

Two-Day International Biodiversity Conference

MNSUAM hosted a two-day international conference on the occasion of World Biodiversity Day 2026, organized in collaboration with the Punjab Agricultural Research Board, Punjab Higher Education Commission, and the UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves. Scientists, researchers, teachers, students, policymakers, and development experts from Pakistan and 15 countries participated, with over 100 research abstracts received on themes covering biodiversity conservation, climate change, wildlife, water resources, indigenous knowledge, and low-carbon agriculture. In the inaugural address, VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) described biodiversity as the very foundation of food systems, agriculture, soil, water, wildlife, rural economies, and human life and stressed the need to integrate research, local knowledge, institutional cooperation, and practical policy to address the acute challenges facing Pakistan's arid and semi-arid regions. Distinguished keynote speakers included Prof. Dr. Andreas Buerkert (University of Kassel, Germany), Prof. Dr. Zhao Wenwu (Zhejiang University, China), Dr. Pablo Orozco Wengel (Cardiff University, UK), and Mr. Fuad Pashayev (UNESCO Representative in Pakistan), each contributing global perspectives on biodiversity and climate resilience. Academic sessions on both days addressed forest conservation, natural resources of Cholistan, urban biodiversity, beneficial soil microbes, wildlife conservation, sustainable water management, groundwater conservation, flood risk, indigenous food resources, and community-inclusive conservation approaches. The conference concluded with the official launch of the book 'Oasis Agriculture in Pakistan: Agricultural and Pastoral Heritage, Change and Folklore of Biodiversity' authored by Prof. Dr. Andreas Buerkert, and the formal presentation of conference recommendations to guide future sustainable agriculture policies, biodiversity conservation strategies, and climate-resilient development planning.

