

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

January 01 to 15, 2025



UAF HOLDS INTERNATIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS' ON INDUSTRIAL HEMP VALUE CHAIN

Industrial hemp must be introduced as cash crop in the country to rescue the textile industry and tap its true potential with an estimated \$4 billion annual economic opportunity for a greener and better future.

It was stated by experts while addressing second day of international stakeholder workshop and exhibition on Industrial Hemp Value Chain at the varsity. Addressing the participants, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan said that the country was relying on five major crops out of which cotton and sugarcane are cash crop. He added that in future, the area of the cotton would shift to Balochistan. He said that hemp should be initiated as the third cash crop that is more eco-friendly. He said that Industrial hemp has the potential to minimize the amount of carbon impact on the environment and also help in the economic uplift.

Industrial and Medic Hemp Foundation Director Dr Omar Altan Siddique said that hemp textiles use 70 percent less water than cotton, making it an eco-friendly alternative. He said that With 500,000 acres under cultivation, hemp can absorb five million tons of CO₂ per harvest. Requiring only one-third the water needed for cotton, hemp is a lifeline for water-scarce regions. Hemp improves soil structure, reduces erosion, and revitalizes farmland for long-



- UAF holds Int. Stakeholder Workshops' on Industrial Hemp
- PCSIR offers financial support for instrumental access
- UAF team participates in Agri. Expo at Bahawalpur
- NICF invites applications for 6th Cohort upto January 31st, 2025
- NICF holds Orientation Session with NUML Faisalabad
- PSF calls for Special Projects to Develop Products
- UAF research portfolio swells
- Dr. Muhammad Adnan Iqbal takes the reins as Incharge Hi-tech Lab
- ORIC-UAF and FCCI pledge strengthening academia industry linkages

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NEWS



term productivity. University of Kamalia Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Yasir Nawab said that Pakistan cotton's decreasing production was creating an opportunity for sustainable fibres. Hemp and other locals have the great potential. He said that there is a need to develop quality fibers at reasonable cost. He said that Pakistan depends upon 70 percent on natural fiber and the rest of the portion goes to synthetic fiber. Director, Inst. of Soil & Env. Science UAF Dr Zahir Ahmad Zahir said that industrial hemp, as a diverse plant, can be a revolutionary crop for a better economy. Chairman Dept. of Fibre & Textile Technology Dr Asad Farooq said that hemp offers a sustainable pathway to prosperity, addressing

critical challenges in agriculture, and textile industry. He said that the development of hemp as a key industry requires strategic and incremental supply chain planning. They have developed prototypes (fabric, knitwear) in collaboration with industry, he added.

Chairman Dept. of Agronomy Prof. Dr Nadeem Akbar said that the hemp industry can create a significant economic and rural empowerment, unlocking opportunities for farmers, processors, and innovators across the supply chain. By engaging local communities, Pakistan can raise inclusive growth.

Dr Saddam Hussain from UAF said that they selected the non toxic hemp material and optimized the hemp agronomy. Dr Nayyab Khan and other notable from industry spoke on the occasion and shared their experience.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INSTRUMENTAL ACCESS



Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has revamped its PSDP Project, "Data Repository of Scientific Instrumentation" vide No. SW(HO)-DRSI/2021, dated, 09-12-2024/8072 and widened its scope for providing Financial Support to the MSc(Hons)/MS/MPhil/PhD researchers and faculty members for analytical testing facilities for their nationally important research projects in the following priority areas:

Chemical Sciences: (Pharmaceutical, fine chemicals, raw material etc.)

Biological Sciences: (Gene editing, microbial treatments of water/waste water, diagnostic techniques survey and treatment of chronic diseases etc.)

Agricultural Sciences: (Food Sciences, Product development & value addition, enhancement of shelf life, herbal products etc.)

Material Sciences: (Minerals purification/leaching techniques, precision metals identification techniques, composite and advanced materials etc.)

Medical Sciences: (Medicines, Diseases, Drug discovery, Medical Technology, APIs etc.)

How to apply:

Researchers may apply for the support program by submitting the prescribed form (available on: www.pcsir.gov.pk) and other documents to Dr.(Mrs.) Naseem Rauf, Project Director Data Repository of Scientific Instrumentation, PCSIR Head Office, 1-Constitution Avenue, Sector G-5/2, Islamabad (E-Mail; pcsirdrsi@gmail.com), Tel: [051-9225380](tel:051-9225380)/[9225379](tel:051-9225379)

UAF TEAM PARTICIPATES IN AGRI. EXPO AT BAHAWALPUR

A delegation from University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, participated in Agricultural Expo organized at Agricultural Research & Facilitation Complex, Chappu, Bahawalpur. The event was graced by Adjutant General of Pakistan Army, Lt. Gen. Azhar Waqas. The honorable chief guest was welcomed by the administration of the Agricultural Research & Facilitation Complex, Chappu. There were briefings regarding the experimental trials being conducted by various institutions under Green Pakistan Initiative. UAF delegation led by Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC included Dr. Umair Gull (Assistant Professor Agronomy) and Mr. Farooq Hassan (Research Officer, BIC). Director BIC briefed the guests about the various innovative technologies developed & displayed by UAF including transgenic sugarcane, heat-resistant wheat varieties, soybean varieties suitable for Cholistan region, new fodder crops and chickpea germplasm. The Adjutant General appreciated the UAF contribution in national economy and discussed in detail regarding UAF varieties trials at Chappu Research Station. Dr. Umair Gul explained the trials being executed by UAF at the center. The facility is a unique opportunity for researchers to explore the potential of newly developed varieties in agro-ecological conditions of Cholistan. The Adjutant General also offered internship facilities to UAF graduates who would be interested to conduct their research at Agricultural Research & Facilitation Complex, Chappu.



NICF INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR 6TH COHORT UPTO JANUARY 31

The National Incubation Center, Faisalabad (NICF), established at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, has invited applications for its 6th Cohort and the last date to apply is Jan 31.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan has encouraged the students to apply to make the dream of innovative business plans come true and as a step towards knowledge-based economy.

In a statement, Dr Muhammad Sarwar Khan said that the nations relying on knowledge-based economy were proving their mettle in the modern era. He stressed upon the need to flourish the culture of innovations that will address the challenges and become a catalyst of change. He added that all possible measures were being taken to develop the

entrepreneurial skills in youth so that they can become job providers rather than job seekers.

NICF is leading AgriTech incubator Funded by Ignite - National Technology Fund and the Ministry of IT & Telecom, and managed by a consortium of industry leaders including Fauji Fertilizer Ltd and was established at South Asia's oldest agriculture university, UAF to promote entrepreneurial ecosystem. NICF Project Director Zeeshan Shahid said startups have successfully tackled critical challenges such as food security, water scarcity, and climate change. He said that since its inception in September 2022, over five successful cohorts, NICF incubated 73 startups, generating over 1,100 jobs and contributing significantly to Pakistan's economic growth by eliminating un-employment.

NICF HOLDS ORIENTATION SESSION WITH NUML FAISALABAD

At UAF, NICF is committed to empower researchers and innovators to transform their groundbreaking innovations into market-ready businesses. In a recent orientation session at NUML Faisalabad, Project Director NICF, Mr. Zeeshan Shahid, engaged with researchers and faculty members, highlighting how NIC Faisalabad provides advanced research facilities, extend legal support, and a comprehensive roadmap to commercialize research and develop scalable solutions.





Call for Proposals under Competitive Research Program (CRP)

“Product Development through Indigenous Research and Innovation”

Deadline to submit
the proposal
January 30 2025

Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) is an autonomous body of Ministry of Science & Technology for funding and promotion of scientific research. PSF under its “Competitive Research Programme (CRP)”, invites Research Proposals from individual scientists/technologists/engineers on the theme of Product Development or pilot level production of developed prototypes. The proposals prepared in collaboration with relevant industry should focus on direct benefit to industry, general public and engaging youth in science.

Purpose

- To enhance exports and substitute imports through Research & Innovation.
- To promote indigenous technology development.
- Technology Transfer and Commercialization for Socio-Economic Development.

Requirement

- i. Scientists, Researchers, Engineers and innovators from R&D Institutions, HEC recognized universities and Public Sector R&D Institutions are eligible to submit proposals.
- ii. Proposals must be focused on Research Areas as identified by National Science, Technology and Innovation (NST) Policy-2022, National Research Agenda, themes approved by the Steering Committee of CRP and Planning Commission in the PC-I of CRP. (Guidelines available online).
- iii. Grants are available for a period of 1-year under the category of Individual research grants.
- iv. Maximum limit of funding is up to PKR 10.00 million.

How to Apply

Proforma and guidelines for submission of concept proposals are available on
<https://rgms.psf.gov.pk/rgms/signup.aspx>

Interested faculty members are required to send their requests to Director ORIC along with a synopsis of their proposal for seeking permission of the competent authority after passing through the institutional review board (IRB), before **January 24, 2025** and subsequently, submit their project online before the closing date and share the same at ORIC for record. For further information, please visit ORIC (Dr. Abdul Rashid, Manager Research Management) or call 3606, email: darashid65@uaf.edu.pk

UAF RESEARCH PORTFOLIO SWELLS

It is matter of great pleasure for the scientific community that 04 projects from Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB), One mega project from HEC under Technology Development Fund(TDF), a consultancy project with PAK Suzuki Motors and two International projects have been added in the Research Portfolio of the university while in the recent meeting of Executive Committee of PARB, a sizable number of projects submitted in the year 2023 have been short-listed and after going through the evaluation process, these will also be added up in the UAF Research System.

DR. MUHAMMAD ADNAN IQBAL ASSUMES CHARGE AS OFFICER INCHARGE HI-TECH LAB

Dr. Muhammad Adnan Iqbal, Associate Professor (Chemistry), has assumed the Charge as Officer Incharge, of Central High-Tech. Lab. (CHTL), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad w.e.f.08.01.2025. In future, all the official and semi-official correspondence may please be addressed to him.



ORIC-UAF AND FCCI PLEDGE STRENGTHENING ACADEMIA INDUSTRY LINKAGES

The Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) by constituting a Standing Committee on Industry-Academia Linkage, Policy Advocacy & Technology Development(SCIALPA&TD) has set a remarkable example of bridging the gap between knowledge and practice and applied research in to impactful technology. In the 3rd meeting of SCIALPA&TD held on Friday, January 17, 2024, Dr. Habib Aslam Gaba, the convener of the committee presented the actionable agenda for the discussion of all the learned members and he emphasized that it was the high time to transform research lying in the book shelves in to tangible technologies, goods & services for the wellbeing of the civil society. Ex-President FCCI, Mr. Muzzamal Sultan appreciated the efforts & dedication of all the members of this standing committee. He endorsed the proposals of Startup Gala, Publication of multi-author books, Establishment of Web portal having problems faced by the industry and tentative solutions by the academia/researchers, offering of honorary MS and PhD degrees to the capable industrialists, promotion of the slogan, "One PhD, One Solution", "Skill Prior to Degree", and Establishment of Institute of Business Interaction (IBI). He anticipated that in the upcoming years Land scape of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem will totally transformed in to a changed one. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad,



Director BIC shared the copy of Innovation Catalogue of UAF. From UAF, Prof. Dr. Amer Jamil, Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Prof. Dr. Anjum Zia, Mr. Umar Saeed Qadri and Dr. Abdul Rashid participated as Technical Experts of this Standing Committee and shared their valuable inputs.

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