

# ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

December 01 to 31, 2025



## UAF CHARTS AMBITIOUS PATH FOR SUSTAINABLE INSTITUTIONAL GROWTH



The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has set an ambitious agenda for sustainable institutional growth, unveiling a comprehensive plan centered on intellectual property (IP) and commercialization policy. The vision was outlined during an ORIC Steering Committee meeting held in the Syndicate Room, chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, with progressive farmer Ms. Sapna Kavita Oberoi serving as co-chair.

Delivering his welcome address, Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali emphasized the need to align ORIC's strategic plan with the broader institutional vision, ensuring that research and entrepreneurial activities complement UAF's long-term goals. He underscored the importance of exposing the university's strengths and global engagements to industry and partner organizations, thereby nurturing a vibrant ecosystem of innovation and collaboration.

Highlighting UAF's digital transformation, the Vice Chancellor noted that the university has already implemented e-filing and

- ORIC holds Steering Committee Meeting
- UN-WOMEN & FAO supported farmers group visits ELC
- UAF faculty represent the varsity on international forums
- Entrepreneurship Summit 2025 at UAF Constituent College Burewala
- HEC showcases Technology Development Fund Achievements at TIS'25
- BIC hosts AGRITHON 2025 - Cultivating ideas for a blue-sky future in agriculture
- Exclusive session on "Entrepreneurship in biotechnology in BSP Biotechnology Congress

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office automation systems and is now moving towards a paperless environment through ERP and Campus Management Systems. These initiatives, he said, will enhance transparency and efficiency in service delivery. He further announced reforms in faculty Self-Assessment Report Proforma, which will enable academics to dedicate more time to industry collaboration and commercialization of ideas. UAF's high-performance computing facility, he added, positions the institution among the country's leading universities and strengthens its global networking.

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar acknowledged philanthropic contributions that have bolstered UAF's infrastructure, including donations of 60 LED screens for classrooms and 1,000 computers/scanners to support faculty and student research. He revealed plans to recruit high-quality human resources to meet the needs of a growing student body, while also introducing associate degrees and skill development diplomas to bridge the gap between graduates and employer expectations. Postgraduate programs, he said, will be made more flexible, offering students greater choice and convenience.

The Vice Chancellor also proposed new faculty pathways, allowing academics to serve either as research professors—dedicating their efforts to industry partnerships—or as academic professors focused on teaching and scholarship. He announced that adjunct faculty from across the globe will be invited to share expertise with UAF students and staff. Stressing

accountability, he urged ORIC to integrate outcomes of previous meetings into its new five-year strategic plan, ensuring measurable impact backed by empirical evidence.

Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar suggested that ORIC prepare its own budget for presentation to the Finance and Planning Committee, highlighting income generated through consultancy and commercialization. He also revealed plans for a Directorate of Admissions and Strategic Planning to address emerging challenges and opportunities. Drawing comparisons with India, he noted that 95 percent of Indian graduates secure lucrative jobs due to strong national policies and professional ownership, urging UAF to adopt similar strategies. He also asked ORIC to propose and notify new SOPs for conducting or participating in training workshop, seminar, conferences, webinar so that everyone should follow and proceed accordingly.

Rashid Ahmad of CropLife Association proposed institutionalizing industry-deputed research through formal agreements, stressing that faculty should prioritize societal impact over publications. He cited the example of spring corn, introduced by a graduate without publications, which transformed Pakistan's rural economy. Dr. Nadeem Tariq of Niha International Pvt Ltd highlighted the global shift from degrees to skills, noting India's success in aligning university outputs with market demands.

Progressive farmer Mumtaz Manhais shared his two-decade experience hosting agriversity interns, advocating for skill-based training that transforms graduates into committed professionals with guaranteed employability.

Registrar Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran emphasized the need to align QEC, ORIC, and academic plans with UAF's vision. ORIC Director Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas reported that industry and advisory board inputs have already been incorporated into ORIC's five-year plan, which will be further refined following the meeting. Manager Research Management Dr. Khuram Zia conducted the session and presented the agenda, while deans and directors from various faculties and institutes participated actively. The steering committee approved UAF IP and Commercialization Policy and ORIC 5-year strategic plan for implementation in the varsity.

The meeting was attended Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahid Mahmood, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Prof. Dr. Anjum Munir, Dean, Faculty of Agri. Engg. & Technology, Prof. Dr. Amer Jamil, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid



Abbas, Director ORIC, Dr. Habib Aslam Gaba representative FCCI, Prof. Dr. Beenish Israr, Director, Inst. of Home Sciences, Dr. Hammad Badar, Director, Business Incubation Center, Dr. Muhammad Tahseen Azhar, Director External Linkages, Prof. Dr. Rashid Waseem Qadri Principal UAF Constituent College TT Singh, Dr. Nadeem Tariq, Niha International Pvt. Ltd., Mian Mitha, Corporate Regulatory & Scientific Affairs Manager, Nestle Pakistan, Dr. Khalid Majeed, Chairman, Khalid Majeed Group of Companies, Syed Ishfaq Bukhari, Treasurer, UAF, Dr. Humera Razzaq Deputy Director ORIC, Dr. Furqan Asghar Deputy Director ORIC, Ms Aishia Arshad Assistant Prof. ORIC and Mr. Muhammad Hanf Admin Officer.



## UN-WOMEN & FAO SUPPORTED FARMERS GROUP VISITS UAF

A delegation of 40 participants from the newly merged districts of Khyber, Bajaur, and Mohmand, along with representatives from UN-Women, and Concepts Unlimited during its visit to UAF, also held meeting with experts and inspected their research labs wherein they were briefed by the respective scientists. They ask questions on the relevant fields. Later, the delegation paid a visit to Engro Learning Center. During the visit, the ELC team presented a overview of Engro Fertilizers and its farmer-focused initiatives. Special emphasis was placed on showcasing Engro's fertilizer products, their benefits, field performance, and the company's commitment to delivering high-quality, research-backed solutions for farmers. The delegation also visited the chemical laboratory, store room, and field area, where they were briefed on product handling, testing, and practical field applications—reinforcing Engro's leadership in innovative fertilizer solutions. The visitors highly appreciated Engro's well-organized hospitality, professional demonstrations, and presentation of Engro Fertilizers' product portfolio. Engro remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships, empowering farmers, and promoting sustainable agriculture across Pakistan.



## HEC SHOWCASES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND ACHIEVEMENTS AT TIS'25

UAF experts led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali participated in Technology Development Fund (TDF) Impact Showcasing 2025 (TIS'25) at Islamabad. The event was attended by innovators, industrial partners, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and ecosystem enablers. It featured exhibitions of market-ready technologies, product demonstrations, panel discussions, and interactions with project teams working across agriculture, health, energy, environment, and emerging technologies. The showcasing was meant to highlight academia-industry success stories that promote commercialization, support import substitution, and export growth.

The event marked “a defining moment in the country's transition towards a knowledge-based economy,” bringing together business leaders, industry experts, policymakers, researchers, and investors to witness the scale and maturity of Pakistan's applied research landscape and the technological solutions emerging from local universities.

Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Rao Zahid Abbas, Prof. Dr. Amna Sahar Food Engineering, Dr. Allah Rakha NIFSAT, Dr. Muhammad Sharif Inst. of Animal and Dairy Sciences, Dr. Waseem Amjad Energy System Engineering, Dr. Khurram Zia ORIC, and relevant research staff associated with TDF projects represented the varsity in the event.

Launched with an investment of Rs2.9 billion under the Public Sector Development Program, the TDF has become a vital engine for national growth by transforming academic intellectual property into tangible economic assets. Over the years, the program has evolved into a national platform for commercialization and technology transfer, linking university-based R&D with industry needs.

Out of 200 projects awarded under TDF, UAF become a leading institution fetching 25 project of 215.253 million PKR. At national level, these initiatives have produced 192 prototypes and process improvements, over 300 research publications (including 241 in impact factor journals), and a growing portfolio of 116 national and international patents.

Commercialization outcomes are equally significant: 162 technology licences have been signed, 18 startups and spin-



offs nurtured, and 23 projects generating revenue. TDF-backed projects have also supported job creation across sectors, while universities benefitted from over Rs680 million worth of technical and research equipment.

The event also featured panel discussions and a fireside chat with prominent voices from government, academia, and the private sector. These sessions examined structural disconnects that have traditionally limited Pakistan's research-to-market pipeline and explored how stronger “Triple Helix” cooperation between universities, industry, and government can accelerate value creation.

HEC emphasized that the growing results of TDF are particularly relevant given Pakistan's youth population of over 62 million. Leveraging indigenous innovation, it noted, has become a strategic necessity for sustainable economic growth.



## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS ON REPRESENTING UAF ON INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

In a bid to encourage and highlight faculty achievements, ORIC extends heartiest congratulations to Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zahid, Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Shahbaz Nasir Khan, Assistant Professor, Structures & Env. Engineering. Both scholars represented UAF at international forums.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Zahid participated in an International Conference on Advanced and Sustainable Materials (ICASM-2025) and presented his oral talk on “Synergistic Effect of MnO<sub>2</sub>, MnS, and Polythiophene Photocatalysts for Sunlight-Driven Wastewater Purification”. The Conference was organized by the Center for Advanced Materials, Qatar University, Qatar from November 16 to 18, 2025. Travel Grant funded by Higher Education Commission, Islamabad. Dr. Shahbaz Nasir Khan participated in American Geophysical Union (AGU) Annual Meeting 2025, held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA from 15-19 December 2025. This forum (AGU) is the largest global gathering of Earth and space scientists, attracting 25,000+ participants from over 100 countries. This event serves as a premier platform for advancing science, fostering collaborations, and addressing critical challenges such as climate change and environmental sustainability. He was granted travel grant from Endowment Fund Secretariate, UAF.



## ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT 2025 AT UAF CONSTITUENT COLLEGE BUREWALA

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Club and the Department of Business Administration, in collaboration with the Business Incubation Centre, successfully organized the Entrepreneurship Summit 2025 on 23-24 December 2025 at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Constituent College Burewala. The summit was held under the visionary leadership of Honorable Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, and the patronage of Prof. Dr. Zain ul Abdin, Principal, UAF Constituent College Burewala.

The Chief Guests of the event were Prof. Dr. Zain ul Abdin, Principal, UAF Constituent College Burewala, and Dr. Hammad Badar, Director, Business Incubation Centre. Students from various departments participated in the Business Idea Competition and presented their innovative business concepts.

A panel of national and international experts and speakers shared their experiences, expertise, and valuable insights with the students. The speakers included Dr. Yasir Nawab, Dr. Abid Qayyum Suleri, Mr. Muhammad Ali Kamal, Prof. Dr. Khuda Baksh, Prof. Dr. Sajid Mehmood Nadeem, Dr. Muhammad Sajid, Prof. Dr. Mithat Direk (Turkey), Dr. Waseem Ahmad, Dr. Sohail Ahmad Javed, Dr. Lin Jiaming (China), Dr. Samra Subhani, Ms. Zara Siddique, Ms. Sadia Naureen, Dr. Kashif Hameed, Dr. Yasir Saeed, Mr. Muhammad Sarwar (Hitachi Energy, Sweden), Mr. Hamza Arshad, and Mr. Ali Ahsan.



The summit was successfully organized through the dedicated efforts of faculty members Mr. Masood Ahmad Khan, Ms. Saba Nasir, Mr. Umair Rafiq, Mr. Muhammad Umair Zulfiqar, Ms. Seher Muneer, and Dr. Muhammad Ahmad.

At the conclusion of the event, Prof. Dr. Zain Ul Abdin and Dr. Hammad Badar congratulated the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Club and the Department of Business Administration on the successful organization of the summit and appreciated their role in promoting innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial culture among students and the Burewala community.

## BIC HOSTS AGRITHON 2025 - CULTIVATING IDEAS FOR A BLUE-SKY FUTURE IN AGRICULTURE

The Business Incubation Centre (BIC) hosted “AgriThon 2025 - Cultivating Ideas for a Blue-Sky Future in Agriculture” at the CAS Auditorium, bringing together prominent academics, industry leaders, and aspiring agri-entrepreneurs to deliberate on innovation, collaborations, and transformative solutions essential for the agriculture sector in Pakistan.

With coordination and support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Centre for Agriculture & Bio Sciences International (CABI), and the Institute of Business Management Sciences (IBMS), the two-day event featured a student start-up expo, tech product displays, inspiring talks, a structured panel discussion, and dedicated mentoring sessions. The participants included student start-up teams from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), and MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan.

Dr. Hammad Badar, Director BIC, in his welcome address, underscored the critical role of creative thinking, innovation, and rigorous problem-solving in shaping the future of agriculture. Prof. Dr. Abdul Ghafoor, Director IBMS, delivered the keynote on “Agri Entrepreneurship”, focusing on market opportunities, the inherent potential of the youth demographic, and the global paradigm shift towards technology-driven agricultural practices.

The session dedicated to “Financing the Future of Agri-Entrepreneurship” was led by Muhammad Mohsin Muneeb Khan, Regional Manager Agriculture at the National Bank of Pakistan. Mr. Khan provided comprehensive details on the available banking facilities, mechanisms for risk sharing, the structures of loan instruments, and strategies for startups to manage financial complexities through disciplined planning.

A panel discussion entitled “Dream, Dare, Do: Entrepreneurial Journey and Challenges” was moderated by Dr Hammad Badar. The panelists, who included distinguished founders and ecosystem leaders, shared their real-life entrepreneurial journeys, failures, breakthroughs, and lessons. The panelists including Program Manager NICF Ms. Aimen Shahid, CEO Synergy Pharma Dr. Masud Sadiq Chaudhary, CEO DiGi khata Mr. Adnan Aslam, CEO SB Store Mr. Safdar Ali, and Mr. Muhammad Shahzab, Manager Green Upshot.



Student Startups also learned from hands-on mentoring sessions on Pitching and Communication Skills by Ms. Khadija Yaseen and Ms. Mubashra Saman, Networking, Partnerships and Team Building by Dr. Yousaf Malik, Product Development and Prototyping by Dr. Yawar Abbas, Financial Viability for Startups by Dr. Sahar Muneer, and Designing Business Model by Dr Burhan.

In the concluding vote of thanks, Dr Shakeel Ahmed. TA Team Lead for ADB-CABI affirmed that AgriThon 2025 successfully demonstrated the collective commitment of the BIC, ADB, CABI, and IBMS to nurture Pakistan’s next generation of agri innovators and to equip young minds with the essential knowledge, skill building, and network access required to translate systemic challenges into viable opportunities.



## EXCLUSIVE SESSION ON “ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN BIOTECHNOLOGY” IN BSP BIOTECHNOLOGY CONGRESS

The Centre of Agricultural Biochemistry and Biotechnology (CABB), University of Agriculture Faisalabad, successfully hosted the BSP Biotechnology Congress 2025, featuring a dedicated session on “Entrepreneurship in Biotechnology.”

The session was chaired by Dr. Hammad Badar, Director, Business Incubation Center (BIC), UAF, who emphasized: “The bridge between lab research and the market must be built on entrepreneurial vision—this is where true impact begins.” He encouraged students to define their entrepreneurial goals early and highlighted BIC’s role in supporting them throughout their journey.

Dr. Farrukh Hassan (founder of the first three biotechnology companies in Pakistan), Director, Microbial Biotechnologies (Pvt.) Ltd., shared her inspiring entrepreneurial journey and urged students to explore biotechnology entrepreneurship, a sector with immense growth potential in Pakistan.

Highlighting the policy dimension, Mian Abdul Rasheed, Chairman, Task Force, Pakistan Agricultural Scientists Forum, stated: “Policy must walk hand-in-hand with innovation to translate biotech potential into farmer prosperity and national food sovereignty.”



The congress also celebrated young innovators, with students presenting entrepreneurial biotechnology ideas evaluated by a panel of experts. Outstanding projects were recognized, reaffirming the commitment to nurturing future biotech leaders.

With its strong academic foundation and research excellence, UAF continues to lead the way in innovation for a sustainable and food-secure Pakistan.



**UAF Welcomes  
2026 with  
Commitment  
to Excellence  
and  
Collaborations**

As we step into 2026, I extend warm greetings to our faculty, staff, students, and the entire UAF family. The past year highlighted our progress in research and development, global collaborations, professional engagements, and entrepreneurial ventures. These achievements reflect our collective commitment to innovation and excellence. Looking ahead, a digital transformation in complete range of operations of the varsity through eFOAS and ERP. let us strengthen our resolve to advance cutting-edge research, expand international networks, and nurture entrepreneurial spirit. Together, we will continue shaping UAF as a beacon of knowledge, creativity, and impact. May the new year bring success, pride, and prosperity to all.



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