

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University Seminar Underlines Livestock, Poultry Sector's Economic Potential



ملتان: محمد نواز شریف یونیورسٹی میں پاکستان اینیمل سائنسٹس ویلفیئر ایسوسی ایشن اور شگائی آف ورلڈز اینڈ اینیمل سائنسز کے زیر اہتمام پاکستان کی فوس مجسٹری میں لائیو سٹاک اور پولٹری سیکٹر کے کردار کے موضوع پر سیمینار کا انعقاد ہوا۔

Published on January 16, 2026

Document Date: Sun, Mar 22 2026 05:23:21 pm

Category: ,English,Events - ,Snippets

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Multan, January 16— Muhammad Nawaz Sharif University of Agriculture, Multan, hosted a seminar on “The Role of the Livestock and Poultry Sector in Pakistan’s National Economy,” organized by the Pakistan Animal Scientists Welfare Association (PASA) and the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. The seminar brought together leading academicians, researchers, industry professionals, PASA members, and students to discuss the sector’s vital contributions to food security, rural employment, and national economic growth.

Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Asif Ali highlighted that the livestock sector forms the backbone of

Pakistan's agricultural economy, contributing approximately 60% to agricultural GDP and over 11% to national GDP. He emphasized the urgent need for research-based policies, adoption of modern technologies, and improved value chains to enhance productivity, animal health, and ensure sustainable growth. Dr. Ali reaffirmed the university's commitment to producing skilled professionals and launching research initiatives that address these challenges effectively.

Professor Dr. Muhammad Younis, PASA President, presented a detailed overview of PASA and the Pakistan Animal Scientists Council (PASC), explaining their role in promoting professional collaboration between academia and industry. Dr. Faraz Anwar, Sales Manager, delivered insights on production trends, export potential of meat, milk, eggs, and other products, highlighting the sector's role in poverty alleviation, women empowerment, and rural development. Dr. M. Arshad Mahmood discussed emerging career opportunities for animal and poultry scientists, including entrepreneurship, and the skills required to succeed in the sector.

Chief Guest Syed Ali Qasim Gilani praised the significance of the sector, endorsing the Vice Chancellor's remarks. He stressed the importance of strong public-private partnerships, investment in disease control, and feed resource development. He further emphasized that production-related degree programs should be formally recognized and promoted so that Pakistan can compete globally.

A major discussion point was the absence of a regulatory authority for livestock and poultry degrees. Over the past 30 years, more than 20,000 graduates have struggled to secure government employment. The establishment of the Pakistan Animal Science Council (PASC), similar to PMDC, PEC, PVMC, PTC, and the Pharmacy Council, was strongly recommended. The PASC Bill 2024 has already been presented in the Senate, and the Chief Guest assured he would also take it to the National Assembly.

Professor Dr. Junaid Ali Khan, Dean and Coordinator, thanked all speakers, participants, and especially PASA for organizing the seminar successfully. The event concluded with a consensus that collaborative efforts by the government, academia, and industry are essential to fully utilize the livestock and poultry sector for national economic growth and prosperity.

Riaz Ahmed Haraj

Spokesperson