

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

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SECRETARY AGRICULTURE EYES 4 PERCENT AGRI. GROWTH NEXT YEAR

Punjab Agriculture Secretary Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said that a Task Force on Agriculture Education and Research is being set up to present recommendations revamping the sector in order to ensure four percent agricultural growth in coming years.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali along with Chairman National Seed Authority Prof. Dr Asif Ali, Director General Ayyub Agriculture Research Dr. Sajid ur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer PARB Dr Abid Mahmood, Consultant to Punjab Agriculture Department Dr Anjum Ali Butter, Prof. Dr Qamar uz Zaman VC PMAS Arid Agri. University Rawalpindi, and other renowned agriculture experts and researchers attended the meeting.

Iftikhar Ali Sahoo urged the agricultural institutions to lower down the walls and enhance the collaboration between academia, research and extension to achieve better outcomes and to ensure the food security at national level.

He said that the government is devising the doable short, mid and long-term policies for upgrading the agriculture sector. He highlighted that increasing crop productivity is



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a major challenge, particularly due to water scarcity, climate change and other challenges. He mentioned that quality germplasm, climate-resilient varieties, mechanization and timely provision of certified seeds to farmers would boost the production.

He also said that all stakeholders must adopt a unified and actionable strategy for agricultural sustainability. He said that government is providing resources for the renewal of the agricultural stability and a session with all its stakeholders is a testament in this regard. He said that the arid agricultural university in collaboration with agricultural institutions to enhance per acre wheat production. He said in the same, UAF and agricultural institutions should raise the wheat production in irrigated areas.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali expressed grave concern over the rapid decline of organic matter in soil, terming it a serious threat to land fertility and sustainable agriculture. He called for collective efforts by all agricultural institutions, academic and research, to make collective efforts to combat the alarming situation. He said that university would engage scientists from other agriculture institutions as adjunct professors on different research projects and trainings. He added that in the short-term agriculture reform planning, we have to profile the available varieties and select the heat and drought resilient for better production. He said that as long-term it is essential to develop germplasm resource nursery in which, all agriculture based institutions should provide their germplasm resource that will help all scientists for breeding. He said that UAF is housing super computer (HPC) and a big data can be used for agriculture development.



UN WOMEN PROGRAM COORDINATOR-PUNJAB HOLDS MEETING AT ORIC

Ms Sidra Humayun, Program Coordinator-Punjab, UN Women Pakistan visited ORIC and held meeting with Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, Incharge IBMS Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Director Inst. of Agri & Resource Economics Prof. Dr. Asghar Ali, Dr. Salman Afsar Awar, Dr. Mohazam Rafiq and others for enhancing digital literacy among young women and fostering an enabling environment for their growth in technology-driven fields. Introducing the project, she said that the project aims of accelerating economic engagement of young women through digital enablement and innovation, UN Women - with support from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is implementing the project titled, 'Digitalization for Women's Empowerment (D4WEE)' in Pakistan. The project is being implemented in six districts across Punjab and KP namely, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan, Peshawar, Mardan and Swabi from 2024 to 2028. Briefing the project, she said that the project aims to accelerate women's economic empowerment through digital transformation and innovation. She said that her organization recognizes the crucial role of stakeholders such as universities, IT and E-commerce departments, the Punjab Information Technology Board, and Civil Society Organization to raise the awareness and inclusive growth of women in all spheres of the life. She sought potential areas of collaboration with UAF and how its expertise and involvement could contribute to the success of this initiative. The UAF team assured full support to meet the shared objectives of the project.



BIC HOLDS A TWO-DAY RESEARCH COMMERCIALIZATION BOOTCAMP

The Business Incubation Center (BIC) organized a two-day Research Commercialization Bootcamp to equip researchers and entrepreneurs with practical insights into turning research outcomes.

Pakistan Institute of Entrepreneurship CEO Tahir Mahmood Chaudhry was the keynote speaker. Addressing the participants, he urged them to come up with viable solutions to industry, society and farming community, develop innovative products and maintain strong academia-industry linkages for commercialization that will pave a way for knowledge-based economy.

Talking to the participants, he emphasized the critical need to promote research that offers practical and market-driven solutions. He said that commercialization of innovative ideas is a key to empowering the farming community and boosting agricultural productivity. He added that strong academia-industry linkages are essential for sustainable development and economic growth. He encouraged the students to come up with innovative business ideas and BIC will help them to proceed towards implementation.

Director ORIC Prof Dr Muhammad Imran Arshad said that in the modern age, the countries with knowledge-based economies were proving their mettle in every sphere of life. He added that UAF was conducting demand-driven research projects that will bring tangible results.



Director BIC Prof. Dr Iftikhar Ahmad highlighted the services BIC offering to faculty and students' startups to promote entrepreneurship. He said that BIC is providing necessary trainings, bootcamps and mentorship sessions to the new startups for rapid growth. He said that BIC is making professional relations with industries to make a strong link by creating joint startups with relevant industry to contribute its share in uplifting the national economy. Dr Habib Aslam Gaba and Prof. Dr Zahid Abbas Principal Officer AIRI also spoke on the occasion and encouraged the young start-ups to become successful entrepreneurs.



DELEGATION FROM SUZUKI MOTORS HOLDS MEETING AT ORIC

A delegation from Suzuki Motors Company Japan and its Pakistani management paid a visit to University of Agriculture, Faisalabad and held meeting at ORIC with UAF team to review the progress been made in connection with the project titled “Biogas plant design, construction, operation, maintenance, and application of biogas as a vehicle fuel and organic fertilizer under Pak-Suzuki Biogas program”. The project is undertaken by Punjab Bio-energy Institute (PBI) here at UAF with an approved cost of 272.425 million PKR.

The delegation which was comprising of by Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura MD Pak Suzuki Motor Co, Mr. Hiroyuki Yamano - Suzuki Motor Co. Japan, Mr. Hiroyuki Kondo - Suzuki Motor Co. Japan, Mr. Aamir Shaffi - Executive Office Mktg & Sales, Mr. Ghulam Hussain Agha - GM Business Development, Mr. Fahad Qamar - Mgr, Business Development, Mr. Waqar Majeed - Mgr, Sales Management Center Punjab, Mr. Usman Sandhu - Dy. Mgr. Exchange & Used Car.

From UAF team, Director PBI Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, UAF consultant Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Tabassum, Ex Consultants Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Dr. Muhammad Ghaffar Dogar, Mr. Zaib Afzal, and Mr. Amir Hamza briefed the visiting delegation about the progress and bottlenecks faced during the execution of the project. Dr. Muhammad Rizwan Tabassum said that according to the approved estimates the plant will produce around 1500 cubic meters @ 35-40 cubic meters of animal dung and out of it, 900 cubic meter bio methane (purified biogas) will be produced on daily basis.



The visiting delegation expressed satisfaction over the progress and vowed to extend all possible support and assistance to the project. During the meeting, it was discussed that arranging a huge amount of animal dung will be a big issue to run the plant. The participants were of the view to look into it and come up with doable suggestions in the next meeting. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf ex-consultant presented a brief note on the production of bio-organic phosphate and bio-fertilizer. He added that putting un-checked chemical fertilizers in the soils, it deteriorated the soil quality. He said that liquid fertilizer which comes out of the biogas plant, will be more beneficial for the plants and soil quality. It was revealed in the meeting that in Punjab a Bag of DAP costs Rs. 14000/- and if a farmer is provided with a bag of BOP @ 2600 and Urea @ 3000, this will fulfill the requirement of soil and plant and save Rs. 7000 against the use of DAP. Manager, Innovation and Commercialization Dr. Khuram Zia proceeded with the agenda of the meeting.



ORIC HOLDS CAPACITY BUILDING SESSION FOR NEWLY INDUCTED LECTURERS



The Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) held an orientation session to build the capacity of newly recruited faculty members (lecturers). Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali presided over the inaugural session and urged the participants for ensuring quality education and inculcate them the work ethics. He underscored the need to diversify their knowledge and skill set thereby to analyze and explore the students about their studies and professional expertise. He asked the newly inducted lecturers to not only deliver their lectures in a more professional rather in an interactive manner so that students may learn and understand the learning philosophy. He shared his teaching, learning, assessment and evaluation experiences and guided young faculty to attain teaching & ethics excellence.

Convener, Harassment Committee Prof. Dr. Bushra Sadia presented a detailed presentation on working of her committee regarding submission and redressal of complaints under sexual harassment and asked the participants to immediately report such incident to the management.

Dr. Asim Aqeel delivered his lecture on workplace ethics and underscored the need to ensure quality education, upholding the merit in all matters relating to students' papers and reports evaluation.

Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad delivered talk on Self Assessment Report (SAR), writing a successful research project, and project management. He said record keeping, project management and innovative ideas can be sold as goods and services for the community.

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