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## US helping Pakistan to tackle food crises: Hunt

### RECORDER REPORT

FAISALABAD (August 16 2008): The United States is extending its full support to Pakistan to meet its food crises and to develop agriculture along sustainable grounds, says the Principal Officer of the US Consulate in Lahore, Bryan D. Hunt.

While addressing the inaugural session of an international training workshop on extrusion technology at the Nestle Hall of NIFSAT, UAF he said that the provision of Extrusion Technology to NIFSAT is a success story in the Pak-US Science and Technology Agreement signed in 2003.

He also told participants that the US is preparing a comprehensive policy to facilitate Pakistani academia and agricultural experts to further strengthen mutual co-operation between the countries.

Addressing participants of the workshop, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan said that many research projects are underway at UAF. He added that US funding helps these projects and that giving this funding for purely agricultural research projects strengthens co-operation. He hoped that after the completion of this three-day training workshop, capacity building in the food industry would be translated into a diversification of bakery and food products.

Director of the Food Protein R&D Centre at Texas A & M University in the USA, Dr Mian Nadeem Riaz told the workshop that by applying extrusion technology they can minimise raw material usage by up to 19 percent. He also said that this process could reduce the need for labour by 15 percent and capital investment by 45 percent in the preparation of various varieties of bakery and food products.

Dr Riaz highlighted the various functions and possibilities of the extrusion machine and said that they could make different types of corn snacks, pasta, rice, aquatic feed, pet feed all with various textures to their products. He revealed that with the help of extrusion technology, they could eliminate unwanted water from the meat to make it healthier.

DG NIFSAT: Dr Faqir Muhammad Anjum expressed his concerns that due to limited value-addition of food crop totals, Pakistani food exports were not living up to their potential. He said that 40-50 food crops are spoilt by post-harvest losses. Anjum further urged the need for establishing processing units in all big cities for maximum value-addition in food crops. Dr Javed Aziz Awan conducted the workshop and earlier the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour visited the Institute's labs.