Background

University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) is the undisputed standard bearer of South Asia in the realm of higher education and research in Agriculture. The UAF evolved in 1961 through transformation of the Punjab Agriculture College and Research Institute, Lyallpur founded in 1906. The University’s contribution, in conformity with its concept, enlarged scope, attitude and canvas of academic activities, has since its establishment, magnified several-fold. Since its establishment, the UAF has given birth to two major universities (PMAS University of Arid Agriculture, Rawalpindi and University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore). The leadership, faculty, alumni and students of the UAF have made tremendous contributions to ensure food security and socio-economic development of the country. Therefore, the celebration in 2011 as Golden Jubilee year is well deserved.

Our Vision

The university has a vision to develop a research culture and capacity that makes UAF a National leader with International recognition. The main focus of the University is to empower agriculture and livestock sectors through innovative technologies. The mission of UAF is translated through production of skilled manpower, knowledge and technologies for solution of strategic issues for agriculture and rural development.
Contributions by the University

The university has a track record in the field of education and research that consequently led to development and strengthening of the agriculture and livestock sectors. UAF has been a leader in agricultural development and as a result of its efforts, have created a major source of foreign exchange revenue for the country. Following are a few examples:

Human Resource Development

HEC has ranked the university as 2nd best in Pakistan in terms of research output/ knowledge production through a recent assessment. The university has trained about 50,000 graduates in a diverse fields related to agriculture, water management, technology development, rural socio-economy, production & marketing and specialized researchers/scholars in academia.

UAF has produced about 850 PhDs alongside numerous research papers that translated into program interventions/ projects for development of agribusiness, new varieties and techniques, innovative tools and products. This pool of human resource adds value to research and development and is serving in various government departments, private sector/ corporate agencies and research/ academic institutions. The efforts of the university have been recognized through numerous international awards and fellowships and by the Govt. of Pakistan. The university is imparting knowledge and skills in more than 45 major areas of study and research.

Research and Technologies

Adding to the development of knowledge, the University has focused on concrete and tangible outputs of the research; various technologies related to field optimization, equitable and sustainable management of water resources, crop output increase, and chemical formulas have been introduced at field level that positively impact rural life/ economy.

The monitoring and follow-up of such programs enables policy makers for broader replication and resultantly effective programming for development of the Pakistani economy.

Social Services and Outreach

The philosophy of the university revolves around the end user. Therefore, the university has close ties with rural communities and stakeholders thus contributing to the community building process. Farmers and agri-related population is reached out through various programs, festivals, events etc. and their active feedback is solicited for improvement of products and services. The university has also remained in forefront when these communities need help in situation of calamities. The recent contributions through relief and rehabilitation in flood affected zone activities are one such example. UAF puts special emphasis in supporting needy students from poor and marginalized areas and facilitates through fee waiver/scholarships and other education promotion schemes.

Role of Washington State University

The University of Agriculture Faisalabad has a visible imprint of Washington State University (WSU) in its academic and research programs as well as infrastructure. WSU has played a key role over the past 5 decades in imparting new skills and technologies to UAF system. In the 1960s, fourteen WSU faculty members came to assist the Agricultural College Lyallpur, to elevate its status to a full fledged agricultural university based upon the US land-grant model. This considerably facilitated Pakistan by capitalizing the knowledge of the scholars and developed indigenous technologies which in turn prompted the “green revolution” in wheat and grain production, the later “white revolution” in milk and dairy production, improvements in the cotton industry, poultry, fruits and vegetable and horticultural crops.
Skilled graduates served as the catalyst for promoting a modernized and versatile agricultural production system from “the roots up.” These advancements resulted in increased crop yield and country self-sufficiency in food and fiber. The WSU collaboration was instrumental in the introduction of new wheat varieties, including programs for farmer training and distribution of seed, building a poultry industry, establishment of dairy herds and increased milk production, improvements in animal health, and establishment of horticultural schemes.

WSU and UAF have entered into a new Institutional Partnership Agreement in 2009 to provide scholar exchange between the two institutions including doctoral education for what we anticipate to be 100 scholars over the next decade, predicated upon funding. This program is slated for at least 10 years and Pakistani scholars are enrolled with partial tuition waivers. WSU has showed great interest in collaborating for the Golden Jubilee celebrations and is consulted throughout the process. A delegation from WSU is participating in various activities and events during the Celebration Week (13-20 March 2011).

The University has successfully implemented the semester system over past five decades as per the American model as part of its endeavors to play the exemplary role to modernize the education system in Pakistan.

International Collaborations
UAF enjoys collaborations and maintains close liaison with prestigious universities and numerous research institutions worldwide. Various Memoranda of Understanding, Collaborative schemes, Joint programs and other agreements with world’s top universities in Europe, America and Australia are being implemented that provide great opportunity for regular exchange of knowledge, skills and technologies (currently, a total of 107 agreements/ MoUs are in place). Following are few institutions that university has close collaboration with, in education and research:

- University of California (Davis and Riverside), USA
- University of Kassel, Germany
- University of Readings, UK
- University of Western Australia, AUS.
- Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran
- University of Nebraska Lincoln, USA
- Iowa State University, USA
- Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
- Oklahoma State University, USA
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA
- University of Kobe, Japan
- Bogor Agriculture University, Indonesia
- Societe France d’Exportation des Resources Educatives (SFERE), France
- United States Department of Agriculture, USA
- Halal Science Center, Thailand
- Charles Sturt University, Australia
The main idea behind celebrating the year 2011 as Golden Jubilee year by UAF is to present the contribution of our collaborative efforts with various Govt. agencies and other institutions. We also see this as an important opportunity to highlight the importance of agriculture vis-à-vis Pakistani society, economy and culture. As we plan to engage various stakeholders and communities in the process, we also would like to reach out to larger audience through media. This will considerably contribute to raising awareness about critical issues such as decreasing focus/resources for agriculture, environment and economically strategic position of agriculture sector. Various academic and non-academic events and programs will be organized throughout the year. We also envisage launching different community involvement programs for skill enhancement and empowerment of people related to agriculture.

Spring Festival and Celebration Week

The celebration week will comprise of a mix of academic and social flavors as we wish to engage academia, scientists, stakeholders, supporters and the communities we work for.

Following are the planned activities during the week:
- International level conferences on agriculture related issues and prospects of the sector
- Various seminars and academic debates on operational aspects of agriculture technology
- Exhibition of rare photographs over the past 5 decades
- World Water day seminar
- Special issues of university magazines and journals

Your Participation

As these plans are extensive and require assistance, participation and facilitation from various agencies and stakeholders. We need your support and facilitation to enable us realize these plans and events. We plan to set up various stalls to display product and services of various organizations, corporate firms and institutions. We would like to provide a platform to various partners for promotion of their products and interaction with the end users at the occasion. We look forward to your support and participation.

For further information and specific proposals/plans, please contact:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS (PRP)
UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE FAISALABAD-Pakistan

Dr. Jalal Arif,
Principal Officer Public Relations and Publications
Email: poprp@uaf.edu.pk
Phone: +92-041-9200583,
+92-41-9200161-170 Ext. 2112, 2953
Mobile: +92-322-7641232