

# ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

August 1 to 15, 2025



## UAF AND CROPLIFE PAKISTAN FORGE STRATEGIC R&D ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) and CropLife Pakistan have pledged to establish a strategic research and development (R&D) collaboration aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, enhancing productivity, combating pesticide resistance, and improving crop residue management.

The commitment was formalized during a consultative session attended by stakeholders from both organizations, with Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and MNS University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM), Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, honored the occasion as Chief Guest. Distinguished participants included Mr. Zeeshan Haseeb Baig (CEO, Syngenta Pakistan), Tallal Hakeem (Sr. Vice Chairman CropLife Pakistan Association, Country Manager Corteva Agrisciences), Rahid Ahmad (Executive Director CropLife Pakistan Association), Tahir Azeez (General Secretary), M. Abid Hussain (Accounts & Finance Consultant), Muhammad Asim (Lead Biotech & Seed Sub -Committee), Irfan ul Haq (Lead Stewardship Sub-Committee), Amir



- UAF and CROPLIFE PAKISTAN forge strategic R&D alliance for sustainable agriculture
- Institutional Review and Advisory Board (IRAB) reviews research proposals for PARB
- Campus Community facilitates Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abass, and Dr. M Haroon u Rashid
- Engro Learning Center conducts Training on public-private partnership
- ORIC holds meeting of its focal persons to review and ensure better coordination

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## NEWS



Bashir Malik (Lead Resistance Management Sub-Committee), Haseebullah Zahur (Managing Director FMC Pakistan), Muhammad Amjad (National Seeds & Development Manager Pepsi Co), Tahir Abbas (CEO Vital Agri Nutrients), Muhammad Arsalan (Business Development Manager Animal & Plant Novonesis), Tauqeer Ahmed (Manager Regulatory Affairs, Lucky Core Industries (LCI)), Naveed Akhter (Research & Development Manager BASF Pakistan), Muhammad Azher Ali (Country Manager Regulatory Affairs, Swat Agro Chemicals), and Muhammad Shafiq (Manager Regulatory Affairs, Rafhan Maize Products) Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, Director ORIC; Prof. Dr. Abdul Rehman, Chairman Plant Pathology; Prof. Dr. Nadeem Akbar, Chairman Agronomy; and Prof. Dr. Waseem Akram, Chairman Entomology.

Mr. Zeeshan Haseeb Baig reaffirmed the industry's commitment to restructuring R&D activities to better align training and technology development with farmer profitability and sectoral growth and proposed the launch of joint ventures on early plant warning systems, Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM), Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), and climate-smart agriculture protection packages.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali commended the proposal of engaging experienced industry professionals as adjunct faculty, describing it as a transformational initiative to bridge the gap between academic learning and practical application. He added that this integration would equip students with hands-on exposure to current industry practices and market-driven skills, enabling them to address evolving agricultural challenges. Urging CropLife Pakistan to pursue a long-term, structured



partnership with UAF, he stressed the need to make agriculture a more attractive, profitable, and sustainable profession, particularly for youth. He also underscored the strategic importance of establishing ISO-certified laboratories at UAF to deliver high-quality bio-testing, pre-breeding, and nursery services, thereby reducing lead times, lowering costs, and improving accuracy for farmers and agribusinesses.

Prof. Zulfiqar Ali highlighted soil health as the foundation of sustainable agriculture and national food security, calling for science-based practices such as integrated nutrient management, organic amendments, crop rotation, green manuring, and the use of biofertilizers, vermicompost, and biochar to restore productivity. He advocated expanding entomological research to generate toxicological data, validate bio-pesticides, and conduct toxic profiling for environmentally responsible pest management. Addressing inefficiencies in seed production, he urged evidence-based reforms to meet or exceed global germination standards. Reaffirming his commitment to collaboration, he offered UAF's support in organizing high-level policy dialogues and thematic conferences with CropLife Pakistan on key legislative and policy areas, including the Quarantine Act, seed value chains, biotechnology regulation, and sustainable food crop production, with the aim of delivering science-based recommendations for sectoral reform.

Mr. Rashid Ahmad, Executive Director of CropLife Pakistan, proposed introducing joint short courses covering sustainable agriculture, seed quality assurance, pesticide resistance awareness, crop residue and rice management, aflatoxin mitigation, bio-pesticide development, contract farming, and student internship opportunities.







**Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali**  
Vice Chancellor, UAF



*Heartiest  
Congratulations*

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, along with the entire campus community of UAF, celebrates with pride the prestigious national recognition, awarded to faculty members Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abass and Dr. M. Haroon U Rashid.



Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas, Principal Officer ATRI, was conferred the prestigious Pride of Pakistan Award by ISPR during the Marka-e-Haq and Independence Day Celebrations held at Jinnah Sports Stadium, Islamabad, on August 14, 2025. Renowned for his transformative contributions to academic excellence, Prof. Dr. Abbas enjoys a distinguished reputation among scholars and researchers. His visionary leadership elevated the Pakistan Veterinary Journal (PVJ) to Top in the World in record time. With 22 published books and recognition as one of Pakistan's most highly cited scientists in Pathobiology, his total Impact Factor is 335, citations 7583, and H-Index 46.



On the eve of National Youth Day, the Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif conferred the Youth Excellence Award on Dr. Muhammad Haroon U Rashid, Assistant Prof., Dept. of Forestry & Range Management, on his contributions to forest ecology, sustainable land use, and carbon sequestration, alongside his internationally acclaimed research in agroforestry systems and biodiversity conservation.

**Vice Chancellor, Faculty, Students and Staff, UAF**



## INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD (IRAB) REVIEWS RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR PARB

The Institutional Review and Advisory Board (IRAB) in a meeting held at ORIC Conference Room evaluated research proposals prior to their submission at PARB.

Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) had identified five priority areas like enhance productivity with sustainability of major cropping system, promote diversification & commercialization in agriculture, conserve resources & protect environment, improve competitiveness by value addition, and cross cutting issues & knowledge based agriculture policies. There were 213 Research Proposals

submitted at ORIC and subsequently reviewed by the IRAB. After evaluation, review and some revisions, 174 were given final nod for submission to PARB. The meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad Director ORIC, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed, Prof. Dr. Jam Nazeer Ahmad, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saif-ur-Rehman, Dr. Waseem Amjad, and Dr. Khuram Zia. Dr. Humaira Razzaq, Deputy Director ORIC presented the agenda items for consideration. After thorough consultation, the selected proposals will be submitted to PARB for consideration and onward approval.



## TRAINING ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP CONDUCTED AT ENGRO LEARNING CENTER (ELC)

Engro Fertilizers successfully organized a comprehensive training session on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for government officers currently undergoing mandatory training in Finance, Administration, Management, and E-Governance at the Professional Training and Skill Development Centre (PTSDC), University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). The program was jointly arranged by the Engro Leadership Center (ELC) and PTSDC. Two dedicated batches, each comprising 30 participants, took part in interactive sessions facilitated by Dr. Syed Shahid Hussain, Deputy Manager (R&D), Engro Fertilizers. The

sessions featured real-world case studies, success stories, and an in-depth discussion on the growing significance of PPP models in advancing agricultural development. The training not only highlighted Engro's successful collaborations with the public sector but also motivated participants to explore new avenues for future partnerships. This initiative reflects Engro Fertilizers' strong commitment to knowledge sharing, capacity building, and promoting sustainable development through effective public-private collaboration.





## ORIC HOLDS MEETING OF ITS FOCAL PERSONS TO REVIEW AND ENSURE BETTER COORDINATION

Complying with the directions of the Vice Chancellor, Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) in order to strengthen its coordination at department/institute level, held a meeting of ORIC Focal Persons, here at Conference Room. Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad in his welcome address, highlighted objectives of creating the forum and said that each year Higher Education Commission (HEC) announces Self Assessment of its recognized ORICs who used to submit online data through a web portal. The HEC team, he added, evaluates the data with



### Call For Applications

# HEC RESEARCH AWARDS 2025

## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION, PAKISTAN

The Higher Education Commission (HEC) invites Pakistani researchers/scholars to submit applications for HEC Research Awards competition. The objective of these Awards is to recognise excellence in research, contribution to intellectual development and promote high impact publications.

### AWARD CATEGORIES

The awards will be given in the following three categories:

1. Best Researcher
2. Best Young Researcher
3. Best Publication

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### General Eligibility

- ✓ The applicant has never been blacklisted by HEC
- ✓ The applicant/publication has not received the same award earlier
- ✓ None of the publications on Applicant/Authors' credit is plagiarised as per HEC plagiarism policy

- a) Best Researcher**
  - i. The applicant must be a resident of Pakistan for at least three years on 1st January, 2025
- b) Best Young Researcher**
  - i. The applicant must be under 40 years of age on 1st January, 2025
  - ii. The applicant must be a resident of Pakistan for at least one year on 1st January, 2025
- c) Best Publication**
  - i. The publication must be a scholarly book or journal article.
  - ii. The publication must not be more than three years old on 1st January, 2025
  - iii. The publication must be written by no more than three authors
  - iv. All authors must be residents of Pakistan for at least three years on 1st January, 2025
  - v. Research article must have been published in a HEC recognised W-category journal
  - vi. Research article must have a minimum citation count of 100
  - vii. Publication (including an extended version of a paper) that has previously been submitted for the same category of award is not eligible for re-submission.
  - viii. Book must be published by a recognised/reputable academic press

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Wednesday  
September 17, 2025

### HOW TO APPLY

Application forms must be submitted to HEC via online portal. Incomplete or late applications will not be entertained.

**For Further Information and application submission, please visit**

HEC website: <https://www.hec.gov.pk/site/HRA>  
 Apply via Online Portal: <https://research.hec.gov.pk>  
 Email contact: [hra@hec.gov.pk](mailto:hra@hec.gov.pk)

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corresponding evidences and after a stringent and regorsous exercise, they announce the result putting ORIC in various category. The ORIC-UAF is the leading office in the country who consistently marching towards excellence and getting its place in "W" category - an elite club of role model ORICs. He urged the participants to provide the requisite information with relevant evidences at the earliest so that the same could be submitted online. Manager Rankings and Incentives Ms Aishia Arshad explained the participants about various questions raised by the house. She sought assistance of focal persons for fulfilling the requirements of evidences. She said the HEC authorities used to evaluate the submitted data online but this year they may visit top ORICs to verify the data with documentary evidences present in the office. She emphasized the focal persons to complete the task within 10 days enabling the ORIC to submit the same on HEC portal. The participants pledged to ensure better coordination and submission of data well in time.

**Patron in Chief:**  
Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali  
Vice Chancellor

**Chief Editor:**  
Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad  
Director, ORIC

**Editorial Board:**  
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**Faisalabad - Pakistan**

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+92419200183, +92419200997

[oric@uaf.edu.pk](mailto:oric@uaf.edu.pk)

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