

# ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

June 01 to 15, 2025



## FOUR-WEEK AGRI POLICY CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP CONCLUDES

In the face of deteriorating agriculture growth depicted in the Economic Survey of Pakistan, agricultural experts should come up with doable policy interventions for sustainable agricultural growth, said Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali, the Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Addressing the concluding session of four-week Agricultural Policy Capacity Building Workshop on “Exploring Perspectives, Analytical Tools, Emerging Trends and Effective Communication in Agriculture” at the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) Auditorium, Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali said that the researchers should devise the policies recommendation with the special focus on productivity enhancement, crops diversification, soil health and nutrition, climate smart agriculture, sustainable markets structure, and revitalization of farmers cooperatives, to benefit the farming community and ensure food security. He said that recent Economic Survey has presented the grim picture of the sector that needs immediate attention of the scientists, industry and other stakeholders.

Punjab Higher Education Commission Chairperson, Prof



Inside

## NEWS

- Four-Week capacity building training on Agri Policy concludes
- Call for Proposals by Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)
- BIC holds Innovative Ideas Competition-2025
- ORIC Focal Persons to submit data upto June 19, 2025
- Submission date of Eols for TWG extended upto June 25, 2025



Dr Iqrar Ahmad Khan, said that declining agriculture growth would provoke deep crises that must be addressed with research-based intervention and solid policy measures and its implementation that are crucial to feed the ever-increasing population and alleviate poverty. He called for greater role of the Universities in generating sound evidence and policy recommendations for all sectors of the economy. He quoted some social media reports of very low okra price on Eid ul Adha due to low demand compared to supply. He attributed this to lack of value addition options compared with the advance countries and emphasized on the need for research to translate into goods, services and solutions to societal issues. He said that PHEC is committed for the transformation of education and research with special focus on academic opportunities and challenges in age of Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation.

Dr Muhammad Ejaz Qureshi, faculty at the Australian National University, said that the workshop is aimed at enhancing analytical, communication, and leadership capabilities in agricultural policy research; strengthen policy design and implementation skills; improve the quality of research proposals and competitive grants aligned with national development agendas; promote strategic communication through policy briefs and evidence-based storytelling; encourage an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to agricultural policy reform. Dr Qureshi appreciated the initiative of the University management for arranging such useful activities for the faculty and the students. He stressed upon the need to transfer these ideas into actions by working together to improve agriculture policies through policy research and generating evidence.

Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof Dr Mohammad Jahangir Alam spoke on agribusiness and food policy, particularly addressing value chain development and nutrition security in emerging economies. He said to improve food security in developing countries, we need to build strong value chains in agriculture. Connecting farmers to the markets can help increase income and ensure better nutrition for communities.

Dr Sumaira Ejaz Qureshi, faculty at University of Canberra in Australia, discussed about translating complex data into sound policy decisions through a case study of student and faculty feedback to enhance quality of education.



Dr Zeena Alsamarra'I, University of Canberra explained that future of education in the era of AI and digital transformation. She focused on institutionalizing Generative AI and making sound policies so that the academic community can get benefit from positive side of AI driven technological disruption. She emphasized capacity building of faculty and the students in age of digital transformation.

Prof. Dr Asif Kamran, Director of Agriculture Policy and Outreach, explained that the Agriculture Policy, Law and Governance Center at UAF is committed to continuous engagement with policy think tanks and policy makers and to build the capacity of the students and faculty to conduct policy research and craft sound policy recommendations based on their research. Prof. Asif Kamran acknowledged funding support from Endowment Fund Secretariate, USDA; Pak Korea Nutrition Centre (PKNC), Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR) under CSIRO implemented project entitled 'Climate resilient and adaptive water allocation in Pakistan.

## ORIC FOCAL PERSONS TO SUBMIT DATA FOR ORIC SCORECARD FY (2024-25)

After notifying the names of ORIC Focal Persons from each department/institute of the varsity, ORIC has sought their assistance to complete the ORIC scorecard data at their end and submit the same to ORIC upto June 19, 2025. The ORIC focal persons are required to complete the task at the earliest and submit the same up to the deadline. ORIC-UAF, with the help of faculty and staff, is maintaining its position in ORICs ranking for the last 3 years and making it top ORIC "W" category of the country. Last month, on the directions of the Vic Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, ORIC held 1st meeting of ORICs-Forum 2025 wherein top leadership of R&D organizations including representatives from Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry participated and called for bringin both academia and industry close together to nurture and promote a culture of consultancy, commercialization and entrepreneurship in the country. ORIC scorecard data is very much crucial not only for maintaining its position but also for holding the winning crown among all ORICs established in the country.



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS

By

**Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF)**

Under

**Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

Russia, Pakistan, China, Uzbekistan, Belarus, and Kazakhstan

PSF along with SCO member states is pleased to announce the 1st Multilateral Joint Call for R&D Project with maximum limit of funding to Pakistani Side Rs. 15.00 million per project. The Call is announced under SCO Agreement between the member states. The call for Proposals for Multilateral Joint Research and Development Projects is open in the following priority areas;

**1. Adaptation to climate change:** Environmental protection and restoration, conservation and rational use of natural resources

**2. Life sciences:** (Preventive medicine, epidemic control; healthy longevity technologies)

**3. High-tech and sustainable agriculture**

(A) Technologies for the production of new varieties and hybrids of plants resistant to environmental changes. (B) Development of biological and chemical means to increase crop yields and protect plants against diseases. (C) Biodiversity conservation.

**4. Nanosystems and materials:** (Nanotechnology for the creation of new materials)

**5. Information and telecommunications technologies:** (A) The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in telecommunications and transport systems (B) Microelectronics and photonics technologies.

**6. Energy and energy conservation:** (A) Highly efficient resource-saving energy (B) New technologies for energy generation and storage systems (C) The use of mega-science facilities for nuclear, laser, and quantum research.

**7. Earth science:** Soil monitoring and soil science; technologies for preventing and reducing natural risks.

**8. Medicine and bio-technologies:** Creation of new generation medical devices; technologies for the development of biotech medicines; the use of bio-technologies in the economy.

## GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- Pakistani and counterpart scientists should come to an agreement with each other using
- their own means of communications and jointly develop and complete their project
- proposal before submitting it to PSF. PSF do not match the collaborating partners.
- Pakistani and Counterpart Collaborator /partner should

necessarily be identified in each submitted Joint Research Project Proposal submitted individually from any side.

- Proposals without collaborators / partners from at least three (03) SCO member states including Russia, Pakistan, China, Uzbekistan, Belarus, and Kazakhstan will not be processed further.
- Joint Research & Development Project must contribute towards development of Industry, Technology, Process, Techniques, Prototype, Commercialization and Innovation, leading to socio-economic uplift of both countries. Joint research proposal which will be applied in nature will be financed on priority.
- Project proposal must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the year wise planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and intended time schedule
- The prescribed Proforma for Submission of Joint Research Projects should be duly filled and submitted by the Counterparts to the respective country and by the Pakistani scientists to PSF (through the online portal i.e. Research Grant Management System RGMS)
- Proposals submitted individually from any side without a counterpart or Pakistani collaborator will not be processed further.
- Curricula vitae of all the research teams should be attached
- The duration of the projects should not exceed Three Years.
- The budget for the visit of Pakistani scientists must not exceed Rs. 1.5 Million each year.
- Purpose of visits in one direction under submitted Joint Research Project should be;
- Collaborative research
- Training of Scientists
- To participate in workshops that are the part of Joint Research Project
- The present call for proposals and required information for Counterpart about the application procedure are available in English and relevant language on the respective organization's website
- The list of the respective counterpart organizations is given at the end of Guidelines.

## Deadline

June 20, 2025 at ORIC-UAF  
June 30, 2025 at PSF

UAF faculty members are required to submit their proposals at ORIC on or before **June 20, 2025** so that requisite permission of the competent authority may be sought well before time. No proposal will be entertained after **June 20, 2025**.

For submission of the proposals at PSF, use following link;  
<https://rgms.psf.gov.pk/rgms/login.aspx>



## BIC HOLDS INNOVATIVE IDEAS COMPETITION 2025

Business Incubation Center, UAF, organized the Innovative Ideas Competition 2025. A total of 200+ applications were received from across various departments of UAF. After an initial screening process, 50 students were short listed to participate in the pitching session, where they presented their business ideas before a panel of expert judges. The startups pitched their groundbreaking ideas in front of a panel of esteemed judges, who rigorously evaluated each concept for innovation, feasibility, and impact. The winners will be incubated in the upcoming Cohort 2025 to transform their idea into a real-world business.

Top 3 position holders will receive exclusive cash awards to kickstart their entrepreneurial journey. The Innovative Ideas Competition 2025 proved to be a successful initiative in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students. It highlighted the growing interest of youth in business creation and startup culture, aligning with the mission of BIC-UAF to nurture the next generation of entrepreneurs.



## CLOSING DATE TO SUBMIT EOI FOR TWGS EXTENDED UPTO JUNE 25, 2025

Following the vision of the Vice Chancellor in attaining research excellence, productivity in the form of spin-offs, promoting agri-entrepreneurial ecosystem and policy guidelines, the TWGs initiative is taken to build a Research Excellence Framework (REF) at UAF. To contribute in this initiative, all faculty members right from lecturer to professor are eligible with their Masters/PhD/Postdoc/trainings or previous projects linked with the TWG thematic areas. They should have prototype, product, business plan, data-based evidence, well-conceived idea, mature concept, innovative idea with them. There will be 12-15 members selected in one TWG and one candidate can bid for maximum 2 TWGs. The TWG members will work as a team for different R&D tasks, UAF ranking, nomination for training/conferences opportunities, tailored courses and high-level consultative sessions. Senior Lecturers and Assistant Professors are highly encouraged to compete. Female faculty members' participation as "women in science" is mandatory. More details are available in an email, which was circulated among the faculty members with last date to apply June 25, 2025.

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زُفِی قاری فیصل آباد

**ORIC**

OFFICE OF RESEARCH,  
**INNOVATION**  
& COMMERCIALIZATION

Transforming Concepts into Impacts

+92419200183, +92419200997

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

[www.facebook.com/oric](https://www.facebook.com/oric)