Promoting Aquaculture for Sustainable Food Production

UVAS 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.

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Faculty from Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Kicks Off Multi-District Outreach to Drive BS Zoology & Aquaculture Admissions and Career Counseling



The faculty from the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) has officially launched an extensive admission and career counseling drive across Punjab. Aimed at inspiring the next generation of scientists, the team visited major educational hubs including Kasur, Sahiwal, Phool Nagar, and Chunian to promote the BS (Hons) Zoology and BS (Hons) Fisheries and Aquaculture programs. Throughout these visits, faculty members conducted interactive sessions at various colleges and science academies, engaging directly with prospective students to bridge the gap between intermediate education and professional aquatic sciences. Key institutions visited included Government Graduate Colleges, Aspire College, and Punjab College in Phool Nagar, as well as several women's colleges and science academies across Pattoki and Manga Mandi.



A core objective of the campaign was providing direct career counseling to help students align their interests with future opportunities in the rapidly growing "Blue Gold" industry. Faculty members briefed students on the diverse professional paths available, ranging from specialized research and farm management to roles within the government and the feed industry. These discussions highlighted UVAS's hands-on training facilities, specialized laboratories, and the overall academic support provided to students, including scholarship and financial aid options. To prove the strong employability of the degrees, the department shared video messages and career placement data of successful alumni currently employed in reputable organizations.

To ensure a lasting impact, the department distributed specifically designed informational brochures and strengthened its digital presence via social media to reach a wider audience. Prospective students and their parents also received one-on-one guidance at the dedicated admission desk at UVAS Ravi Campus, where they were encouraged to explore the scientific

relevance and economic potential of these fields. The response across all regions was overwhelmingly positive, with the sessions successfully raising awareness about the vital role aquatic sciences play in Pakistan's future economic strategy.

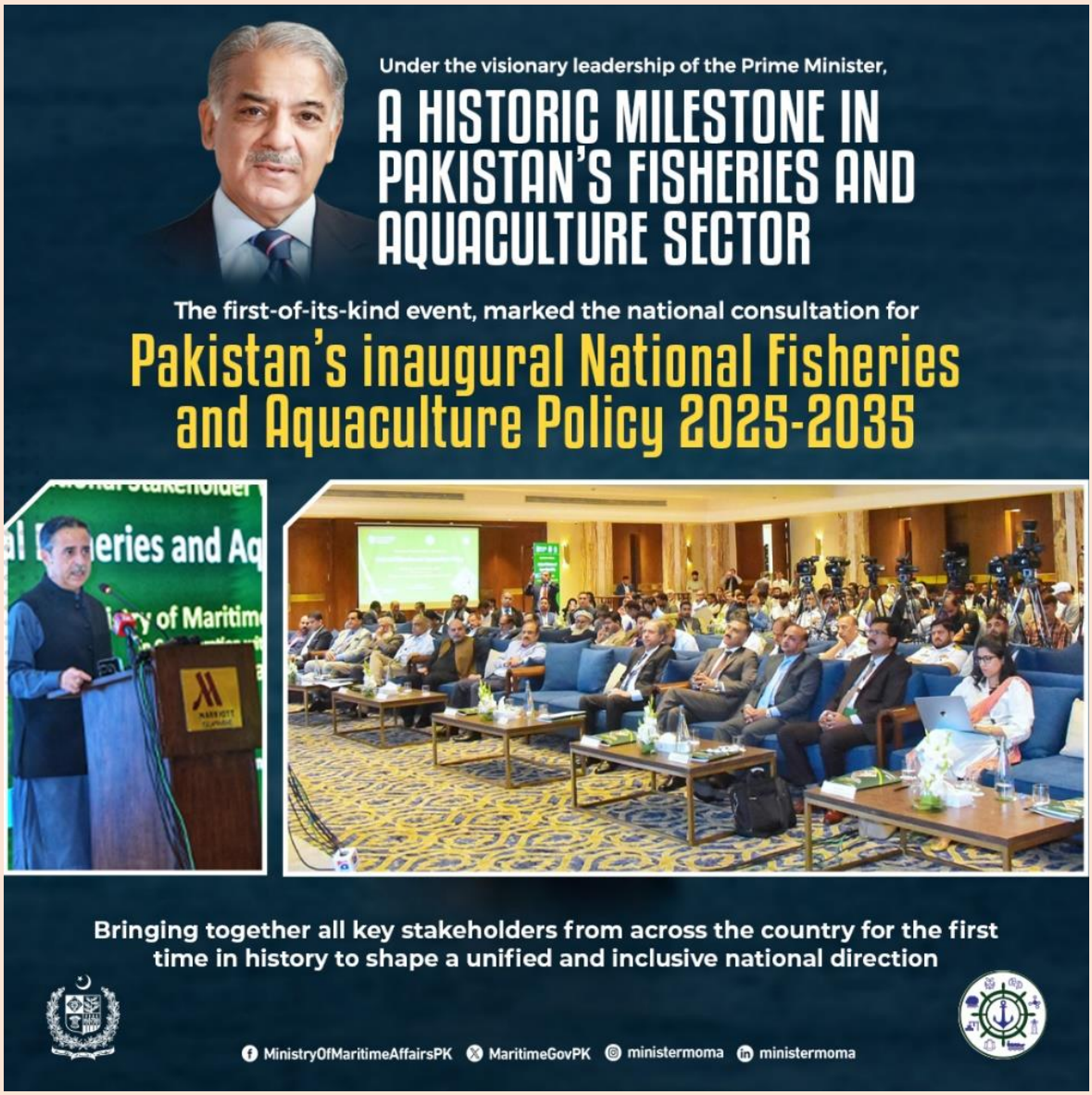




Historic Leap for Pakistan’s Blue Economy: National Fisheries Policy 2025–2035 Set to Launch

Under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, Pakistan has successfully completed its first-ever national consultation for the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2025–2035. This landmark event, held in July 2025, brought together federal ministers, provincial stakeholders, and international experts from the FAO to shape a unified future for the country’s water resources. Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry announced that the policy is now on the verge of official implementation, calling it a "historic milestone" that will finally unlock the true potential of Pakistan’s 1,100 km coastline and vast inland waters.

The new policy is designed to transform a sector that currently contributes less than 0.5% to the national GDP into a $10 billion powerhouse. For students and professionals in Fisheries and Aquaculture, this roadmap is a game-changer. It focuses on modernizing the industry through high-tech farming, improving seafood export standards to reach markets like the US



and EU, and introducing serious environmental safeguards. By declaring aquaculture, a formal industry, the policy opens the door for better funding, climate-resilient technology, and massive job creation. As the official launch approaches, it is clear that Pakistan is no longer just looking at its waters—it is ready to lead the global "Blue Revolution

A Massive Win for Fisheries Graduates: Punjab Launches 100k Monthly Internship

September 2025 has brought a massive opportunity for students and fresh graduates in the aquaculture sector. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has officially launched the Punjab Aqua Shrimp Farming Internship Program, and it is making headlines for its record-breaking stipend. For the first time, graduates in BS Fisheries and Aquaculture are being offered a monthly stipend of Rs. 100,000 to join a specialized one-year training program.

This initiative is a game-changer for the "Blue Gold" industry in Pakistan. Unlike standard internships, this program is designed to create a professional field force that can lead the province's upcoming 5,300-acre shrimp estates. Students of BS Fisheries, Zoology, and Aquaculture will get hands-on experience at the state-of-the-art Muzaffargarh farms, learning high-tech skills like hatchery management, water quality control, and disease prevention.

This is a rare chance for young scientists to "learn and earn" at a professional level. By offering such a high stipend, the government is showing how much it values specialized degrees in aquatic sciences. For the youth, this is more than just a temporary job—it is a path to becoming self-employed entrepreneurs and leaders in a sector that is expected to bring in over $1 billion in exports.



Pakistan–China Agriculture Training Program Empowering Future Leaders in Aquaculture Through International Training

In a major stride toward agricultural modernization and Pakistan–China cooperation, the Government of Pakistan launched an important program "Prime Minister's Initiative for Capacity Building of 1,000 Agricultural Graduates in China" in August 2024. It aims to improve productivity, promote modern farming methods, and strengthen cooperation between Pakistan and China. The programme focuses on technology-based fields such as aquaculture, crop breeding, genomics, and modern agricultural practices.





This fully funded programme is implemented through the Higher Education Commission in collaboration with the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Embassy of Pakistan in Beijing. The selection process was merit based and transparent. Professionals from both public and private institutions were included. Applications were managed through the Pak–China Agriculture Portal.



Out of the professionals selected across various agricultural disciplines, 19 Professionals were chosen specifically for Aquaculture (Shrimp Production & Processing). Impressively, 8 of these participants come from the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan (UVAS) Faculty of Fisheries and Wildlife and Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture. These bright minds represent a new generation of aquaculture professionals poised to bring innovation and sustainable practices back to Pakistan’s coastal and aquaculture sectors.

The UVAS Representatives were Muhammad Akmal, Huassain Mehdi, Zahoor Ahmad, Muhammad Awais, Karim Johar Khan, Samama Jalil, Ahmad Hassan, and Safi-ur-Rehman. They were included in Batch 2 of the programme. Their training was conducted in China from 24 August to 24 November 2025.



During the training period in China, the participants received practical and theoretical exposure to Modern Shrimp Farming Systems. They learned about hatchery operations, feed management, disease control, and processing techniques. They also observed advanced quality control and value addition practices used in the Chinese aquaculture industry. This experience helped the participants understand modern aquaculture technologies and efficient production systems. The knowledge gained will support the development of shrimp farming and processing in Pakistan. It will also help improve export quality and sustainability in the aquaculture sector.





The selection of eight participants from UVAS is a proud achievement for the university. They carry not just advanced technical expertise, but also a vision for modernizing Pakistan's shrimp aquaculture value chain from farm to processing facilities contributing to national growth, employment, and global competitiveness. These trained professionals are expected to play an active role in knowledge transfer and innovation. Their contribution will support national efforts toward food security, economic growth, and sustainable aquaculture development in Pakistan.

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