



# CAMPUS NEWS

Directorate of Public Relations & Publications

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## Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Appointed & Assumed the Charge of Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR

Dr. Zaman previously served as the University's VC from 2019 to 2023.

Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, Professor and Precision Agriculture Research Chair, Engineering Department Faculty of Agriculture Dalhousie University Canada has appointed as Vice Chancellor of Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR), and assumed his office, here on February 03, 2025.

The Governor Punjab/Chancellor of the PMAS-AAUR, on Monday appointed Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman as Vice-Chancellor of the varsity. Earlier, Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman also served as the Vice Chancellor of PMAS-AAUR from 2019 to 2022. During his period, the PMAS-AAUR not only was listed in the best universities of the globe in the field of agriculture but also emerged as a hub of research, agriculture and academic activities.

Dr. Zaman joined Dalhousie University Canada as Associate Professor in 2010 and was appointed as professor in 2014. He also served Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro Canada as Machinery Systems Research Chair/Assistant Professor, University of Agricultural and Technology Japan as JSPS-NSERC Research Fellow, University of Florida USA as Post-Doctoral Fellow and University of Agriculture Faisalabad as Assistant Professor, lecturer and Research Officer.

Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman has a remarkable academic career throughout his education. He got a JSPS-NSERC Research Fellow in Precision Agriculture (PA) from Tokyo University of Agri and Tech. Japan, Post-Doctoral Fellow from PA University of Florida USA, Doctorate Degree from PA University of Newcastle upon Tyne UK and BSC & MSC degree in Agri. Engineering from University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Dr. Qamar is also recipient of the prestigious Glenn Downing Award in 2014 by the Canadian Society for Bioengineering (CSBE/SCGAB) in recognition of outstanding work in industry, teaching, research and extension in the area of machinery systems. He also received an award in 2015 from University of Florida in recognition of outstanding contributions in the development of variable rate sprayer system and method of variably applying agrochemicals.

He is author of two chapters of two different books and also has a credit of two patents Zaman, Q. U., Y. K. Chang, A. W. Schumann. 2013. "Variable rate sprayer system and method of variably applying agrochemicals". US Patent Publication No. 8488874 B2 and Zaman, Q. U., Y. K. Chang, A. W. Schumann. 2014. "Variable rate sprayer system and method of variably applying agrochemicals". Canadian Patent No. 2,740,503 C.



He is author of more than 200 research publications including research papers, review & popular articles, extension bulletins, technical reports and has supervised a large number of graduate students and researchers. He also served as referee to review research projects, books, articles, research papers, for various journals / organizations.

## Vice Chancellor Visited University Sub-Campus Attock

Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman visited the university's Attock sub-campus to review ongoing developmental projects. He emphasized that the university administration would not tolerate delays or obstacles in developmental projects. He issued special directives for the immediate completion of pending civil works that have hindered the campus's progress. Reaffirming the commitment to starting academic activities, he stated, "InshaAllah, admissions at Attock campus will commence from September 2025." During the visit, the university's Works Department



briefed the Vice Chancellor on progress, highlighting that the admin block and library building are fully ready. They assured that remaining pending projects would be completed urgently on a priority basis. He further stressed the need

to align the campus with contemporary educational demands. Research laboratories, a well-equipped library, high-speed internet, and modern facilities will be expedited to ensure students access to cutting-edge resources.

## Hands-On Workshop on Solar Cell Materials and Design

A workshop titled "Empowering the Future: Hands-On Workshop on Solar Cell Materials and Design" was organized by the Department of Physics and the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Sciences, PMAS-AAUR. The event brought together students, researchers, and professionals to delve into the advancements in solar cell technology through

hands-on training, crucial for equipping participants with practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge. This workshop has significantly contributed to the practical skills of participants, enhancing their potential to lead future innovations in renewable energy, raising a deeper understanding of solar cell technologies.



## Training Courses on Intensive R Programming and Genomic Data Analyses

A group of aspiring biology scientists have successfully completed intensive R programming and Genomic data analyses training courses, making a significant milestone in their journey of data analysis. The courses, organized by Scientia Sphere in collaboration with PMAS-AAUR, spanned two weeks and covered essential topics such as data manipulation, statistical analysis, data visualization, and genomic analyses by using R. The training program, led by Dr. M. Moeen-ud-Din, provided hands-on experience with real-world datasets, enabling participants to apply their recently developed skills to practical scenarios. Prof. Dr. Arfan Yousaf, Dean FV & AS, chief guest of closing ceremony said that the demand for R programming skills continues to grow across industries, from healthcare and finance to marketing and academia. This training course has equipped participants with the tools they need to thrive in a data-driven world.



## A Dialogue on Developing Competitive Seed Sector for Enhancing Agriculture Productivity

A dialogue on developing competitive seed sector for enhancing agricultural productivity was held at PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority (NSDRA). The event provided an opportunity to facilitate knowledge exchange and encourage collaboration between scientists and private seed companies to form consortia for seed development and marketing. Through collective action and a commitment to innovation, the event promoted seed development and marketing initiatives to enhance food security and

agricultural productivity. Director General Strategic Projects, Maj General Shahid Nazir (Retd) was Chief Guest of the Ceremony, Prof. Dr Qamar Uz Zaman, Vice Chancellor PMAS-UAAR, Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, EX VC UAF Faisalabad and Prof. Dr. Asif Ali Khan (T.I), chairperson NSDRA, also shared their views. A large number of national and international agriculture experts from the public and private sector also participated in the Dialogue. It was concluded during the day-long discussion that Innovations in plant breeding and adoption of high-quality seeds, paired with

responsible stewardship, are pivotal in enhancing the productivity of food and industrial crops. These advancements play a critical role in securing food and nutritional needs while simultaneously increasing farm incomes and export opportunities. Globally recognized standards for seed quality, production, and supply systems are fundamental to establishing a vibrant and sustainable seed sector. The dialogue focused on addressing challenges in the seed sector while exploring opportunities for sustainable development and growth.



## Three-Day Halal Lead Auditor Course

Speakers stressed the importance of halal certification in the Pakistani food industry and emphasized that halal certification is essential for ensuring food quality at both local and international levels. They stated this while addressing at the three day "Halal Lead Auditor Course" held PMAS-AAUR. The course was organized by the Institute of Food and Nutritional



Sciences (IFNS) of PMAS-AAUR in collaboration with the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America (IFANCA), with an aim to train professionals for development, processing, and auditing of halal food in the country and abroad. The course was attended by representatives from the industry, academia, Punjab Food Authority (PFA), Islamabad Food Authority (IFA), and students from various institutions. The participants expressed their appreciation for the collaborative efforts of IFNS, ORIC, and IFANCA in organizing the course and termed it a significant step toward promoting halal food certification in Pakistan.



Students from Northwest A&F University, China meet with Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman



Hands-on Training Workshop on UAV for Data Acquisition, Data Processing, Mapping & Analysis Technology

## Workshop on Value Addition of Tomatoes and Mangoes

A workshop on the value addition of tomatoes and mangoes was held at Bahauddin Zakariya University (BZU), Multan, as part of the ACIAR project "Food Loss Mitigation in Tomato and Mango Value Chains in Pakistan and Sri Lanka." Dr. Aneela Afzal from PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi organized the training, and Dr. Azra Yasmeen led the session for the women's group. The workshop focused on empowering women by imparting practical skills in value addition for mangoes and tomatoes. The session covered techniques to process and preserve

these fruits, enabling participants to create marketable products and reduce post-harvest losses.



## Training on Pre and Post-Harvest Loss Reduction of Tomato and Mango Value Chains

A workshop on "Training on Pre- and Post-Harvest Loss Reduction of Tomato and Mango Value Chains" was conducted at Shakeel Mahay Farm, Multan, with a group of mango farmers. The event was organized under the ACIAR project "Food Loss Mitigation in Tomato and Mango Value Chains in Pakistan and Sri Lanka" by Dr. Aneela Afzal, Associate Professor of Agri. Ext. at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, and Prof. Dr. Nazim Hussain, Dean of Agricultural Sciences and Technology BZU. Multan. Bayer conducted training on its preventive strategies

to reduce pre- and post-harvest losses in mango and tomato. The session focused on key topics, including mango diseases and insect infestations.



### PhD Passout

**Muhammad Sajjad s/o Ghulam Rasool (18-arid-7)**

PhD Plant Pathology, Supervisor: Prof. Dr. M. Inam-ul-Haq

### Title of Thesis

Surveillance and Characterization of root infecting fungi of Groundnut and their management by rhizobacteria

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