One-day Workshop on
Linking Biodiversity Preservation and Food Security
February 17, 2011

Brief

Biodiversity is essential for sustainable agriculture and food production. However, it is critically threatened by urbanization, deforestation, pollution and the conversion of wetlands and natural plant communities into agricultural lands. Agricultural modernization, changes in diets and population density have increased the mankind dependence on biological diversity for food and other commodities. Currently, a dozen species of animals provide 90% of the animal protein consumed globally and just four crop species provide half of plant-based calories in the human diet.

According to an FAO estimate about three-quarters of the genetic diversity found in agricultural crops have been lost over the last century and out of 6300 animal breeds, 1350 are endangered or already extinct. This rapidly diminishing gene pool has great concern for the well-being of humanity. The reduction of biodiversity means a reduction of options for ensuring more diverse nutrition, enhancing food production, raising incomes, coping with environmental constraints and managing ecosystems. So recognizing, safeguarding and using the potential and diversity of biodiversity an invaluable natural resource is critical for food security and sustainable agriculture. It is imperative to maintain biodiversity on farms and in nature, where it can adapt to changing conditions, compete with exotic species and cope with natural and anthropogenic threats. The awareness of academia, scientific community and general public about this global issue is impossible to attain without the participation of every nation.

Pakistan, being a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is committed to join hands with the international community for the protection of biodiversity in its bound and that migrating from various parts of the world during severe environmental conditions. A one-day workshop on, “Linking Biodiversity Preservation and Food Security” is being organized on February 17, 2011 at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad to have academic and technical discussions on the issue.

Organized by:
Department of Botany, Faculty of Sciences, UAF
Program

Inaugural Session:

9:30 AM  Guests to be seated
9:35 AM  Arrival of the Chief Guest
9:40 AM  Recitation from the Holy Quran
9:50 AM  Welcome address and presentation by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, UAF
10:15 AM  Key Note by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Qaiser, Vice Chancellor, Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, Karachi.
10:45 AM  Address by the Guest of Honor, Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, UAF
11:00 AM  Address by the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Somroo, Chairman, Pakistan Science Foundation, Islamabad
11:15 AM  Tea Break

Technical Session:

Chair: Prof. Dr. M. Qaiser
Co-Chair: Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari
11:30 AM  Plenary Lecture: Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari
12:00 PM  Lead Lecture: Prof. Dr. Ghulam Raza Bhatti
12:30 PM  Lead Lecture: Prof. Dr. Zahir-ud-Din Khan
12:50 PM  Lead Lecture: Dr. Muhammad Arshad
1:10 PM  Lecture by Dr. Mansoor Hameed
1:30 PM  Lecture by Dr. Kafeel Ahmad

Closing Session:

1:30 PM  Recitation from the Holy Qura’n
1:40 PM  Concluding remarks by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Dean, Faculty of Sciences
2:00 PM  Distribution of Souvenirs
2:15 PM  Address by the Chief Guest, Prof. Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan Vice Chancellor, UAF
2:30 PM  End of Workshop