindly prepare draft of their viable proposals for submitting the same within the timeline as provided by PARB. He has further added that machinery, feed additives, adaptation of technology, gap analysis, training need assessment, local breed improvement, and use of IT in collaboration with other universities/research institutes were prime focused areas of PARB funding in addition to other thematic areas as announced by PARB.



PUNJAB HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

INTERNATIONAL POSTDOC SCHOLARSHIPS (2023-2024)

Punjab Higher Education Commission (PHEC) invites applications from faculty of public sector colleges/universities chartered by the Govt. of Punjab for award of 8-10 months International Postdoc Scholarships. Preference will be given to emerging fields of science, technology and innovation that are applied, relevant to industry and have an impact on society.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligible candidate must:

1. Hold a PhD degree from an HEC recognized university.
2. Have maximum 45 years of age on closing date.
3. Be a regular (BPS or TTS) faculty member of a public sector university/college.
4. Have placement in a university listed in top 200 QS world university general rankings of 2024 and/or top 50 in QS subject wise ranking.
5. Submit a clearly written research proposal, relevant to the academic field, industry/society, and needs of the country.


GRANT PROVISION

PHEC will provide bench fee, settlement allowance, stipend and return air fare under this scholarship, as per PHEC rules.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply online at PHEC website and printed copy of application complete in all respects must reach on or before **August 10, 2023 at 05:00 PM** through registered post.

For more information, please visit www.punjabhec.gov.pk



IUB DIRECTOR ORIC VISITS ORIC-UAF



A team comprising of Prof. Dr. M. Atif, Director ORIC, Islamia University Bhawalpur, Mr. Abdul Moeed, Deputy Registrar, Dr. Atif Usman Manager Research Management and Dr. Muhammad Sajid visited ORIC-UAF and discussed various issues being faced by ORIC. Success stories of top most ORIC-UAF were shared by Dr. Abdul Rashid, Additional Director ORIC and he congratulated ORIC-IUB being HEC recognized ORIC. Various aspects of research transparency, commercialization, research ethics, university rankings, incentives to the researchers, motivational initiatives to researchers and strategies of trouble shooting during execution of research projects were discussed at length. Dr. Khuram Zia Manager TISC and Ms. Aisha Arshad Manager Database and Rankings were also present in the discussion.

PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABDULAZIZ INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR WATER

The Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (PSIPW) is an international award with a focus on water-related innovation. It is judged by leading scientists from around the world. Five prizes are bestowed every two years. There are four specialized prizes dedicated to "Surface Water", "Groundwater", "Alternative Water Resources", and "Water Management & Protection". Then there is the "Creativity Prize" that is dedicated to awarding work carried out by multi-disciplinary research teams.

Specialized Prizes: Each of the four specialized prizes is worth US\$ 133,000. Individual researchers and research teams nominate themselves for these prizes. The Surface Water Prize covers every aspect of the study and development of surface water resources. The Groundwater Prize awards work related to all aspects of the study and development of groundwater resources. The Alternative Water Resources Prize covers desalination, waste water treatment, and other non-traditional sources of water. The Water Management & Protection Prize addresses the use, management, and protection of water resources.

Creativity Prize: Worth US\$ 266,000, the Creativity Prize is awarded exclusively to research teams for cutting-edge interdisciplinary scientific work that can rightly be considered a breakthrough in any water-related field. The work might be a body of research, an invention, or a new patented technology. Universities, research institutes, companies, and agencies can nominate interdisciplinary teams for this Prize. Each prize is accompanied by a distinctive trophy and certificate.

Deadline: 31 December 2023

For more information and details, please visit <https://psipw.org/>

Patron in Chief:

Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan (SI)
Vice Chancellor

Chief Editor:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani
Director, ORIC

Editorial Board:

Dr. Abdul Rashid, Associate Prof (Editor)
Dr. Khuram Zia, Assistant Prof.
Ms. Aisha Arshad, Assistant Prof.
Mr. Imran Munawar, Incharge BIC
Muhammad Hanif Ch., Admin Officer



University of Agriculture
Faisalabad - Pakistan

Sustainable agriculture through
Learning | Discovery | Outreach
<http://www.uaf.edu.pk>



OFFICE OF RESEARCH
INNOVATION
& COMMERCIALIZATION

Transforming Concepts into Impacts

+92419200183, +92419200997

oric@uaf.edu.pk

www.facebook.com/oric