

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

September 15 to 30, 2023



LAUNCHING OF THE “GENERAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH POLICY DOCUMENT OF PAKISTAN”



A launching ceremony of “General Agricultural Research Policy Document of Pakistan” was organized by Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), Islamabad. The event was held at the Auditorium of the Academy with Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik as chief guest and Prof. Dr. Qasim Jaan, KPK Province Minister for Education as guest of honor. Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (HI, SI) is Principal Author of the policy document with Prof. Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anjum, and Prof. Dr. M. Asif Kamran are the co-authors. Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan presented the policy document to the audience including PAS Fellows, officials of different ministries, academia and students. Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan (SI), President PAS, and Prof. Dr.

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Tasawar Hayat (HI, SI, TI), PAS General Secretary welcomed the guests and highlighted role of PAS in generating policy documents based on sound evidence for the policy makers. Prof Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan presented the policy landscape of Pakistan and highlighted success and limitations of Green Revolution in the current scenario. Prof. Khan cautioned that the authors' analysis forecast a wheat production deficit of 7 million tonnes in coming 10 years which is impossible to surmount with traditional input responsive approach. Dr. Khan presented the case that Green Revolution 2.0 through regulatory reforms can enable and facilitate adoption of new technologies (GMOs, AI, Data Sciences) by leveraging on the market mechanisms. He emphasized that breaking the wheat yield stagnation with changes in seed genetics, seeding, balance fertilizers, and minimizing post-harvest losses can create space for new crops and diversification. The role of agro-ecological parameters and the market clusters will drive the future crops cluster with both environment and the economy moving forward together. He said that this policy document has been compiled at the platform of the "Scientific Advice to Government Policy Unit" recently created at the Academy under the framework of PSDP Project awarded by the Planning Commission (GoP) in the year 2020. This document is also a step forward towards Policy Dialogue on "Agriculture Policy and Strategy for Green Revolution 2.0" held at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (M/o PD&SI) during May 2023. Prof. Dr. Qasim Jaan appreciated the efforts of the authors for a timely initiative. He emphasized that climate change and water related threats call for renewed commitment to solve food security issues through Green Revolution 2.0. Addressing the participants of the ceremony, the minister said that amid the changing climatic conditions coupled with food insecurity challenges there was a dire need to bring forth a policy document that may lead R&D activities in the country. He applauded the efforts and commitment of Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan for not only highlighting the daunting challenges but also enlightening way forward for sustainable solutions. Prof. Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik emphasized that preparing policy documents and policy analysis is the main task of Academies of Science worldwide and PAS current work is really a step in the right direction and should continue in future as well. Dr. Malik advised to have one more session of the select experts to discuss the document in detail before its final publication.





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COMMERCIALIZABLE PRODUCT/SERVICES

CALL FOR CONCEPT PAPERS

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) is a premier funding agency, striving for scientific development in the country through funding R&D projects in different scientific fields.

National Science Linkage Program (NSLP) is an endowment fund of PSF which is aimed at increasing agricultural production and socio-economic uplift of the farmers. Concept papers are invited under NSLP in line with National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy-2022 to support the use of emerging technologies in Agriculture, Drought Resistant Seed Production, Food Technology, Livestock, Animal Reproduction, Poultry, Aquiculture, Oilseed, pulses, environment, water/irrigation, energy, chemical, enzymes, flavors and additives:

Artificial Intelligence
Block Chain
Biotechnology
Nanotechnology

Material Science
BigData/Data Mining
Green Technologies

Concept Ideas will be short-listed and evaluated on the basis of expected outcomes including product/service development leading to import substitution, export enhancement and/or value addition of local raw material which can be marketed to generate business and revenue. Ideas with ready-to-market prototype will be given priority.

Grant support is available to enthusiastic and active Scientists/Researchers of HEC Chartered Universities and Govt. R&D Organization who intend to utilize their research results for economic uplift of the country.

Submission of Concept Papers

Concept papers can be submitted through Research Grant Management System (RGMS) on PSF Website throughout the year under intimation to ORIC to complete the in-house formalities

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CHAIRMAN IPO PAKISTAN MR. FARUKH AMIL VISITS UAF

Chairman, Intellectual Property Organization (IPO), Pakistan Ambassador (R) Mr. Farukh Amil visited the varsity and held meetings with UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan, Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani along with Dr. Khurram Zia, focal person Technology and Innovation Support Center (TISC). During meeting with UAF Vice Chancellor, matters relating to intellectual property rights, patents, trademark, academia industry linkages, and introducing business, trade and IP rights in the university curriculum were came under discussion. Mr. Farukh Amil was of the view that Pakistan was blessed with everything best for agriculture but it is heartening to note that the country is importing essential food items worth more than 10 billion USD. He said that during the last two decades, countries with similar economic characteristics as the Pakistan is today had turned from nothing to everything but we are lagging behind due to our own weaknesses. He vowed to visit the varsity again to hold a session with students thereby to gear up and galvanize the spark of self employment, business and export oriented growth. UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan briefed the Chairman IPO Pakistan that the university team is leading the efforts to bring about an agriculture research policy document at national level with a way forward not only to feed the growing population but also raise the farm income and making the agriculture an attractive and relevant profession. While visiting ORIC and TISC, the Chairman IPO Pakistan appreciated the progress of TISC in getting a good number of patents/trademark registered. He emphasized the need to encourage such technologies and recipes with geographical indication using local raw material. He underscored the need of setting up a specialized center to facilitate IP rights, patents, trademark, fostering the academic industry linkages to come up with durable local solutions of real time industry problem under one umbrella. Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani told that his office got registered 25 patents and number of academia industry partnerships in various research projects funded by HEC and other agencies. He told that UAF is a flag bearer Institution of complying with policies of HEC and other government agencies. He told that in contrast with a decade back, today faculty is very much eager to get patent of his technology or innovation that is why, 19 licence agreements with industry partners have been materialized through TISC. Later, the Chairman IPO-Pakistan visited National Incubation Center (NICF) and held meeting with UAF Faculty and encouraged them to come forward and get their innovation patent and trademark to excel in the market. The guest also visited the CAS-AFS and inspected various research laboratories along with Director CAS Prof. Dr. Sultan Habibullah.



UAF DELEGATION ATTENDS IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON EDUCATION AT CHINA

An International Forum on Education Organized by Xinjiang Provincial, Local Governments and Universities of PR China wherein UAF delegation participated among 24 countries and 147 universities represented by Ministers, Deputy Ministers of Education, Ambassadors, Vice Chancellors/Presidents and Pro-Vice Chancellors/Deputy Presidents. Other scholars and managers also participated. During the forum, agricultural research and education, education and vocational training remained in the focus. From

Pakistan, Federal Minister of Education and Professional Training (HE Madad Ali Sindhi), Pro-Vice Chancellor, UAF (Prof Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan), Director P&D (Mr Irfan Abbas), and Dean Veterinary (Prof Dr Farzana Rizvi) participated in the Forum. This will strengthen UAF ties with Xinjiang Agricultural University and Xinjiang government through CPEC. Dr Rashid Rasool Khan (UAF), Dr Najaf (BZU) and Chairman TEVTA also participated in Education Forum.



DELEGATION FROM IPPCAAS-CHINA VISITS UAF



Deputy Director General, Institute of Plant Protection Under Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAAS) Deputy Professor Chen Chang anticipated that Pakistan-China Joint Laboratory for Crop Pest Management being established at University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) will further deepen Sino-Pak friendship and will help carry out tangible joint research, tests and demonstrations on integrated disease control technologies for crop pests and diseases of common concern in addition to technical personnel training and personnel exchange. It was being set up by IPPCAAS and UAF. The Chinese delegation comprising Departmental Head of Research and international cooperation IPPCAAS Prof Chen Jieyin, Director of Weed, Rodents, and Grassland Protection IPPCAAS Tu Xiongbing, Associate Professor Guo Jingfei, Associate Professor Guo Yuanwen, and Assistant Professor Feng Shiqian visited the UAF Department of Entomology and other departments and called on UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan.

**Pakistan-China Joint Lab.
for Crop Pest Management
being established at UAF
will further deepen
Sino-Pak friendship:
DDG IPPCAAS
Prof. Chen Chang**

Professor Chen Chang said that IPPCAAS had developed a series of new technologies and products focusing on green prevention and control products such as insect natural enemies, food attractants, biological insecticides, fungicides and plant growth regulations. He said that IPPCAAS scientists made significant progress in plant protection frontier research fields. Talking about the future plans, he briefed the meeting about the cotton fungal disease research group, maize research group, desert locust management and others.

Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the joint lab is a hallmark step and will promote mutual cooperation to increase agricultural productivity. He said that the UAF is declared as an Agri Technology Park by the Special Technology Zone Authority. He invited the Chinese companies to invest in innovative modern approaches such as precision agriculture, agricultural drone technology, seeds and others. He said that the collaboration will bring tangible results and to learn from each other's experiences. He said that in the collaborative work on control of locusts, fall armyworm, white fly, pink bollworm, and others will prove to address the challenge.

Prof Dr Sarwar Khan, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Prof. Dr. M. Saqib and Dr. Abid Ali also spoke on the occasion.



US CONSUL GENERAL LAHORE KRISTIN K. HAWKINS VISITS UAF

US Consul General Lahore Kristin K. Hawkins visited University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and called on UAF Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan (SI, HI) and discussed the area of mutual concerns. The Vice Chancellor signed a Service Agreement for the 3rd English Access Microscholarship Program of USD 131,898.91 for 200 students. US Consul General Lahore appreciated continuous support and collaboration of UAF for running the US Department of State's supported English Language Programs at both campuses. English Access Microscholarship Program aims to empower the students from underprivileged community through enhancing their English language proficiency and the life skills. Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan also briefed the US Consul General about the history of UAF and its ongoing collaborations and partnerships with US and other countries. He said that UAF was enjoying excellent ties with US universities including University of California, Washington State University and others. He called for the commencing hybrid programs of learning and research of UAF with the US universities. Principal Officer Community College Dr. Anjum Zia, Librarian Mr. Umar Farooq and others were also present in the meeting.



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