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Faculty Development Program (Training of Trainers – ToT) Advancing Social Entrepreneurship in Agriculture for Sustainable Peace Building



Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (PMAS-AAUR) in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) successfully concluded a comprehensive Faculty Development Program (Training of Trainers – ToT) titled "Advancing Social Entrepreneurship in Agriculture for Sustainable Peace Building." The initiative was aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of faculty members while promoting innovative approaches to agricultural entrepreneurship, youth empowerment & sustainable peace.

Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Division Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi graced the ceremony as Chief Guest, while Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I.) attended as the Guest of Honour. The disting-

uished guests were warmly welcomed by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman along with deans, directors, faculty members and university officials.

Addressing the participants, Federal Minister Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi emphasized the importance of faculty development initiatives in strengthening higher education institutions and preparing future generations to address national challenges. He said that such professional training programs significantly contribute to the intellectual growth of faculty members and ultimately improve the quality of education.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman HEC Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar (S.I.) highlighted the central role of universities as engines of innovation, technological advancement, and socio-economic develop-

ment. He encouraged both students and faculty members to actively participate in competitive research initiatives and international fellowship programs.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman expressed his gratitude to UNODC and all stakeholders for their unwavering support, dedication, commitment and tireless efforts in making the program a success. He emphasized that faculty development programs are essential for improving teaching methodologies, academic excellence and institutional performance.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between PMAS-AAUR and the Ministry of National Heritage & Culture Division to establish a framework for long-term institutional collaboration.



Arid University and DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi Signed MoU

PMAS-AAUR and DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi (DHAI-R) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering collaboration in horticulture, sustainable landscaping, orchard development and community-based green initiatives. The signing ceremony was held at PMAS-AAUR and MoU was formally signed by Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, Vice Chancellor PMAS-AAUR and Brig. (r) Khurram Javed, Secretary DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman stated that the partnership reflects the University's commitment to translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions for society. He said that this MoU represents an important step towards bridging academia and



industry for sustainable environmental development. The partnership is also expected to facilitate knowledge exchange, capacity building and the adoption of modern horticultural technologies for the benefit of the wider community.

Under the agreement, PMAS-AAUR and DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi will collaborate on the

development of fruit orchards and the enhancement of landscaping across DHAI-R areas.

In addition, the both organizations will jointly organize Fruit Galas within DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi to showcase local produce, encourage community participation, and promote awareness about healthy and sustainable agricultural practices.

Grapes Gala Organized by DHA Islamabad-Rawalpindi and Department of Horticulture, PMAS-AAUR



Academic Council Approves New Academic Initiatives to Enhance Employability and Entrepreneurship

The 81st meeting of the Academic Council of PMAS-AAUR was held under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman. The meeting was attended by the Registrar, Deans, Directors and the faculty members. The Academic Council approved the minutes of the 80th Academic



Council meeting and reviewed various academic matters. During the meeting, several new degree programs were approved which have been designed in accordance with the emerging needs of industry and are specifically focused on skill-based education. The Council emphasized that AI education should become an integral part of every academic program to prepare students for the rapidly evolving technological landscape. Addressing the meeting, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman advised all Deans and Directors to facilitate students within the framework of academic regulations and further strengthen skill-based education and research activities. He emphasized the importance of enhancing students' practical competencies, innovation, and research capabilities to meet national and international challenges.

Arid University Successfully Conducts 1st Entry Test for UG Admissions Fall-2026

PMAS-AAUR successfully conducted its 1st Entry Test for Undergraduate Admissions Fall-2026, attracting an overwhelming response from aspiring students across the country. Thousands of candidates participated in the examination, reflecting the university's growing reputation as one of Pakistan's leading institutions of higher education.



In addition to the examination held at the University's Main Campus (Rawalpindi), the entry test was simultaneously conducted in 14 cities to facilitate students from diverse regions of Pakistan. The designated test centers included Attock, Khushab, Chakwal, Gujrat, Mandi Bahauddin, Lahore, Faisalabad, Sahiwal, Burewala, Multan, Rajanpur, Bhalwal, Skardu and Gilgit enabling candidates to appear closer to their hometowns and minimizing the burden of long-distance travel.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman reaffirmed the University's commitment to providing quality education through highly qualified faculty, state-of-the-art academic facilities and an inclusive admissions process. He stated that PMAS-AAUR is dedicated to expanding access to higher education by making its admission procedures more convenient and accessible for students across Pakistan.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman, along with the Registrar

and other senior university officials, visited examination halls to review the arrangements and monitor the conduct of the test. They also interacted with the candidates, encouraged them and expressed satisfaction over the efficient management and transparent organization of the admission test. The Second Undergraduate Entry Test for Fall 2026 admissions will be conducted on July 12, 2026. The students who had registered for the first entry test but were unable to appear will automatically remain eligible to take the second test.



Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Chairing the 104th Meeting of the University Syndicate



Indonesian Delegation Visited PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi



Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman visited various faculties and institutes to review academic activities, ongoing projects and infrastructure improvement



World Food Safety Day 2026 organized at PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi

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