



# MNS University of Agriculture, Multan

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# NEWS BULLETIN

## EDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- ✿ 8th Regional Agriculture Forum Reviews Cotton Research and Water Management
- ✿ Two-Day International Biodiversity Conference Concludes with Key Recommendations
- ✿ 6th International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation Held on World Bee Day
- ✿ International Day of Plant Health Celebrated with Walk and Poster Competition





## # EDITION INSIGHTS

Pg no.

- |    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 01 | Two-Day Wheat Quality Control Training Training Workshop                      | 04 |
| 02 | RIPE-2025 Institutional Performance Review - MNSUAM                           | 05 |
| 03 | 8th Regional Agriculture Forum Reviews Cotton Research and Water Management   | 06 |
| 04 | Solidarity Walk Organized to Commemorate Victory in Operation Marka-e-Haq     | 07 |
| 05 | Webinar on Sustainable Development Goals Highlights Role of Youth             | 08 |
| 06 | Digital Crop Monitoring System Demonstrated for Cotton Cluster Farming        | 09 |
| 07 | Seminar on Sustainable Agriculture Underscores Global Cotton Standards        | 10 |
| 08 | International Mother's Day Celebration Ceremony at MNSUAM                     | 11 |
| 09 | International Roundtable Conference on Rhodes Grass Cultivation               | 12 |
| 10 | Three-Day Halal Lead Auditor Training Workshop                                | 13 |
| 11 | International Day of Plant Health Celebrated with Walk and Poster Competition | 14 |



## # EDITION INSIGHTS

Pg no.

- |           |  |           |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| <b>12</b> | World Migratory Bird Day Celebrated with Seminar and Plantation Drive                  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>13</b> | MNSUAM Students Clinch 19 Positions at Lyallpur Art and Lit Fest 2026                  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>14</b> | 16th Academic Council Meeting Approves AI and Cyber Security Programs                  | <b>17</b> |
| <b>15</b> | Seminar on Electronic Waste Management   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>16</b> | 6th International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation Held on World Bee Day | <b>19</b> |
| <b>17</b> | Two-Day International Biodiversity Conference Concludes with Key Recommendations       | <b>20</b> |
| <b>18</b> | Seed Industry Experts Engage MNSUAM Students in Professional Training Session          | <b>21</b> |
| <b>19</b> | 5th NCVT Meeting and Delegation Visit Advance Cotton Variety Development               | <b>22</b> |

01

May 3, 2026

## Two-Day Wheat Quality Control Training Workshop

A two-day training program for Wheat Quality Control Officers was organized at MNSUAM in collaboration with Green Pakistan Initiative, Green Agri Mall, the Department of Food Science and Technology, and Eastern Scientific Corporation, Lahore. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.), Dean Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, and CEO of Eastern Scientific Corporation Muhammad Shehbaz actively participated in the workshop sessions. The program was designed to equip agricultural graduates with specialized technical skills aligned with the demands of the wheat quality control sector, and participants were presented with direct job placement opportunities in relevant industry roles. The training sessions combined theoretical grounding with practical demonstrations, and were widely appreciated by attendees for their professional relevance and well-organized structure. Major General (Retd) Shahid Nazir attended the concluding ceremony as chief guest and praised the institution's proactive effort in forging a meaningful bridge between academia and industry. He stated that collaborations of this nature serve as a milestone for empowering youth with professional competencies that the market demands. He also announced that more attractive and farmer-friendly support packages will be rolled out through Green Agri Malls to ensure easier farmer access to quality agricultural inputs. Brigadier (Retd) Sohail Ishrat, Director Agriculture at Green Corporate Initiative Pakistan, was also present at the event and endorsed the initiative as a model for future industry-university cooperation.





May 4, 2026

## RIPE-2025 Institutional Performance

### Review - MNSUAM

A three-day Review of Institutional Performance and Enhancement (RIPE-2025) was formally conducted at MNSUAM, chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.). The external review team comprised Dr. Farhan Gilani (Director QEC, University of Southern Punjab), Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Agriculture Multan), and Prof. Dr. Salman Qadri, bringing a wealth of academic and administrative expertise to the evaluation process. The review covered all sixteen institutional performance standards, encompassing teaching quality, research output, administrative efficiency, infrastructure development, and student support services. Team members held detailed discussions with the Vice Chancellor, Deans, department heads, faculty at all levels, and administrative office heads, systematically reviewing performance dossiers and gathering professional feedback. A particularly encouraging aspect of the review was the positive response received from the Student Council, whose members offered constructive suggestions regarding academic quality and campus life. The team also conducted on-site inspections of the Central Lab System, classrooms, undergraduate laboratories, and research farms to assess resources and the overall academic environment. Key institutional strengths highlighted included robust faculty development programs, regular seminars and workshops, daily crop and weather advisory services for farmers, and the university's modern purposefully designed infrastructure. Actionable recommendations were presented to align MNSUAM's standards with national and international benchmarks and to further elevate its standing as a premier agricultural university.



## 8th Regional Agriculture Forum Reviews Cotton Research and Water Management

The 8th meeting of the Regional Agriculture Forum was convened at MNSUAM under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.), bringing together officers from the Agriculture Complex, representatives of research institutions, and progressive farmers from across the region. The session opened with a detailed review of the progress made on decisions taken at the Cotton Research Sub-Station, Rajanpur, followed by a briefing on early cotton demonstration plots established at the university in partnership with industry. Experts confirmed that modern high-performing varieties are being cultivated in these plots, positioning them as an effective and replicable model for local farmers. A substantive discussion on water accounting and rainwater harvesting was led by Dr. Saifullah, who emphasized the critical importance of monitoring water use, reducing wastage, and developing conservation strategies in the context of worsening climate change. The forum also reviewed a proposal for improved farmer access to modern agricultural machinery in collaboration with AMRI Multan, aimed at enabling greater mechanization across the region. A comparative analysis of water usage and production efficiency in cotton and sugarcane crops was presented, providing data-driven insights for future resource planning. Discussions on mango hopper control and malformation disease management were led by Dr. Akhtar Hameed, who advocated for an integrated strategy including timely spraying, proper orchard management, and promotion of resistant varieties. Participants also unanimously agreed on the urgent need for breeding programs focused on locally adaptable, disease-resistant, and high-quality fruit varieties suited to the regional climate.



## Solidarity Walk Organized to Commemorate Victory in Operation Maarka-e-Haq

MNSUAM organized a large-scale solidarity walk as a powerful demonstration of national unity and patriotic spirit, commemorating Pakistan's historic victory in Operation Maarka-e-Haq Bunyan Al-Marsoos. Senior administrative officers, faculty members, and a large number of students from all academic departments participated enthusiastically, marching through university corridors carrying banners and raising passionate slogans reflecting determination and the triumph of truth. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.) delivered a special address, reaffirming that no sacrifice will be spared in safeguarding the homeland and inspiring participants with the spirit of national commitment and loyalty. He described Operation Maarka-e-Haq as a landmark action by Pakistan's armed forces against anti-state elements and terrorism, carried out to ensure the nation's security, defense, and long-term stability. He emphasized that the Pakistani people, the government, and the Pakistan Army stand united on the same page, and that any threat to the country will be met with a strong and befitting response. Senior faculty members also addressed the gathering, highlighting the historical significance of the operation and urging all present to remember the sacrifices made by brave men and women in service of justice and national integrity. A prominent feature of the event was the enthusiastic and unified participation of all academic departments, symbolizing a shared institutional stance on national solidarity. Students played a leading role throughout the proceedings, expressing their commitment to the values of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering loyalty to Pakistan.





May 7, 2026

## Webinar on Sustainable Development Goals Highlights Role of Youth

A webinar on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was organized at MNSUAM under the auspices of the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Outreach, featuring Dr. Ahmed Mahmood of NUST Islamabad as the keynote speaker. Dr. Mahmood delivered a comprehensive lecture covering the significance of the SDGs, the urgency of environmental protection, and the pivotal responsibility of Pakistan's youth in driving meaningful change at community and national levels. He highlighted that challenges such as food insecurity, water scarcity, environmental pollution, and climate change demand an urgent mobilization of the young generation, who must be equipped not only with awareness but with actionable tools and professional skills. With approximately 64% of Pakistan's population comprising youth, speakers underscored that their active and informed participation is indispensable to achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. Special thematic focus was placed on sustainable agriculture, provision of clean drinking water, solid waste management, pollution control, and climate change awareness as areas where student-led initiatives can yield tangible outcomes. Speakers emphasized that through practical engagement in these areas, issues of hunger, food insecurity, and environmental degradation can be effectively addressed at the local level. Prof. Dr. Tanveer-ul-Haq, Dr. Wazir Ahmad, and Dr. Usman Jamshed, along with faculty representatives from various research institutions, enriched the discussion with their academic and field expertise. At the conclusion, participants collectively resolved to fulfill their responsibilities wholeheartedly and to champion the promotion of SDGs and environmental improvement in their respective spheres of influence.





May 8, 2026

## Digital Crop Monitoring System

### Demonstrated for Cotton Cluster Farming

A high-level meeting on digital crop monitoring and advisory services for cotton cluster farming was held at MNSUAM in collaboration with research and textile sector institutions, with a delegation from Cholistan led by Colonel M. Iftikhar in attendance. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali chaired the session and opened by stressing the critical importance of a structured digital data recording system for delivering crop-stage-specific recommendations that can measurably improve cotton productivity. Dr. Sadia from the Land Information and Management System team delivered a detailed practical demonstration of an online dashboard system designed for the cotton cluster teams of MNSUAM and the Cotton Research Institute Multan. The system enables digital mapping of land parcels, registration of individual farmers, and systematic recording of soil, water, and crop-stage data from the time of sowing through to final harvest. Dr. Sadia explained that the platform significantly enhances coordination between field teams and farmers, improves data quality and record integrity, and facilitates the preparation of analytical reports that can identify the strengths and weaknesses of advisory services. These insights, she noted, will enable better strategic planning for the upcoming cotton season and support more evidence-based decision-making at the cluster level. VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali announced that a dedicated training session for field staff of the Agriculture Extension Department and Chief Minister Internship Program interns working in cotton cluster areas will be organized in the near future. He also urged the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) to expedite the finalization of a comprehensive support package for cotton cluster farmers to ensure they receive adequate financial and technical assistance.





May 10, 2026

## Seminar on Sustainable Agriculture Underscores Global Cotton Standards

A seminar on Sustainable Agriculture was organized at MNSUAM, with Dr. Shafiq Ahmad, Member Board of Directors of BCI Pakistan, participating as chief guest and delivering a comprehensive address on the evolving landscape of global cotton production and sustainability. Dr. Shafiq outlined the requirements of the international cotton market, covering sustainability certifications, regulatory frameworks, eco-friendly agricultural strategies, and the growing necessity for demand-based production systems aligned with global buyer expectations. He emphasized that for Pakistani cotton to remain competitive in the international market, it is imperative to adapt production methods to meet global sustainability standards, and that universities and research institutions must lead this transformation through applied research and capacity development. He also stated that the university is playing an effective and visible role in advancing sustainable agriculture, forging strong industry linkages, and producing graduates equipped to meet modern agri-sector demands. Following the seminar, he visited experimental and field plots at the university, where he received briefings on ongoing research experiments, advanced cotton programs, and mechanization initiatives including high-density cotton plantation and mechanical picking. He described these mechanization approaches as important future priorities for Pakistan's cotton sector and praised the quality and ambition of the university's research agenda. A comprehensive question-and-answer session was held with undergraduate and postgraduate students, faculty members, and researchers, creating a vibrant and informative exchange of ideas. Dr. Shafiq closed by appreciating VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali's leadership in advancing educational, research, and agricultural development, and expressed his resolve to continue supporting institutional cooperation for sustainable cotton promotion.





May 11, 2026

## International Mother's Day Celebration

On the occasion of International Mother's Day, a heartfelt cake-cutting ceremony was organized at MNSUAM under the auspices of the Directorate of Public Relations, bringing together women faculty, staff, and administrative officers to pay tribute to the timeless bond of motherhood. Ms. Somia Ambreen spoke movingly about the unparalleled role of a mother, describing her as the great being whose love, prayers, and sacrifice form the very foundation of a person's success, happiness, and inner peace, and affirming that no relationship in the world can equal or replace the depth of a mother's devotion. Dr. Akash Fatima reflected on the profound sacrifices mothers make daily, noting that a mother stays awake through the night, forsakes her own desires, and yet finds all her sorrows forgotten upon seeing joy on her children's faces — an expression of love that is instinctive, boundless, and unconditional. Dr. Ammar Matloob observed that a good mother is the foundation of a good human being, a responsible citizen, and ultimately a great nation, highlighting the irreplaceable role mothers play from a child's earliest years through their complete religious and worldly upbringing. Dr. Javed Bin Alam and Dr. Anam Bukhari joined in expressing that a mother dedicates her entire life to the happiness, success, and peace of her children, sacrificing personal dreams to fulfill those of the people she loves most. The ceremony was attended by a large number of faculty members and university staff, all of whom joined in honoring and celebrating the extraordinary legacy of mothers everywhere.

[View Highlights](#)



May 12, 2026

## International Roundtable Conference on Rhodes Grass Cultivation

An international roundtable conference titled 'Rhodes Grass Fine Cut Cultivation' was jointly organized by MNSUAM and Maxim Agri Private Limited Pakistan, drawing a diverse audience of progressive growers, foreign agricultural experts from Austria and South Africa, researchers, and key industry stakeholders. The conference aimed to raise awareness among Pakistani farmers about the importance of Rhodes grass as a high-value fodder crop, the selection of certified quality seed, and the adoption of best practices for producing export-quality dry fodder that meets the stringent requirements of international markets. VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (TI.) inaugurated the conference, stating that promoting modern fodder production technology at the national and international levels is essential for strengthening Pakistan's agricultural economy and opening new export revenue streams. Ms. Sania Karim (COO, Maxim Agri), Faisal Farid (MD, Maxim Agri), and Asad Khan highlighted that Gulf countries represent a major and growing market for Pakistan's Rhodes grass, with approximately 80% of domestically produced Rhodes grass currently exported to the UAE and other Gulf nations as premium livestock feed. They noted that farmers can consistently achieve local and export-quality production through the use of quality-certified seed, improved cultivation practices, and disciplined crop management throughout the growing cycle. Brett Ross Richards, Managing Director of Selected Seeds Australia, and Johan Olivier, Agricultural Expert from South Africa, addressed the conference on the production of internationally standardized, high-quality seed varieties. Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem Tahir highlighted the strategic importance of fodder crops for national agricultural development and economic stability, encouraging wider farmer participation in this growing export-oriented sector.



# 10 May 13, 2026 Three-Day Halal Lead Auditor Training Workshop

MNSUAM hosted a three-day Halal Lead Auditor Training Course aimed at equipping professionals from the Halal food sector with the knowledge and practical skills required for auditing, certification, and compliance with international Halal standards. Participants included representatives from universities, research institutions, the food processing industry, and government departments, ensuring a richly diverse and cross-sectoral learning environment. Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Dean Faculty of Food and Home Sciences, welcomed participants and stressed the growing global importance of the Halal food industry, calling for Pakistan to develop this sector through rigorous research, professional training, and strict adherence to international standards. Prof. Dr. Faqir Muhammad Anjum described Halal food as not merely a religious obligation but a fast-expanding global industry offering immense and largely untapped commercial opportunities for Pakistan. VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali affirmed that quality research and training in the Halal food sector is an urgent institutional priority, and called for coordinated efforts among universities, government institutions, and industry to secure Pakistan's position in the global Halal market. Expert trainers including Prof. Dr. Saeed Akhtar, Kamran Shehzad, Irfanullah Khan, and Umair Ansari delivered in-depth sessions covering Halal food science, certification procedures, product labeling, modern food processing technology, and quality assurance systems applicable at every stage of the supply chain. Kamran Shehzad from the Punjab Food Authority outlined newly formulated Halal laws and regulations, affirming that compliance with the Halal certification framework is the definitive gateway to international market access. Representatives of IFANCA discussed global Halal certification standards and the organization's mission to achieve international recognition for Pakistani Halal products.



## International Day of Plant Health Celebrated with Walk and Poster Competition

The Department of Plant Pathology at MNSUAM organized a vibrant series of activities to mark the International Day of Plant Health, with the dual objectives of raising awareness about plant health protection and inspiring the next generation of plant scientists. The event drew enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and individuals associated with the department, all united by a shared commitment to advancing the science and practice of plant protection. Dr. Munawwar Raza Kazmi served as chief guest and keynote speaker, delivering a compelling address in which he described plant health as a matter of extreme global importance, directly linked to the stability of food systems, the livelihoods of farming communities, and the long-term security of nations. He noted that the increasing frequency and severity of climate-driven disease outbreaks, combined with the rapid emergence of new plant pathogens, has made the role of modern plant protection research more critical and urgent than at any previous point in history. Students prepared and displayed informative and visually engaging posters on themes related to plant health, disease prevention, and crop protection, which were highly appreciated by faculty and guests for both their educational content and creative presentation. An awareness walk was organized on campus, in which students and teachers participated with great enthusiasm, visibly demonstrating their collective commitment to promoting plant health as a public good. At the conclusion of the event, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq delivered the vote of thanks, commending the students and speakers for their contributions and reaffirming the department's resolve to continue advancing plant pathology research, awareness, and practical education in the years ahead.





May 15, 2026

## 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.


[View Highlights](#)


13

May 17, 2026

## MNSUAM Students Clinch 19 Positions at Lyallpur Art and Lit Fest 2026

Students of MNSUAM delivered an extraordinary performance at the Lyallpur Art and Lit Fest 2026, hosted by the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, outshining participants from more than 40 universities, 20 educational institutions, and over 700 competitors drawn from across Pakistan. The university's most prestigious achievement at the festival was winning the coveted Overall Best Delegate Award, the highest recognition at the event, affirming MNSUAM's standing as a centre of excellence not only in academics but also in co-curricular talent and leadership. Student Council President Muhammad Tehseen was personally honoured with the Best Campus Ambassador award for his outstanding representation and performance throughout the competition. In the literary arena, Abdul Qadir and Hamza Saleem won first place in the All Pakistan Bait Bazi competition, while Muzammil Rasheed claimed the top position in essay writing. In the Punjabi Natara competition, Amna Kausar secured first place and Javeria Farooq earned second in the Under-19 category. Umar Shehzad demonstrated remarkable versatility by winning first place in both the Monologue and Radio Buzz competitions, while Imtithal received the Best Supporting Actress award in Theatre. Muhammad Ahmad Mujtaba of the Data Science Society won first place in the Business Idea competition, and Hamza Waheed of the Media Club topped the Media Fest. Additional second-place finishes were secured by Muhammad Tehseen in speech, Imran Jatoi in Ghazal recitation, Muhammad Shiraz and Abdul Bari in Business Idea, Hafiz Muhammad Nauman in Qiraat, and Awais Jamal in Eastern Songs. VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz) warmly congratulated the achievers and expressed that these students are bringing fame and honour to the university across the country.


[View Highlights](#)




May 18, 2026

## 16th Academic Council Meeting Approves AI and Cyber Security Programs

The 16th meeting of the Academic Council of MNSUAM was held under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.), with the proceedings conducted by Registrar Ms. Somia Ambreen as Secretary. The meeting was attended by Deans and senior faculty from across all faculties, including Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig, Prof. Dr. Umar Farooq, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Hammad Nadeem Tahir, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Asif Raza, and Dr. Rao Muhammad Ikram, along with Chairpersons of all university departments. Distinguished educationists from external institutions, including Anila Rabbani Khar, Prof. Dr. Saeed Akhtar, Prof. Dr. Qamar Rabab, Prof. Dr. Amanullah Malik, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Soomro, and Prof. Dr. Zahir A. Zahir, also participated, enriching the council's deliberations with broad academic perspectives. A landmark decision of the meeting was the approval of new degree programs in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security within the Computer Science discipline, reflecting the university's forward-looking approach to meeting the rapidly evolving demands of the technology sector and the national economy. Amendments to the schemes of study of existing degree programs were also reviewed and deliberated upon, ensuring that curriculum content remains current, relevant, and aligned with both industry requirements and global academic trends. VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali addressed the council, affirming that the decisions taken will play a significant role in improving the university's academic standards, stimulating research culture, and introducing programs that respond meaningfully to the needs of the modern era.



## Seminar on Electronic Waste Management

A seminar on Electronic Waste Management was organized at MNSUAM under the auspices of the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, addressing one of the fastest-growing and most complex waste challenges facing the world today. World Bank Waste Management Consultant Prof. Tahir Imran Qureshi served as the chief guest and principal speaker, delivering a detailed and alarming briefing on the scale, types, and environmental consequences of the global electronic waste crisis. Prof. Qureshi presented data-driven insights into the modern techniques deployed worldwide for effective e-waste management, as well as advanced methods of recycling and responsibly reusing electronic components to minimize their ecological footprint. He drew a stark image of the crisis by stating that electronic waste equivalent to one fully loaded truck is being dumped into the world's oceans every single second, with severe and cascading impacts on climate change, marine ecosystems, and human health. During the interactive question-and-answer session, various technical and policy dimensions of electronic waste were discussed in depth by participants drawn from academia, research, and relevant government bodies. Dr. Akhtar Abbas, Deputy Director of the Environmental Protection Agency Multan, briefed attendees on the measures and legislative framework adopted by the Punjab Government to regulate waste disposal and prevent the widespread burning of electronic waste, which releases highly toxic emissions into the atmosphere. Dr. Wazir Ahmad, Chairman of the Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, urged the audience to champion e-waste awareness at the school and household levels, recognizing that grassroots behavioral change is ultimately the most effective long-term solution. He also commended the efforts of Dr. Muhammad Arif and Dr. Ayata Umar for their dedication in organizing a seminar of such timely relevance and educational value.



## 6th International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation Held on World Bee Day

On World Bee Day, MNSUAM and CABI jointly organized the 6th International Conference on Bee Pollination and Conservation, bringing together national and international experts, researchers, teachers, students, and agricultural professionals to deliberate on the critical role of pollinators in sustaining global food security and biodiversity. Dr. Mirza Abdul Qayyum delivered a keynote address affirming that honeybees and other pollinators play a foundational role in agricultural production, improving the quality and yield of fruits and vegetables and underpinning the stability of natural ecosystems. Dr. Amir Rasool, Director General Pest Warning and Quality Control of Pesticides Punjab, stressed the urgent need to raise farmer awareness about the safe and responsible use of pesticides to protect beneficial insects, particularly pollinators, whose populations are under increasing pressure from agrochemical overuse. VC Prof. Dr. Asif Ali underscored that although small in size, the honeybee's role is inseparably linked to the global food system, and for an agricultural country like Pakistan, their protection is of the highest strategic importance, directly affecting crop production, environmental health, and economic resilience. The conference featured scientific sessions with renowned keynote speakers from the USA (Dr. Becky Griffin), Australia (Dr. Kit Prendergast), Germany (Dr. Michael Orr), Brazil (Dr. Marcia Mota), Turkey (Dr. Ibrahim Cakmak), and the Philippines (Dr. Cleofas Cervancia), who presented their latest research findings and field observations. Alongside the formal scientific programme, students participated in a poster competition, a quiz competition, and a photography contest highlighting the beauty and ecological importance of bees, for which approximately 30 entries were received. Creative resin keychains crafted from preserved beneficial bees were also displayed at the exhibition, drawing considerable admiration from conference attendees.



[View Highlights](#)





May 21–22, 2026

## Two-Day International Biodiversity Conference Concludes with Key Recommendations

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.


[View Highlights](#)


## Seed Industry Experts Engage MNSUAM Students in Professional Training Session

The Institute of Plant Breeding and Biotechnology at MNSUAM organized an informative training session designed to bridge the professional knowledge gap between seed industry practitioners and university students, fostering the practical career orientation and industry awareness that academic programs alone cannot fully provide. Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem Tahir, Director of the Institute, opened the session by outlining its objectives, emphasizing the importance of direct mentorship between industry leaders and students in shaping graduates who are career-ready and aware of real-world agricultural challenges. Sajid Hussain Babar, Chief Executive Officer of Growley Crops, delivered an engaging presentation on hybrid maize seed production, covering the full production cycle, quality assurance requirements, modern cultivation methods, and the commercial success stories that have emerged from Pakistan's growing hybrid seed sector. Aamir Iqbal, Market Development Lead at Bayer Crop Science Pakistan, spoke on the commercialization of new varieties developed through modern biotechnology, outlining how innovative research is translated into farmer-accessible products and highlighting the vital role of the private sector in accelerating agricultural innovation. Murtaza Quddusi, Head of Regulatory Affairs for Seed and Genetic Traits at Bayer Crop Science Pakistan, provided an informative overview of regenerative agriculture principles and shared his professional experiences navigating the regulatory landscape for new seed technologies in Pakistan. All speakers engaged in detailed question-and-answer sessions, offering students practical guidance on sustainable agriculture, modern agricultural technology, career pathways in the seed industry, and the professional competencies required to succeed in today's competitive agri-business environment. Prof. Dr. Hammad Nadeem Tahir concluded the programme by thanking the guest speakers and reaffirming the institute's commitment to organizing regular industry-academic interface events.



## 5th NCVT Meeting and Delegation Visit Advance Cotton Variety Development

The 5th meeting of the National Coordinated Varietal Trials (NCVT) was held at MNSUAM under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Asif Ali, Chairman of the National Seed Development and Regulatory Authority (NSDRA), with participants drawn from federal and provincial agricultural institutions, research centres, the Pest Warning Department, Agriculture Extension, Breeder Forums, Pakistan Seed Association, PHHSA, and the private sector. The Director of the Federal Seed Certification and Registration Department (FSCRD) presented a comprehensive report on progress at eight NCVT trial sites established across Pakistan, briefing participants on current crop status, plant growth, management measures, and overall trial advancement at each location. Prof. Dr. Asif Ali directed that scientific standards, strict transparency, and uniformity be maintained across all trial sites to ensure that the performance assessments of new cotton varieties and advanced lines are both accurate and credible. He also emphasized that variety submissions from both public and private sector entities must be evaluated in accordance with international standards, ensuring a level playing field that rewards genuine genetic improvement. The meeting included detailed discussions on fiber quality analysis, biochemical data, data validation protocols, and the strategic course of action for the trials' concluding phases. Following the meeting, a high-level delegation visited MNSUAM's established cotton demonstration plots, comprising Special Secretary Agriculture Sarfraz Hussain Magsi, Dr. Qamar Shakeel, Director Agriculture Extension, and representatives from the Pest Warning Department, Cotton Research Institute Multan, and Central Cotton Research Institute. The delegation conducted a thorough review of advanced cotton lines and varieties from both public and private institutions, commending MNSUAM's plots as a model platform for impartial, rigorous, and transparent cotton variety assessment.

