

# NEWS LETTER

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University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) - Pakistan



## DRIVING IMPACT WITH PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AT INTERNATIONAL GHAN WORKSHOP 25-26 SEPT. 2025, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

The Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali recently attended 1st International GHAN workshop. Since 2019, Asian Development Bank (ADB), College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Seoul National University (SNU-CALS) had discussions about the need to establish GHAN for accelerating technology adoption in agriculture and addressing food security challenges. SNU-CALS aims to become a global hub for GHAN with regional hubs across the globe. This network is expected to be launched from Asia and Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) would like to become a South Asia regional Hub. Similarly, University of Agriculture Faisalabad is interested in

becoming a West Asia regional hub. The University of Philippines Los Banos (UPLB) is well positioned to become Southeast Asia regional hub and Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agriculture Mechanization Engineers (TIAME), National Research University in Uzbekistan wants to serve as a Central Asia regional hub.

The participants had opportunities to exchange views with SNU-CALS faculty members. They also visited research facilities, greenhouse, SNU start-up and business incubation facilities. The participants discussed the need to set up a global advisory council, which will be chaired by

“UAF’s High-Tech Vision Gains Global Attention at GHAN Workshop”





a world leading expert. SNU president suggested to explore other options, such as the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). Prof. Hak-Jin Kim from NICEM emphasized the importance of data driven farm management using various digital technologies to lead to increased yield, lower costs and reduced environmental impacts. Prof. Jongwook Lee from SNU-CALS highlighted the importance of evidence based knowledge sharing through GHAN. BAU showed interest in participating in food innovation challenge in 2026 by the Wageningen University and Research (WUR) since they participate in the food innovation challenge for this year.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali shared UAF's strength with participants. He explained that ADB is



preparing for Punjab Climate-Resilient and Low Carbon Agriculture Mechanization Project, including High Level Technology Fund for introducing gas chromatography analyzer and speed breeding facility. The University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) aspires to ensure food security through outstanding achievements in learning,

**UAF has been working with Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 2016 to strengthen agricultural research and education in Pakistan**

discovery, innovation and community service with a clear focus on programs of significance to agricultural and rural development. It ranked among the leading agricultural universities globally, has recently been declared a D-8 Research Centre for Agriculture and Food Security. UAF has an active collaboration with the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) an OIC specialized institution focusing on agriculture and food security across Muslim countries. This partnership connects UAF to member states of OIC, expanding opportunities for multi-country projects, knowledge exchange and joint funding. UAF has been working with Asian Development Bank (ADB) since 2016 to strengthen agricultural research and education in Pakistan. ADB-funded projects have supported UAF's modernization efforts, making it a hub for climate-smart and high-tech agriculture. UAF faculty have benefitted from training programs in IRRI-Phillipine on Speed Breeding.

By presenting these strengths, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali positioned the university as a valuable partner in International cooperation. The vision and



mission of the UAF and GHAN are closely aligned in their pursuit of sustainable development and community empowerment, though they approach it from different dimensions. UAF seeks to strengthen academic, research and innovation collaborations with international partners, including universities in Tashkent, Bangladesh, Iran and the Philippines to address global challenges of food security, climate change and sustainable agriculture.

Leaders of BAU, SNU, UAF and UPLB showed their commitment to work together for operationalizing GHAN initiatives. To keep this momentum, ADB will prepare a contract for SNU-CALS to implement key priority activities discussed during this workshop. It was also agreed to organize GHAN workshop with more participation of leading agricultural universities in Asia. It is also important to follow up related ADB higher education and agriculture project preparation in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Phillipines and other countries to have meaningful linkages with GHAN. The

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workshop created a unique opportunity for discussing joint ventures between universities and countries like Joint Research Projects, Student and Faculty Exchange, Dual Degree and Twinning Program, Innovative and Incubation centers, Development of Soft Labs, Capacity building and training, Policy development.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali's proactive engagement at the GHAN workshop signals the university's readiness to forge strategic global partnerships. Building on the networks established, formal MoUs and pilot projects can be initiated with selected institutions. This collaborative approach will not only strengthen reputation but also expand opportunities for students, faculty and research outcomes at the international level.