

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

April 01 to 15, 2025



ADB HOLDS MEETING ON JUST TRANSITION SUPPORT PLATFORM (JTSP)

The Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Just Transition Support Platform (JTSP) plays a vital role in supporting developing member countries (DMCs) as they shift toward low-carbon and climate-resilient economies fairly and inclusively.

It was stated by Noriko Sato, Senior Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, ADB. She along with Navina Sanchez Ibrahim, Senior Climate Change Specialist (Just Transition) and Carol Franco Billini, Agriculture Expert/Consultant, CCRE visited the University of Agriculture Faisalabad and held a meeting with Prof Emeritus and former Vice Chancellor UAF Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Director ORIC Dr Muhammad Imran Arshad, Dr Asif Kamran, CAS Director Prof. Dr Sultan Habib Ullah and other notables.

The meeting discussed the ongoing projects and contributions of the UAF and ADB with the special references to initiatives of climate changes. She said through strengthened institutional capacities, the development of context-specific just transition strategies, and targeted project implementation, the JTSP helps countries navigate the complex social, economic, and financial risks of decarbonization.

Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan said that the university was promoting the precision agriculture that was need of the hour amid the challenges of climate change. He added that UAF working with ADB, will bring tangible results to address different agrarian issues.



Inside

NEWS

- ADB holds meeting on Just Transition Support Platform (JTSP)
- Dept. of Biochemistry holds two-day National Hands-on Training Workshop
- Danish experts hold meeting with Director ORIC
- FAO consultant visits UAF to review progress on the project
- ORIC holds capacity building workshops at all constituent colleges
- ECL conducts training of trainers on Climate-Resilient Agriculture"
- VC felicitates ORIC, BIC and campus community on HEC Ranking

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad Director ORIC briefed about the ongoing research and development activities.

The meeting also discussed that in the Philippines, ADB is supporting the government in formulating a national just transition strategy aligned with its climate goals, fostering green jobs, economic resilience, and inclusive growth. In Pakistan, just transition approaches can help address key risks across sectors such as agriculture, energy, and industry— managing job displacement, economic shifts, and environmental impacts. Pro-actively addressing these risks is essential to ensuring a stable, equitable, and sustainable transition to a low-carbon future.



DEPT. OF BIOCHEMISTRY HOLDS TWO-DAY NATIONAL HANDS-ON TRAINING WORKSHOP



The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has kicked off two-day 3rd National Hands-on Training Workshop on “Basic Tools of Bio-informatics for Molecular Biology and Biomedical Research” on the directives of UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfqar Ali.

The workshop is aimed at equipping participants with practical knowledge and skills essential in the fields of molecular biology and biomedical research.

The workshop offered valuable insights into advanced molecular technique including primer designing and testing for endpoint and qPCR, CRISPR designing and its cloning, phylogenetic analysis to assess genetic diversity and molecular cloning stages such as mutagenesis and sub-cloning.

Dean Faculty of Sciences Prof Dr Amer Jamil delivered lecture on various aspects of molecular biology, highlighting the growing significance of bio-informatics in modern scientific research. He also elaborated on several related disciplines and emphasized the role of interdisciplinary approaches in solving complex biological problems.

Chairman Department of Biochemistry, Prof Dr Muhammad Anjum Zia, underlined the critical importance of hands-on training in scientific learning. He lauded the efforts of the concerned department for organizing such a fruitful and well-structured workshop that bridges the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

A diverse group of students, researchers, and professionals took part in this intensive training session physical and online.

DANISH EXPERTS HOLD MEETING WITH DIRECTOR ORIC

A delegation from ICARS (International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions), Denmark, visited the ORIC, at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, accompanied by Dr. Mashkoor Mohsin Gilani. During the meeting, Ms. Erica Westwood and Dr. Rodolphe Mader introduced ICARS to the Director Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad and highlighted its mission to fund and support efforts aimed at reducing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the human, animal, and environmental sectors. Prof. Dr. Imran Arshad briefed the delegation on various ongoing research and development projects at UAF. He also discussed the university's procurement, financing, and audit mechanisms, emphasizing transparency and efficiency in managing research funds and projects. The visit marked a positive step toward international collaboration to address AMR through integrated and evidence-based research initiatives.



ICGEB

International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

ICGEB Research Grants 2025

CRP - Collaborative Research Programme

ICGEB offers a dedicated source of **funding for outstanding projects** in ICGEB Member States, with the goal of promoting collaboration, training of young scientists and the development of research facilities.

The programme provides support for research activities in **basic life sciences, human healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnology and bioenergy**.

Applicants should hold positions at **Universities or Research Institutes** in any of the **ICGEB Member States***

A new special category, **Early Career Return Grants**, funds young researchers, who have spent a minimum of 2 years abroad and who have recently returned to an ICGEB Member State to establish an independent laboratory.

Closing date for online submission: 30 April 2025

*ICGEB Member States

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy*, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

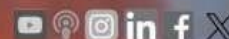
* Laboratories in Italy are excluded from the call

ICGEB

Information and Submission:

ICGEB Research Grants - CRP & Fellowships Programmes
Loc. Padriciano, 99 - 34149 Trieste, ITALY
Tel.: +39-040-3757382
Email: crp@icgeb.org

<https://www.icgeb.org/activities/grants/>



FAO CONSULTANT VISITS UAF TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE PROJECT

Mr. Matthijs Bonte consultant with FAO from Netherlands visited UAF (7-8 April 2025) under 'Transforming the Indus Basin with Climate Resilient Agriculture and Water Management Project (GCP/PAK/146/GCF)' in which UAF is partnering with FAO for Risk-based assessments of aquifer vulnerability for DG Khan and Sanghar-Umarkot study areas. He discussed climate scenario modeling for project sites and progress of MODFLOW modeling work with project team lead by Dr. Zulfiqar Ahmad Dasti at Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences jointly with Faculty of Agricultural Engineering and Technology.



TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) ON CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE SESSION



A 3-day training session titled "Training of Trainers on Climate-Resilient Agriculture" was successfully organized in collaboration with South Asia Partnership Pakistan and the Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences, UAF. The session brought together progressive farmers from three provinces of Pakistan, providing them with in-depth knowledge and practical strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change on agriculture. The participants discussed various issues relating to sustainable farming practices, efficient water and soil management, climate-smart crop selection, and community-based resilience building. This initiative aimed to empower participants to serve as local change agents, spreading awareness and implementing climate-resilient solutions in their respective regions.

ORIC CONDUCTS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS AT UAF CONSTITUENT COLLEGES

Complying with the guidance of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, ORIC team comprising Dr. Abdul Rashid, Associate Professor/Manager Research Management, Dr. Khuram Zia, Manager Innovation & Commercialization, Mr. Asim Raheel, Deputy Treasurer ORIC, Mr. Farooq Hassan, and Mr. Imran Munawar Research Officers Business Incubation Center (BIC) held Capacity Building Workshops at Constituent Colleges at Depalpur/Okara, Burewala and Tobe Tek Singh. The ORIC team shared valuable insights on how to effectively secure research grants, write successful project proposals, and transform innovative academic ideas into viable projects.

At Burewala, the Principal Prof. Dr. Sajid Nadeem, while addressing the faculty told that ORIC is playing a vital role in the research and development of the university. The ORIC officials always guided the faculty about hunting for research grants. He said it is matter of great pleasure for us they visited the Constituent College Burewala as per direction of the Worthy Vice Chancellor. It is a great opportunity for us to discuss our issues regarding running research projects and the opportunity of research grants with the ORIC team.

At Constituent College Depalpur/Okara, the Principal Dr. Butt highlighted faculty strength, R&D contribution and challenges. He termed the ORIC visit a soothing and encouraging step towards better understanding of the matters concerning with research projects, patent registration, commercialization policy, better financial management, and faculty and students startups.

At Constituent College Toba Tek Singh, faculty was enlightened about how they can fetch huge research funding by writing impressive research proposals, patent registration, commercialization, financial management, and students startups. The Principal Prof. Dr. Zia ur Rehman said that he had already nominated two focal persons (Dr. Maliha Sarfraz Assistant Prof., and Dr. Umar Farooq Associate Professor), one each for ORIC as well as for BIC respectively thereby to ensure better coordination to achieve the best possible results. He described the event adding that the workshop is a step forward in empowering our faculty to not only excel in research but also to see its real-world impact through commercialization and innovation. He further highlighted R&D contribution of his college as there were 53 research article, 2 books, 12 book chapters, 4 popular articles, and 25 abstracts were published. The college held 30 seminars, 6 training workshops, 3 conferences, 2 symposium and 15 outreach activities.

During all three events, Dr. Abdul Rasheed briefed the faculty about the overall activities of the ORIC. He also briefed the faculty about the objectives of their visit. He told that as per vision of the Worthy Vice Chancellor, it is responsibility of the faculty to find out research grant and to initiate entrepreneurship. The aim of their visit is to provide guidance to the faculty members about the important areas of research and opportunities for faculty members to initiate their own business. Dr. Khuram Zia guided the faculty about the company and patent registration. He briefly explained the procedure about the registration of company and/or patent. Mr. Imran Munawar briefed the faculty about the activities of the Business Incubation Center He said that BIC is facilitating the students regarding initiating new business startups. He said



that BIC team will always say welcome to the faculty and students in this regard. Mr. Asim Rahil said that his office is always available to facilitate the faculty regarding their financial matter of their projects.

In the question answer session, the ORIC team provided detailed answers about the queries of the faculty members. They addressed the issues/queries of faculty members nicely. They informed that any faculty member contacts them any time regarding any of their queries. At the end, the principal thanked the ORIC team. He said that this visit will be very fruitful for the faculty and they will get maximum benefits from this visit. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the research capabilities of the faculty by equipping them with practical knowledge and tools necessary for acquiring research funding and managing research projects efficiently. The sessions covered various aspects of research proposal development, project management strategies, and techniques to commercialize innovative concepts. Participants actively engaged in the workshop, showing keen interest in learning and discussing new research methodologies. The university administration reiterated its strong commitment to promoting a vibrant research culture, encouraging innovation, and supporting faculty members in their academic and research endeavors. The initiative was widely appreciated by the faculty and is expected to contribute positively to the institution's research output and academic environment.



Hat trick

The Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad

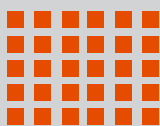
extends Heartiest
Feidations
to

ORIC, BIC and Campus Community
for earning the distinguished honor
of securing leading position in the

Highest (W) Category

HEC Ranking (2023-24)

Among all ORICs/BICs
established across the country



With commitment, leadership and team work,
UAF will achieve new heights of excellence in
all pursuits of research, teaching and entrepreneurship.



Patron in Chief:

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali
Vice Chancellor

Chief Editor:

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad
Director, ORIC

Editorial Board:

Dr. Abdul Rashid, Associate Prof (Editor)
Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, (Director BIC)
Dr. Khuram Zia, Assistant Prof.
Ms. Aisha Arshad, Assistant Prof.
Muhammad Hanif Ch., Admin Officer



**University of Agriculture
Faisalabad - Pakistan**

Sustainable Agriculture Through
Learning | Discovery | Outreach
<http://www.uaf.edu.pk>



OFFICE OF RESEARCH,
INNOVATION
& COMMERCIALIZATION

Transforming Concepts into Impacts

+92419200183, +92419200997

oric@uaf.edu.pk

www.facebook.com/oric