

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

March 16 to 31, 2025



VICE CHANCELLOR STRESSES DATA-DRIVEN DECISION MAKING AND ORIC STRENGTHENING

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali stressed the significance of data-driven decision-making to ensure that resources are allocated to the most deserving areas. He made these remarks while receiving a briefing at the Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC), Business Incubation Center, and Central Hi-Tech Lab during a meeting held in the ORIC conference room.

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali directed the Director ORIC to develop a comprehensive utilization plan for the overhead costs of research projects to ensure their effective and transparent use. He also stressed the importance of enhancing ORIC's overall functionality in alignment with its founding objectives. To improve the capacity of ORIC staff, he emphasized equipping them with the latest tools and techniques, making them more efficient and responsive in their roles.

In a bid to foster motivation among researchers, the Vice Chancellor instructed the Director ORIC to issue appreciation letters to outstanding researchers, encouraging others to strive for excellence. Additionally, he urged ORIC to study and adopt the Intellectual Property (IP) Policy of MNSUA, Multan, ensuring



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its proper implementation as per UAF needs to protect researchers' rights. He called on the participants to support faculty and students in pursuing high-impact research with a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment to humanity.

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali also highlighted the role of ORIC as a facilitator for researchers, emphasizing that whenever a funding opportunity arises, it should be promptly communicated to faculty members for harvesting the benefits. He assured that he would introduce new reforms in university rules and statutes, establishing a more accountable and efficient academic and administrative system.

Expressing disappointment over the limited career growth of ORIC staff, he assured that new positions would be advertised, selection boards would be held, and a fair promotion policy would be implemented. He compared the earning potential of university professors in other countries, noting that while they earn thousands of USDs per month, local professors often struggle due to their limited pursuit of high-value research funding. He encouraged faculty members to seek research funding both nationally and internationally by capitalizing on their innovative ideas.

The Vice Chancellor further directed the Director ORIC to organize weekly webinars with faculty, involving national and international funding agencies to discuss challenges and opportunities, ultimately yielding tangible outcomes. He also emphasized to explore soft loan opportunities to help for transforming professional ideas into reality.

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali desired a detailed business plan from the Hi-Tech Lab, including an inventory of existing equipment, frequency of use and generated income. He assured full support for acquiring new instruments, if required. Referring to his previous initiative, he shared that his team had successfully created an online dashboard listing all scientific equipment, allowing students and researchers to reserve usage slots conveniently. He also called for a comprehensive plan to manage students' research experiments in the field and experimental farms, aligning them with emerging societal challenges and needs.

Earlier in the meeting, Director ORIC, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, provided an overview of ORIC's activities, research opportunities, and challenges. He highlighted ORIC's efforts to establish a technology transfer mechanism at the Expo Center and develop frameworks for research and teaching excellence, as well as knowledge exchange. Stressing the importance of credible data, he emphasized the need for a data-driven decision-making mechanism to ensure efficient and effective policy implementation.

The Director, Business Incubation Center (BIC) also briefed the attendees on initiatives aimed at nurturing students into successful entrepreneurs.



TRAINING WORKSHOP ON MOBILE SOIL & WATER TESTING LAB AT ELC

Engro Learning Centre held a two-day training workshop with an insightful technical and practical demonstration session wherein university students were trained on soil sampling methodology, sampling techniques, and practical demonstrations. Students had the opportunity to dive deep into the practical aspects of mobile lab technologies. The focus of the session was hands-on operation of mobile labs, with detailed demonstrations on how they work and the principles behind their setup. Students had the opportunity to visit the Mobile Soil & Water Testing Lab, which is fully equipped with advanced tools and protocols while ensuring strict adherence to health, safety, and environmental standards of the international community.

During the occasion, experts shared their technical expertise, providing in-depth knowledge on precision soil analysis and its role in sustainable agriculture. More than 300 students from Inst. of Soil Science, Agronomy, Forestry, Plant Pathology, and Entomology actively participated, gained hands-on experience with the latest soil testing techniques. The entire event was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain firsthand experience in mobile lab operations, and many expressed their gratitude for the invaluable learning experience provided.



ENGRO FERTILIZERS CONDUCTS TRAINING SESSION ON FCO/FCA

The Engro Fertilizers' Agronomy Department conducted a comprehensive training session on Fertilizer Control Order (FCO)/Fertilizer Control Act (FCA) at Engro Learning Centre for government employees participating in the four-week professional training program on Finance, Administration Management, and E-Governance. Organized by Professional Training & Skill Development Center UAF, the session was also attended by dignitaries from Ayub Agriculture Research Institute AARI, Faisalabad.

Mr. Amir Ghafoor (Manager GRRA, EFERT) and Mr. Ijaz Ahmad (Deputy Manager Regulatory Affairs, EFERT) led the technical session, providing valuable insights into fertilizer control regulations, compliance frameworks, introduction to Engro Corp along with its subsidiaries and best practices in the agriculture sector.

As a part of the session, participants also visited the EFERT Mobile Soil & Water Analysis Lab, where they observed lab protocols and soil testing procedures, gained first-hand practical knowledge of advanced analytical techniques.

The participants highly commended Engro's efforts in organizing this insightful session, recognizing its role in enhancing public private partnership and knowledge sharing.



A DELEGATION FROM NESTLE, PAKISTAN VISITS ORIC

A delegation from Nestle Pakistan visited ORIC and held meeting with Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad along with Prof. Dr. Shahid Ibne Zamir Principal Officer Farms, and Dr. Khuram Zia, Manager, Innovation & Commercialization UAF. Matters relating to further boosting the mutual collaboration in general and exploring potential synergies between Nestle Agri Services in particular were came under discussion. Designing of specialized course or module that leverages UAFs expertise in key areas of agricultural service was the prime agenda of the meeting. The Nestle team was eager to provide its employees of Agri Service with a structured classroom learning course to refresh and enhance their knowledge and skills.

Leading the delegation, Mr. Faisal Nawaz, Manager Dairy Development at Nastle Pakistan emphasized the need to equip the trainees with tailored course or modules on disease prevention and management, reproduction efficiency, balanced nutrition, farm economics & management sustainability and regenerative agriculture. The Nestle team congratulated Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad on taking reins as Director ORIC and expressed hope that he will utilize his all capabilities in gearing up the ORIC activities to new highs.



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Heartiest
Congratulations
Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali

Your dedication, vision, and leadership in the field of agriculture and education will undoubtedly steer UAF towards greater excellence. We look forward to witnessing the transformative impact of your tenure and fostering continued collaboration for agricultural advancement and well being of farming community.



**Engro Fertilizers Ltd. Amer Ghafoor Manager GRRA , Syed Shauzab Gardezi
Head of Agronomy, Imran Ahmad ARO FSD**



QUARTERL REPORT OF ORIC-UAF FROM JANUARY- MARCH, 2025

A. Research output

- i. 168 Concept Note (HEC under NRP) submitted
- ii. 42 Projects (PSF) Rs. 127.89 million submitted
- iii. 04 international projects Rs. 11.62 million submitted
- iv. 01 International project has been approved Rs. 17.10 (\$61114) million
- v. 01 National collaborative project has been approved Rs. 3.775 million
- vi. PKNGShort Listed Projects (Phase-II) for UAF
 - › Applied Research=01 (Rs.5.31M)
 - › Policy Research=01 (Rs.1.91M)
 - › Start-ups=08 (Rs. 3.996M)

B. Analysis Facilities

- (i). UAF students availed analysis facilities extended by HEC & PCSIR under 'access to scientific Instrumentation' Program.

No of cases

- HEC= 10
- PCSIR= 04
- Total = 14

(ii). Central Hi-Tech Laboratory

No of Samples analyzed = 1008
Total Income Generated = Rs.567450
Analysis Facility provided to other Institutions

1. GC University Faisalabad
2. University of Faisalabad
3. University of Education, Faisalabad
4. Gomal University, KPK
5. The University of the Punjab, Lahore
6. Islamia University Bahawalpur
7. Ayub Agriculture Research Institute
8. Riphah University Faisalabad

C. UAF Institutional Bioethics Committee (IBC)

ORIC as Secretariat of Intuition Bioethics Committee (IBC) meeting held on 25 -02-2025 discussed cases (16)

- Human studies 05
- Animal Studies 07
- Material transfer agreements 02
- Deferred 02
- New Cases(in que) 12

D. Research Innovation and Commercialization

1. Commercialization

- Industry Linkages Project 03
- Consultancy Services / Projects 03
- Patent/TM submitted 06

2. Varieties Submitted to FSC&RD

- Hot Pepper hybrid (AH-624-F₁) 01
- Brassica (UAFCanola) 01

E. Trainings

- One Week Handson training by ORIC & Hi-Tech Lab. =01
- Hands on Training by ORIC & Oil Seed
- Research Lab. =01
- Training by Engro Learning Centre and ORIC =05
- ORIC & Hitech Lab. staff got training from abroad =03

F. Partial Research Support to Post Graduate Students:

No. of cases submitted 06

G. Monitoring and Evaluation of Research Projects at UAF

The Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) always strives hard to ensure transparency in the research system at UAF and its Constituent Colleges at Burewala (Vehari), Depalpur (Okara) and Toba Tek Singh. Recently under the directive of the Vice Chancellor, the projects as per detail below were evaluated Technically and Financially. ORIC team advised the PIs to adhere with the UAF system and complete the project documents as per UAF and funding agency requirements. It was found that capacity building of project staff was the dire need as researchers should involve in the financial matter as minimum as they can. The detail report was submitted to the Vice Chancellor for his perusal.

Pakistan Science Foundation

1-Constitution Avenue G-5/2 Islamabad

Be a Part of Asian Science Camp (ASC)-2025

Pakistan Science Foundation-PSF is continuously striving for promotion of science in the youth and motivating them towards Science Education. PSF is sponsoring young students for participation in Asian Science Camp (ASC) where the young students can share their ideas and projects with fellow students and eminent scientists/Nobel Laureates. The activities include lectures/demonstrations from leading scientists, visits to industrial sites, research centers, scientific institutions/organizations, world class laboratories and universities.

The 15th Asian Science Camp-2025 is going to be from 31 July-6th August, 2025 at Suranaree University of Technology, Nakorn Ratchasima, Thailand. PSF is inviting applications from young Pakistani science students to participate in the 15th Asian Science Camp (ASC-2025). Therefore;

- Interested young students, having age between 17-22 years on 31st July, 2025 & regular science students of BS/B.Sc./B.E/MBBS in (1st/2nd year only) having 1st Division in board/university.
- Prescribed application form is available at PSF website (www.psf.gov.pk).
- The applicant must be a regular science student in a public or private sector (Govt. recognized) institution having proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Short listed students, after initial screening on the basis of educational qualifications/age will be called for written test, interview/ presentation at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar as per their convenience.
- 8 students will be selected for ASC-2025. While accommodation and local hospitality will be provided by the organizers.
- No TA/DA will be provided to the students appearing for test/interview.
- Last date for receipt of application is 3rd April, 2025. Incomplete/applications received after the closing date shall not be entertained.

For any query please feel free to contact us at rehanabatool2005@yahoo.com

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