

**International Conference on
Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Resilience in
Arid Landscapes**
&
**Poster Competition on
Biodiversity and Ethnic Inclusion**
On International Day for Biological Diversity

**21-22 May
2026**



International Conference on Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Resilience in Arid Landscapes

&

Poster Competition on Biodiversity and Ethnic Inclusion On International Day for Biological Diversity

Organizers:

- Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, MNSUAM
- Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, MNSUAM
- UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserves, MNSUAM

Date: 21-22 May 2026

Venue: MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan

Background

The International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) highlights the critical role of biodiversity in sustaining ecosystems, supporting livelihoods, and strengthening climate resilience. In Pakistan, particularly in the arid and semi-arid regions of southern Punjab including the Cholistan Desert and the Lal Suhana Biosphere Reserve ecological sustainability is closely linked with agricultural productivity, rural livelihoods, and socio-economic stability.

These fragile dryland systems face increasing pressures from climate variability, land degradation, water scarcity, and unsustainable resource use. Addressing these challenges requires integrated academic dialogue that connects biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood resilience within a provincial development framework.

In this context, MNSUAM, through its institutes, proposes to organize a conference with international participation to foster evidence-based discussion, research collaboration, and policy engagement. The event will contribute to strengthening academic capacity in Punjab, promoting interdisciplinary research, and supporting alignment with national and global sustainability commitments.

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Objectives

- To commemorate the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May) through a national academic forum addressing biodiversity, livelihoods, and resilience in arid and semi-arid regions of Pakistan.
- To examine contemporary challenges related to biodiversity loss, land degradation, climate variability, and rural livelihood vulnerability in dryland ecosystems.
- To promote interdisciplinary research dialogue linking, sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, climate resilience, and rural economics.
- To strengthen research capacity and academic networking among universities and research institutions across Pakistan.
- To facilitate policy-oriented discussion by engaging academia, policymakers, conservation agencies, and development practitioners.
- To provide a platform for young researchers and postgraduate students to present research and build scholarly visibility.