

National Symposium on Harnessing Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) of Peninsular India

ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru; Sept 17 - 19, 2026

Technical Program

DAY 1: Sept 17, 2026 (Thursday)

TECHNICAL SESSION I		
Securing the Genetic Heritage of Peninsular India - from Exploration to Conservation		
Co - Chairs	R.C. Agrawal , Vice President, ISPGR, New Delhi JC Rana , Senior Scientist and Country Representative for India, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, New Delhi	
Convenors	M. Sankaran , Head, Div. of Fruit Crops, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru Rohini M.R. , Co-Organizing Secretary, NSPPI	
Rapporteurs	Anuradha Sane , Principal Scientist, Div. of Fruit Crops and V. Sreenivasa , Senior Scientist, Div. of Flower & Medicinal Crops, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
09:00 - 09:05	Welcome	Convenor
	Invited Lectures	
09:05 - 09:20	Plant Genetic Wealth of Peninsular India	S.R. Yadav , Professor of Botany (Retd.), Shivaji University, Kolhapur
09:20 - 09:35	Identifying Geographical and Taxonomic Gaps in PGR Exploration and Collection in Peninsular India	K. Pradheep , OIC, ICAR - NBPGR, Regional Station (RS), Thrissur
09:35 - 09:50	Role of Botanical Survey of India in Plant Diversity Documentation and Conservation	Hameed S.S. , Scientist F & Head, Botanical Survey of India, Southern Regional Centre, Coimbatore
09:50 - 10:05	Measuring Landscape Dynamics to Monitor Change in Flora	T.V. Ramachandran , Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
10:05 - 10:20	Diversity, Distribution and Conservation Priorities of PGR in the Nicobar Islands	Joseph John K. , Former Head, ICAR - NBPGR, RS, Thrissur
10:20 - 10:35	Community - Centric Conservation of PGR: Lessons from Traditional Knowledge Systems	Abdul Kareem , The University of Trans - Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology, Bengaluru
10:35 - 10:45	Discussion and Co - Chairs' Remarks	
10:45 - 11:00	Tea/Coffee Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION II		
PGR Governance: From Biosecurity to Benefit Sharing		
Co - Chairs	RR Hanchinal , Former Chairperson, PPV&FRA, New Delhi Dhananjaya MV , Vice Chancellor, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (KSNUAHS), Shivamogga	
Convenors	VB Patel , ADG (Fruits and Plantation Crops), ICAR, New Delhi, and S Sriram , Head, Div. of Plant Protection, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
Rapporteurs	Anushma P.L. , Scientist and Linta Vincent , Senior Scientist, Div. of Fruit Crops, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
11:00 - 11:05	Welcome	Convenor
	Invited Lectures	
11:05 - 11:20	Policy Frameworks and ABS: Aligning Global Commitments with Local Policy Needs	D.K. Agrawal , Registrar General, PPV&FRA, New Delhi

11:20 - 11:35	Understanding recent developments in the global policy instruments & ABS	Sunil Archak , OIC, Germplasm Exchange and Policy Unit, ICAR - NBPGR, New Delhi
11:35 - 11:50	Enhancing Adaptive Management of Crop Diversity for Resilient Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods	J.C. Rana , Senior Scientist and Country Representative for India, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
11:50 - 12:05	Biosecurity and PGR: Safeguarding Against Emerging Threats	Celia Chalam V. , Head, Plant Quarantine Division, ICAR - NBPGR, New Delhi
12:05 - 12:20	Farmers' Rights and Community Participation in PGR Governance	Dr Vimal Kumar , Principal Scientific Officer, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Thiruvananthapuram
12:20 - 12:35	Geographical Indications (GIs) as tools for biodiversity valorization in Peninsular India	V. Elsy , Professor (Retd), Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur
12:35 - 13:00	Discussion and Co - Chairs' Remarks	
13:00 - 14:05	Lunch	

TECHNICAL SESSION III		
Innovation, Bioeconomy and Livelihood Enhancement		
Co - Chairs	D K Agrawal , Registrar General, PPV&FRA, New Delhi Srinivasulu , IFS, Principal Secretary, Forest, Ecology and Environment, Govt of Karnataka	
Convenor	Sanjay Patil , Chief Programme Executive, Agrobiodiversity, BAIF, Pune G. Karunakaran , Principal Scientist, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru & General Secretary, SPH	
Rapporteurs	H.P. Sumangala , Principal Scientist, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru and V. Sankar , Principal Scientist, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
14:15 - 14:20	Welcome	
	Invited Lectures	
14:20 - 14:35	Nurturing Innovations from the Grassroots	Anil Gupta , Founder, Honey Bee Network and SRISTI; Former Professor, IIM Ahmedabad
14:35 - 14:50	Reimagining the Apple Value Chain: From Genetics to Market Through Technology	Aashish Barwale , Director, Seven Star Fruits Pvt Ltd, MahycoGrow
	Panel Discussion	
14:50 - 15:20	Custodian Farmers	6 custodian farmers
15:20 - 15:35	Discussion & Co - Chairs Remarks	
15:55 - 16:00	Tea/Coffee Break	

Evening Lecture		
Co - Chairs	R.S. Paroda , President, ISPGR, New Delhi	
	Bhag Mal , Secretary, TAAS, New Delhi	
Convenor	R.C. Agrawal , Vice President, ISPGR, New Delhi	
Rapporteur	T.R. Usha Rani , Principal Scientist, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
17:30 - 17:40	Introduction of Speaker	R.C. Agrawal , Vice President, ISPGR, New Delhi

17.40 - 18.10	People, Plants, and Landscapes: A Holistic Approach to PGR Conservation in the Peninsular India	Ramakant Venkataraman , IFS (Retd.), Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Chairman, Forests by Heartfulness, Heartfulness Institute, Hyderabad
18.10 - 18.20	Co - Chairs' Remarks	
18.20 - 18.25	Vote of Thanks	
18.25 - 19:00	Comfort Break	
19:00 - 20:00	Cultural Program	
20:00 onwards	Welcome Dinner	

DAY 2: Sept 18, 2026 (Friday)

POSTER SESSION & EXHIBITION (followed by Tea & Coffee Break)

09:00 – 10:15 AM (All to be seated by 10:30 AM for Inaugural Session)

INAUGURAL SESSION - Sept 18, 2026 (Friday)		
11.00 - 11.06	Vandemataram and National Anthem	
11.06 - 11.11	Welcome	T.K. Behera , Director, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru
11.11 - 11.16	Remarks	D.K. Yadava , DDG(Crop Sciences)
11.16 – 11.18	Release of Publications	
11.18 - 11.28	Address by President, ISPGR	R.S. Paroda , President, ISPGR & Chairman, TAAS, New Delhi
11.28 - 11.48	Address by Chief Guest	Sh. Thawar Chand Gehlot , Hon'ble Governor, Karnataka
11.48 - 11.50	Felicitation of Chief Guest	
11.50 - 11.54	Vote of Thanks	Anuradha Agrawal , General Secretary, ISPGR, New Delhi
11.54 - 12.00	Vandemataram and National Anthem	
12.00 - 12.15	Group Photo	

TECHNICAL SESSION IV		
Decoding Diversity for Sustainable Use		
Co - Chairs	D.K. Yadava , DDG (Crop Science), ICAR and S.V. Suresha , Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru	
Convenors	R.K. Gautam , Head, Div of Germplasm Evaluation, ICAR - NBPGR, New Delhi and H.C. Prasanna , Head, Div. of Vegetable Crops, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
Rapporteurs	Smitha G.R. , PS, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru and Co-Organizing Secretary, NSPPI Manjunatha Gowda , Senior Scientist, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
12:15 - 12:20	Welcome	Convenor
	Invited Lectures	
12:20 - 12:35	Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Genetic Resources of Peninsular India	S.B. Dandin , Liaison Officer, Bioversity International, Bengaluru and former VC, UHSB
12:35 - 12:50	Pulse Genetic Resources for Peninsular India	Aditya Pratap , PC, Kharif Pulses, IIPR, Kanpur
12:50 - 13:05	Utilization of PGR of Peninsular India Conserved in NGB.	Rakesh Singh , HoD, ICAR-NBPGR
13:05 - 14:00	Lunch Break	

TECHNICAL SESSION IV- CONTD		
Decoding Diversity for Sustainable Use		
Co - Chairs	D.K. Yadava , DDG (Crop Science), ICAR and S.V. Suresha , Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru	
Convenors	R.K. Gautam , Head, Div of Germplasm Evaluation, ICAR - NBPGR, New Delhi and H.C. Prasanna , Head, Div. of Vegetable Crops, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
Rapporteurs	Smitha G.R. , PS, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru and Co-Organizing Secretary, NSPPI Manjunatha Gowda , Senior Scientist, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	

	Invited Lectures	
14:00 - 14:15	Horticultural Genetic Resources: Status, Challenges and Future Prospects	T.K. Behera , Director, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru
14:15 - 14:30	Leveraging Genomics and Digital Tools for Characterization and Utilization of PGR	Kuldeep Singh , ICRISAT, Patancheru, Hyderabad
14:30 - 14:45	Millets for the Future: Unlocking Genetic Resources for Climate Resilience and Nutritional Security	Tara Satyavathi , Director, ICAR - IIMR, Hyderabad
14:45 - 15:00	Discussion & Co - Chairs' Remarks	
15:00 - 15:30	Tea/coffee Break	

Rapid Oral Presentations on PGR of Peninsular India (Session 1)- Theme 1 Securing the Genetic Heritage of Peninsular India - from Exploration to Conservation		Rapid Oral Presentations on PGR of Peninsular India (Session 2)- Themes 2 &3 PGR Governance: From Biosecurity to Benefit Sharing & Innovation, Bio economy and Livelihood Enhancement		Rapid Oral Presentations on PGR of Peninsular India (Session 3)- Theme 4 Decoding Diversity for Sustainable Use	
Co - Chairs	RK Tyagi , Vice President, ISPGR, New Delhi Sudhakar Pandey , ADG, ICAR, New Delhi	R.C. Agrawal , Vice President, ISPGR, New Delhi Chandish R. Ballal , Former Director, ICAR-NBAIR, Bengaluru		Kuldeep Singh , Head, Genebank, ICRISAT, Hyderabad Tara Satyavathi , Director, IIMR, Hyderabad	
Convenor	Sherry Rachel Jacob , Organizing Secretary, NSPPI	Sunil Archak , OIC, GEPU, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi		Basavaprabhu Patil , Head, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	
Rapporteurs	Rohini M.R. , Co-Organizing Secretary, NSPPI Vivek Hegde , Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	Rajendiran S. , Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru Bhagyasree S.N. , Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru		Kuldeep Tripathi , Senior Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi Bhargavi H.A. , Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	
15:30 - 15:35	Welcome - Convenor	Welcome - Convenor		Welcome - Convenor	
15:35 - 18:35	Rapid Oral Presentations (27)-6 mins each	Rapid Oral Presentations (27)-6 mins each		Rapid Oral Presentations (27)-6 mins each	
18:35 - 18.50	Discussion & Co - Chairs' Remarks	Discussion & Co - Chairs' Remarks		Discussion & Co – Chairs' Remarks	

Evening Lecture		
Co - Chairs	V.B. Patel, ADG (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi	
	Anuradha Agrawal, PD, DKMA & General Secretary, ISPGR	
Convenor	E.S. Rao, OIC, PME, IIHR & Organizing Secretary, NSPPI	
Rapporteur	Rajiv Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	
19.00 - 19.05	Introduction of Speaker	E.S. Rao, OIC, PME, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru
19.05 - 19.45	Corporate Stewardship of Plant Genetic Resources: BIAL's Landscape Conservation	Prasanna Murthy Desai, Vice President and Head of Landscape, Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL)
19.45 - 19.55	Co - Chairs' Remarks	
19.55 - 20.00	Vote of Thanks	
DINNER (20:00 PM onwards)		

DAY 3: Sept 19, 2026 (Saturday)

Youth Forum on Genetic Resource Management		
Co - Chairs	S.K. Vasal, Distinguished Scientist (Retd), CIMMYT and Anil Gupta, Founder, Honey Bee Network and SRISTI; Former Professor, IIM Ahmedabad	
Convenors	V. Celia Chalam, Head, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi Kuldeep Tripathi, Treasurer, ISPGR, New Delhi	
Rapporteurs	T. Usha Bharathi, Senior Scientist, Div. of Flower & Medicinal Crops, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru and Pushpa Chetan Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	
09:00 - 09:05	Welcome	Convenor
09:05 - 09:15	Remarks	Co - Chairs
09:15 - 11:15	Selected Oral Presentations from Youth on New Innovations in PGR Management and Use (12)	10 mins each
11:15 - 11:30	Discussion & Co - Chair's Remarks	
11:30 - 12:00	Tea/Coffee Break	

Valedictory Session & ISPGR Awards Function		
Co - Chairs	R.S. Paroda, President, ISPGR, New Delhi and T.K. Behera, Director, ICAR - IIHR, Bengaluru	
Convenors	Prakash Patil, PC (Fruits) and Karunakaran G., General Secretary, SPH	
12:00 - 12:15	Summary of Major Recommendations of NSPPI	R.K. Tyagi, Vice President, ISPGR, New Delhi
12.15 - 12.45	Distribution of Best Oral & Best Poster Awards	
12.45 - 13.45	ISPGR Award Function	Anuradha Agrawal, General Secretary, ISPGR, New Delhi
13:45 - 14:00	Remarks by Co - Chairs	
14:00 - 14.15	Vote of Thanks	E.S. Rao, Organizing Secretary, NSPPI
14.15 - onwards	Lunch	