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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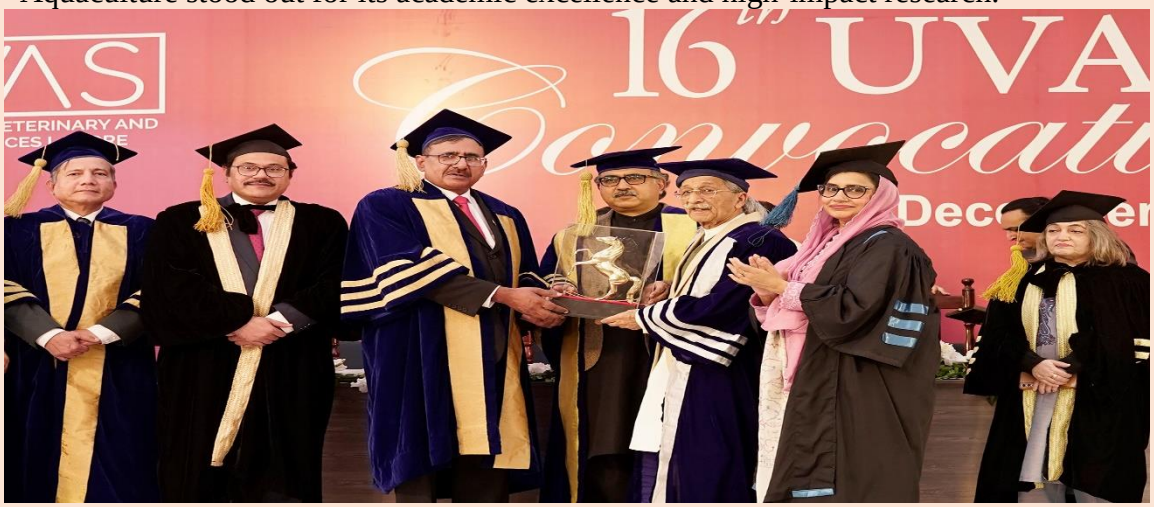
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World Fisheries Day 2025 Observed at UVAS

16th CONVOCATION (2025) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCE, LAHORE



The University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) held its 16th Convocation on December 18, 2025, marking a significant day of pride for our department. While 1,750 graudates received degrees across the university, the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture stood out for its academic excellence and high-impact research.





Mahnoor Siddique was awarded the Gold Medal for securing first position in BS (Hons) Fisheries and Aquaculture. Degrees were conferred upon the latest cohort of PhD and M.Phil scholars from our department. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted our department's role in disease control and the production of value-added fish meat. Our department continues to bridge the gap between academia and industry.

"Fisheries and Aquaculture are not just fields of study; they are the future of sustainable protein and economic prosperity for Pakistan."

International Technical Exchange: CVASU Bangladesh Interns Visit Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, UVAS



As part of a dedicated effort to strengthen regional academic cooperation, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at UVAS recently hosted a high-level delegation of nineteen interns from Chittagong Veterinary & Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Bangladesh 0n 11th Decemebr, 2025. This visit served as a vital component of a 45-day international externship program aimed at enhancing the students' practical experience and global veterinary knowledge. The international delegation was warmly received by Dr. Muhammad Akmal, who led an in-depth session specifically designed to introduce the interns to the Pakistani fisheries sector and the diverse academic and research landscape of the department.



The session provided the visiting interns with a comprehensive overview of the available facilities and the strategic role the department plays in the national "Blue Economy." Dr. Akmal briefed the veterinary professionals on the unique technical frameworks utilized in Pakistan, highlighting the importance of clinical precision in fish health management. The students engaged in a vibrant dialogue about modernizing farming practices, noting that as the Bangladesh sector continues to increase its fish production through successful models, there are valuable opportunities for technical cross-learning and adapting these frameworks for local growth and productivity.



The visit included an extensive technical field tour where the interns gained hands-on exposure to the department's specialized infrastructure. The delegation participated in fish netting operations and visited the industrial-scale Fish Processing Plant to observe post-harvest management and international value-addition techniques. Furthermore, the interns explored the fish hatchery and the department's diagnostic laboratories to witness modern breeding protocols and water quality analysis. By showcasing the department's cutting-edge facilities, this international visit successfully bridged the gap between theoretical veterinary science and practical aquaculture application on a global scale.

Visionary Reforms: CM Punjab Unveils "Blue Revolution" Roadmap at World Fisheries Day 2025

The Department of Fisheries, Punjab, hosted a landmark celebration for World Fisheries Day 2025 on December 11, spotlighting a series of transformative projects spearheaded by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. The event, held at the Avari Hotel, was graced by Senior Minister Maryam Aurangzeb as the Guest of Honor, who detailed the government's ambitious strategy to revolutionize the province's aquatic industry. In her keynote address, the Senior Minister emphasized that these initiatives mark the beginning of a prosperous and economically viable era for the sector, designed to enhance food security, generate thousands of jobs, and promote sustainable growth through cutting-edge technology and modern infrastructure.





A central highlight of the proceedings was the introduction of the ground-breaking Shrimp Aquaculture Project, which aims to diversify production and open new export avenues by introducing high-value shrimp farming to inland areas. To support this, the government is developing state-of-the-art "Aquaculture Malls" in Muzaffargarh, Ali Wali, and Sargodha. These malls will serve as one-stop centres for farmers, providing integrated feed mills, advanced laboratories, and modern machinery to ensure maximum efficiency. Additionally, strategic "Aquaculture Hubs" are being established in cities like Lahore, Rawalpindi, and Mianchannu, featuring Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and processing plants to foster a cluster-based approach that benefits small-scale farmers.





The provincial roadmap further includes the development of specialized Pangasius and Catfish hatcheries in Lahore and Dera Ghazi Khan to meet growing domestic demand with high-quality seed. To modernize the trading landscape, a Model Fish Market is being established in Lahore, equipped with advanced hygiene and storage facilities to ensure fair pricing and quality-assured seafood for consumers. The Senior Minister also lauded the development of an advanced RAS-based Trout Fish Hatchery in Murree, which will cater to colder regions and promote tourism-linked aquaculture. By integrating these advanced technologies, Punjab is positioning itself as a leader in the South Asian aquaculture landscape while optimizing water usage and reducing environmental impact.

In his concluding remarks, Secretary Aquaculture and Fisheries, Rana Muhammad Saleem Afzal, expressed profound gratitude to the diverse participants, including academic vice-chancellors, industry leaders, and media representatives. He reiterated the department's steadfast commitment to implementing these visionary projects effectively, particularly by transforming underutilized saline lands into profitable aquaculture sites. Former Secretary Mudassar Riaz Malik also highlighted the department's rapid evolution into a major stakeholder over the last few years. The event concluded with a strong call for ongoing collaboration to ensure that these initiatives contribute significantly to Pakistan's GDP and the long-term prosperity of its rural communities.

Abdul Wali Khan University: Future Vets Dive into Fisheries and Aquaculture

In a significant move toward inter-provincial academic collaboration, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the UVAS Ravi Campus, Pattoki, recently hosted an educational exposure visit on 3rd December, 2025 for a delegation of 50 DVM students from Abdul Wali Khan University, Mardan (AWKUM). These second-year future veterinarians were warmly received by Dr. Muhammad Akmal, who provided a comprehensive briefing on the department's specialized organizational structure and the diverse range of research and academic activities aimed at advancing Pakistan's aquaculture sector.



The visit featured an extensive technical tour of the department's state-of-the-art facilities, where the aspiring clinicians gained practical insights into the Fish Seed Hatchery, the Fish Processing Plant, and the specialized Rearing Ponds.

A key highlight of the event was an interactive career counseling session led by Dr. Muhammad Akmal. He emphasized the growing demand for DVM degree holders within the fisheries industry, particularly in roles related to aquatic pathology, health certification, and nutrition. The students actively engaged in discussions regarding the diverse professional pathways available to them, ranging from public sector roles to entrepreneurial ventures in private aquaculture. The visit concluded with a focus on how these future veterinary professionals can contribute to national food security through the emerging blue economy.

Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, UVAS Celebrates World Fisheries Day 2025: Promoting Health and Innovation

The Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture at the UVAS Ravi Campus organized a vibrant event to commemorate World Fisheries Day 2025 under the HEC-Technology Development Projetc. The ceremony was attended by distinguished leadership, including Dr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman (Chairman, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture), Prof. Dr. Arshad Javaid (Dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Wildlife), and Prof. Dr. Saima (Dean of the Faculty of Animal Production and Technology) along with dedicated faculty members and a large number of students. The day began with an awareness walk, symbolizing the university's commitment to the sustainable development of the aquatic sector and the promotion of fish as a vital resource for national food security.



During the formal session, Dr. Muhammad Hafeez-ur-Rehman delivered an insightful address emphasizing the critical importance of including fish in the daily diet. He highlighted that regular fish consumption is essential not only for physical growth but also for significant improvements in mental health and cognitive function. The event featured a diverse agenda designed to bridge the gap between academia and industry, including a student pond fishing activity and a creative display

of aquaculture business ideas. This was followed by a highly engaging fish cooking competition, which showcased the culinary versatility of local fish species and encouraged students to think about value-addition in the industry.



A key highlight of the celebration was the presence of Miss Minahil Yousaf, Chief Executive Officer of, who graced the occasion as a special guest. In her address, she emphasized the transformative role of women in the aquaculture sector, noting that female entrepreneurs and professionals are vital to the industry's progress. She encouraged female students to take an active role in aquaculture businesses, from farm management to processing and marketing. The event concluded with remarks from the guests and a refreshment session, leaving the participants with a renewed sense of purpose toward the advancement of Pakistan's fisheries and aquaculture landscape.

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