International Conference on Climate-Resilient Water Management and Sustainable Agriculture (ICRWMSA-2026)

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Dates: 16–17 November 2026 **Venue:** MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan

All timings are in Pakistan Standard Time (PKT, UTC+05:00).

DAY 1 | MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2026

Inaugural Session

Venue: Room 110, Academic Block
Moderator: Ms. Aimen Batool
Join online: Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID: 816 1798 0926 | Passcode: 350449

Time	Speaker and Affiliation	Title of the Talk
09:00 – 09:30 am	***Registration and Arrival of Guests***	
09:30 – 09:35 am	***Recitation from the Holy Quran***	
09:35 – 09:45 am	**Prof. Dr. Asif Ali (T.I.)** Vice Chancellor, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan	Opening Remarks
09:45 – 10:00 am	**Ms. Amna Bajwa** Head of Programme, FAO Pakistan	Overview of the FAO Programme: Advancing climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable water management in Pakistan
10:00 – 10:20 am	**Ms. Tania Imran** Water Management Expert, FutureWater, Netherlands	Advancing climate-resilient water management: From data to decisions
10:20 – 10:40 am	**Prof. Lin Crase** Dean, School of Accounting and Finance, Adelaide University, Australia	Water-resilient rural communities in the southern Indus Basin, Pakistan
10:40 – 10:50 am	**Prof. Dr. Shazia Anjum** Vice Chancellor, The Government Sadiq College Women University, Bahawalpur	Remarks
10:50 – 11:00 am	**Mr. Iftikhar Ali Sahoo** Additional Chief Secretary, Government of the Punjab	Concluding Remarks
11:00 – 11:10 am	**Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig** Dean (FSS&H) and Water Cluster Chair, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	Vote of Thanks
11:10 – 11:30 am	***Tea Break***	

Plenary Session

Venue: Room 110, Academic Block
Moderator: Ms. Aimen Batool
Join online: Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID: 816 1798 0926 | Passcode: 350449

Time	Speaker and Affiliation	Title of the Talk
11:30 – 11:50 am	**Ms. Elena Masterova** Lead Programme Manager, The Hague Academy for Local Governance, Netherlands	From water science to climate action: Strengthening governance for climate-resilient agriculture
11:50 am – 12:10 pm	**Mr. Jiro Ariyama / Dr. Matthijs Bonte** International Water Experts, FAO GCF Team	Groundwater modelling in the D.G. Khan and Khanewal areas using CAVA climate projections
12:10 – 12:30 pm	**Dr. Virginie Gillet** Land and Water Officer, FAO, Rome	WaPOR Phase II: Global applications, practical usability and the way forward
12:30 – 12:50 pm	**Dr. Marlous Mul** Associate Professor, Water Resources Management, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Netherlands	Crop mapping and irrigation performance assessment indicators through WaPOR

Panel Discussion: Building a Climate-Resilient Water Future for Food Security

Venue: Room 110, Academic Block
Moderator: Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig
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Time	Panellist	Designation and Affiliation
12:50 – 01:50 pm	**Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kamran**	Vice Chancellor, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan
	Ms. Amna Bajwa	Head of Programme, FAO Pakistan
	Prof. Dr. Jamil H. Kazmi	Vice Chancellor, Fatimiyah International University, Karachi
	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid (T.I.)	COMSATS University Islamabad, Wah Campus (Former UNESCO Water Chair Holder)
	Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali	Agriculture Expert and Member, Punjab Agricultural Research Board (PARB)
	Dr. Bakhshal Khan Lashari	Emeritus Professor, USPCAS-W, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology (MUET), Jamshoro
01:50 – 02:05 pm	**Question and Answer Session**	
02:05 – 02:50 pm	***Lunch and Prayer Break***	

Parallel Technical Sessions 1 and 2 (02:50 – 05:00 pm)

Technical Session 1: Climate-Resilient Water Resources Management and Agricultural Productivity

Venue: Room 110, Academic Block
Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Sultan Habib Ullah (Director ORIC, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad)
Session Co-Chair: Prof. Dr. Khuram Shezad (USP)
Moderator: Dr. Muqarrab Ali
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Time	Speaker and Affiliation	Title of the Talk
02:50 – 03:10 pm	**Keynote** **Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid (T.I.)** COMSATS University Islamabad, Wah Campus	Managing Tarbela for Water, Food and Energy: Reservoir Operation under Sediment and Climate Stress
03:10 – 03:30 pm	**Dr. Mubashir Riaz** Charles Sturt University, Australia	From data to decisions: Intelligent water management for climate-resilient agriculture
03:30 – 03:45 pm	**Dr. Ghulam Zakir-Hassan** Irrigation Research Institute (IRI), Punjab Irrigation Department, Lahore	Managed aquifer recharge: A tool for climate-resilient water resources management
03:45 – 04:00 pm	**Ms. Adeela Manzoor** Coordinator, Women Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods, WWF-Pakistan	Impact of rice husk mulching as a sustainable practice for cotton production: Effects on soil health, water use and farm profitability
04:00 – 04:15 pm	**Dr. Kamran Baksh Soomro** Senior Scientific Officer, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)	Transforming saline land into resilient and productive landscapes through nature-based solutions
04:15 – 04:30 pm	**Dr. Muhammad Imran** Associate Professor, Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	HYDRUS-1D simulation of soil water dynamics and evapotranspiration in wheat under deficit irrigation and potassium fertilization
04:30 – 04:45 pm	***Moderated Q&A Session and Concluding Comments***	

Technical Session 2: WaPOR, Digital Technologies, Remote Sensing and AI

Venue: Room 132, Academic Block
Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashfaq (Dean, The University of Faisalabad)
Session Co-Chair: Dr. Khadija Kanwal (Women University Multan)
Moderator: Dr. Muhammad Saifullah
Join online: Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID: 870 2461 4271 | Passcode: 426956

Time	Speaker and Affiliation	Title of the Talk
02:50 – 03:10 pm	**Keynote** **Dr. Syeda Maria Zaidi** WaPOR National Coordinator, FAO Pakistan	Overview of WaPOR activities in Pakistan

Time	Speaker and Affiliation	Title of the Talk
03:10 – 03:25 pm	**Dr. Muhammad Saifullah & Mukhtar Hussain** Associate Professor, Department of Agricultural Engineering, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	Water productivity analysis in Bahawalpur and Bahawalnagar using WaPOR products
03:25 – 03:40 pm	**Mr. Nauman ul Haq** Remote Sensing and GIS Specialist, FAO Pakistan	Remote sensing-based detection of solar-powered tubewells and assessment of groundwater abstraction
03:40 – 03:55 pm	**Dr. Hammad Khan** Department of Agricultural Engineering, UET Peshawar	Long-term impact of modernized irrigation systems on soil water and salt balance and water productivity
03:55 – 04:10 pm	**Dr. Muhammad Wajid Saleem** Associate Professor, College of Engineering and Energy, Abdullah Al Salem University, Kuwait	ANN-based optimization for the water–energy nexus
04:10 – 04:25 pm	**Dr. Waqar Arshad** Department of Geography, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur	Spatiotemporal dynamics of actual evapotranspiration and its climatic drivers across Bahawalpur Division
04:25 – 04:35 pm	**Ms. Fatima Bukhari** Postgraduate Fellow, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	Climate-resilient pulp-and-paper wastewater management using machine learning: From effluent toxicity prediction to treatment optimization
04:35 – 04:50 pm	**Mr. Muhammad Zahid** Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences, University of Sargodha	Sustainable remediation of brackish aquifers through managed aquifer recharge in a semi-arid climate
04:50 – 05:00 pm	***Moderated Q&A Session and Concluding Comments***	

Poster Competition: Water and Agriculture

Venue: Corridor, Academic Block

Time	Judges	Activity
02:00 – 04:00 pm	Dr. Asghar Ali Dr. Farhana Gull Engr. Sadi Ahmed Dr. Masood Arshad (WWF-Pakistan)	The panel of judges and conference participants will visit and evaluate the posters.

DAY 2 | TUESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2026

Technical Session 3 (Online): Water Governance, Education and Community Engagement

Venue: Room 328, Academic Block (host room)
Session Chair: Prof. Dr. Asif Kamran (University of Agriculture, Faisalabad)
Session Co-Chair: Prof. Dr. Farhana Nosheen (MNS University of Agriculture, Multan)
Moderator: Dr. Usman Jamshaid
Join online: Zoom Meeting | Meeting ID: 872 7252 7341 | Passcode: 277077

Time	Speaker and Affiliation	Title of the Talk
10:15 – 10:30 am	**Dr. Sanaullah Khan** National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad	Sustainable water governance and policy in Pakistan: Institutional challenges, policy gaps and pathways for reform
10:30 – 10:45 am	**Mr. Usman Abbasi** Climate Activist	Water education for communities through social media platforms
10:45 – 11:00 am	**Dr. Fazlullah Akhter** Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany	Impacts of climate change on water resources in Afghanistan
11:00 – 11:15 am	**Mr. Celio Soares de Souza** São Paulo State University (UNESP), Brazil	Applied AI and spatial data intelligence for environmental reconstruction and climate resilience
11:15 – 11:30 am	**Mr. Muhammad Numan and Mr. Ghufran Ahmed Pasha** Department of Civil Engineering, University of Engineering and Technology, Taxila	Hydraulic assessment of riparian vegetation for flood attenuation in the D.G. Khan reach of the Indus River
11:30 – 11:45 am	**Mr. Sheharyar Ahmed** Institute for Food and Resource Economics, University of Bonn, Germany	Groundwater governance in Punjab: A behavioural perspective
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	**Ms. Nishat Tasnim Safa** Gazipur Agricultural University, Bangladesh	Application of the DSSAT CERES-Wheat model for predicting growth and yield under different nitrogen and irrigation management practices
12:00 – 12:15 pm	**Dr. Rabia Zafar** Department of Economics, Virtual University of Pakistan	Household water safety practices and waterborne disease: Education, income and perceptions of drinking water quality in Faisalabad, Pakistan
12:15 – 12:30 pm	**Ms. Ramsha Ahmed** Lecturer, Faculty of Computing, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	Beyond black-box predictions: Grounding agricultural water demand forecasting in physics-informed neural networks
12:30-12:45 pm	**Ms. Fatima Bukhari** Postgraduate Fellow, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan	Climate-resilient pulp-and-paper wastewater management using machine learning
12:45 – 01:00 pm	***Moderated Q&A Session and Concluding Comments***	

Closing Ceremony

Venue: Room 110, Academic Block

Time	Programme Item	Speaker
04:30 – 04:40 pm	**Recommendations and Way Forward**	**Prof. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Baig** Dean (FSS&H) and Water Cluster Chair, MNS University of Agriculture, Multan
04:40 – 04:50 pm	**Closing Remarks**	**Chief Guest**
04:50 – 05:00 pm	**Distribution of Souvenirs and Vote of Thanks**	

For further information, please contact:

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