

Activity Report 2009

DAAD Contract No P/09/04718

From September 22nd 2009

Reporting Period: July 1st 2009 – December 31st 2009

Institution: University of Agriculture, Faisalabad – PAKISTAN (UAF)

Name: Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan

Function: Principal Investigator

Section 1 Type of Activity	DAAD - Lfd No. (ICDD)
Visiting Lecturer	
Field Research √	
Workshop √	
Travel √	
Marketing, Material (please add copies, link to your ICDD homepage) √	
Section 2 Please summarise the work/ activities performed.	
<p>Prof. Iqrar A. Khan widely circulated the launching of ICDD at Berlin to the Higher Education Commission, members of the parliaments, government officials, faculty, staff, students and civil society. He made a presentation to the senior faculty and management about ICDD after his retune from Germany. He explained the objectives and aims of the ICDD at various forums through writings, presentations and video conferencing organized for the national and international participants and national press and electronic media. Thus the ICDD portfolio and programs reached to every class room, academia, researchers, policy makers, R&D organizations and civil society.</p> <p>Dean Michael Wachendorf, Prof. Andreas Buerkert and Prof. Eva Schlecht visited UAF from Sept. 25-29, 2009. They had a very busy schedule of activates including student interviews, meetings with faculty, management, students, farmers and Faisalabad community. The ICDD objectives and programs were discussed with the Chief Executive and other advisors and members of Higher Education Communication, Pakistan via video conference. A special seminar was organised on ICDD, where in addition to faculty and students, members of the parliament and district government and media persons were invited. The seminar followed a community dinner with a cultural show. They also had field trips during their visit.</p> <p>A massive effort was made to motivate and channelize the potential PhD candidates to prepare project proposals within the thematic areas identified for ICDD graduate school. The relevant faculty was selected as ICDD supervisor from UAF (list attached).</p> <p>Director External Linkages, Director Advanced Studies and Treasurer of the UAF participated in the Kick – Off Conference in Witzenhausen, November 25-29, 2009 to learn and contribute in the program and develop interaction with the partner universities.</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Beatrice Knerr visited Pakistan from December 14 -23, 2009. She also had an eventful schedule. She had meetings at Islamabad with German embassy personnel, NGOs,</p>	

Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, visit of the families of international migrants in the Districts of Chakwal, Jhelum, Gujrat and Toba Tek Singh. Dr. Izhar A. Khan and some other faculty and postgraduate students from Rural Sociology and Development Economics accompanied her for capacity building. To have an insight on the working conditions of farm labour she visited and interviewed the farm labour and their families in the peri urban areas of Faisalabad.

She had very frequent interaction with the faculty and students at UAF. She had an exclusive session with the ICDD Supervisors at UAF to communicate the lessons learned from the Kick-Off Conference at Witzenhausen and had a detailed visit of the university. A workshop was organised on “Impacts of International Labour Migration”. In addition to others Dr. M. Akhtar Khan, Assistant Branch Chief, California Dept. of Social Service, USA presented his work on “California’s Experience with Farm labour”. The concerned social scientists and economists were invited from all over the country.

The book written by Dr. Izhar A. Khan “Overseas Migration and its Scio-Economic Impacts on the families left behind in Pakistan” was inaugurated and the author presented his work to share the results and for feedback and comments. Professor Knerr and Dr. Izhar shared their thoughts for kick-Off proposal on labour migration. The national press and electronic media gave a wide coverage to the program.

She also met the undergraduate and postgraduate students, particularly female students and those having ICDD MS scholarships to get feed back and motivate them for decent work and prepare them for next round of ICDD graduate school scholarships.

Professor Iqrar A. Khan, Vice Chancellor UAF reviewed the progress made in 2009 in his new year speech to the faculty and staff. The 2009 was a very eventful year and the ICDD related activities were very conspicuous among them.

Section 3 What were the main achievements during the reporting period? Describe the effects of the activity.

- Visit of Prof. Iqrar A. Khan and Prof. Dr. Anwar ul Hassan to Germany for the launching of ICDD. The ICDD was immediately brought to lime light at all levels as follow up presentations, video conferences, meetings, circulation through email groups and publications in Campus News and News papers.
- An extensive exercise was carried out to make the ICDD programs public and motivate the students to prepare good proposal and apply for the graduate school scholarships. Whilst 100s of candidates were interviewed and many submitted applications, the success was not notable on account of many factors including limited awareness of a stringent selection criteria of admission requirements among the students and faculty and low capacity in integrating agricultural sciences with social sciences. With the lessons learned, however, the next round of selection is expected to have a high competition for ICDD graduate school scholarships.
- A web link has been established at UAF official site (www.uaf.edu.pk), which has an increasing visitation by the students and faculty. Now ICDD site can be accessed from UAF website.
- An ICDD office has been setup with the Directorate of External Linkages, to increase the presence of ICDD at the campus and facilitate coordination and other ICDD work. Now the students have a live information centre for ICDD programs.

- Signboards, banners, flyers, brochures and folders carrying the given logos and other details of the ICDD, DAAD, Exceed and other partners are displayed and circulated among the staff and faculty at the campus and sub campuses. This has created curiosity among the students to know about the ICDD and other programs of DAAD, University of Kassel and other partners in North and South.
- The ICDD workshop “Impacts of International Labour Migration” organised during December 2009 had a diversified participation from various parts and institutions of the Pakistan. The participation of Dr. M. Akhtar Khan, Assistant Branch Chief, California Dept. of Social Service, USA to share his work on “California’s Experience with Farm labour” fuelled the discussions for bringing decency in the life of farm labour. The event was well covered by the national news papers and electronic media. The workshop generated ideas and was of good impact in sensitising the youth and policy makers for future focus of studies and national policies.

Section 4 “Lessons Learned” Discuss the feasibility of projects planned and if needed offer suggestions for modifications for the future.

A project proposal “Coupling plant and animal production systems for poverty alleviation in Cholistan (Pakistan) and Rajasthan (India)” has been accepted for funding under ICDD through the following collaborating scientist.

Partners (South): Dr. Iqrar Khan, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad
 Dr. Sharit Bhowmik, Tata University, Mumbai
(North): Dr. Andreas Bürkert, Dr. Eva Schlecht, Dr. Michael Wachendorf,
 University of Kassel, Witzenhausen

Another kick-off proposal “Employment creation by return migrants in Pakistan: A case study on the region of Toba” prepared by Prof. Knerr and Dr. Izhar is ready for submission. Two other project ideas on date palm value chain and high value environmental horticulture have been conceived and being put together in the form of Kick-Off grant proposals.

Section 5 Please assess the benefit in terms of development policy, the sustainability and the effect in terms of publicity of the activities in 2009.

The University of Agriculture, Faisalabad is being given participation in policy making exercises. The knowledge gained through ICDD activities and studies will certainly have an impact on the future policies of the country.

Conscious efforts to engage researchers from policy institutions in the ICDD events will certainly have an impact on policy making.

The publicity campaign was extensive to the extent that University of Kassel is a highly known university among the students not only at UAF but other universities of Pakistan also. Likewise every other student seems to be talking about ICDD and have known other partner institutions. The public is getting the message of friendship between Germany and Pakistan through the UAF partnership in ICDD.

Section 6 Explain any activities undertaken in relation to the use or dissemination of project results, including publications made, press releases, brochures etc. or any other dissemination activities carried out, such as presentations at conferences etc.

The UAF is expanding its role as a community builder and therefore remains eventful throughout the year. Since the launching of ICDD almost every event and meeting here had at least one multimedia slide of UAF partnership with DAAD funded ICDD cluster of excellence. Looking at feedback received from students and critiques we seem to have performed very well to spotlight the ICDD, DAAD, Exceed and other contributors at the local, regional and national levels (even international level). Now ICDD site can be accessed from UAF website. Signboards, banners, flyers, brochures and folders carrying the given logos and other details of the ICDD, DADD, Exceed and other partners are displayed and circulated among the staff and faculty at the campus and sub campuses. The ICDD events, visit of the partner scientists from University of Kassel are given coverage among the national news papers and electronic media.

S.No	Name	Department	Thematic Focus
1	Iqrar Ahmad Khan	Horticultural Science	Peri urban Agriculture, Environmental Horticulture, Tropical Agriculture, Cell Biology, Fruit Genetics and Breeding
2	Muhammad Younas	Livestock Management	Enhanced milk and meat production under various production systems, Livestock extension modelling in peri-urban areas
3	Anwar ul Hassan	Soil and Environmental Sciences	Soil physics, Manure and tillage effects on soil fertility, carbon sequestration in soils, Nutrient uptake
4	Muhammad Iqbal Zafar	Rural Sociology	Migration and Rural Development
5	Azhar Ahmad Khan	Rural Sociology	Rural Development and labour migration
6	Muhammad Ashfaq	Agricultural Economics	Agriculture policy analysis, economics of water management, Impact assessment, micro-financing
7	Asif Tanveer	Agronomy	Organic Crop Production
8	Ashfaq Ahmad Chatha	Agronomy	Climate Change impact on crop production
9	Mumtaz Akhtar Cheema	Agronomy	Crop Production in dry areas
10	Asif Ali	Plant Breed and Genetics	Breeding for stressed environments, Agricultural genomics and reverse genetics for crop improvement
11	Allah Bakhsh	Irrigation and Drainage	GIS to predict the effects of agricultural management practices, soil and landscape attributes on drainage hydrology