

# Seminar on faunal diversity concludes

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**LUDHIANA:** A two-day national level seminar on 'Environmental changes and its impact on faunal diversity in Indian Agro-Ecosystems' organised by the department of Zoology, Panjab Agricultural University (PAU), in collaboration with Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata, concluded here on Tuesday.

Experts discussed the need to create awareness to protect the environment for future generations. More than 200 delegates from 10 universities participated in posters and oral presentations. There were 18 oral and 64 poster presentations and discussion by delegates on different themes. Eleven invited lectures by scientists and academicians were delivered to disseminate knowledge to young scientists from different research areas.

FAO expert on rodent control, AMK Mohan Rao, highlighted the impact of climate change on rodent pest and vectors.

Anand Sharma, DDG, Indian Meteorology Department said climate variability and climate change are not the only causes of biodiversity loss, but changes in

the land use, habitat destruction and increased anthropogenic pressure on environment has also affected biodiversity.

Sajiv Anand, director Food-print, Dwarka, New Delhi, discussed sustainable farm practices and how these depend on consumption practices, reducing the waste generated, and food.

Dr R.K. Sharma (Dean Colleges Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra) elaborated on the challenges posed for protection of exotic species of 1500 plants and 5100 animals and how the craze for exotic breeds of livestock and pets has led to the near extinction of indigenous breeds of domestic livestock and native pets.

Professor RS Sharma, department of Environmental Science, Delhi University, talked about the impact of deteriorating environment on quality of life and dwelled on the urgent need to practice restoration ecology to restore damaged and degraded landscapes for reintroduction of faunal diversity.

VK Mattu, former director, IHS spoke on impact of global climate change on pollinator diversity and conservation of insect diversity in different eco-regions of the country.