

**Promoting Aquaculture for Sustainable Food Production**

|U|V|A|S|

**Fisheries and Aquaculture  
Newsletter****Introduction:**

The Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, UVAS aims to provide excellence in higher education, training, research and development, services and advice in the fields of sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture consequently contributing to economic and social development of the country.

**Mission:**

Produce highly skilled professionals in the field of Fisheries and Aquaculture to meet the demand of growing fisheries industry by resolving food and environmental problems.

**CONTENTS**

Universities across Pakistan commemorate world fisheries day with enthusiasm and purpose

Punjab University organized International Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference & Expo (IFAC)-2023 in collaboration with UVAS and Punjab Fisheries Department

UVAS Hosts Hands-On Training Session on Plankton Collection and Preservation

Dr. Hamda Azmat elevated to Professorship in Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Dr. Shahid Sherzada Awarded with Gold Medal

**UNIVERSITIES ACROSS PAKISTAN COMMEMORATE WORLD FISHERIES DAY-2023 WITH ENTHUSIASM AND PURPOSE****UVAS Lahore**

Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) Lahore observed World Fisheries Day with the theme of “Cast the Net” on 22 November 2023. Various activities including awareness walk, seminar, business ideas competition and fishing activities organized to mark the day in befitting manner at the Ravi Campus, Pattoki. Director (Aquaculture), Department of Fisheries Punjab Dr. Muhammad Abid was the chief guest and preside over the seminar while Dean, Faculty of Animal Production and Technology (FAP & T) Prof. Dr. Saima, Chairman Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Dr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman, Chairman Department of Wildlife & Ecology/Principal Officer Ravi Campus Prof. Dr. Arshad Javid, Food Safety Officer Mr. Muhammad Suleman Najeeb, Aquaculture consultant Mr. Muhammad Adnan Arif, fisheries professionals and a large number of undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as faculty members attended.

..... Continue.....

fisheries professionals from public & private organizations, fish feed representatives from industries, fish farmers, stakeholders and a large number of students and faculty members attended. While addressing the audience in the seminar, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha said that it is direly needed that all the fisheries stakeholders must sit together and prepare a policy paper to address all those issues related to feed cost, unnecessary taxes and contamination of water faced by fisheries sector in the country. Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr. Nasim Ahmed highlighted the collaboration of academia and fish industry. Following the footsteps of UVAS, many other well-known universities like Government College University Lahore (GCU), University of Education Lahore, Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF), Government College Women University Sialkot (GCWUF) and University of Sindh, Jamshoro celebrated the Fisheries Day this year. The event was started with an awareness walk with the participation of a large number of students and faculty members.

While addressing the audience in the seminars, Dr. Muhammad Abid emphasized that fisheries and aquaculture playing a significant role in national economy and food security. He said Fisheries Department has launched multiple projects and creating the avenues for its production on large scale and It is the need of hour to aware the people about fish eating habits. He said department is providing the guidelines to the farmers for the construction of fish farms, fish hatcheries and providing the literature for future directions and have the mobile vans and providing the free of cost services to the farmers and also conserving fish biodiversity through fingerlings stock replenishment program.

Dr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman highlighted the critical importance of healthy ocean ecosystems and to ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world. He emphasized that the UVAS department of fisheries and aquaculture is also playing a role in the uplift of the of sector and have mission to provide excellence in higher education, training, research and development, services in the fields of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. He said these efforts will contribute to economic and social development of the country. He urged collaboration of academia and fish industry that is ultimate key to promote fisheries and aquaculture sector in the country.

Prof. Dr. Saima highlighted the importance of the fisheries sector, awareness about the fish-eating habits. There is a need to work on the fish disease and other challenges in fish sector including water pollutions she added. At the end of seminar Dr. Muhammad Abid, Prof. Dr. Saima along with Dr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman distributed the prizes among the winners of business idea competition.



## GC University, Lahore

GC University Lahore recently celebrated World Fisheries Day with an awareness walk and seminar organized by the Department of Zoology, Zoological Society, and the Pakistan Fisheries Society. The event aimed to highlight the crucial role of fisheries and aquaculture in the ecosystem and featured delegates from various institutions, including the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and Lahore College Women University. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ahmad Adnan led the awareness walk, emphasizing responsible fisheries management. Distinguished experts, such as Dr. Muhammad Ayub and Prof. Dr. Noor Khan, shared valuable insights on sustainable aquaculture management and emerging trends in the industry. Prof. Dr. Atif Yaqub and Prof. Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir also played key roles in organizing the successful event, which was commended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ahmad Adnan for its educational value for students in Zoology and Fisheries.



## University of the Punjab, Lahore

Punjab University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Khalid Mahmood said that awareness is needed to benefit the market by highlighting the importance of white meat, for which industry and academia should work together. He was addressing a special event organized by PU Institute of Zoology on the occasion of World Fisheries Day. On this occasion Director General Fisheries Department Punjab Dr. Sikandar Hayat, Chief Executive Officer Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB) Dr. Abid Mahmood, Chief Executive Officer Thai Union Group Nabeel Akhtar Chaudhry, Dean Faculty of Business, Economics and Administrative Sciences Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Anwar Chaudhry, Director Institute of Zoology Prof. Dr. Nabila Ruhi, Prof. Dr. Noor Khan, faculty members and a large number of students were present. In his address, Dr Khalid Mahmood said that such research work is being promoted which will benefit the country and the nation. He advised the students to learn from the internship and play a role in the practical field. He appreciated the role of the Institute of Zoology in improving the ranking of PU. He said that all possible support will be provided for the establishment of the fisheries department in PU. Dr. Abid Mahmood said that the environment is favorable for fish breeding in Pakistan. He said that the best feeds can breed good fish. He said that students should come to their own business instead of taking jobs. Dr. Sikandar Hayat said that he will continue to cooperate to promote fish farming in the country so that to bring stability in the country's economy. Dr. Noor Khan said that research work is being done for the development of fish farming in Pakistan. He said that there is no shortage of resources in the country; benefits can be gained by using them properly. He said that the purpose of organizing the program was to provide awareness about fish farming to the students. He highlighted the importance of fish to meet the shortage of meat in the market. He thanked PARB for providing funds for the project. Nabeel Akhtar Chaudhry emphasized the need for the industry, academia and fisheries department to work together to increase fish breeding. He said that applied research in national universities is the most important need of the hour. He said that the blue economy can play a very important role in the country's economy. Thanking the participants, Dr. Ruhi said that the Institute of Zoology will continue to take steps for the development of wildlife, fly breeding and fish farming. Earlier, PU VC Dr. Khalid Mahmood led an awareness walk about fisheries.



## **PUNJAB UNIVERSITY ORGANIZED INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE & EXPO (IFAC)-2023 IN COLLABORATION WITH UVAS AND PUNJAB FISHERIES DEPARTMENT (08-02-23)**

University of the Punjab, Lahore, Fisheries Department, Govt of the Punjab and University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, (UVAS) Lahore jointly organized a two-day International Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference & Expo (IFAC)-2023 at a local hotel of Lahore. Faculty members and large number of students from UVAS participated in International Fisheries and Aquaculture Conference and Expo (IFAC)-2023 with great zeal and enthusiasm. Vice-Chancellor UVAS Prof. Dr. Nasim Ahmad also attended the inaugural ceremony while Vice-Chancellor University of Education Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha was the chief guest of the conference, Vice-Chancellor University of Baltistan, Skardu Prof. Dr. Naeem Khan, Director General Fisheries Punjab Dr. Sikander Hayyat, Organizing Secretary of Conference Prof. Dr. Noor Khan and a large number of fish farmers, representatives from fish feed industries, faculty members & students, officials from Fisheries Department and researchers from across the world were present physically and virtually.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha said that fisheries sector has great potential in Pakistan and it also has many more opportunities for the investment. He said conference has provided an effective platform to national and international scientists, experts and stakeholders to gather under the same roof to share their experiences and innovative scientific knowledge in the field of Fisheries & Aquaculture. He hoped that the conference will definitely add to scientific knowledge for the benefit of fish farming community, fish feed industry and professionals and such innovative knowledge also to be very beneficial for the making of future policy for the uplift of fisheries & aquaculture sector in Pakistan.

While addressing the audience, Prof. Dr. Nasim said that fish is a cheap source of getting protein. UVAS established fish hatchery and fish processing unit for imparting practical knowledge to students which is the need of time. He said such conference is very necessary for shearing innovative knowledge and skills especially for enhancing networking with national and international linkages. He said UVAS focusing on creating trained graduates who performing their services as human resource to boost fisheries, poultry, food, dairy and pharmaceutical industry industries and playing their lead role for providing healthy safety food as well. He advised the organizers to constitute different groups related to fish marketing, value edition, fish disease control, feed production and challenges of feed cost for preparing recommendations which would be key way to prepare road map for future to boost fisheries and aquaculture sector in Pakistan. He urged to promote fish eating culture in the whole year instead of in the winter season.

Later, Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha inaugurated Fisheries and Aquaculture Expo, where the numbers of stall were set up by different fish feed industries. Prof. Dr. Nasim Ahmad along with Prof. Dr. Talat Naseer Pasha and other dignitaries of conference visited different stalls of the conference and talked to representatives of industries. They also saw the poster presentation on the occasion.



## UVAS HOSTS HANDS-ON TRAINING SESSION ON PLANKTON COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at UVAS organized a one-day workshop titled "Plankton Collection, Identification, and Preservation" on July 13, 2023. Aimed at bolstering the practical acumen of senior undergraduate and postgraduate students from the Faculty of Fisheries and Wildlife, UVAS, the event proved to be an invaluable learning experience.

Mr. Tariq Rasheed, a distinguished Botanist from the Department of Fisheries, Government of Punjab, spearheaded the training session. With his profound expertise, Mr. Rasheed adeptly elucidated various methodologies for the collection, identification, and preservation of principal phytoplankton and zooplankton species. Emphasizing the pivotal role of plankton in the fisheries and aquaculture sector, Mr. Rasheed underscored their significance in ecosystem dynamics and aquatic food chains.

The event, meticulously organized by Dr. Mahroze Fatima and Prof. Dr. Hamda Azmat, garnered widespread acclaim from participants. Dr. Fatima and Prof. Dr. Azmat articulated that such hands-on training sessions are pivotal in honing the practical skills of students, equipping them with essential competencies for real-world applications. They emphasized the unique opportunity for students to glean insights from Mr. Rasheed, an eminent figure with extensive experience in plankton culture and research within the Punjab Fisheries sector. The workshop witnessed a remarkable turnout of enthusiastic undergraduate and postgraduate students, who actively engaged in the immersive learning experience. Their eagerness to delve into the microscopic realm of plankton life exemplified their fervent commitment to academic and professional advancement. As the curtains drew close on the workshop, participants departed with enriched knowledge and a deeper appreciation for the intricate world of plankton. The resounding success of the event reaffirmed UVAS's commitment to fostering experiential learning opportunities that empower students to thrive in the realm of fisheries and aquaculture.



## **DR. HAMDA AZMAT ELEVATED TO PROFESSORSHIP IN DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**

In a significant milestone for the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at UVAS, Professor Dr. Hamda Azmat has been promoted to the esteemed rank of professor during the year 2023. Recognized as one of the pioneering faculty members, Prof. Dr. Hamda Azmat has been an integral part of the department's journey towards excellence.

Prof. Dr. Hamda Azmat embarked on her academic career at UVAS in February 2012, joining as an assistant professor and promoted as an Associate Professor in August 2018, before attaining the prestigious position of professor.

Her academic journey is marked by stellar achievements, having completed her MSc and PhD in Zoology from the esteemed Department of Zoology, Wildlife and Fisheries at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Prof. Dr. Hamda Azmat's areas of expertise span Freshwater Biology and Aquatic Toxicology, where her contributions have significantly enriched the field. She has authored over 50 research articles in renowned, peer-reviewed national and international academic journals.

She has actively contributed to UVAS in various capacities, including academia, research, and extra-curricular. Her relentless commitment to excellence has not only elevated the academic standards of the department but also inspired countless students and colleagues alike.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Prof. Dr. Hamda Azmat on this well-deserved achievement and eagerly anticipate the continued impact of her contributions to the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

## **DR. SHAHID SHERZADA AWARDED WITH GOLD MEDAL**

Dr. Shahid Sherzada was awarded with 4<sup>th</sup> Dr. Naeem Ahmad Khan Gold Medal at the occasion of 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Applied Zoology (ICAZ)-2023 at Govt College University Faisalabad for his contributions in the academia and research in the field of Aquaculture. Dr. Shahid Sherzada is currently working as Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology Government College University Lahore. Previously he served as Lecture in two well-known institutions, UVAS and Virtual University of Pakistan. He earned his PhD degree in Zoology from University of the Punjab Lahore Pakistan. His field of interest is Aquatic Ecology and Biotechnology. He has published 32 research articles in well reputed National and International impact factor journals. He has supervised and co-supervised 40 undergraduate and Postgraduate students in field of Zoology/Fisheries and Aquaculture. His future goals are to work for management and conservation of sustainable aquatic resources.



**Office Secretariat: Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, UVAS Lahore-Pakistan**

**Dr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman (Chairman): [mhafeezurehman@uvas.edu.pk](mailto:mhafeezurehman@uvas.edu.pk), 0345-4588289**

**Dr. Mahroze Fatima (Assistant Professor): [mahroze.fatima@uvas.edu.pk](mailto:mahroze.fatima@uvas.edu.pk)**