Promoting Aquaculture for Sustainable Food Production

UVAS Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF VETERINARY AND ANIMAL SCIENCES LAHORE

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

Punjab's "Blue Gold" Revolution: Muzaffargarh Shrimp Success Fuels $1 Billion Goal

Career Highlight: Join the Frontlines of the Shrimp Revolution

National Workshop on the Promotion of Aquaculture

Punjab's "Blue Gold" Revolution: Muzaffargarh Shrimp Success Fuels $1 Billion Goal

In a major win for local farmers, the Punjab government has turned what was once considered useless, salty land into a goldmine. The pilot shrimp farming project in Jhalarin North, Muaaffargarh has officially hit its mark, producing a massive 120 metric tons of high-quality shrimp in just 104 days. This isn't just a win for the labs; it's a win for the economy, as the first harvest was recently auctioned off for Rs. 154 million and exported to big international markets like China, the UAE, Jordan, and Vietnam.

Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, who visited the site to feed the shrimp and see the progress firsthand, has set her sights much higher. The long-term goal is to expand this project to 100,000 acres, which could bring in a staggering one billion dollars in foreign exchange every year. For farmers, the math is simple: this model offers a profit margin of around 40%, which is far better than many traditional crops that struggle in salty soil. To make this happen, the government is stepping in to help with the heavy lifting, offering 80% subsidies on seeds and feed, and even providing specialized machinery on a rental basis so that small-scale farmers aren't left behind.

Looking ahead, this is more than just a farming project—it's a career path. With a Rs. 4.43 billion investment plan already in motion, the province is building a dedicated Directorate for Shrimp Aquaculture and a top-tier Research and Training Center right here in Muzaffargarh. By March 2026, "Shrimp Estates" covering 5,300 acres will be launched in Muzaffargarh and Sargodha. This expansion is expected to create up to 20,000 jobs, including a high-paying internship program for young graduates with stipends up to Rs. 100,000. By bringing in international experts from Thailand and South America to share their secrets, Punjab is making sure its "Blue Gold" meets global standards, proving that even the most barren lands have a very bright future.



Shrimp Ponds at Muzaffargarh

Career Highlight: Join the Frontlines of the Shrimp Revolution

The Punjab Fisheries Department is moving fast in early 2025 by opening up dozens of specialized jobs to support its massive shrimp farming expansion. This hiring wave is the engine room of the "Blue Gold" initiative, offering a total of 85 positions across various technical and administrative levels. The project aims to recruit a skilled workforce to manage everything from high-level finances to hands-on hatchery work. Salaries are highly competitive, with senior roles offering up to Rs. 160,000 and entry-level positions starting around Rs. 37,000 to Rs. 42,000. Most of these roles are stationed in Muzaffargarh, the heart of the project, and Lahore.

A major highlight of this recruitment is the Fisheries Research Assistant (PPS-5) position, which offers 17 total seats (14 in Muzaffargarh and 3 in Lahore) with a monthly salary of Rs. 75,000. This is an ideal path for the graduate of BS Fisheries students, as the department is specifically looking for graduates with a degree in Fisheries or Aquaculture to lead scientific data collection and monitor shrimp growth. It’s a perfect opportunity for these specialists to apply their academic training directly to the field. Other specialized roles include an IT Expert (1 post), an Aquaculture Engineer (1 post), and a Graphic Designer (1 post), each aimed at building a modern, tech-driven department.

The deadline to apply for these positions is January 24, 2025. Candidates must first apply online at official website and then mail hard copies of their attested documents to the Director General Fisheries office at 9-A Bahawalpur Road, Chauburji, Lahore. This recruitment is a key part of the government's plan to build a skilled team capable of turning the province's saline lands into a billion-dollar export industry.

Daily **DUNYA** Lahore, Saturday, January 11, 2025

RECRUITMENTS (PPS-02 TO PPS-7)
DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES
GOVERNMENT OF THE PUNJAB

Applications are invited from suitable candidates for recruitment on two years contract basis on pay scale (PPS) basis (extendable upto gestation period) under the development project "Aquaculture: Shrimp Farming in Punjab" (2024-25 to 2027-28) in the Department of fisheries punjab.

Sr. No	Name of the Post with PPS	Qualification & Experience	Age limit	No. of Posts	Initial Salary per Month	Office for submission of applications
1	Senior Budget & Accounts Officer (PPS-7)	PhD. in Finance/Accounting/Commerce from HEC recognized University. OR Master's degree (16 years) or equivalent education in Finance/ Accounting/Commerce from HEC recognized University; and Minimum 5 years of experience in relevant field in public or private sector organization (preferably on PIFRA).	28 to 40	Lahore (1)	Rs. 160,000	Director General Fisheries, Punjab, 9-A Bahawalpur Road, Chauburji, Lahore.
2	IT Expert (PPS-6)	Master's degree or Bachelor's degree (four years) (first division or grade-B) in Computer Sciences or Information Technology from a University recognized by HEC; and Must have at least 03 years of experience in web development, designing, dashboard development networking and data base development & maintenance Deep understanding and exposure to coding on various platforms including Microsoft, Oracle. SQL. PHP etc Strong technical skills in data bases and GIS applications Previous work experience in similar role in Fisheries & Aquaculture sector in Pakistan or abroad will be an advantage.	21 to 30	Lahore (1)	Rs. 120,000	Director General Fisheries, Punjab, 9-A Bahawalpur Road, Chauburji, Lahore.
3	Aquaculture Engineer (Civil) (PPS-6)	Master's degree OR BS (4 years or 8 semester) in Civil Engineering from HEC recognized institute OR Equivalent qualification recognized by Pakistan Engineenng Council (PEC); and registered as an Engineer with PEC At least 03 years of experience in relevant field in the reputable Public or Private sector Organization	21 to 30	Lahore (1)	Rs. 120,000	Director General Fisheries, Punjab, 9- Bahawalpur Road, Chauburji, Lahore.

National Workshop on the Promotion of Aquaculture

On January 17, 2025, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs held a high-level national workshop in Islamabad to push for the modernization of Pakistan's "Blue Economy." Federal Minister Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh led the event, highlighting that although Pakistan boasts a 1,100 km coastline, the fisheries sector currently contributes a mere 0.5% to the national GDP. The workshop served as a critical platform for government officials, international experts, and researchers to discuss strategies for tapping into the country's vast marine resources. During the sessions, Dr. Muhammad Akmal represented the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture as part of the academic and scientific delegation contributing to the policy discussions.

The Minister stressed that meeting international hygiene and safety standards is vital for maintaining and expanding exports to major markets like the US, UAE, and Saudi Arabia. To support this growth, the government announced new business incentives, including affordable land plots in Korangi for setting up modern fish and shrimp processing plants. There was also a strong emphasis on sustainability, with a call to ban harmful fishing gear like "gujja nets" that threaten young fish populations. Beyond local efforts, the Ministry is actively engaging with Saudi and American investors to bring advanced technology and new capital into Pakistani waters.

A major theme of the workshop was empowering the next generation. Minister Sheikh encouraged young Pakistanis to move away from traditional job seeking and instead embrace entrepreneurship in aquaculture, describing the sector as a goldmine for innovation and self-employment. By combining government support with scientific expertise, the workshop concluded with a clear roadmap to transform Pakistan into a globally competitive seafood exporter while ensuring long-term food security for the nation.







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