

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF ORGANIC AND NATURAL FARMING FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



Organized by:

College of Horticulture
(Central Agricultural University, Imphal)
Tokal Bermiok, Sikkim-737134

In Collaboration with
ICAR-AICRP on PEASEM, CAEPHT, Gangtok Centre

**Last Date of Abstract
Submission:
April 5, 2026**



April 11-12, 2026

Hybrid mode

Sponsored by:

ICAR, IIOR, Hyderabad
ICAR, NRIIPM, New Delhi
ICAR, IIMR, Ludhiana
ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi
Central Agricultural University, Imphal

📍 **Venue: College of Horticulture, CAU(Imphal),
Bermiok-Sikkim, India**



**1ST
CIRCULAR**

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

India is at a critical juncture in its agricultural transformation, where the imperative to enhance productivity and ensure food security must be carefully balanced with ecological sustainability, nutritional adequacy, and the economic well-being of farmers. Intensive input-based production systems have led to challenges such as soil health deterioration, declining factor productivity, loss of agrobiodiversity, increasing vulnerability to climate variability, rising costs of cultivation, and growing public concern regarding food quality and safety. In this context, organic farming and Natural Farming have emerged as sustainable, science-informed alternatives that emphasize soil regeneration, ecological balance, efficient resource use, and reduced dependence on external inputs.

Organic farming and Natural Farming systems integrate traditional knowledge with modern scientific principles to promote soil biological activity, enhance nutrient cycling, conserve water, mitigate climate risks, and improve farm profitability, particularly for small and marginal farmers. These approaches are increasingly being recognized as climate-resilient pathways capable of addressing the dual challenges of environmental sustainability and livelihood security while meeting the rising demand for safe and nutritious food.

The International Conference on Organic Farming and Natural Farming is envisaged as an international level knowledge sharing and policy dialogue platform that brings together scientists, academicians, policymakers, extension professionals, entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, students, and development practitioners from across the country. The conference will facilitate in-depth deliberations on recent research advances, innovative technologies, field level experiences, institutional mechanisms, policy frameworks, and future strategies for scaling up organic and natural farming systems across diverse agro-ecological regions of India.

A distinctive focus of the conference will be on the promotion of underutilized and neglected crops, traditional varieties, and location-specific farming practices that play a vital role in sustainable intensification, soil fertility enhancement, dietary diversification, and climate resilience. Underutilized and indigenous crops many of which are inherently resilient to biotic and abiotic stresses offer significant potential for strengthening nutritional security, conserving agrobiodiversity, and enhancing income opportunities in marginal and fragile ecosystems. Through focused discussions and stakeholder engagement, the conference aims to generate actionable insights and policy-relevant recommendations for advancing organic and natural farming as a cornerstone of sustainable agricultural development in India.





OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- ❑ To provide a global platform for sharing recent research advances, innovations, and best practices in organic and natural farming
- ❑ To discuss sustainable agronomic, horticultural, and ecological approaches for improving productivity and soil health
- ❑ To promote climate-resilient and resource-efficient farming systems for sustainable agriculture
- ❑ To encourage innovations, entrepreneurship, and value addition in organic and natural farming
- ❑ To strengthen collaboration among researchers, policymakers, industry stakeholders, and farmers
- ❑ To generate policy recommendations and research priorities for the promotion and scaling up of organic and natural farming systems



EXPECTED OUTCOME

- ❑ Exchange of recent research, innovations, and best practices in organic and natural farming among scientists, policymakers, industry, and farmers
- ❑ Identification of sustainable agronomic and horticultural practices to enhance productivity, soil health, biodiversity, and climate resilience
- ❑ Promotion of innovations, start-ups, and agri-entrepreneurship in bio-inputs, protected cultivation, value addition, and farm mechanization
- ❑ Development of research priorities and policy recommendations for scaling up organic and natural farming
- ❑ Strengthening of farmer livelihoods through improved technologies, value chains, and market linkages
- ❑ Enhancement of national and international collaboration among research institutions, universities, and stakeholders
- ❑ Dissemination of conference outcomes through proceedings, technical reports, and policy briefs



CONFERENCE THEMES

Theme 1: Sustainable Crop Production through Advanced Agronomic Practices in Organic and Natural Farming Systems

- Innovative nutrient management strategies and bio-input technologies in organic farming
- Climate-resilient and resource-use-efficient cropping systems
- Crop diversification, intercropping, and regenerative agronomic practices
- Soil health restoration, carbon sequestration, and sustainable soil fertility management
- Conservation agriculture, minimum tillage, and residue management

Theme 2: Innovations in Horticultural Production under Organic and Natural Farming Systems

- Sustainable production technologies for organic fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices and plantation crops
- Integrated nutrient and water management strategies in organic horticulture
- Integrated pest and disease management for organic and natural farming

Theme 3: Biodiversity and Genetic/Crop Improvement Strategies for Organic and Natural Farming Systems

- Conservation of biodiversity and exploring the untapped genetic resources for organic and natural farming
- Breeding and development of crop varieties suited for organic production systems
- Biotechnological interventions in organic and natural farming
- Harnessing the potential of underutilized, neglected, and traditional crops
- Seed systems, quality seed production, and planting material for organic agriculture

Theme 4: Plant Health Management Under Organic and Natural Farming Systems

- Agro-ecological and ecological engineering approaches for pest and disease suppression
- Development and application of botanicals, biopesticides, and microbial bioagents
- Habitat management and biodiversity-based pest regulation
- One Health: The Impact of Environmental Pollution on Human, Animal and Ecological Health

Theme 5: Smart Horticulture Under Organic and Natural farming System

- Organic and natural farming practices for year-round production, livelihood enhancement, and urban agriculture under protected cultivation systems
- Low-cost, climate-resilient, and energy-efficient protected structures
- High-value crop production and precision crop management under protected environments
- Development of small-scale and precision farm machinery for organic systems
- Energy-efficient, eco-friendly, and renewable energy-based farm tools
- Mechanized solutions for weed management and crop establishment in organic farming
- AI farming and digital tools for sustainable agriculture

Theme 6: Post-Harvest Management and Value Addition of Organic Produce

- Innovative Post harvest technology for organic agricultural products
- Value addition and product diversification of fruits, vegetables, cereals, and millets
- Market development, branding, certification, and global trade of organic products

Theme 7: Policies Support, Marketing, and Entrepreneurship in Organic Agriculture

- Policy frameworks supporting organic and natural farming in India
- Economic reforms, challenges, options and market management
- Organic certification and quality control systems
- Role of FPOs/SHGs in strengthening organic value chains
- Agri-startups, agri-horti entrepreneurship, and business models in organic agriculture

Theme 8: Extension, Capacity Building and Farmer's Innovation

- Participatory innovations and success stories of progressive organic farmers
- Women and youth engagement in sustainable organic farming systems
- Experiences of progressive organic and natural farmers
- Community-based organic farming models

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS



About the University



The Central Agricultural University (CAU) was established by an Act of Parliament, the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992 (No. 40 of 1992), which came into effect on 26 January 1993 through notification by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India. The jurisdiction of the

University extends across six North-Eastern Hill States: Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Tripura with its headquarters at Imphal, Manipur.

In line with its mandate, CAU has established 13 constituent colleges, including the College of Agriculture (Imphal, Manipur), College of Fisheries (Agartala, Tripura), College of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry (Aizawl, Mizoram), College of Horticulture & Forestry (Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh), College of Community Science (Tura, Meghalaya), College of Agricultural Engineering and Post-Harvest Technology (Gangtok, Sikkim), College of Post-Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences (Umiam, Meghalaya), College of Food Technology (Lamphepat, Manipur), College of Agriculture (Kyrdemkulai, Meghalaya), College of Agriculture (Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh), College of Horticulture (Bermiok, Sikkim), College of Horticulture (Thenzawl, Mizoram), and College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (Jalukie, Nagaland). It also has 6 KVKs, 6 MTTC and VTCs stationed at different states of North East India



About the College



The conference will be held at the College of Horticulture, Bermiok, Sikkim, a constituent college of Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur. It was established on 21st May 2015, at the beautiful landscape of Tokal Bermiok under Namchi district of Sikkim. It resides at an elevation of 923 m above mean sea level (Longitude: 88°46.8'E; Latitude: 27°23.2'N). The

campus falls under the sub-tropical hill zone, with temperatures ranging from 12 °C to 30 °C and an average annual rainfall of approximately 1600 mm. The basic mandate of the college is to develop appropriate human resource for carrying out various horticultural activities in the state and to develop relevant technologies suitable for horticultural activities for the welfare of farming community of the state and to disseminate horticultural technologies, sustainable development of horticulture among the various stake holders. Presently it is offering degree to UG (Hons.) Horticulture and PG (Vegetable Science) programs.





About Sikkim

Sikkim, nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, is a pioneering state in India's sustainable agriculture landscape and the country's first fully organic state. Characterized by fragile hill ecosystems, rich agrobiodiversity, and predominantly small and marginal farming systems, Sikkim has demonstrated that organic and natural farming can enhance soil health, conserve natural resources, and sustain farmers' livelihoods. The state's diverse agro-climatic conditions support a wide range of crops, including pulses, traditional millets, underutilised and indigenous crops, spices, and horticultural produce, many of which are well suited to low-input and ecologically sound farming practices. Sikkim's organic transition—driven by strong policy support, community participation, and traditional knowledge—offers a replicable model for climate-resilient agriculture, nutritional security, and environmentally responsible food systems in India.

About Farmers' Fair

During the conference, Farmers' fair is going to organize to showcase the different activities, technologies and products of organic farming from CAUs/ICARs/FPOs/SHGs/Progressive farmers. It mainly focuses on improving farmers' knowledge, productivity, and income. It will encourage the farmers for eco friendly farming using the available resources from the farm. It will enable interaction between farmers, scientists, agri-experts, and policymakers. Around 150 progressive farmers, farm women, farmers producer organization (FPOs), SHGs would be participating the event





Call for Abstracts, Research papers and Review articles

The conference invites original research papers, review articles, case studies, and field experiences aligned with the conference themes. Selected contributions will be presented in oral and poster sessions and may be considered for publication in the conference proceedings or an edited book with ISBN Number. Full length original paper will be published in NAAS rating 5 and above journals on payment basis

Abstracts/extended summaries of original research work/review articles (soft copy) must be submitted to inconfcoh26@gmail.com on or before **5th April 2026**.

Formatting Guidelines: - Font: Times New Roman - Maximum length: 1000 words(Extended summary) & 300 words(Abstract)- Title: Upper case, bold, font size 14, centered - Author(s): Lower case, bold, font size 12, centered; presenting author underlined - Address: Font size 10, centered; include email of presenting author - Spacing: Double space between title and authors; single space between authors and address; double space between address and text - Text: Font size 12, single-spaced - Margins: Left 1.25", Right 0.75", Top 1", Bottom 1" - Single space between paragraphs

Guidelines for Poster Presentation

- ❖ Posters corresponding to the extended summaries must be brought ready for display. The display area provided is 90 cm (width) × 120 cm (height); each poster should fit within 85 cm × 115 cm, leaving a 2.5 cm border on all sides.
- ❖ Posters must be displayed on the evening preceding the assigned day and removed the same evening after presentation.
- ❖ Display materials (Velcro/push pins) will be provided by the organizers.
- ❖ The title, author(s), and address should match those submitted in the proceedings.
- ❖ Fonts should be legible from 1–2 m; use simple fonts such as Arial.
- ❖ Text and captions: 18–24 point; graphs/tables: at least 24 point.
- ❖ Posters should emphasize significance, key findings, and conclusions; avoid excessive text and complex tables.
- ❖ Posters should be self-explanatory; supplementary handouts may be provided.

Target audiences

- UG, PG and PhD students and Research scholars from from ICAR institutes and CAU/SAU universities
- Scientists and academicians from ICAR institutes and CAU/SAU universities
- Extension professionals and development practitioners
- Policymakers and planners
- Progressive farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)
- Entrepreneurs, start-ups, and agri-business professionals
- NGOs and civil society organizations working in sustainable agriculture



Awards will be provided to the best top two oral and poster presenter for each theme



REGISTRATION DETAILS

Dates to Remember

Abstract submission deadline	5 th April, 2026
Early Bird Registration	7 th April, 2026
Full length paper/extended summary deadline	7 th April, 2026
Last date for registration	9 th April, 2026
Conference date	11 th to 12 th April, 2026

Fee structure

	Indian Delegates			Foreign Delegates		
	Early bird registration (₹)	Late registration (₹)	Online (₹)	Early bird registration (\$)	Late registration (\$)	Online (\$)
UG students	800	1000	500	30	35	25
PG/PHD/Research scholars/YP/RA	1200	1500	1000	35	40	30
Faculty/Scientist/Academicians	2500	3000	2000	45	55	35

Payment Mode	NEFT/ Net Banking/ Mobile banking/ Online banking/ Phone pay/ Google pay
Name of the account	College of Horticulture
Account Number	34989516777
Bank Name and Branch	SBI and Singtam
IFSC code	SBIN0007515

Accommodation and Transport

The College of Horticulture is situated at Tokal Bermiok, South Sikkim. The nearest broad gauge railway station is New Jalpaiguri (NJP), about 106 kms away via NH 10 while the nearest airport is Bagdogra International Airport located at the western part of the city Siliguri at about 112 Km distance. Nearest market area is Singtam. Easily assessable taxi service is available from NJP Railway Station and Bagdogra International Airport to reach COH campus via Singtam.

The delegates/participants are advised to send their itinerary well in advance for smooth arrangement of accommodation via email. Reasonable and comfortable hotels are available nearby the vicinity of the college and can be booked directly. Transport facility will be available on payment basis. For more details please contact:

Prof. Sekhar Bandyopadhyay,
Chairman Accommodation committee,
9434685676

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7005753229



REGISTRATION FORM

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April 11-12, 2026

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Details of paper/Abstract submitted

Title of the oral/Poster Presentation:

.....

Theme Area:

Lead/Oral/Poster..... Full paper/Abstract:.....

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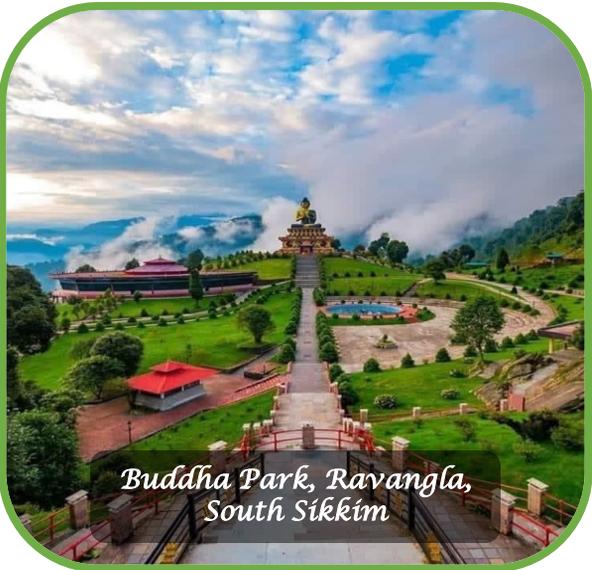
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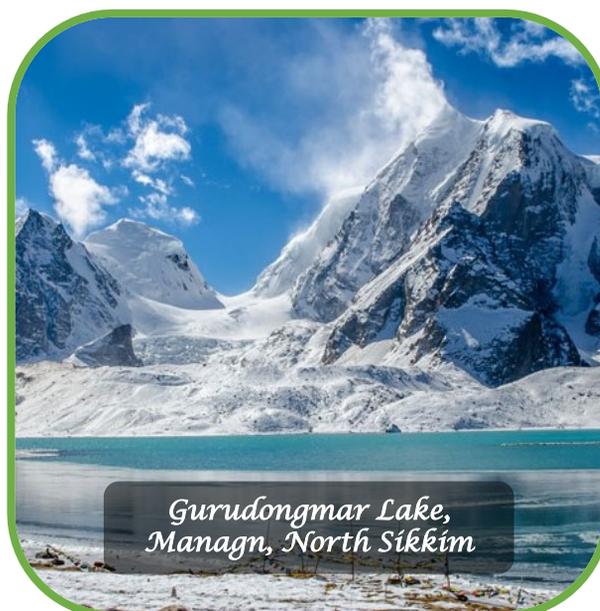
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