

National Consultation Workshop on Introducing New Courses on Food System Transformation in Pakistan

April 17-18, 2024

Consequent upon the commitment towards achieving SDG 2 i.e. Zero Hunger and enhancing food security, the National Agriculture Education Accreditation Council (NAEAC), Higher Education Commission (HEC), in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), organized a two-day national consultation workshop on introducing new courses on food system transformation in Pakistan at Best Western Premier Hotel Islamabad on April 17-18, 2024.

Prof. Dr. Fayyaz-ul Hassan, Chairperson NAEAC, welcomed all the participant from all over Pakistan. He emphasized the crucial role of academia and NAEAC in transforming Pakistan's food systems into curriculum of graduate students. He expressed strong support and technical guidance from NAEAC to make this possible. Ms. Farrah Naz, Country Director GAIN, discussed the importance of adopting robust approaches to improve understanding of food systems and their transformation. She emphasized the role of NAEAC, HEC, and PARC as key partners in creating an enabling environment for food systems transformation and improving food security in the country.

Mr. Faiz Rasool, Head of Policy & Advocacy at GAIN, outlined the key objectives of the workshop, including designing innovative curriculum modules, providing faculty training, and promoting interdisciplinary research collaborations to address food systems challenges. Dr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Member Social Sciences Division (PARC), highlighted the significance of advocating for food systems transformation in higher education and beyond. He emphasized the need for a robust framework to assess the impact of curriculum changes and educational initiatives, as well as the importance of tools like the Pakistan Food Systems Dashboard.

The chief guest, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, emphasized the workshop's role in bringing together stakeholders such as academia, government, non-governmental organizations, and international partners to discuss course outlines, finalize action plans, and ensure alignment with national and international standards.

On first day, after the inaugural session, six technical sessions were held where recommendations on Basic advance and Research oriented course line were finalized. These groups were formulated to discuss the course outline and finalize its recommendations. On second day, two technical sessions were held where deliberations on Pakistan Food System Dashboard and quality assurance mechanisms. Later on a panel discussion was held on how to engage different stakeholders for continuous improvement in Food System Transformation. Engineer M. Raza Chohan, Advisor Academics and Accreditation, HEC, Islamabad was the chief guest at concluding session who assured full support to transform food system Transformation into curriculum. He appreciated the initiation of gain and NAEAC.

