

Iftikhar Ahmad, Ph.D., Postdoc

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Personal Biodata

Father's Name : MUSHTAQ AHMAD
Qualification : Ph.D. (Horticulture/Floriculture), Postdoc (Floriculture)
D. O. Birth : August 14, 1978
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Education

Ph. D. (Floriculture) 2009

1st Division (83%) with **4.00/4.00 C.G.P.A**

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan

(IRSIP Research fellowship, **University of Queensland, Australia**)

Title “**Production potential and postharvest management of cut rose flowers in Punjab (Pakistan)**”

M. Sc. (Hons.) Agric. (Floriculture & Landscape) 2002

1st Division (88.6%) with **4.00/4.00 C.G.P.A and SILVER MEDAL**

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

Title “**Efficacy of different doses on nitrogen on growth, development and leaf N contents of turfgrasses**”

Positions

- **Professor (Floriculture and Landscape)** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **03-10-2024** to to-date.
- **Associate Professor (Floriculture and Landscape)** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **28-10-2021** to **03-10-2024**.
- **Assistant Professor (Floriculture and Landscape)** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **21-04-2014** to **28-10-2021**.
- **Postdoc Fellow/Research Specialist (Floriculture Research)** at Department of Horticultural Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC-27695, USA from **March 2011** to **March 2014**.

- **Assistant Professor (Floriculture and Landscape)** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **04-01-2010** to **07-03-2011**.
- **Lecturer (Floriculture and Landscape)** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **05-09-2005** to **03-01-2010**.
- **Lecturer (Floriculture and Landscape)/ Subject Specialist** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **27-05-2004** to **31-08-2005**.
- **Teacher (per lecture basis)** in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **12-12-2003** to **27-05-2004**.
- **Research Fellow** in the Project Entitled “**Export Quality Cut Flower Production and Essential Oil Extraction of Rosa**” in Institute of Horticultural Sciences, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad from **02-05-2002** to **12-12-2003**.

Publications

A) Research papers	IF Jounrals	(66)
	HEC Recognized journals	(50)
B) Conference proceedings papers/abstracts		(136)
C) Trade Journal Articles		
a. International		(11)
b. National Newspapers		(09)
D) Books/ Booklets/Broachers		
a. International		(02)
b. National		(15)
E) Book Chapters		(07)
F) Proceedings		(02)
G) Research Papers Reviewed		(>100)
H) Practical Manuals		(06)
I) Patents		
i. Ahmad, I., M.A. Sajjad, S. Rasool and K. Ziaf. 2021. A low cost novel indigenous organic soilless substrate for containerized plant production. (Patent # 143872).		
J) Landscape Consultancies		
i. Horticulture Consultant, Botanic Garden, Governor House, Lahore, from 2014-2019.		
ii. Horticulture/Landscape consultant, Faisalabad Development Authority, Faisalabad. Feb.-2022 – to-Aug. 2022		
iii. Floriculture Consultant, AgriFlora (Pvt.) Ltd. Awagat (Feb. 2026- to-date)		

- iv. Advisor PHA Landscape upgradation project at Railway Station, Faisalabad, 2017
- v. Team Leader UAF Landscape designing team, Sahiwal Coal Power Plant, 2017
- vi. Landscape Designer, Sarwar Foundation Memorial Park, Peer Mahal
- vii. Landscape consultant, Mumtaz Khan Manais Agri Farm, Vehari
- viii. Team member, UAF Landscape Upgradation, Faisalabad
- ix. Focal Person Floriculture Capacity Building Trainings, Establishment of Model Farms Project, Government of Punjab (2019 and 2022)

K) Flower Varieties Developed & Registered by FSC&RD

- i. *Calendula officinalis* ‘Golden Princess’ (2021)
- ii. *Calendula officinalis* ‘Golden Beauty’ (2021)
- iii. *Rosa centifolia* ‘UAF’ (2023)

L) Research Achievements/Technologies Developed/Commercialized

- i. **New Specialty Cut Flowers**, viz. Matthiola, Antirrhinum, Delphinium, Helianthus, Celosia, Lisianthus, Ornamental kale and Craspeadea
- ii. **UAF-Gro** – A Local sustainable organioc soilless substrate for containerized plant production (**Patented**)
- iii. **Development of Flower Production Statistics of Punjab, Pakistan**
- iv. ***Rosa centifolia*- UAF**, A new strain of rose which is high yielding and best for commercial production and value addition
- v. Development and registration of two Calendula varieties, viz. “**Golden Princess**” and “**Golden Beauty**” with FSC&RD (2021).

Popular articles

- b. **Local Trade Magazines/Horticultural Societies publications** (33)
- c. **Agricultural Magazines/ Newspapers (URDU)** (74)

M) TV/ Radio Talks (09)

Talks

- A) **International Conferences/ Workshops** (22)
- B) **National Conferences/ Workshops** (26)
- C) **Companies/ Organizations/ Growers** (18)

Advisory services/ Supervision Experience

A) Postgraduate students

Ph.D.

As supervisor

- 03 Completed
- 03 In Progress

As committee member

- 01 Completed
- 01 In Progress

M.Sc. (Hons.) (until Dec. 2025)

As supervisor

- 88 Completed
- 10 In Progress

As committee member

- 80 Completed
- 04 In Progress

Funding Grants

A) International

- Effects of Postharvest PGR Application on Vase Life, Quality, and Leaf/Stem Chlorosis of Cut Gladiolus and Lily. 2013. Joseph H. Hill Memorial Foundation, Inc. & International Cut Flower Growers Association, USA. US\$ 8,500. **(PI) (Completed)**
- Developing effective homemade floral preservatives for extending postharvest longevity of specialty cut flowers. 2013. Association of Speciality Cut Flower Growers Research Foundation. US\$ 1,200.00. **(PI) (Completed)**

B) National

- Export quality cut flower production & essential oil extraction of *Rosa* (Phase-II). July, 2005-June, 2009. Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of Pakistan. PKR. 21.093 Million **(Co-PD) (Completed)**
- Developing production and postharvest protocols of potential native and exotic specialty cut flower and cut foliage crops for diversification of floriculture industry. December 2016- December 2019. NRPU 4946. Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan. PKR. 2.088 million **(PI) (Completed)**
- Development of sustainable soilless substrate for containerized nursery production of ornamental plants. October 2016- October 2019. Endowment Fund Secretariat, UAF. PKR. 3.087 Million **(PI) (Completed)**
- Developing production protocols for Exotic glamour gladiolus cultivars. Academia-Industry Linkage project. Greenworks Lahore. July 2016-June 2017. PKR. 0.200 Million **(PI) (Completed)**
- Demographic analysis and development of statistics of cut flower industry of Pakistan for future policy implications. January 2018 – January 2019. NRPU 6442. Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan. PKR. 0.708 million **(PI) (Completed)**
- Developing production protocols for exotic gladiolus cultivars. Academia-Industry Linkage project. Greenworks Lahore. November 2017-October 2018. PKR. 0.500 Million **(PI) (Completed)**
- Establishing production protocols for potential bulbous crops for cut flowers. NRPU 3435. Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan. PKR. 5.7 million **(PI). (Completed)**
- Supply Chain Management of Cut Flowers Through Developing Optimal Postharvest Handling Protocols. Agricultural Linkage Program, PARC, Islamabad. February, 2022 – February 2025. PKR. 4.432 million. **(PI). (Completed)**

- ix. Promotion of Floriculture Industry Through Diversification, Value Addition and Supply Chain Management. Punjab Agricultural Research Board, Lahore. February, 2022 – January, 2025. PKR. 11.930 Million **(PM) (Completed)**
- x. Enhancing Indigenous Flower Seed Production Through Optimizing Production and Handling Protocols and Human Resource Development. NRPU 2021. Higher Education Commission, Islamabad, Pakistan. PKR. 6.876 million **(PI)** June, 2023 – June 2026.

International Collaborations/MoUs

- Signed an MoU as focal person with PUM netherlands and Greenworks Pakistan, on May 16, 2017, for capacity building of floriculture stakeholders (May, 2017 to May 2019).
- Collaborative research program with North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA, for specialty cut flower evaluation and introduction in Pakistan.

National Collaborations/MoUs

- Signed an MoU as focal person with North Naturals (Pvt.) Ltd., Chitral for promotion of floriculture production & value addition in KPK
- Collaborative commercialization program of specialty cut flowers and soilless substrate with AgriFlora (pvt.) Ltd. Awagat, Jaranwala, Faisalabad.

Awards/ Honors

- **Silver Medal** in M. Sc. (Hons.)
- **Better Incentives Award UAF 2008**
- **Research Productivity Award 2012**
- **Research Productivity Award 2014**
- **Star Award 2003**
- **HEC Approved Supervisor**
- **Certificate of Excellence** in M. Sc. (Hons.) for getting 4:00/4:00 CGPA
- **University Merit Scholarship** during M. Sc. (Hons.) for consecutive two years
- **IRSIP scholarship for 6-months overseas training** on postharvest management of cut flowers at center for Native floriculture, UQ, Australia.
- **EFS scholarship for 4-months overseas training** on postharvest management of cut flowers at deptt. of Horticultural Sciences, NCSU, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- **Certificate of Teaching Techniques (CITT). 2012.** Office of Postdoc Affairs, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- **Certificate of Reflective Teaching. 2013.** Office of Faculty Development. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- **Certificate of Intensive English Language. 2013.** Office of International studies. North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, USA.
- **Certificates of appreciation** for active participation in arrangement of various university functions, workshops and symposiums.
- **Certificate of honor from Governor Punjab** for active participation in development of university sub-campus at T.T. Singh.
- **Postdoc Fellowship** from NCSU, USA from March 2011 to March 2014.

Management Experience

- **Director, Business Incubation Center**, UAF, from January 23, 2024 to October, 30, 2025.
- **Focal Person, STZA Agri-Tech Park**, UAF, from May 2024 to October, 30, 2025.
- **Associate Director, Students Affairs**, UAF, from May 10, 2022 to to-date.
- **Deputy Director, Students Affairs**, UAF, from February, 2017 to May 10, 2022.
- **Section Editor (Postharvest Floriculture)**, Ornamental Horticulture, Brazil, from July, 2021 to to-date.
- **Section Editor (Floriculture)**, Journal of Horticultural Science & Technology, from 2018 to 2024.
- **Managing Editor, HortiMag**, A magazine published bi-annually by PSHS from 2015 to to-date.
- **Convener, Hort Club, IHS**, UAF, since its establishment in January, 2020 to to-date.
- **Incharge, Green Youth Movement Club**, UAF, since Jan. 2022 to to-date.
- **Co-Incharge, Botanic Garden, Governor House, Lahore**, from March 2014 to November 2018.
- **Convener, Autumn Flower Shows**, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, from 2015 to 2025.
- **Incharge, Roses and Cut Flower Research Area, IHS**, UAF, from March, 2014 to October, 2019.
- **Incharge, Floriculture Research Area, IHS**, UAF, from April 2015 to March, 2016, and November, 2018 to October, 2019, and August, 2021 to to-date.
- **CO-PROJECT DIRECTOR** in the project entitled “**Export Quality Cut Flower Production and Essential Oil Extraction of Rosa**” (Phase II).
- **Incharge, Rose Research Area**, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, U.A.F., from 12-12-2003 to March 2011.
- **Secretary, Board of Studies, Institute of Horticultural Sciences**, from September, 2010 to March, 2011 and Jan. 2023 to to-date.
- **Assistant Superintendent, Ayub Hall**, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, from 03-08-2002 to 01-08-2006.
- **Manager, Fruit Plant Nursery**, Institute of Horticultural Sciences, from 01-08-2005 to 15-01-2007 and 09-09-08 to 15-03-2009.
- **Founding Coordinator, Pakistan Society of Horticultural Sciences**, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad since its establishment in 2004 to 2018.
- **Deputy Superintendent**, Annual examinations of **B. Com and M.C.S.** of colleges affiliated with U. A. F. at **M.C.C.S. & Scholars college, Rawalpindi**.
- **Convener, Recreation Committee** and member transport, Accommodation, Advertisement and Refreshment committee during various International and National symposiums and functions at Univ. of Agriculture, Faisalabad.
- Member of Flower show organizing and evaluation committees organized by various private and Government organizations.
- Management of **Flower Festivals 2008 & 2009** at Univ. of Agric., FSD.

Societies Affiliation

- **Pakistan Society of Horticultural Sciences**
Founding Coordinator (2004-2018)
- **Pakistan Society for Horticultural Science**
Founding General Secretary (Feb., 2016 – April 2018)
Finance Secretary (Feb., 2020 to to-date)
- **International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS)**
Active member (2026)
- **UAF Horticulture Club**
Founding Convener (Jan., 2020 – to-date)
- **Green Youth Movement Club, UAF**
Incharge (Jan., 2022 – to-date)

Organization of Conferences/Workshops/Trainings (22)

Indigenous Conferences Participation (41)

References Available upon request