

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

June 16 to 30, 2024



TWO UAF GM SUGARCANE VARIETIES APPROVED



The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of Pakistan under Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Islamabad has approved and recommended for commercialization two varieties of Genetically Modified sugarcane including Insect-resistant transgenic sugarcane (CABB-IRS) and Herbicide-tolerant transgenic sugarcane (CABB-HTS) developed by University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF). It was approved and recommended for commercialization at 34th meeting of the committee. The Chairperson of the TAC, Dr Farzana Altaf Shah and UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr

Iqrar Ahmad Khan congratulated Pro-Vice Chancellor/Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan and his team for developing these varieties. These sugarcane varieties are carrying superior traits like input-responsiveness, early maturing (suitable for plantation even after wheat in the months of April and May), top borer-resistance, herbicide-tolerance and high-number of tillers.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan hoped that it would prove a millstone for the sugarcane per acre increment. He added that UAF had produced 50 new varieties of different crops, fruits and vegetables during the last three years that would increase productivity.

It is worth mentioning that first GM borer-resistant sugarcane variety was approved for commercial cultivation in Brazil, and it is saving 1.52 billion US dollars annually since it has covered 15% area under its cultivation. UAF varieties with superior traits are second in the world, and first in Pakistan that are approved for commercial cultivation across Pakistan.

Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan said that the new GM varieties would help boost up the productivity manifold. Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) facilitates Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan and his team for this achievement.

Inside NEWS

- Two high yielding GM Sugarcane varieties approved
- Reviews of ORIC Scorecard for ORIC Ranking
- Graduation ceremony of 2nd cohort at NIFC
- ADB Workshop on low carbon agriculture in Pakistan
- BIC organizes a Session on Efficient Business Management & Agropreneural Opportunities in Gulf

GRADUATION CEREMONY OF 2nd COHORT AT NICF



The National Incubation Center Faisalabad (NICF), Pakistan's Agri-Tech and Text-Tech incubator, celebrated the graduation ceremony of its 2nd Cohort, marking another milestone in its journey of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. NICF, funded by Ignite National Technology Fund and the Ministry of IT & Telecom, continues to lead the charge in cultivating a vibrant startup ecosystem in Faisalabad. The ceremony was commenced with the arrival of esteemed guests, including industry leaders and key figures such as Mr. Jahangir Piracha, Dr. Khurram Tariq, and Mr. Adeel Aijaz Shaikh along with some other nominable guests and representatives from the ecosystem and industry.

Dr Khurram Tariq, CEO at Kay & Emms and President of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, commented on NICF's contribution to the entrepreneurial landscape, stating, "NICF's dedication to nurturing innovation is commendable, and its impact on the local economy is undeniable. The graduates of Cohort 2 represent the future of innovation in Pakistan. Mr. Jahangir Piracha, Managing Director & CEO at Fauji Fertilizer Company Ltd remarked, "NICF's emphasis on

innovation in agriculture is coherent with our vision of modernization in the sector. The startups graduating today are poised to revolutionize farming practices and contribute significantly to the growth of our agricultural industry."

The graduating startups, AG IVF, Balash, D Agri, Eplant, Mashvra, Oinic, Pakbloomia Floriculture Solutions, Pamico Technologies, Salam Kids TV, SAWie Ecosystems, Greekian, Spurt International, and Vermi Compost, showcased their groundbreaking solutions and visionary ideas inspiring everyone at the event.

A startup panel discussion explored how Faisalabad's unique ecosystem propelled the startup journey, offering insights into the collaborative efforts driving innovation in the region.

NICF remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering innovators and fostering a sustainable ecosystem for entrepreneurship. The graduation ceremony marks a significant milestone, not just for Cohort 2, but for the entire startup ecosystem. By nurturing creativity and providing the necessary infrastructure, NICF paves the way for a brighter future, brimming with innovation and positive change.





CAREC UNIVERSITY STARTUP GENERATOR 2024

Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators

June - August 2024 | Online



The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is launching of the CAREC University Startup Generator 2024, an open innovation challenge for university students in Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries. With the slogan "Empowering Tomorrow's Innovators", USG2024 aims to equip participants with the knowledge and tools needed to address local challenges through innovative solutions. The registration opens until June 30, 2024. Business Incubation Center, UAF encourages University of Agriculture, Faisalabad students to take part in the training and competition and be part of the CAREC region's startup revolution.

Registration: Form a team of 3-4 members and register to the USG2024

Training: Complete online training and given tasks in 6 weeks according to the Timeline

Solutions Development: Develop innovative solution step-by-step and prepare a pitch deck

National Finals: Selected teams will pitch their solution to jury panel at national level

Regional Finals: One team per country will compete at the regional level to jury panel

- 1st prize (1 team): Study tour*, certificate, announcement on CAREC website and at key CAREC events
- 2nd prize (1 team): Study tour*, certificate, announcement on CAREC website
- 3rd prize (1 team): Certificate, announcement on CAREC website

Apply Now: <https://challenges.adb.org/en/challenges/carec-university-startup-generator-2024>

MEETING TO REVIEW ORIC SCORECARD FOR HEC RANKING

In order to submit online data of ORIC Scorecard for HEC Ranking, a consultative/review meeting was held at conference room of ORIC with Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani Director ORIC in the chair. On the basis of last year performance wherein ORIC-UAF was declared top ORIC of the country by Higher Education Commission, Dr. Jaskani appreciated the staff and vowed to not only sustain the top position but also take it to excellence by plugging the loop holes and overcoming the weaknesses, he asserted.



The meeting was attended by Director BIC Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Manager Research Management Dr. Abdul Rashid, Manager Innovation & Commercialization Dr. Khurram Zia, Manager Ranking Ms Aisha Arshad, Admin Officer Muhammad Hanif Ch., Research Officer Mr. Imran Munawar, Mr. Farooq Hassan, JCO Mr. Muhammad Azam, Mr. Shahzad Saeed, Ms. Sajida Parveen, and PAMr. Muhammad Saleem.

Manager Ranking Ms Aisha Arshad briefed the participants about Online Portal and significance of putting the requisite data accurately. She emphasized the participants to initiate the work on various chapters of the scorecard so that targets could be met before the closing date. Pointing out some limitations of the portal, she underscored the need to put the problems before the HEC authorities to make it user friendly as due to existing issues with portal, entry data has become a uphill task which does not support many of the fundamentals. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani while acknowledging the varsity management and academic staff for providing the requisite information well in time and urged them to provide the requisite information/data for onward submission on the HEC portal.

UPCOMING EVENTS





Session on





Efficient Business Management & Agropreneural Opportunities in Gulf

with
MR. MUHAMMAD MAJID KHAN

Design Manager - Landscape and Irrigation at NEOM, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Date: Tuesday July 2, 2024 (10:00 am)
Venue: New Senate Hall

Organized by:
Business Incubation Center (BIC) | University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

A Workshop on

Low Carbon Agriculture in Pakistan: Piloting Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), and Greenhouse Gas Emission Measurement for Rice in Punjab, Pakistan

Jointly organized by
University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), The University of the Philippines, Los Banos (UPLB), Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), and Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI)

Tuesday July 11, 2024 (10:00 am) | **CAS Auditorium, Univ. of Agri., Faisalabad**

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Vice Chancellor

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Faisalabad - Pakistan**

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