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 Orozcoter 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.

View Highlights

UNESCO Chair-MNSUAM Leads Field Tour to Lal Sohanra Biosphere Reserve

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The UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserve at MNS University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM), successfully organizedaone-dayfieldtour toLalSohanraNationalPark,Bahawalpur,aspart of UNESCO's international Youth Storytelling Initiative: Capture the Future competition.Students explored the park'sdiverse ecological zones—spanning desert, dry forest, and wetland ecosystems—and received expert briefings on seed ball technology, water management through the Lal Sohanra Headworks, and wildlife conservation practices. A hands-on capacity-building workshop on compostingandlow-carbonagriculturewasalsoconductedbyDr.MuqarrabAli, benefiting 20 local small-scale farmers from the surrounding biosphere area. Students further engaged with the indigenous communities of the Cholistan desert, capturing the region's ecology and cultural heritage for their UNESCO storytellingsubmissions.Theinitiativewascommendedbypark'sChiefSecurity Officer, Mr. Sarfaraz Hashim Dogar, who praised MNSUAM's efforts in supporting farmerlivelihoods and advancing conservation awareness. This tour reflects MNSUAM's active role in translating global sustainability goals into impactful,community-centerededucationalexperiences.

International Seminar on “Water and Industrial Equity: Where Water Flows, Equality Grows”

A seminar was organized at Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan, in connection with World Water Day under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.) on March 26, 2026. The seminar was held on the theme “Water and Industrial Equity: Where Water Flows, Equality Grows.” The inaugural meeting of the Water Research and Development Cluster was also held alongside the seminar. Online international guest speaker Dr. Emma Singh Karki (Australia) highlighted agriculture in the context of gender equality and climate change. Ms. Amina Bajwa (FAO) spoke about the role of women in agriculture. Dr. Abu Bakar and Ms. Tania Imran emphasized capacity building for improved water management. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Asif Ali highlighted the importance of sustainable water use and inclusive development. He further stated that water is an essential component of life, and without it, the existence of life in the world would become meaningless. He added that the issue of water scarcity is becoming increasingly serious, despite the fact that 71 percent of the Earth’s surface is covered with water while only 29 percent is land. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig and Dr. Saif Ullah stated that water and energy are matters of life and death for us. Unfortunately, Pakistan is currently generating only 8,000 megawatts of electricity from water, whereas there is a potential to generate up to 40,000 megawatts. They further emphasized that every drop of water must be conserved worldwide, as water is not only life but also wealth. A large number of university faculty members and students attended the event

International Seminar on Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Framework for Sustainability Research

The UNESCO Chair on Low Carbon and Sustainable Agriculture in Biosphere Reserve at Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture organized an International Seminar on “Interdisciplinary and Intersectional Framework for Sustainability Research” on February 9, 2026. The seminar brought together faculty members, researchers, and students to deliberate on innovative approaches for advancing sustainability research through cross-disciplinary collaboration. The keynote lecture was delivered by Dr. Sarah Holz from Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. In her insightful presentation, she emphasized the importance of integrating diverse academic disciplines and incorporating intersectional perspectives to address complex global sustainability challenges. She highlighted how collaborative research frameworks can enhance climate resilience, social inclusion, and sustainable development outcomes. The seminar provided an engaging platform for dialogue on strengthening research capacity, fostering international collaboration, and aligning institutional research priorities with global sustainability goals. Participants appreciated the opportunity to interact with an international expert and explore pathways for collaborative research initiatives. The event reaffirmed MNSUAM’s commitment to promoting interdisciplinary scholarship and advancing impactful sustainability research at national and global levels.

3rd International Conference on Food Security and Value Chain Systems (ICFSVC-2026)

The 3rd International Conference on Food Security and Value Chain Systems (ICFSVC2026), themed “Innovative Pathways for Sustainability and Resilience,” was held on 11– 12 February 2026 at Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan. The conference brought together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and industry representatives to discuss sustainable solutions for food security and agricultural transformation. As agriculture remains central to Pakistan’s economy and global development, the conference served as an important platform for sharing knowledge, showcasing innovations, and strengthening collaboration in agri-food value chains.

ICFSVC-2026 aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. The discussions addressed Pakistan’s key challenges, including food insecurity, climate change, water scarcity, soil degradation, and the need for digital and AI-driven agricultural innovations. The conference also emphasized value addition, export competitiveness, and empowerment of youth and women in agribusiness and rural entrepreneurship, aligning with Pakistan Vision 2025. A total of 110 abstracts were received from 13 countries, of which 52 were selected for oral presentations after a rigorous peer-review process. Participants from Asia, Africa, and Europe attended the event, while keynote speakers from six countries shared global perspectives on sustainable agriculture and value chain development.

Key recommendations included strengthening inclusive and transparent governance in agri-food markets, promoting public-private partnerships in climate-vulnerable regions, developing blended-finance models for climate-resilient agriculture, integrating indigenous knowledge, and advancing digital governance and soil-health initiatives. The conference fostered research collaborations, policy dialogue, and industry partnerships, while providing a platform for young researchers. Overall, ICFSVC-2026 generated actionable insights and partnerships for building resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

MNSUAM Partners with FDO for Climate-Resilient Initiatives

Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture (MNSUAM), Multan, has initiated a collaboration with the Farmers Development Organization (FDO), Multan, to promote climate-resilient development, green infrastructure, and community-based research. The partnership focuses on capacity building, technical collaboration, student engagement, and the development of on-campus demonstration sites for sustainable practices. A short course on climate-resilient urban development is also proposed under this initiative. The Agreement of Cooperation was signed on March 30, 2026. Dr. Muqarrab Ali, Associate Professor of Climate Change, MNSUAM, will serve as the focal person for coordination. The collaboration will also include joint trainings, workshops, and outreach activities to ensure long-term sustainability and impact.

Training of Trainers Session on Water Conservation Held under PHEC Cluster & UNESCO Chair

MNSUAM organized a Training of Trainers session on water conservation under the Punjab Higher Education Commission R&D Cluster on April 27, 2026. The session aimed to equip faculty and students to educate school and college students in Multan on the value of water conservation. Trainer Dr. Saifullah presented scientific data showing rapid global freshwater decline due to climate change, over-extraction, and population growth. He warned that without behavioral shifts, severe water scarcity could become a defining challenge for Pakistan in the coming decades. He introduced the concept of water budgeting, treating water as a finite, quantifiable resource rather than a free commodity. Dean Prof. Dr. Irfan Baig described water conservation as a sacred and collective civic responsibility. The session addressed Multan and South Punjab specifically, where agricultural water use is intensive and groundwater depletion is a growing concern. Participants collaboratively designed creative, age-appropriate awareness activities for implementation in local schools and colleges. The training was attended by Dr. Muqarrab Ali, Dr. Nazar Fareed, Dr. Usman Jamshed, Dr. Hafiz Amjad Ali Rana, faculty members, and a large number of students. This program exemplifies MNSUAM's expanding role as a hub for community educationandcivicawarenessbeyondthecampusboundary

Hands-on Workshop on Regenerative Agriculture and Vermicomposting for Farmers

MNSUAM, in collaboration with the Farmer Development Organization, organized a training workshop on regenerative agriculture on April 17, 2026. Farmers from Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan participated in a day of practical learning focused on sustainable and low-cost farming methods. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.) attended as chief guest and outlined the core principles and practical approaches of regenerative farming. He highlighted that adopting regenerative practices can reduce per-acre production costs by up to Rs. 40,000, a compelling economic incentive. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig enriched the session by sharing national and international experiences in sustainable farming and agricultural transition. Dr. Muqarrab Ali led hands-on vermicomposting training, demonstrating how earthworms convert waste into high-quality organic fertilizer. Farmers actively participated in demonstrations and expressed strong interest in applying the techniques directly on their own farms. Representatives from APTMA, FDO, and agricultural institutions were present, adding institutional credibility to the event. MNSUAM and FDO are committed to continuing such farmer-centric training programs regularly to support sustainable livelihoods across South Punjab. The workshop exemplifies MNSUAM's mission to translate cutting-edge agricultural research into direct, tangible benefits for farming communities.

SMALL PAK Project Launch Workshop (aimed at promoting climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture for small farmers)

On March 25, 2026, MNSUAM hosted a workshop to launch the SMALL PAK Project, aimed at promoting climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture for small farmers. The workshop brought together national and international experts, researchers, and practitioners to discuss the project's scope and expected outcomes. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.) emphasized the significance of research, collaboration, and innovation in addressing climate change challenges. He highlighted the importance of developing practical solutions to support smallholder farmers facing water scarcity and environmental stress. Experts shared insights into implementation strategies and long-term impacts of the project. The session provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement. Participants discussed the role of community-based approaches in enhancing agricultural resilience. The workshop also encouraged collaboration between academia and field practitioners. It underscored the importance of sustainable farming practices for future food security. The initiative reflects MNSUAM's commitment to research-driven development. It also reinforces efforts to support vulnerable farming communities across Punjab.

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Hands-On Training Workshop on Crop Growth Modeling UNESCO Chair, MNSUAM & (DSSAT)

On the advice of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Asif Ali (T.I.), a three-day hands-on training workshop on Climate and Crop Growth Modeling was successfully organized from January 07 to 09, 2026, under the umbrella of the UNESCO Chair and CAS-SP at Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan. The workshop aimed to strengthen capacity in climate-resilient agriculture by providing practical training in crop simulation and modeling tools to faculty members, researchers, and students. The workshop proved to be highly informative and valuable. During the training, participants gained in-depth knowledge about climate change and its impacts on agricultural crops and ecosystems. The practical applications of the DSSAT model were demonstrated effectively, including its use for analyzing climate change, assessing crop growth, and evaluating various crop management strategies. Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad highlighted that the DSSAT model is an invaluable tool for researchers, students, and agricultural professionals, as it supports in decision-making for future climatic scenarios, optimizing crop management practices, and developing mitigation and adaptation strategies under changing climate conditions. In his address, he also expressed gratitude to Dr. Mohkum Hammad (Trainer), and Mr. Saeed Ahmad (CoTrainer), for managing such a well-structured and impactful training program. He advised the participants to apply the DSSAT model in their research activities for promoting climate-smart agriculture and encouraged the students to seek guidance from Climate and Crop Modeling Lab. He also assured that such workshops would continue in the future so that more students and researchers can benefit and contribute to addressing agricultural challenges.

World Migratory Bird Day Celebrated with Seminar and Plantation Drive

MNSUAM celebrated World Migratory Bird Day through a comprehensive awareness seminar organized in collaboration with the Department of Climate Change, the Green Youth Movement Club (GYMC), and the UNESCO Chair, bringing together teachers, students, environmental experts, wildlife officers, and civil society representatives in a shared commitment to biodiversity conservation. The event's central theme was the protection of migratory birds, the preservation of biodiversity, and the growing threats posed to both by climate change, habitat destruction, and unsustainable land-use practices. Dr. Muqarrab Ali delivered a keynote address describing migratory birds as an irreplaceable component of the natural ecosystem, urging communities, youth, and educational institutions to actively promote the conservation of birds' natural habitats, support tree plantation initiatives, and adopt eco-friendly lifestyles to ensure biodiversity is preserved for future generations. Students prepared and presented creative posters and models covering topics such as safe bird habitats, conservation of water bodies, the ecological importance of trees, and the documented negative impacts of climate change on migratory patterns and bird populations. Dr. Muhammad Nadeem, Prof. Dr. Irfan Baig, and other speakers shed detailed light on the ecological significance of migratory birds, their remarkable intercontinental journeys, and the compounding threats they face from climate change, habitat fragmentation, and human encroachment. In a complementary initiative connected to World Plant Health Day, the Plant for Life Society conducted a campus tree plantation campaign, during which a variety of plants were planted to enhance the green environment and create more sustainable natural habitats for birds and other wildlife.

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