

The 24th Science Council of Asia Conference
“Food Security, Sustainability and Biodiversity”
November 16-18, 2025, Islamabad, Pakistan

DECLARATION

In an era of unprecedented climatic challenges, biodiversity loss, and the growing pressures of a rising global population, the intertwined issues of Food security, Sustainability, and Biodiversity conservation have emerged as defining concerns for humanity. Environmental hazards, climate change, deforestation, habitat destruction, and unsustainable agricultural practices are depleting ecosystems and undermining the stability of global food systems. Without urgent and coordinated action, these pressures risk compromising not only the well-being of present generations but also the rights and livelihoods of those yet to come. We have also witnessed the rapid development of science and technology which is never seen before. Its effective usage and application has been keenly required to address complex issues.

Asia, home to the largest share of the world’s population, immense agricultural diversity, and some of the planet’s most fragile ecosystems stands at the center of this challenge. The region’s choices, innovations, and collaborations will determine not only its own future but will also shape global progress toward sustainable development. Recognizing this responsibility, **the 24th SCA Conference (24th SCAC) on Food Security, Sustainability, and Biodiversity** was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on **November 16-18, 2025**. Around 180 (physical & online) academicians, scientists, researchers, policymakers and stakeholders have gathered from across the Asian and European countries and regions at the Conference venue in Islamabad to deliberate on the urgent challenges, innovative strategies, and pathways for a meaningful regional and global collaboration.

Through extensive discussions and deliberations, the SCA hereby issues the **Declaration**, outlining strategic directions and commitments to guide collective efforts, with Asia taking a leading role in shaping solutions for itself and the world.

1. Interconnecting Co-working Initiative in Asia: Climate change, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable land and water use threaten food systems across Asia. Urgent,

coordinated, science-driven action is needed to boost productivity, protect ecosystems, and restore degraded habitats while ensuring equity and justice across the region.

2. Transforming Food and Agriculture with Resilience and Equity: We commit to climate-smart, resource-efficient, ecologically sound practices including precision farming, agroforestry, water conservation, crop diversification, soil regeneration, and responsible biotechnology, prioritizing vulnerable groups, empowering women, gender equity, indigenous peoples, and smallholders, harmonizing Asia's traditional knowledge with modern science.

3. Safeguarding Biodiversity as Foundation of Development: Asia's geographical biodiversity, from mountainous to coastal areas, underpins its food security and resilience. We call for conserving native species, protecting pollinators, expanding seed banks, safeguarding marine and freshwater systems, and restoring habitats to sustain ecosystem services essential for production and climate adaptation.

4. Embedding Science in Policy, Governance, and Capacity: Asian governments should mainstream sustainability and biodiversity into agriculture, trade, and development policies, guided by robust science. Science academies must translate the science into action, design national strategies, expand joint education and research, nurture future innovators, and ensure transparent, measurable progress.

5. Advancing Regional and Global Collaboration with Asia in the Lead: We stress cross-border research networks, shared data, joint pilots, and harmonized policies, by co-working in the SCA networks. Partnerships with international bodies, governments, donors, and the private sector must scale predictable, fair investment in sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection, and innovation enabling Asia to drive solutions of global impact.

Resolution

We, the participants of the 24th SCA Conference, reaffirm Asia's pivotal role in securing a sustainable, resilient, and biodiverse future for the region and the world. We resolve to act with urgency, unity, and foresight uniting Asian governments, academies, private sectors, and civil societies, while deepening collaboration with global partners to transform food systems, restore ecosystems, and protect our shared planet for generations to come.