

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

June 1st to 30, 2023



LOI ON CHINA-PAKISTAN AGRICULTURAL S&T COLLABORATION SIGNED

An LoI (Letter of Intent) on China-Pakistan Agricultural Science and Technology collaboration between Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences (SAAS) and University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) was signed. This significant event marks a new chapter of agricultural collaboration expansion and enrichment between Pakistan and China by opening new avenues.

As per the LoI, both institutions intend to work together to develop a collaborative agreement whereby the institutions may participate in joint teaching, training, research, and other agreed activities to further enhance the program and close ties between the two institutions.

Both parties agree to encourage the development of the exchange program based on their respective academic and educational needs that include post-harvest treatment of agricultural products; integrated pest management of agricultural products in rice, maize and nut fruits; interaction of molecular mechanisms between the pests and agricultural products; development and utilization of agricultural product resources; characterization and evaluation of germplasm; deployment of specialty maize hybrids, and more.

The LoI signing was witnessed by SAAS President Prof. Cai Youming and UAF Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan. Prof. Iqrar anticipated that learning from China's experience in post-harvest processing of agricultural products, biological breeding, product innovation, technical services will reap to promote agri. productivity.

The LoI will mark a new chapter of agri-collaboration, expansion and multi-prong cooperation between Pakistan and China. VC UAF



VICE CHANCELLOR HOLDS A CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON TECHNOLOGY PARK



On the directives of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI), ORIC organized a consultative meeting of the stakeholders to formulate a mechanism of Technology Park here at UAF. Opening the discussion, Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that though UAF scientists have tremendous and futuristic technologies that has phenomenal potential to attract local industry and international investors but showcasing and presenting the technology can play a pivotal role in fetching foreign investment and dollars in the country. He emphasized the need to evolve and present the technology in such a way that can be imbedding with marketing strategies. He told that the university is in a process of setting up a technology park that was initially presented to Korean government and now it is getting approval. He underscored the need to demonstrate strength bring partners from inland and abroad to upscale the technology through goods and services and business at large. He asked the Director ORIC to prioritize the technologies and relevant scientists for showcasing and siting with industry and international collaborators thereby to work jointly and upscale the technology into a vibrant and growth oriented business. He was of the view that Punjab agricultural landscape comprising 50 million acres, so removing difficulties and making farming a viable business, there is a huge potential of technology intervention be that of yield enhancement, input cost reduction, farm mechanization, or introducing some ways and means to arrest the swelling cost of production to a lower possible level. He urged the scientists to present their technologies that can have special attention of the Chinese investors adding that in the current scenario bringing dollars and investment in the country is the need of the country.

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARD (PMNIA)



Prime Minister National Innovation Award final competition organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Program held on June 17-18, 2023 at National University of Science and Technology. Business Incubation Center, UAF incubatee "Royal Trading Company (Pvt) Ltd" (RTC) pitched its idea of "Date Candy" in said competition. Around 250 startups pitched in the competition and RTC was among the top 50 winners. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributed PM's National Innovation Award among the successful candidates. RTC has been awarded PKR 500,000/- as startup fund. The funding will be utilized to further refine their technology, conduct comprehensive market research, expand their team, and explore strategic partnerships. The Business Incubation Center, renowned for its commitment to fostering innovation and nurturing aspiring entrepreneurs, continues to play a vital role in cultivating a vibrant startup ecosystem.



UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI) attends an event at NICF



VC Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI) gives away UAF memento to Indonesian Ambassador



UAF VC Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI) gives away UAF memento to a Chinese host



A host at Huazhong Agricultural University China presents memento to Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani during his visit to China



UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (SI) gets briefing on corn and sweet corn during his visit to Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences research facility

UNITED STATES DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION ANDREW SCHOFER VISITS UAF

United States Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer along with Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole visited the varsity and called on Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan. They also witnessed the ongoing R&D activities being carried out by the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS-AFS). Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Chairman Entomology Prof Dr Jalal Arif, Director CAS Prof Dr Sultan Habib Ullah, USAID Development Outreach Specialist Arshia Bano, UAF's Prof Dr Asif Kamran, Dr Muhammad Imran, Dr Zaheer Ahmad and other notables attended the meeting. Mutual concerns to ensure food security were discussed. The Vice Chancellor in his briefing told that UAF in collaboration with Washington State University was



working on climate resilient and high yielding wheat varieties that would prove a breakthrough to increase per acre productivity. He shared that wheat is being cultivated on a larger area of land in Punjab and new technologies for wheat, as per maize model, are essential. New technologies will not only increase productivity to meet local demands but also help spare lands for other crops. He added that the university had a newly cultivated variety of soybean on trial at 100 farms, that too, has the ability to enhance production. He added that the UAF was committed to address farming community concerns at their doorstep with agriculture development. UAF is taking all possible measures to address the agricultural challenges with tangible research work, outreach, skilled manpower, and collaborative work worldwide. He said that the University will launch the seed program nationwide as per the directive of the Planning Commission of Pakistan. He said that intervention in the livestock sector was the need of the hour to ensure food security.

INT. CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SECURITY SOLUTION

A three-day international conference on "Sustainable Food Security Solution" under the CPEC consortium of Universities, was organized by the Department of Agronomy in collaboration with Institute of Agriculture Extension, Education and Rural Development UAF and University of Karachi. Chairing the session, Director General CPEC HEC Dr Safdar Ali said that the collaboration with China in the agriculture sector would help improve the food security situation in the country. He said that overall, under the CPEC, MoU with 325 Chinese

Universities and 113 training have been conducted with Chinese Universities whereas 581 availed Chinese scholarships, 19000 person trained in Chinese language. Prof Chen Letian Director International Affairs, South China Agricultural University said that the agricultural ties are being expanded. Director ORIC Prof. Dr. MUhammad Jafar Jaskani said that Pakistan was among the top



10 countries in different agricultural produce but per acre production was very low compared to the developed nations. He said that they are enjoying excellent relations with Chinese agricultural universities for agricultural uplift. Chairman Agronomy Prof. Dr Abdul Khaliq said that by 2050, the world population would touch to 9 billion and around 75 percent of populations would be living in Urban areas then. We have to achieve sustainable agriculture to feed the ever-increasing population. Director Institute of Agriculture Extension, Education and Rural Development UAF Prof Dr Babar Shahbaz said that multi-disciplinary approach among the different departments would help address the agricultural challenges with tangible research, product development and outreach. Director ORIC University of Karachi Dr Bilquees Gul, Prof Dr John Hu from SCAU, Prof Dr Farzana Rizvi, Prof Dr Bushra Sadia, Dr Irfan Afzal, Mr Mehboob Elahi (Nestle), and Dr Abdul Wakel also spoke on the occasion.

HYBRID TRAINING ON ROLE OF ECONOMIC POLICIES IN INDUSTRIAL & AGRI. DEVELOPMENT HELD

Keeping in view the economic situation, the hybrid training on "Role of Economic Policies in Industrial and Agricultural Development of a Country" was jointly organized by Engro Fertilizers Limited and Institute of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Agriculture Faisalabad on June 16, 2023 at Meeting room of Center of Advance Studies. International Economic Situation was explained by Dr. Simi Mehta CEO and Editorial Director Impact and Policy Research Institute (IMPRI) India while Dr. Azhar Abbas Associate Professor Institute of Agricultural and Resource Economics, UAF briefed the current economic policies of Pakistan. There were 85 participants were present online.



WORLD STARTUP CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

WSC 2023 is a world Startup Championship supported by national and international institutional partners to identify the most innovative startups whose projects help accelerate the achievement of innovation in entrepreneurship. The ultimate goal envisioned by WSC is to showcase startups of dynamic nature with the capacity to create jobs and increase inclusiveness. They are targeting startups from all walks of life, from all over the world and all economic sectors.

The selected Startups will get the opportunity to:

- Win upto 10,000USD Cash Prize
- Showcase their Startups at this Expo
- Network with investors, Academics, Government Dignitaries, and leading Industrialists

The last date for submission of proposal of project/idea is **31st May 2023**

The Event Date **26 August, 2023**

For More Detail, brochure and time lines

please visit www.seepakistan.com.pk/registration-form/

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/>

PROVINCIAL TOP BRASS IN AGRICULTURE VISIT UAF



Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development SM Tanveer has said that sustainable agricultural development is the top priority of the government. The citrus exports have decreased from 210 million dollars to 100 million dollars, for which a citrus action plan committee is being constituted that will be led by UAF Vice VC Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan to address the citrus challenges. The committee will present recommendations in 20 days. Provincial Minister for Housing and Development Syed Azfar Ali Nasir, Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahu, UAF Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, MNS Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Asif Ali, heads from agriculture department, university dean and directors attended the meeting. Provincial Agriculture Minister SM Tanveer said that like the citrus, development action plans will be devised for edible oil, soybean, wheat, rice and other commodities. He said that being an agricultural country, prosperity and poverty alleviation was directly linked with the sector. He said that agricultural experts, academia, industry and policy makers have to make joint efforts to achieve food security. He said that despite being an agricultural country, we have to import billions of rupees worth of edible oil every year, for which agricultural scientists have to come up with viable solutions. He said that our agricultural institutions are making great efforts to meet the agricultural needs of the ever-growing population. He said that Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan had made research and recommendations in 1992 keeping in view the problem of decline in citrus production, but the policy makers did not act on it seriously. He said that the present government is making all out efforts to develop agriculture on scientific basis. Secretary Agriculture Iftikhar Ali Sahu said that the citrus committee will come up with recommendations in nursery development, introduction of new varieties, increase in production and protection of orchards from pest and disease attack. He said that the agriculture department and agricultural universities were making all possible efforts to solve the problems of agriculture and farmers in the country so that the dream of improving economic conditions can be met. He said that agricultural development is inevitable for poverty alleviation.

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