

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

November 01 to 15, 2024



PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD IMRAN ARSHAD TAKES REINS AS DIRECTOR ORIC



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health has joined ORIC as new Director. To commemorate the services of outgoing Director Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani and to welcome the new Director Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, a farewell as well as welcome ceremony was arranged at ORIC conference room wherein the participants including Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director Business Incubation Center, Dr. Abdul Rashid, Manager Research Management, Dr. Khurram Zia, Manager Innovation & Commercialization, Ms Aisha Arshad, Manager Ranking and Incentives, Mr.

Farooq Hassan, Mr. Imran Munawar, Research Officers, Muhammad Hanif Chaudhry, Admin Officer, Mr. Sohail Iqbal Office Assistant, Mr. Farrukh Saleem PA, Ms Raima Babar Research Assistant, Ms Sajida Perveen, Mr. Muhammad Azam, Mr. Shahzad Saeed JCOs and others applauded the services and contributions of Prof. Dr. M. Jafar Jaskani in gearing up and galvanizing the ORIC activities thereby to make it top ORIC of the country. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, Director ORIC extended his felicitations to Dr. Jaskani for successfully completing his tenure and service. He vowed to follow the footsteps of Dr. Jaskani and will continue seeking his guidance in culminating and coping with diversified kind of assignments. He thanked the ORIC team for arranging a wonderful event. Director BIC Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad congratulated the outgoing Director ORIC Prof. Dr. M. Jafar Jaskani on completion of his service setting high performance graphs in R&D activities. He also extended his full support to new Director ORIC in discharging the duties and taking up new initiatives encouraging the faculty to fetch enormous research funding from inland and abroad and providing soothing R&D environment to propel every sphere of ORIC activities.

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A SESSION ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FUND RAISING MANAGEMENT

As per directions of the Vice Chancellor, Business Incubation Center UAF arranged a session on Entrepreneurship and Fund Raising Management. One of renowned leadership and turnaround expert Prof. Tahir Mehmood Chaudhry conducted a captivating event at CAS Auditorium, UAF. With over three decades of experience, Prof. Mehmood's practical and strength-based approach has transformed countless individuals and organizations into a success story.

During the session, Prof. Mehmood shared his insights and expertise on the intricacies of entrepreneurship and the importance of effective fund raising management. His inspiring words empowered the audience to achieve their entrepreneurial goals and navigate the challenges that come with starting and growing a business.

In addition to Prof. Mehmood's presentation, Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of the Business Incubation Center (BIC), UAF, provided valuable updates on recent BIC initiatives.

The session was hosted by Mr. Muhammad Imran Munawar,



who ensured a smooth and engaging experience for all attendees.

Dr. Khurram Zia, Manager of Academia Industry Linkages, and Mr. Farooq Hassan, Research Officer BIC, also imparted the discussion.

Prof. Tahir Mehmood's visit to UAF served as a valuable opportunity for local entrepreneurs to learn from a seasoned expert and gain valuable insights into the world of business.

SAMPLE ANALYSIS FACILITY BY HEC AND PCSIR

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has announced the provision of financial support to the research entities in the country for instrumental access under "Access to Scientific Instrumentation" and "Data Repository of Scientific Instrumentation" respectively. Maximum funding available for sample analysis to each applicant is **Rs. 200,000/year** (i.e. from 1st July to June 30 by HEC) and upto **Rs. 500,000/-** by PCSIR.

Research scholars, faculty can submit an application including a summary or description of the research proposal, a copy of the approved research synopsis or proposal, a consent letter obtained from the service provider and a brief profile of the research supervisor through ORIC UAF after endorsement.

Deadline: There is no deadline for these initiatives, researcher can apply through out the year.

Please visit HEC website: <https://ehsaasprogram.pk/hec-scientific-instrumentation-programme/>

Please visit PCSIR website: www.pcsir.gov.pk

CONSTITUTION OF INSTITUTIONAL BIO-ETHICS COMMITTEE (IBC)

The Syndicate at its meeting held on July 04, 2024 on the recommendation of the Academic Council made at its meeting held on 12-06-2024 constituted the following Institutional Bioethics Committee (IBEC) of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad to take up the cases of Bioethics in terms of ethical approval and to assist the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for projects scrutiny (relevant to Human, plants and Animal) prior to submission to HEC and other funding agencies. The committee will be headed by the Pro-Vice Chancellor as Convener, whereas Director Institute of Microbiology, Director General, NIFSAT, Chairman, Department of Plant Pathology, Chairman, and Department of Biochemistry will serve the committee as its members with Director, ORIC as Member/Secretary.

APPOINTMENT OF BIO-SAFETY OFFICER (BSO)

The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) is pleased to announce the appointment of a Bio-Safety Officer to enhance and uphold the university's commitment to the highest standards of biosafety and bioethics.

This important addition aligns with UAF's strategic objective to foster a safe, compliant, and progressive research environment.

The new Bio-Safety Officer, Mr. Muhammad Muneeb Ullah, joins UAF with a solid background in biosafety and biotechnology. His role will be pivotal in implementing the safe laboratory practices and ensuring regulatory compliance in further supporting the university's position as a leader in agricultural research and innovation. The university is confident that this development will contribute significantly to its ongoing commitment to responsible and secure research practices.



BIC ORGANIZES A SEMINAR ON AGRI FINANCING INITIATIVES OFFERED BY NBP

As per directions of the Vice Chancellor UAF, The Business Incubation Center (BIC), in collaboration with the National Bank of Pakistan successfully hosted an insightful event titled "Agri Financing Initiatives Offered by NBP." The event was attended by esteemed faculty members, startup founders, students, and valued guests from the industry.

The event was graced by notable guests from NBP, including Mr. Hammad Rasool, Regional Executive IDG, Mr. Rana Mohsin, Head Agriculture, and Ms. Iqra Shaheen, Credit Officer at NBP, and Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad. The session was an excellent opportunity for startups and aspiring entrepreneurs to learn about the agri-financing solutions offered by NBP.

Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of BIC, welcomed the guests, highlighting BIC's efforts to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly in the agricultural sector. He emphasized BIC's commitment to nurturing startups by providing support and resources to ensure their success.

Mr. Muhammad Imran Munawar, BIC, served as the event host. Ms. Iqra Shaheen, Credit Manager at NBP, was the keynote speaker for the event. In her address, she shared valuable insights on NBP's Agri-financing initiatives,



focusing on how they are designed to empower young entrepreneurs, especially in the agricultural sector. Her expertise in financial management and credit risk assessment offered practical guidance for startups looking to navigate the financial landscape.

The event concluded with Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, Director ORIC, by appreciating the collaboration between BIC and NBP and emphasized the significance of such initiatives in fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem at UAF. Mr. Farooq Hassan and Dr. Khurram Zia, Manager Innovation and Commercialization ORIC was also present at the event.

ENGRO LEARNING CENTER ORGANIZES CROP SPECIFIC TRAINING SESSION

Engro Learning Centre (Agronomy Department Engro fertilizers) organized a Crop-specific Training Session aimed at enhancing upcoming Wheat crop yield at national level. This event involved key stakeholders including resource persons Dr. Hamad from Wheat Research Institute, AARI, Mr. Rizwan, Asstt. Director from Dept. of Agricultural Extension, Dr. Rashad Rasool Khan, Assoc. Prof, Dept of Entomology and Dr. M. Atiq, Assoc. Prof., Plant Pathology. Participants benefited from expert insights on best crop practices, govt. policies, pest management, and disease control tailored specifically to wheat crop.

The session featured both in-person participants and online attendees including progressive farmers, Engro fertilizer's team, and UAF Officials ensuring broad accessibility and



engagement, contributing to collaborative discussions and fostering connections among stakeholders. Team of Engro learning Centre organized this training session with an aim to empower farmers with knowledge and resources to improve crop yields and sustainability.

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