

# ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

May 16 to 31, 2024



## UAF AND RAFHAN MAIZE SIGN AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

University of Agriculture Faisalabad and Rafhan Maize in order to offer internship opportunities to the UAF students have signed an agreement of understanding. The event was organized at Rafhan Maize Product where chief executive officer/managing director Rafhan Maize Humair Ijaz and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan (HI, SI) signed the agreement. Discussing the overall agriculture and rising trend of malnutrition in the country, Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that to arrest the trend we need to promote mixing of maize flour in wheat that would help ensure the food security, nutrition intake and will make the agriculture a profitable business.

Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that the maize farmers are prosperous and getting high production and income. He called for developing modern maize products and bringing them to the market.

Talking about malnutrition, he said that if roti is prepared from a mixture of wheat and corn flour, it will also help overcome the nutritional crisis.

Talking about soybean, he told that the country was currently spending a huge foreign exchange of 1.5 billion dollars to import soybeans and the varieties developed by the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad are being planned to be cultivated in one million acres to reach the common farmers.



Humair Ijaz said that Rafhan Maize Products has been working as the first Maize Refinery since 1953. They are bringing innovation in corn and making its best food product for the last 70 years. He said that innovation can be made possible along with developing the industry on scientific basis by promoting academia-industry relations.

On this occasion, Director ORIC Prof Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director Financial Assistance Dr. Muhammad Ahsan Khan, Principal Officer Estate Management Dr. Nadeem Akbar, Dr. Khurram Zia while officials from Rafhan Maize including Adil Saeed Khan, Khalid Aziz, Mehwish Iftikhar, Muhammad Yasin, Mustafa Zuberi, Wajeaha Amjad and others attended.

- UAF and Rafhan Maize Sign Memorandum of Understanding
- PSF calls for proposals upto June 03, 2024
- UAF participates in agri-connections conference and expo-2024
- NICF hosts another successful edition of their "ADD A 0-SERIES"
- Director ORIC delivers a keynote address in a workshop by SHEC
- ADB-CABI TA field office inaugurated at CAS building
- UAF BIC team participates in LUMS Tabeer Training Program

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# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## Academia-Industry Cooperation

by



**Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) & The Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) Under Competitive Research Program (CRP)**

**(This call is open between March 18th, 2024 to June 3rd, 2024)**

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Scientific and Technological Research Institution of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) invites joint R&D proposals from the HEC Chartered/Recognized Universities, Public Sector Research Institutions (only the regular faculty members/researchers) in collaboration with Industry in the following areas;

- 1. Artificial Intelligence (AI)    2. Internet of Things (IoT)    3. Electric Vehicles    4. Oceanography**

The aim of the call is to strengthen the cooperation between Turkish and Pakistani scientists/researchers in science and industry by means of Academia-Industry Cooperation in scientific research projects.

The Pakistani side should submit the proposals through Research Grant Management System (RGMS) available at PSF Website ([www.psf.gov.pk](http://www.psf.gov.pk)) whereas from the Turkish Side, the proposals should be submitted through TÜBİTAK's Project Application System (<http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>). PSF will support the projects upto Rs. 20.00 Million whereas TÜBİTAK will support projects upto 4.00 Million Turkish Lira (TL). The maximum duration of the project must not exceed 2 years. The detailed guidelines are available at <https://rgms.psf.gov.pk/rgms/signup.aspx>. **Complete applications to be submitted through ORIC-UAF one week ahead of the closing date.**

Dr. Mirza Habib Ali, Project Manager, Competitive Research Program (CRP)  
Pakistan Science Foundation, 1-Constitution Avenue, Islamabad. Phone: 051-9204033

## UAF PARTICIPATES IN AGRI-CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE AND EXPO-2024

University of Agriculture Faisalabad participated in Agri-Connections 2024 Conference and Expo organized by the Pakistan Agricultural Coalition from 23-24 April, 2024 at Expo Center Lahore. The event proved to be a remarkable gathering of agricultural professionals, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders from across Pakistan and beyond. The conference was aimed to foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange to address the challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector.



During the event, Miss. Coco Ushiyama, Country Director, WFP-Pakistan visited the UAF stall and appreciated the efforts for remarkable achievements to mitigate the upcoming challenges regarding food security. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director Business Incubation Centre further briefed the chief guest about latest technologies developed by UAF Scientists.



## DIRECTOR ORIC DELIVERS A KEYNOTE ADDRESS IN A TRAINING WORKSHOP BY SHEC

Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani delivered a keynote address during a training workshop organized by Sindh Higher Education Commission (SHEC) at Karachi. The aim for conducting the workshop on "Restructuring ORICS: How to activate ORICS for University's financial independence" was to enlighten the ORIC teams from various public and private sector universities of the Sindh thereby to equip them with necessary skills and to follow the footprints of highly ranked ORICs of the country.

During his keynote address to the participants of the workshop, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani



shed light on the key performance indicators that play a significant role in transforming ORIC as a vibrant office making the varsity financial active and key performing player in any institution around. He said his office, besides vigorously working on getting national and international patents for the researchers, is also spearheads in getting the crop varieties got approved by the government agencies. He told that UAF is a pioneer institution of the country incentivizing its researchers through an approved commercialization and consultancy policy. He told the participants that his office after circulating each funding opportunity to the faculty, used to continuously pursue the researchers to write their research proposals in such a way to fetch enormous funding from inland and abroad. He said that UAF has become pride of the nation as QS World University Ranking places it 56th best in the world in the subject category of Agriculture & Forestry due to its prolific role in socio-economic landscape of the country and rising global networking in all parts of the world.

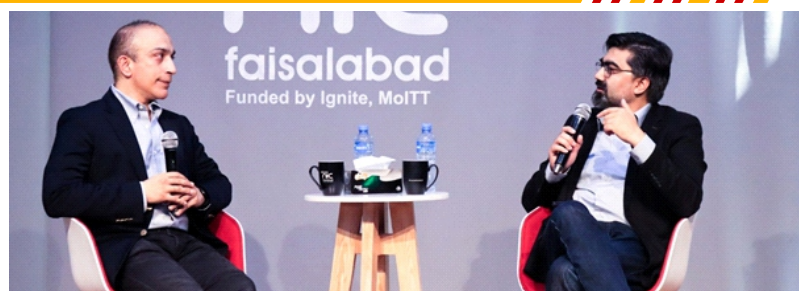


## NIC HOSTS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL EDITION OF THEIR "ADD A 0-SERIES"

The National Incubation Center (NIC) Faisalabad hosted another successful edition of their "Add a 0 Series" featuring a fireside chat with Ahmad Shafi, CEO of Crescent Textile Mills. Mr. Shafi, a prominent figure in Pakistan's textile and export industry, shared his invaluable experience and strategic approaches for driving innovation and company growth.

In a conversation led by Zeeshan Shahid, Project Director at NIC Faisalabad, Mr. Shafi unpacked the significant impact of technology on businesses and the role government initiatives play in fostering development within the sector. The discussion extended to explore the exciting prospect of industry leaders investing in startups, along with the essential skills aspiring entrepreneurs need to thrive in this dynamic environment.

This engaging session provided valuable insights for attendees interested in the textile industry, business



growth strategies, and the evolving entrepreneurial landscape in Pakistan.

## ADB-CABI TA FIELD OFFICE INAUGURATED AT CAS BUILDING

ADB-CABI TA Field Office is inaugurated by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan and Senior Natural Resource Specialist ADB Ms Noriko Sato at CAS Building. The event was arranged by ORIC in collaboration with Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security. Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan, Director ORIC Prof. Dr Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director CAS Prof. Dr. Sultan Habiullah Khan, Dean Agri Engineering Prof. Dr. Anjum Munir, Prof. Dr Asif Kamran, Dr Abdul Gafoor, Dr Abdul Wakeel, Dr Rizwana Maqbool, Dr Zunaira, and other notables were also present in the event.



## UAF BIC TEAM PARTICIPATES IN LUMS TABEER TRAINING PROGRAM



The Business Incubation Center (BIC) at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) team comprised of Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC and M. Imran Munawar, Research Officer, recently participated in the prestigious LUMS Tabeer Capacity Building Program for BICs in Punjab. This program focused on providing in-depth training on developing a Makers Lab facility, a crucial asset for fostering innovation and practical skills among students and entrepreneurs.

The training was facilitated by esteemed experts from the Lahore Center of Entrepreneurship (LCE), viz. Mr. Nauman

Zaffar, Director of LCE; Ms. Saima Rana, Head of Operations, LCE; Mr. Suleman Shahid, Faculty and Director of Online Learning at LUMS, and Mr. Hamid Ali, Machine Learning Expert.

The participation of BIC, UAF, in this program underscores its commitment to enhancing its facilities and providing its community with state-of-the-art resources for innovation and entrepreneurship. The knowledge gained from this training will be pivotal in the development and successful operation of a makers lab at UAF, further solidifying its role as a hub for innovation and practical learning

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