

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

November 16 to 30, 2025



PUNJAB MINISTER FOR AGRI & LIVESTOCK ALONG WITH SECRETARY AGRI VISIT UAF



Punjab Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani has said that tangible research work was the backbone of the agricultural development and the government was taking all possible measures to uplift the agricultural and livestock and to strengthen academia-industry linkages. Calling on the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali and later addressing the Deans and Directors of the University along with Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo, Parliamentary Secretary Osama Laghari, and Director General Agri Information Naveed Asmat, the minister lauded the steps being taken on the part of the UAF in term of research work and trained human resource. He added that the Punjab government had initiated billions of rupees microfinance programs for the agriculture sector, aiming to enhance productivity, support small farmers, and modernize agricultural practices in the province. The seeders are being promoted among the farming community, he said adding that the farmers are being facilitated to use the modern technology and to avoid burning of residues.

He directed the UAF scientists to come up with different projects on agricultural challenges including organic matter. He said that that the government has established of Foot and Mouth Disease



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Free Zone in Bahawalnagar. He told that 10,000 high-power tractors are being provided to farmers across Punjab on subsidy. He further stated that the Chief Minister Punjab is generously providing resources to promote farm mechanization. He highlighted that the Kisan Card is the government's flagship initiative, through which millions of farmers benefitted.

Secretary Agriculture Punjab Iftikhar Ali Sahoo said that the UAF and Agriculture Extension wheat drive was a hallmark step. He reiterated the government commitment to flourish the agriculture sector. He urged the scientists to address the real issue of the farming community for flourishing the sector. He added that modern technologies must be demonstrated as a step towards agricultural revolutions.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Zulfiqar Ali said while lauding the agricultural initiatives of the Punjab government, said that the agricultural graduate internship, wheat campaign, Kisan package and other schemes are hallmark step for agricultural development. He said that the UAF is striving for agricultural development through excellent manpower, research and outreach. He said that the university was housing the international centers including Pak Korea Nutrition Center, D-8 Center, Confucius Institute, Center for Advanced Studies, and ISTA Seed Lab.

During an interactive session with Deans, Directors and notable scientists at Syndicate Room, the minister and the secretary agriculture were briefed about various development schemes of the varsity scientists for uplifting the agriculture sector.





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How to Apply: Register & submit your essay at: dialog.russia.ru
Submission Deadline: Dec 26, 2025

ONE-DAY TRAINING ON MOLECULAR APPROACHES IN PLANT BREEDING FOR CROP IMPROVEMENT

A one-day training on "Molecular Approaches in Plant Breeding for Crop Improvement" under the Quality Seed Project was organized by National Seed Research and Training Center under the project titled Quality Seed Production and Supply to the Farming Community for Ensuring Food Security in Pakistan. The training was meant to equip participants with modern tools and technologies to accelerate crop breeding and strengthen national food security. NIBGE Chief Scientist Dr Muhammad Arif highlighted how marker-assisted selection accelerates breeding by identifying desirable traits early, enabling quicker development of improved varieties with enhanced precision. Chairman PBG Prof Dr Muhammad Azeem Iqbal Khan, Dr Zahid Mehmood, Associate Prof Dr Iqrar Rana, Dr Muhammad Salman Mubarak, Dr Madiha Habib and Dr Kiran Hameed were also among the speakers.



UAF - RESEARCH TRIUMPHS AND EXPANDING GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS

Congratulations to Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad, on the successful introduction of Chenab LG - Low Gluten Wheat. This groundbreaking achievement stands as a testament to the University's unwavering commitment to pioneering research and fostering meaningful



collaborations. This wheat variety has now been recommended by the Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC) PARC. We take immense pride in this milestone, which is a tangible outcome of two research projects funded by Punjab Agriculture Research Board (PARB).

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali praised remarkable achievement of Dr. Tariq Aziz, Associate Professor (Soil Science), UAF Constituent College at Depalpur-Okara on his re-selection as Regional Director for South Asia by the Steering Committee of the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) for a second 3-year tenure. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali called it a reflection of UAF's growing global leadership in science and innovation. He



congratulated Dr. Tariq Aziz and encouraged all faculty members to continue shaping the future with excellence, stepping confidently into global forums, contributing to their fields, and serving the community with dedication. The Vice-Chancellor emphasized that UAF's faculty must keep Pakistan's flag high through impactful research, strengthening the nation's presence on the world stage.

In Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, a landmark MoU signing ceremony was held under the auspices of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) wherein Prof. Dr. Waqas Wakil Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaz Dean (Assist to the Vice Chancellor) Faculty of Agriculture, and Prof. Dr. Abdul Wakeel, Executive Director Endowment Fund Secretariat represented UAF. The agreement commits USD 10 billion by 2030 to advance Green Skills, Climate-smart Agriculture, and Digital Transformation across the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) region. Building on its ongoing partnerships with CAREC universities and Wageningen University & Research (Netherlands), UAF has already presented proposals focused on curriculum development, regional research, and farmer-centered green-skill training. This partnership strengthens regional cooperation, supports evidence-based policymaking,



empowers youth, and opens pathways for ADB-funded initiatives promoting sustainable, low-carbon agriculture—fully aligned with national vision and UAF's mission for a climate-resilient future.

Dr. Saira Akhtar, a rural sociologist, Associate Professor, ORIC and Focal Person (Social Component), ACIAR funded Research Project "Improving Small Land Holder's Wellbeing through participation in Modern Value Chains: Sustaining Future Growth in Pakistan Citrus Industry" being run at IHS. After winning a Highly Competitive ACIAR Fully-funded Grant, and Dr. Ashan Qureshi, Project Officer of the same project participated "TropAg-2025" Conference at Brisbane, Australia November 11-13, 2025. Dr. Ahsan Qureshi also participated in the Crawford Fund Masterclass on Agricultural Research Leadership and Management held at Penang, Malaysia from November 2 to 8, 2025.

These achievements stand as a testament to the University's unwavering commitment to pioneering research and fostering meaningful collaborations. ORIC looks forward strengthening and flourishing partnership with ACIAR, INI, CAREC and other national and international partners.

SAMPLE ANALYSIS FACILITY BY HEC AND PCSIR



The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has announced the provision of financial support to the research entities in the country for instrumental access under “**Access to Scientific Instrumentation**” and “Data Repository of Scientific Instrumentation” respectively. Maximum funding available for sample analysis to each applicant is **Rs.200,000/year** (i.e. from 1st July to June 30 by HEC) and upto **Rs.500,000/-** by PCSIR.

Research scholars, faculty can submit an application including a summary or description of the research proposal, a copy of the approved research synopsis or proposal, a consent letter obtained from the service provider and a brief profile of the research supervisor through ORIC UAF after endorsement.

Deadline: There is no deadline for these initiatives, researcher can apply through out the year.

Please visit HEC website: <https://ehsaasprogram.pk/hec-scientific-instrumentation-programme/>

Please visit PCSIR website: www.pcsir.gov.pk

Program would also facilitate faculty and research staff who lack scientific instrumental facility

Research scholars, faculty and students of MSc, MS, MPhil, PhD can benefit from this program

FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS

The Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) is committed to fostering a dynamic research ecosystem that champions innovation, promotes commercialization, and celebrates academic excellence. In line with this vision, ORIC is enhancing its outreach through official social media platforms and the ORIC Newsletter to spotlight the remarkable achievements of UAF faculty. These achievements may include national or international awards, highly cited research papers, publications in high-impact journals, consultancy or contract research agreements, submission of policy briefs to government bodies, international training opportunities for students or faculty, return of faculty from overseas training, and the establishment of global academic or industrial linkages.

ORIC encourages all faculty to submit a brief summary of their accomplishments along with a recent passport-size photograph at their earliest convenience. Your stories not only inspire peers and students but also attract potential partners, funding opportunities, and institutional recognition. Together, let's amplify the reach of UAF's research and innovation footprint locally and globally.

Please share your achievements and accomplishments with us on khuram.zia@uaf.edu.pk or mhanifch@uaf.edu.pk



INST. OF HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE HOLDS ONE-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP



A one-day national training workshop/seminar on Prospects of High Efficiency Irrigation System for Quality Citrus Production was organized on November 24, 2025, at Landscape studio, Institute of Horticultural Science, UAF. Students, researchers, and scientists participated in the training session. The workshop was organized on the directions of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali. Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture in his opening remarks said that citrus is one of the major fruit crops worldwide, cultivated in over 140 countries. Sharing his insight into citrus history belonging to UAF he said the country needs to develop disease-free nursery and a Budwood certification system to make citrus varieties free from known graft- and insect-transmitted pathogens. They requested researchers and scientists to work on such an advancement for our farmers, and thanks to the organizers, speakers, and participants. Prof. Dr. Ahmad Sattar Khan, Director, Institute of Horticultural Sciences in his address said that Punjab remains the epicenter of citrus production, contributing a major share to the country's overall output. The province accounts for 94% of Pakistan's total citrus acreage and production. Over the past ten years, the area under citrus cultivation in Punjab has steadily decreased. Dr. Muhammad Azam Associate Professor, IHS, Muhammad Irfan Nawaz, Manager Horticulture, Jaffer Agro Services (HEIS), Shadid Iqbal, Senior Zonal Manager - Center, Jaffer Agro Services delivered their talks on installation, establishment and maintenance of high efficiency drip irrigation system in citrus orchards. This decline can be attributed to the expansion of housing societies, poor grove managements, exotic insects/ pest/ disease incidence, postharvest storage issues, and substandard marketing, etc. Pakistan has a tremendous potential for the expansion of the citrus industry due to the suitability of the soil and climatic conditions for citrus production. The prospects for high-efficiency irrigation systems (HEIS), such as drip irrigation, in revolutionizing Pakistan's citrus sector are substantial yet contingent upon strategic implementation. This training workshop was sponsored under Higher Education Commission project (CPEC_CRG-2-447).

AgriThon 2025

Cultivating ideas for a blue-sky future in Agriculture

Student led startups from UAF, MNS University of Agriculture Multan, and Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi are invited to present innovative ideas, engage in mentorship sessions, and participate in a structured pitch competition

Incentives:

- Opportunity to showcase in ADB Agri Food Forum 2026 for the winning trio
- Certificates for all participants
- Learn Real time mentorship from experts
- Network with innovators and industry professionals

Organized by:

- Business Incubation Center (BIC) & Institute of Business Management Sciences (IBMS), University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Centre for Agriculture & Biosciences International (CABI)



Eligibility:

• Team Composition:

Team comprising 1-2 students enrolled at UAF, PMAS AAU Rawalpindi, MNSUA Multan.

• Criteria:

Each team will bring a standee and brochures of business idea (and product, if possible).

Register NOW

Fill out the Google form

<https://forms.gle/vMp8rZM4T6rGJK997>

OR

Scan the QR Code



Deadline: 04 Dec, 2025



Date and Time:

10 December 2025:

Panel Discussions, Project & Idea Showcase and Mentorship.

11 December 2025:

Pitching Competition and Winner Announcement

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Business Incubation Center (BIC)

VICE CHANCELLOR CAUTIONS - NO MANUAL FILING AFTER DECEMBER 31st, 2025

On the directives of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, an exclusive training session on e-Filing and Office Automation System (e-FOAS) was held at the CAS seminar room, with parallel virtual participation from across the University and its constituent colleges at Toba Tek Singh, Depalpur, and Burewala. The workshop was conducted by PITB SPM Muhammad Naveed Aslam and Project Officer Amar Iftikhar. Among the participants were Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, Registrar Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran, Treasurer Syed Zeeshan Ishfaq Bukhary, and officers from the Registrar's Office, HR, Treasurer's Office, and ORIC. The workshop was attended at various virtual venues by the relevant heads and relevant staff. In his opening address, the Vice Chancellor emphasized the importance of e-filing and office automation, noting that nearly 35 national and provincial organizations including the Punjab Government, CM Secretariat, and SAGAD are already successfully using this platform to enhance efficiency and ensure transparency. He reaffirmed the University's commitment to overcoming challenges and proving its mettle, while appreciating the organizers and PITB team for arranging such a valuable session. He urged participants to gain hands-on experience with the system and ensure its full implementation within the current month, cautioning that from January 1, 2026, his office will no longer entertain manual filing. Mr. Kashif Akram further elaborated on the program's features, announcing that ITRCDB will establish a helpdesk facility at the IT Building to strengthen staff capacity during the operational phase. He added that his team will visit each faculty and directorate to train master trainers at the faculty level, enabling them to cascade the training within their respective offices for other staff members.



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