

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

September 01 to 15, 2025



ORIC CONVENES COORDINATION MEETING TO STRENGTHEN RESEARCH FUND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

A coordination meeting on research fund management was held at the CAS Auditorium under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali. Alongside Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, Treasurer Syed Zeeshan Bukhari also addressed the participants.

The session was attended by representatives of the Treasurer's Office, ORIC, DP&IC, Heads of Departments, and Principal Investigators. Discussions focused on issues relating to daily paid staff engagement, PPRA compliance in procurement, project execution, audited reports, budget utilization, monitoring and evaluation submissions, and operational matters such as SLAs, HVAC installations, ex-post facto approvals, ILM liabilities, travel approvals, and motor pool usage. Participants also stressed the need for SOPs covering budget breakup, account opening, project time-lines, closure compliance, procurement, and reporting requirements.

Key decisions included issuance of clarifications on daily paid staff payments, circulation of PPRA guidelines, and



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- ELC holds session on practical applications of statistical design and tools
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timely submission of audited reports and utilization statements. The Treasurer's Office and ORIC were tasked with developing standardized formats and comprehensive SOPs/manuals for project initiation, fund utilization, procurement, and closure. HoDs were asked to ensure regular M&E reporting, while Pls and departments must maintain updated records, ensure asset verification, and follow financial controls. Expenditures on official events and food billing will be routed through ORIC and standardized through approved vendors. The Vice Chancellor concluded by underlining the importance of compliance, transparency, and accountability in all financial and operational matters of research projects.



BIC HOSTS A SESSION ON “INNOVATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION - THE SPIRIT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

Entrepreneurship is not only a pathway to self-reliance but also a powerful tool to address concerns like unemployment and poverty. It was stated by Prof. Dr. Mubashir Mehdi, Director ORIC/BIASED, Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture (MANSUA) Multan, at a session on “Innovation and Commercialization - The spirit of Entrepreneurship”, organized by Business Incubation Center (BIC), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Talking to the participants, Dr Mubashir delineated the successful entrepreneurial journey, which he explained as commencing with creativity and innovation, progressing through the establishment of a company, making a good team, sizing the opportunity, engaging with the customer, understanding the business model, and ultimately entering the start-up's acceleration phase. He also shared his experience visiting Silicon Valley in the USA, recounting the story of how a Stanford apple orchard from the 1960s was converted into the trillion-dollar high-tech hub it is today.

ATRI Principal Officer Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas highlighted that entrepreneurship must be promoted among youth. He said that Pakistan youth is its greatest asset. Strategic sessions like this instill confidence in young graduates to transform innovative concepts into business models.

In his concluding remarks, Director BIC, Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad shared insight on Vice Chancellor vision to promote entrepreneurial ecosystem at campus and shared BIC initiatives and upcoming events details.



MEETING OF STZA ZONE ENTERPRISES (ZES) WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STZA

A meeting of the STZA was convened to address queries from ZEs, with Mr. Amjad Mahmood, the representative of the STZA, and the BIC team in attendance. The STZA representative outlined the protocols for obtaining licences and the associated compliance procedures. He further clarified that only those enterprises that successfully secure their STZA licence would be eligible for tenancy within the Agri-Tech park. He informed the members that, in accordance with a recent Government of Pakistan policy, no further applications for Zone Developer (ZD) status are being accepted, and the associated tax incentives will only be applicable until 2035. He also proposed the establishment of a UAF company, which could then obtain a ZE licence to benefit from tax incentives on UAF project imports. Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director of BIC and Focal Person for the STZA Agri-Tech Park at UAF, informed the representative that UAF had recently established its own company and registered it with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). During the meeting, ten companies—comprising six faculty-led start-ups and four private Agri-tech companies—submitted applications on the prescribed forms to secure their STZA ZE licence. In his concluding remarks, Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad provided an overview of the ongoing commercialisation efforts by UAF faculty members and researchers.



ELC HOLDS TRAINING SESSION ON AGRICULTURE FORECASTING: BASIS & STRATEGIES

Engro Learning Centre UAF, organized an insightful training session on Agriculture Forecasting, where the participants explored practical strategies and forecasting tools that can shape the future of farming. Dr. Azhar Abbas (Associate Professor, Inst. of Agricultural and Resource Economics UAF) and Dr. Qamar Ali (Lecturer, Virtual University, Faisalabad) were the resource persons. Their expertise and hands-on approach made the session engaging, equipping our team with valuable knowledge, smarter and more sustainable solutions.



ELC HOLDS CAPACITY-BUILDING SESSION ON PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF STATISTICAL DESIGN AND TOOLS



Engro Learning Centre successfully organized a capacity-building session on “Practical Applications of Statistical Design and Tools” in collaboration with Ayub Agricultural Research institute and Department of Mathematics and Statistics UAF. The session featured hands-on demonstrations delivered by the Chairman, Department of Mathematics & Statistics, UAF, Dr Zafar Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Kashif (Ass. Prof Math and Stat UAF) and the Principal Scientist, Statistics Section, Mr Amir Hameed, AARI. This interactive training strengthened the team's expertise in applying statistical tools for research and data analysis, further enhancing precision in agronomic decision-making.

BSP APPROVES ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF BIOTECHNOLOGISTS

The Biotechnology Society of Pakistan (BSP) Advisory Board has appointed renowned scientist Prof. Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik as its new Chairperson. BSP aims to foster innovation and research in biotechnology and provide a collaborative platform for scientists, researchers, and professionals to advance the sector for a brighter future. During its recent meeting at the Center for Advanced Studies in Agriculture and Food Security (CAS-AFS), UAF, the Board also approved the establishment of a National Consortium of Biotechnologists. The consortium will align national research priorities, facilitate resource sharing, and strengthen the collective impact of biotechnology in Pakistan. The meeting was attended by prominent figures, including Dr. Asif Ali (Chairperson, National Seed Development & Regulatory Authority), Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali (Vice Chancellor, UAF), Dr. Sajjad ur Rehman (DG Ayub Research), Dr. Naseer Ahmad Saeed (Director, NIBGE), Dr. Muaz ur Rehman (Director, CEMB), Dr. Shaukat Ali, Dr. Sultan Habib Ullah (Director, CAS), Dr. Bushra Sadia (Director, CABB), Dr. Irfan Ali, along with representatives from CropLife, Pak BCH, and other institutions. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kauser Abdullah Malik emphasized the transformative role of biotechnology in agriculture, particularly in enhancing crop and livestock productivity, improving food quality, and ensuring environmental sustainability. He underlined biotechnology's potential in tackling global challenges such as food security, climate change, and malnutrition. Dr. Asif Ali highlighted biotechnology's importance in developing resilient, productive, and nutritious crops and livestock, praising UAF's efforts to ensure national food security. Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali commended BSP's leadership in uniting academia, research institutes, and industry to promote biotechnology in the public interest, noting its impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. The initiative has gained strong backing from leading institutions across the country, each pledging to nominate focal persons for BSP's national efforts.



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