

# National Symposium on Harnessing PGR of Peninsular India [NSPPI]\*

From Biodiversity Hotspot to Sustainable Bioresource Hub

FIRST  
CIRCULAR



May 21-22, 2026

Venue: ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru

## ORGANIZERS



Indian Society of  
Plant Genetic Resources  
(ISPGR)  
New Delhi



ICAR-Indian Institute  
of Horticultural Research  
(ICAR-IIHR)  
Bengaluru



Trust for Advancement  
of Agricultural Sciences  
(TAAS)  
New Delhi

\*National Symposium on Harnessing PGR of the Western Ghats [NSWG]

# National Symposium on Harnessing PGR of Peninsular India [NSPPI]

**From Biodiversity Hotspot to Sustainable Bioresource Hub**

**May 21-22, 2026**

**Venue:** ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Hesaraghatta, Bengaluru

## Co-organizers

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA), New Delhi\*

National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai\*

Society for Promotion of Horticulture (SPH), Bengaluru

MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai

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\* Subject to confirmation



## Context and Rationale

Peninsular India, encompassing the Western and Eastern Ghats, the Deccan Plateau, coastal ecosystems, and associated island systems, represents one of the richest repositories of plant genetic diversity in the tropics. Among these, the Western Ghats recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's biodiversity hotspots alone stretch over 1,600 km across Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat, and harbour more than 8,500 species of vascular plants, with nearly 26% endemism. When viewed collectively, Peninsular India forms a vast genetic reservoir of cultivated crops, wild relatives, landraces, medicinal plants, forest species, and underutilized taxa that are invaluable for sustainable development.

The plant genetic resources (PGRs) of this region include wild relatives and traditional varieties of major crops such as rice (*Oryza* spp.), jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), banana (*Musa* spp.), black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), cardamom (*Elettaria cardamomum*), turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), millets, pulses, oilseeds, spices, tuber crops like yams (*Dioscorea* spp.), and numerous medicinal and aromatic plants. These resources possess traits such as drought tolerance, pest and disease resistance, enhanced nutritional quality, and climate adaptability making them critical for food and nutritional security, climate-resilient agriculture, and emerging bioeconomy sectors.

Peninsular India is also one of the major repositories of medicinal and nutraceutical plant diversity, supporting thousands of higher plant species, a significant proportion of which are threatened. The region sustains the livelihoods of millions of people, including indigenous communities such as the Todas, Kani, Soliga, Irula, and Kurumba, who conserve and utilize traditional landraces and possess rich ethnobotanical knowledge. Traditional agroecosystems across the Deccan and Ghats landscapes have historically maintained dynamic in situ conservation of crop diversity adapted to diverse agro-climatic niches.

However, these invaluable resources face mounting pressures. Habitat fragmentation, deforestation, invasive alien species (e.g., *Lantana camara*), climate change-induced range shifts, over-exploitation, monocropping, and erosion of traditional knowledge systems threaten the long-term survival of PGR diversity. Climate projections indicate substantial reduction in suitable habitats for several endemic and economically important species by mid-century. Simultaneously, socioeconomic transformations and urbanization are accelerating the loss of traditional conservation practices.

Global frameworks such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and FAO's Global Plan of Action for PGR underline the urgency of integrated conservation and sustainable utilization. National mechanisms including the Biological Diversity Act (2002), National Biodiversity Action Plan, and the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act (PPV&FRA) provide institutional support, yet require stronger regional integration, participatory approaches, and effective implementation across Peninsular landscapes.

At the same time, global markets for nutraceuticals, plant-based therapeutics, climate-resilient crops, and natural bioresources are expanding rapidly. Peninsular India, with its unique genetic wealth and traditional knowledge systems, is strategically positioned to contribute to these sectors provided conservation and sustainable utilization are scientifically integrated with genomics, value addition, entrepreneurship, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Despite immense potential, gaps remain in systematic exploration, genetic characterization, digitization of germplasm data, genomic interventions, community-inclusive conservation models, and policy harmonization. A dedicated symposium will provide a dynamic platform to bridge these gaps by bringing together scientists, policymakers, industry stakeholders, indigenous representatives, students, and civil society organizations.

The proposed symposium aims to consolidate knowledge, promote collaborative networks, and develop a strategic roadmap to transform the rich biodiversity landscapes of Peninsular India from mere biodiversity hotspots into resilient, innovation-driven, and community-centric sustainable bioresource hubs. In doing so, it will contribute meaningfully to India's commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 2, 13, and 15), biodiversity conservation targets, and climate adaptation strategies.



## Themes and Sub-themes

1. Exploration, Documentation and Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources in Peninsular India
  - Systematic exploration, inventory, geo-referencing and digital mapping of PGR across the Western & Eastern Ghats, Deccan Plateau and coastal ecosystems
  - *In situ*, on-farm and *ex situ* conservation strategies including field gene banks, seed banks and cryopreservation
  - Conservation of crop wild relatives, endemic, threatened and underutilized species
  - Integration of indigenous knowledge systems with contemporary conservation science
  - Application of AI, GIS, remote sensing and machine learning in germplasm management and biodiversity monitoring
2. Characterization, Evaluation and Genomic Interventions for Sustainable Utilization
  - Morphological, biochemical and molecular characterization of PGR
  - Evaluation for agronomic performance, nutritional quality, climate resilience and stress tolerance
  - Genomics-assisted breeding, molecular markers and functional genomics
  - Gene editing and precision breeding for trait enhancement
  - Digital databases, big data analytics and bioinformatics tools in PGR research
  - Translational research linking germplasm diversity to crop improvement and bioresource development
3. Policy Frameworks, Biosecurity, IPR and Access & Benefit Sharing (ABS)
  - National and international policy frameworks governing PGR conservation and exchange
  - Implementation of PPV&FRA, Biological Diversity Act, and related legislations
  - Biosecurity, quarantine and phytosanitary regulations
  - Protection of traditional knowledge and farmers' rights
  - Equitable benefit-sharing models and ethical bioprospecting
  - Strengthening institutional and community partnerships for sustainable governance
4. Capacity Building, Community Participation and Knowledge Systems
  - Community-led conservation models and participatory breeding
  - Documentation and validation of traditional agro-biodiversity practices
  - Role of academic institutions, NGOs and civil society in PGR outreach
  - Digital platforms and knowledge-sharing networks
  - Youth engagement, women empowerment and entrepreneurship in PGR sectors
  - Education and awareness strategies for sustainable bioresource management
5. Innovation, Bioeconomy and Livelihood Enhancement
  - Value addition, processing and branding of PGR-based products
  - Development of nutraceuticals, herbal formulations and plant-based bio-products
  - Start-up ecosystems and incubation support in PGR utilization
  - Promotion of traditional varieties and underutilized crops for niche markets
  - Public-private partnerships in sustainable bioresource commercialization
  - Success stories and scalable models in biodiversity-based livelihood generation

## Categories of Presentations

**Keynote Lectures:** Eminent scientists across India, policy makers and administrators will be invited to deliver special lectures on various thematic areas related to plant genetic resources. Keynote lectures will be for 15-20 minutes. Speakers will be requested to submit a 3-4 page extended summary for inclusion in the proceedings.

**Invited Lectures:** Each invited lecture will be a concise presentation of 10-15 minutes, highlighting emerging technologies and recent scientific advancements in the domain of PGR management. Invited speakers will be requested to provide 3-4 pages extended summaries of their presentation, for inclusion in the proceedings.



**Contributory/Oral Papers:** Papers will be shortlisted by a designated committee based on the significance of the topic and its alignment with the sub-themes. Authors of the selected papers will be notified well in advance to prepare for a brief oral presentation of 5-6 minutes.

**Poster Presentations:** Selected papers will be invited for poster presentation. Posters should adhere to the specified dimensions of 60" (L) × 36" (W) and utilize standard scientific font sizes for clarity and readability.

**Best Oral/Poster Award:** An expert panel will evaluate the oral and poster presentations under each thematic area to identify and award outstanding contributions. Certificates of participation will be awarded to all registered participants.

## Official Language

The official language of the symposium will be English for all communications and presentations.

## Call for Abstracts

Original and unpublished research contributions aligned with the thematic areas of the symposium are invited for oral and poster presentations. Abstracts should not exceed 400 words and must include a concise title, full names of all authors, institutional affiliations, and the email address of the corresponding author. Abstracts should be submitted through the Google Form using the link or QR code provided. For assistance, contact: nsppi2026@gmail.com



Abstract Submission <https://forms.gle/uYGfnhoEsvVFg1Bf8>

## Important Dates

Call for abstracts:	March 10, 2026
Registration opens:	March 10, 2026
Last date for submission of abstracts/ papers:	April 30, 2026
Acceptance of abstracts/paper:	May 10, 2026
Date of registration without late fee:	May 15, 2026
Late registration: An additional fee of ₹1000/- will be applicable for registrations received after	May 15, 2026

## Registration

- ISPGR /SPH member: ₹ 5000/-
- Non-ISPGR /Non-SPH member: ₹ 6000/-
- Student/Research fellow (with Proof from their organizations): ₹ 2000/-
- Industry/private organization: ₹ 10000/-
- Accompanying Person: ₹ 2000/- (Accompanying persons will not be provided with welcome kit)



The registration fee should be paid either through online, demand draft or NEFT in favour of the "Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources" New Delhi to the following account number:

Name of the Bank & Branch: Canara Bank, Beej Bhawan, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012

Account No.: 91212010004780, IFSC: CNRB0019121, MICR No.: 110025088, SwiftCode: CNRBINBBBFD

Submit the completed registration form along with proof of registration fee payment through the Google Form using the link or QR code provided. For any difficulty, contact: nsppi2026@gmail.com

Registration Form <https://forms.gle/tzq9UzQ2V4qjTZpK7>

## Sponsorship

The organizers invite financial support from diverse stakeholders including government bodies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector partners to ensure the successful organization of this academic event. Sponsorship is welcomed under the following categories, with corresponding visibility and benefits:

**Diamond Sponsors:** ₹ 3.0 lakh/- (Includes three complimentary registrations, logo on abstract/souvenir and one full page coloured advertisement)

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**Silver Sponsors:** ₹ 1.0 lakh/- (Includes one complimentary registration, logo on abstract/souvenir and half page coloured advertisement)

## About ICAR-IIHR

ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research is a premier national research institute under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), working on conservation, genetic improvement, crop production, protection, post-harvest management and value addition of various horticultural crops. Research work carried out during the past fifty-eight years has paid rich dividends in terms of release of more than 330 varieties and hybrids, and development of good number of sustainable production, protection and post-harvest management technologies. The Institute is involved in exploration, introduction, exchange, evaluation, characterization and conservation of Horticultural Genetic Resources. ICAR-IIHR has collected and conserved over 12,000 accessions of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, and medicinal plants through exploration missions and germplasm exchanges; it also maintains field gene banks for mango, jackfruit, and other key species, and operates long term pollen cryobanks for conservation of pollen. The institute also works on enrichment of germplasm from wild sources through exploration missions, carried out from various regions of the country. The institute regularly hosts large diversity fairs to showcase the diversity of mango, jackfruit, banana and several vegetable crops - engaging farmers and custodial communities who conserve the genetic resources.

## About ISPGR

The Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) was founded in 1987 as a multidisciplinary scientific body involved in the various issues of plant genetic resources (PGR) and related fields located at Office Block A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, National Agricultural Science Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri (DPS) Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012, India. It currently has > 985 members, nearly 800 of them being life members. The ISPGR was formally registered under the Indian Societies Act (1860) on November 3, 1987 with the Registrar of Societies, Delhi (Registration No. S/18336 of 1987). Membership is open to all persons interested in the field of PGR in India and abroad. Presently the Society is progressing very well under the able and dynamic leadership of Dr RS Paroda, as its President. Besides organizing seminars, symposia, to disseminate the knowledge on PGR, the Society is also publishing Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources, a reputed journal covering all the aspects of PGR.

## About TAAS

Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) is a national-level agricultural think tank headquartered at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa Campus, New Delhi, established in October 2002 following the directives issued during the 88th Indian Science Congress. TAAS serves as a vibrant hub for policy advocacy, technology transfer, knowledge dissemination, capacity building, and public-private partnerships in agricultural research and development. Over the years, it has organized a range of national symposia, and policy dialogues to foster innovation and sustainable agriculture.



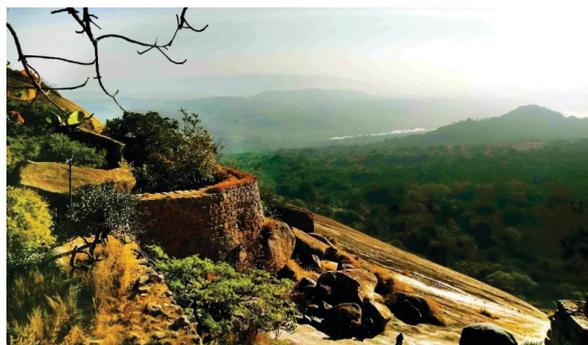
## Accommodation

A wide range of budget and luxury accommodation options are available in Bengaluru and nearby areas, close to the symposium venue. Current room tariffs range from ₹3,000 to ₹7,000 per day for single or double occupancy. Guest house accommodation is also available in the vicinity of the venue.

## Roadmap and Weather

ICAR-IIHR Bengaluru is situated on IIHR Main Road at Ivarakandapura, Hesaraghatta, about 24 km north of Bangalore City (Majestic) Railway Station — a 45-minute drive via NH44 and local roads. By rail, the nearest major station is Yeshwantpur Railway Station, from where taxis or BMTC buses frequent the institute. By bus, several BMTC routes (e.g. 251, 253B/L, 267, 407-B) stop at the “Indian Institute of Horticultural Research” bus stop, which is only a short 5-minute walk to the venue. By air, it's approximately 30–45 minutes from Kempegowda International Airport (around 30 km), via Hebbal and Hesaraghatta Road.

Bengaluru is also popularly known as the Garden City and Silicon Valley of India. Many tourist places in and around Bengaluru include Lalbagh, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru Palace, Vidhana Soudha, Vishveshwaraya Museum, Planetarium etc. The weather in Bengaluru during May is warm, with temperatures ranging from about 22°C to 33°C. Light cotton clothing is recommended.



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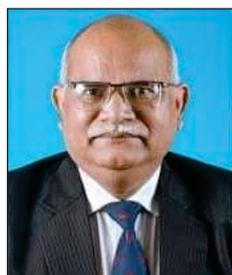


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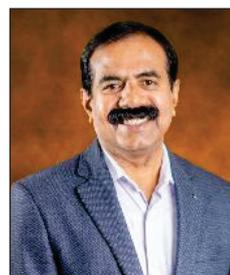
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<b>E Sreenivasa Rao</b>	ICAR-IIHR - Organizing Secretary	+91-9945544840
<b>Sherry Rachel Jacob</b>	ISPGR - Organizing Secretary	+91-7838194589
<b>GR Smitha and MR Rohini</b>	Co-Organizing Secretaries	

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ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural  
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Hessaraghatta Lake Post, IIHR Main Road,  
Ivarakandapura, Bengaluru – 560089,  
Karnataka

E-mail: nsppi2026@gmail.com



## Important Dates

<b>Call for abstracts:</b>	<b>March 10, 2026</b>
<b>Registration opens:</b>	<b>March 10, 2026</b>
<b>Last date for submission of abstracts/ papers:</b>	<b>April 30, 2026</b>
<b>Acceptance of abstracts/paper:</b>	<b>May 10, 2026</b>
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<b>Late registration: An additional fee of ₹1000/- will be applicable for registrations received after</b>	<b>May 15, 2026</b>



Abstract Submission

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Registration Form

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