



CAMPUS NEWS

Directorate of Public Relations & Publications

Vol: 05 | Issue: 17-18 | Sep-2025



Arid University's NCIB holds SIAB Meeting and Signs Strategic MoUs



The PSDP-funded project "Establishment of National Center of Industrial Biotechnology (NCIB) for Pilot Manufacturing of Bio-products Using Synthetic Biology and Metabolic Engineering Technologies" at Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) convened the 2nd meeting of its Scientific and Industrial Advisory Board (SIAB) to review progress, outline future directions, and strengthen academia-industry collaboration.

On the occasion, NCIB signed strategic MoUs with M/S Shimadzu & Wali Group, M/S Biotyne, M/S

Orbit Seeds Pvt. Ltd., and M/S Infinity Grow Pvt. Ltd. These partnerships aim to enhance research and development, facilitate field trials, and accelerate the commercialization of innovative bioproducts.

Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR, Prof. Dr. Qamar uz Zaman, highlighted that the establishment of NCIB reflects the joint commitment of the University's Project Team, Project Director, Director P&D, and Director ORIC toward advancing applied research and fostering strong industry linkages to strengthen Pakistan's bio-economy and

sustainable agricultural growth. Technical Director NCIB, Prof. Dr. Abida Raza, presented the Center's roadmap and sustainability plan, highlighting strategies for industry partnerships, specialized training programs under NCIB-Scientific Skill Development Program Initiative (SSDPI), and provision of advanced analytical and technical services to academia, industry, and farmers. The SIAB members commended NCIB's vision and reaffirmed their support for its initiatives to strengthen technology transfer and promote industrial biotechnology in Pakistan.



Fine Arts Department Established at Arid University

Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) has taken a significant step towards broadening its academic horizons with the establishment of the Department of Fine Arts (Art & Design). Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman formally inaugurated the Fine Arts Department and highlighted the importance of fine arts in holistic education and cultural development. Deans, Directors, Chairpersons, Faculty



Members and a large number of students were also present at the occasion. In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman said that artists have used agriculture as a subject to express cultural values, honor the cycles of nature, and document rural life. He further noted that fine arts not only celebrate farming communities but also play a vital role in preserving agricultural heritage and raising awareness on environmental and sustainability issues. Dr. Aneela Afzal, Chairperson of the newly established department said that 4-Year Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program is designed to expose students to a wide range of artistic disciplines while deepening their understanding of diverse cultures, histories and world views.

Arid University Organized Orientation Sessions for New Students

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman emphasizes commitment to Modern Facilities and Quality Education



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) organized a series of Orientation Sessions to warmly welcome newly admitted students from various faculties and institutes. The sessions were graced by the worthy Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman along with the Registrar, Deans, Directors, and Principal Officers of the university. The purpose of the orientation was to familiarize students with university rules and regulations, academic programs, campus resources and student support services.

While addressing, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman said that we are delighted to welcome you all at the prestigious and leading University of the Pakistan. Our goal is to ignite your passion for learning and provide a stimulating academic environment that supports innovation and personal growth. PMAS-AAUR is committed to offering state-of-the-art facilities and a healthy, inclusive environment where students can thrive and achieve their dreams. The Vice Chancellor also emphasized the university's dedication to academic excellence

and student development across all disciplines.

During the sessions, Deans, Directors, and Principal Officers briefed students on faculty-specific information and introduced key university policies and support structures. To ensure a smooth transition for new students, information desks were established at all faculties and institutes, providing personalized guidance and assistance. Faculty and administrative staff were also on hand to answer questions and support students throughout the day.

PMAS-AAUR and British Council Collaborate to Empower Youth



PMAS-AAUR and British Council Pakistan collaborate to Empower Youth through Pakistan Youth Leadership Initiative (PYLI) project. This collaboration aims to foster leadership, capacity building, and social responsibility among university students. A meeting chaired by PMAS-AAUR's Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman was held to discuss the project's implementation and explore avenues for collaboration.

The session focused on introducing the PYLI project, defining the university's role in delivering leadership training to the members of GYM Club and identifying further opportunities for partnership and support.

Addressing the meeting, the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman expressed his strong commitment to work hand-in-hand with the British Council for

the success of the PYLI project. He emphasized that the university will actively facilitate the training and development of university students to build a new generation of socially responsible and empowered youth. The British Council representatives Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed and Mr. Aun Naqvi appreciated the university's proactive approach and assured continuous support in advancing the objectives of the PYLI project.

Approval of Two New Crop Varieties



In a significant achievement for PMAS-AAUR, two crop varieties Pothwar-Matar and Arid Okra-25 developed by Dr. Rashid Mehmood Rana, Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics, have been approved by the Variety Evaluation Committee (VEC), country's prestigious forum for varietal recommendation/approval. Both varieties secured top positions in national trials, showcasing their strength and adaptability. Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-

Zaman emphasized the university's commitment to fostering a strong research culture alongside quality education. He highlighted that the development of new, high-yielding varieties of these two crops marks a significant breakthrough in the

field of agriculture, with far-reaching impacts on food security, farmer prosperity, and national economic growth. He extended his heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Rashid Mahmood Rana and his entire research team.



VC PMAS-AAUR visited Pakistan's First Livestock Center

Vice Chancellor Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman visited the newly constructed building of the Pakistan's First National Center for Livestock Breeding, Genetics & Genomics (NCLBG&G), located at Main GT Road, Rawat accompanied by the Registrar, Deans,



Directors and Faculty Members of the University. During the detailed visit, the Vice Chancellor inspected various laboratories, classrooms, and modern equipment installed at the center. Dr. Muhammad Kamran, Director P&D and Dr. Ghulam Bilal, Central Project Director provided a comprehensive briefing on the facility's features and ongoing minor finishing works, which are expected to be completed within the next month. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman appreciated the dedicated efforts of the Project Team and the support provided by allied departments of the University. He emphasized the need for establishing such specialized centers across Pakistan to strengthen the livestock sector, enhance productivity, and contribute meaningfully to the national GDP. He highlighted that the facility is one of its own kind at the national level and will serve as a hub for postgraduate students and researchers to carry out advanced studies in livestock breeding, genetics, and genomics.



A Seerat conference held at Arid University in connection of the Eid Milad-un-Nabi



Chairman PHEC Prof. Dr. Iqbal A. Khan and a team from Pharmacy Council of Pakistan (PCP) visited PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

Directorate of Public Relations & Publications (PRP)

Dr. Nadeem Ahmad Malik (Principal Officer, PRP) nadeem.malik@uaar.edu.pk

Website: www.uaar.edu.pk

Muhammad Musa Kalim (Public Relations Officer, PRP) pro@uaar.edu.pk

Facebook: [uaarofficial](https://www.facebook.com/uaarofficial), Twitter: [uaarofficial](https://twitter.com/uaarofficial)