

# ORIC N

## University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

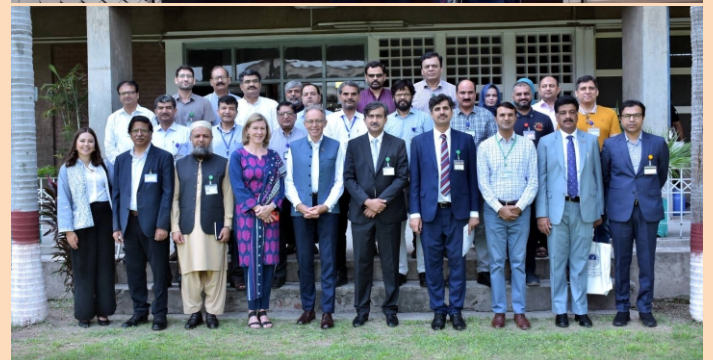
# Newsletter

September 16 to 30, 2025



### AUSTRALIA REAFFIRMS LONGSTANDING AGRICULTURAL PARTNERSHIP WITH UAF

Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Neil Hawkins, reaffirmed Australia's enduring commitment to supporting Pakistan's agricultural development, food security, and collaborative efforts to address climate change during his visit to the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF). During his meeting with UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, senior faculty, directors, and UAF alumni of Australian universities, the High Commissioner highlighted Australia's over four-decade engagement in Pakistan's agriculture sector. "Agriculture and water management are central to climate resilience. Through joint efforts, we can overcome shared challenges" he added. He emphasized that UAF's scientific collaboration with Australian institutions is vital to tackling agricultural and environmental issues. Australia, he noted, remains a key research partner for Pakistan, offering deep expertise in agriculture, livestock



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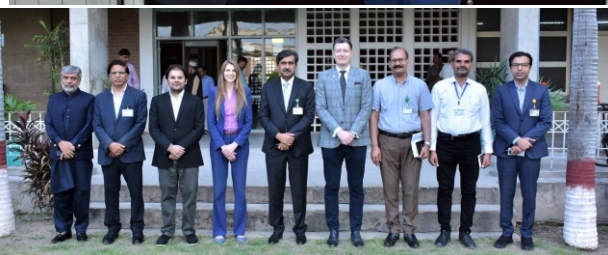




production, and water resource management. The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) continues to work closely with Pakistan to advance research, development, and capacity-building initiatives. Expressing concern over Pakistan's depleting and deteriorating groundwater resources, Mr. Hawkins called for a policy review, particularly in the context of excessive solar pump usage. He praised UAF's academic and research contributions and congratulated Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali for the university's leadership in agricultural innovation. Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali shared that UAF has collaborated with Australian institutions on 29 impactful projects, including value chains in mango, citrus, and pulses. He underscored the urgency of addressing Pakistan's water crisis, citing issues such as declining water quality, floods, and droughts. "Australia's advanced technologies in water conservation and management offer valuable opportunities for enhanced collaboration," he said. He further noted that climate change poses a formidable threat to agriculture, and emphasized the need to accelerate joint efforts to ensure food security for Pakistan's growing population. The Vice Chancellor lauded Australia's continued support in strengthening Pakistan's agricultural sector.

## BRITISH H.C. REAFFIRMS UK-PAKISTAN COLLABORATION IN AGRI. AND RESEARCH

British High Commissioner to Pakistan, H.E. Jane Marriott, visited the varsity and held a meeting with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali, along with deans and directors, to explore avenues of mutual cooperation in agriculture, climate resilience, and academic development. The meeting encompassed a broad spectrum of topics including bilateral collaboration, climate change adaptation, food security, soil health, and the advancement of agriculture and livestock sectors. The High Commissioner expressed the United Kingdom's strong commitment to deepening its partnership with Pakistan, particularly in agricultural innovation and academic exchange. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali highlighted that UAF is currently engaged in 15 UK-funded research projects aimed at addressing critical challenges in the sector. He noted that over 430 female students at undergraduate and postgraduate levels have benefitted from the Scotland-Pakistan Scholarship program, reflecting the UK's support for inclusive education. He further shared that UK-supported initiatives at UAF include projects on desalination of brackish water, entomology outreach, and the development of super-efficient sustainable cooling solutions. "Collaborative research on climate change and soil health is imperative to meet emerging challenges," he emphasized. Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali also underscored UAF's global academic footprint, stating that the university enjoys strong international partnerships and is ranked 34th globally in the subject of Agriculture and Forestry, according to the QS World University Rankings. The visit marked a reaffirmation of shared goals between the UK and Pakistan in promoting sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, and academic excellence.





## UAF GETS FIVE DEANS OF THE FACULTIES

The Governor of Punjab and Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) has appointed five distinguished academics as Deans of the University for a three-year term or until superannuation, whichever is earlier. According to official notifications issued by the Secretary Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Imran Pasha, Director General of the National Institute of Food Science & Technology, has been appointed Dean, Faculty of Food, Nutrition & Home Sciences. Prof. Dr. Waqas Wakil, Director of the Professional Training and Skill Development Centre, will lead the Faculty of Social Sciences. Prof. Dr. Amer Jamil, from the Department of Biochemistry, will serve as Dean, Faculty of Sciences. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Shahid Mehmood, Director of the Institute of Microbiology, will take reins as Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad, from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, will head the Faculty of Health and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali congratulated the newly appointed Deans, expressing confidence in their leadership to further elevate the university's academic, research, and community engagement missions. He noted that each of the appointees brings a wealth of experience and a distinguished record of scholarly contributions that resonate both nationally and internationally. The Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) also conveyed its heartfelt felicitations, anticipating that the new Deans will play a pivotal role in advancing the university's research and development excellence. These appointments mark a significant step in strengthening UAF's academic leadership and reaffirm its commitment to innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and global impact. Meanwhile, ORIC staff including Dr. Saira Akhtar Associate Prof., ORIC, Dr. Khuram Zia, Manager Research Management, Dr. Humaira Razzaq Deputy Director ORIC, Ms Aisha Arshad, Manager Rankings & Incentives, Mr. Muhammad Hanif Chahdhry Admin Officer and others arranged a session with newly appointed Dean, Faculty of Health & Pharmaceutical Sciences Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad and extended their heartfelt felicitations on his elevation as Dean of the Faculty. Registrar Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran, Deputy Registrar Mr. Hassan, Lecturer UAF Constituent College at TT Singh Dr. Auon Hassan also attended the session.



## STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO BUILD BUSINESSES, NOT JUST CAREERS

In light of the highly competitive Pakistani job market, students should strive hard to become job creators rather than job seekers to ensure a promising future and make endeavour to establish a side-line business, as one should not be limited to a single source of income. This was stated by Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC University of Agriculture (UAF) Faisalabad, while opening an orientation session for the "12th Tameer Awards 2025- Road Show," organized by Business Incubation Center (BIC), here at DLC-II. He noted that, under the Vice Chancellor's vision, the BIC provides students with mentorship, access to equipment and laboratory facilities, a free co-working space, and opportunities to participate in both national and global competitions. He also encouraged final-year students to join the BIC to learn how to commercialize and scale up their business ideas.

Mr. Imran Azeem, Manager of Training and Development at Tameer Trust, briefed the participants on the award categories and application process. He highlighted several market gaps and encouraged students to develop solutions to these, particularly within the fields of clean energy, the circular economy, women's empowerment, and transport and mobility. The event successfully re-emphasised the importance of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and reinforced UAF's standing as a centre for knowledge-driven innovation and entrepreneurship.





## CROP SPECIFIC TRAINING ON SUGARCANE



Engro Learning Centre successfully organized a crop-specific training session on sugarcane production and management. Experts from the Sugarcane Research Institute (AARI) shared their insights on sustainable practices, fertilizer efficiency, and modern agronomic techniques.

Students actively participated, gaining hands-on knowledge, while Prof. Dr. Shahid Ibne Zamir, Director farms, graced the session as the Chief Guest. The training fostered meaningful discussions on challenges and opportunities in sugarcane cultivation, strengthening collaboration between researchers, students, and stakeholders.

## FOCUS GROUP SESSION AT ENGRO LEARNING CENTRE

Engro Learning Centre, in collaboration with the Marketing Excellence Team EFERT, organized a focus group session with female students from university of agriculture Faisalabad. The session proved to be highly interactive and insightful, with active participation from the students. The team from Marketing Services played a key role, engaging the students throughout the discussions and encouraging them to share their perspectives.

Through one-to-one interactions, the students and the marketing team explored ideas, exchanged views, and discussed opportunities related to female participation in the agriculture dealership market. This fruitful dialogue not only highlighted the challenges and aspirations of young female students but also opened doors for potential initiatives to support and empower women in this field.





## UAF HOSTS STAKEHOLDER MEETING TO ADVANCE QUALITY SEED PRODUCTION

In a proactive move to address the widening gap between certified seed demand and declining crop yields, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) convened a high-level meeting of seed stakeholders aimed at enhancing the availability of quality seed through robust academic-industry partnerships.

Presiding over the meeting held at the Syndicate Room, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zulfiqar Ali emphasized the transformative role of certified seeds in boosting crop productivity, disease resistance, and overall agricultural output. "Certified seeds are pivotal to ensuring food security and improving farmer livelihoods. Yet, many farmers remain unable to have access to quality seeds," he noted. He further shared that UAF has launched a strategic initiative to scale up seed production and distribution under academic-industry collaboration, introducing new heat-tolerant varieties of wheat, soybeans, brassica, okra, maize, industrial hemp, chickpea, quinoa, sorghum, mango, citrus, cotton, and more.

Scientific Director Dr. Muhammad Tehseen Azhar highlighted that under the university's Seed Project, a comprehensive plan has been developed to propagate high-quality seeds for improved yield outcomes. He added that the meeting brought together key industry stakeholders to deliberate on viable business models for seed commercialization.

Director ORIC Prof. Dr. Muhammad Imran Arshad underscored the foundational importance of seed quality, stating, "Seed is the cornerstone of agricultural production. Any compromise on its quality directly threatens food security."

Director of the Business Incubation Center Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad shared that UAF is actively co-developing business models with industry partners to ensure that certified seeds are effectively marketed and reach farmers' fields, thereby enhancing productivity and addressing sectoral challenges. Dr. Khuram Zia presented various seed-related business frameworks, while Chairman of Plant Breeding and Genetics Dr. Azeem Iqbal Khan and other distinguished participants also contributed valuable insights. The meeting reaffirmed UAF's commitment to agricultural innovation, sustainable development, and strategic collaboration for national food security.



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Vice Chancellor

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