

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

June 1st to 15, 2024



TURKISH AMBASSADOR VISITS UAF

Ambassador of Turkiye Mehmed Pacaci visited University of Agriculture Faisalabad and held meeting with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Deans and Directors. During the meeting, it was agreed to further strengthen linkages between the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and the institutions of Turkiye to promote cooperation in the field of seeds and agricultural machinery.

Mehmed Pacaci said that the relations between the two countries are based on friendship and brotherhood and he will play his role to gear them up in the fields of education and agriculture.

Appreciating the teaching and research services of UAF, he expressed hope that this university will continue its active role in the coming years as well.

Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that the UAF had inked 20 memorandum of understanding with Turkish institutions. He said that the University had run a TIKA sponsored poverty alleviation project wherein we distributed goats and cows among the needy families of Faisalabad district to raise their family income and pull them out of poverty trap. He said that Turkey has a unique expertises in seed and agricultural machinery, for which Turkish companies should visit Pakistan to promote mutual relations in the field of agriculture. He



said that the agricultural and educational relations of the two countries are providing support in dealing with common challenges. During his visit to UAF, the Turkish ambassador also visited CAS, CABB, NIFSAT and National Incubation Center at Expo Center of the varsity.

Pro Vice Chancellor/Dean of Agriculture Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Deans Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt, Dr. Babar Shahbaz, Dr. Shahid Mahmood, Principal Officer Public Relations Dr Muhammad Jalal Arif, Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Jafar Jaskani, Director External Linkages Dr. Kashif Saleemi, Dr. Adnan were also present in the meeting.

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PUNJAB GOVT. CONSTITUTES TECHNICAL GROUP ON SOYBEAN



The Government of the Punjab on June 10, 2024 has constituted a Technical Group on promotion of Soybean in the province. The development came in the light of a consultative session on Promotion & Prospects of Soybean Cultivation in Punjab which was held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Agriculture Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani. According to the notification, Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (HI, SI), Vice Chancellor will be the convener of the group whereas Dr. Abid Mehmood, Ex- CEO, PARB, Dr. Ali Raza Director, NRCI Islamia University Bahawalpur, Mian Khalid Mehmood, MD, PODB, Islamabad, Dr. Muhammad Asif Sahi, DG (Ext.) Livestock Punjab, Ch. Abdul Hameed, DG Agriculture Ext. Punjab, Dr. Sajid Ur Rehman, Chief Scientist AARI, Faisalabad, Mr. Sufian Javaid, CEO, Jadeed Feed & Solvent Industry. Khaniwall, Mr Ahmad Hassan Ch. CEO, Asia Poultry Feed Ltd. Lahore, Mr. Amir Mamtaz Mumtaz Agro Solvent and feed Industry Multan,

and Syed Ahmad Haider, Progressive Grower, Mailsi will be its members. The group is tasked with mapping of available production technologies for soybean cultivation at various institutes in Punjab, comparative analysis of soybean promotion in various cropping patterns & zones in addition to experiences of neighboring countries to make soybean profitable and sustainable for Punjab. The group will also do an analysis of Soybean import, utilization and future requirements, industrial needs, correct labeling, permissible blending, price trends for imports etc. The group will also put forward short, medium and long term recommendations for profitable cultivation of Soybeans for various zones with respect to import substitution and value addition etc. This technical group will submit its recommendations along with action plan to the Secretary Agriculture, Government of the Punjab within one month.

UAF STARTUP RECEIVES 1.8 MILLION PKR SEED FUNDING

TruECaP Seasonings, a promising new startup endorsed by UAF, has clinched a significant seed funding of PKR 1.8 million. With PKR 1.0 million from the Pakistan Engineering Council and an additional PKR 0.8 million from a local investor, TruECaP is set to spice up the industry with its innovative approach. This achievement comes after a competitive evaluation of 150 startups, all showcasing cutting-edge engineering practices in AgriTech and SmartTech. The rigorous selection process, conducted by senior members of the PEC, industry experts, and chambers of commerce, identified TruECaP Seasonings as the standout for the prestigious seed money award.

At the helm of TruECaP is Dr. Muhammad Tuseef Asghar, a distinguished PhD in Food Process Engineering and a lecturer at UAF's Burewala, Vehari sub-campus. His expertise and leadership are the driving forces behind the startup's promising journey.



UAF AND UNICEF EXPRESS STRONG COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER

The Business Incubation Center at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad held a significant meeting with UNICEF Pakistan. The meeting, attended by Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director Business Incubation Center, Ms. Sanaa Zubeir, Communication Specialist from UNICEF, Muhammad Imran Munawar, Research Officer, BIC, Mr. Farooq Hassan, Research Officer, BIC and Mr. Rasees Rehman, Founder of Royella Foods, focused on exploring mutual collaborations. Key topics discussed included strategies to combat malnutrition among children in Pakistan and addressing the impacts of climate change. Both parties expressed a strong commitment to working together on initiatives that leverage the strengths of the University of Agriculture and UNICEF to address these pressing issues.



ORIC RESEARCH ROUND UP (APRIL TO MAY 2024)

During April to May 2024, ORIC has diligently worked to secure research grants from various funding sources. In addition to assisting students in accessing analysis facilities provided by HEC & PCSIR under the scientific instrumentation program, it has also conducted monitoring and evaluation of research projects, and processed a significant number of biosafety/bioethics certificates.

In terms of research, ORIC has successfully completed five HEC-funded projects totaling 20.85 million PKR, and secured approval for two international collaborative projects worth 20.39 million PKR. It has also submitted 143 research projects, amounting to 792.669 million PKR, to EFS, PSF, and various national and international funding agencies.

ORIC has conducted monitoring and evaluation of four research projects, and identified various financial and technical issues to get them rectified in a timely manner. It has processed 17 cases of analysis facilities, amounting to

1.377 million PKR, provided by HEC & PCSIR under the scientific instrumentation program.

With respect to the institutional biosafety/bioethics committee, it has processed 106 cases involving biosafety, bioethics, human, and animal studies. In terms of research innovation and commercialization, it has signed five consultancy services/agreements, two MOUs under academia-industry linkages, submitted four patents/trademarks, and obtained one trademark. Notably, ORIC has submitted five promising sorghum accessions, three rice and one Quinoa variety.

Meanwhile, at the 27th NBC meeting held on April 22, 2024, twenty-four cases from UAF were presented and got approved, with licenses issued to commence transgenic work. In terms of Partial Research Support for PhD students, ORIC has provided financial assistance of 0.960 million PKR to 13 PhD scholars to ensure research quality and provide financial support for consumables.

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