

TECHNICAL PROGRAM

National Conference on “Application of Plant Physiology in Enhancing Crop Productivity, Quality and Post-Harvest Management in Horticulture”

27–29 October 2026 | SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar, Srinagar

Organized by SKUAST-Kashmir and Academy for Indian Horticulture (AIH), Bengaluru

DAY 1 — Tuesday, 27 October 2026

Time	Lecture Title	Speaker & Affiliation	Remarks
10:00 – 2:00 PM	Registration		
10:30 – 12:30 PM	Student Oral Presentation for Awards		
Inaugural Session			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Welcome Address, Lighting of Lamp, Release of Souvenir/Abstract Book, Presidential & Guest of Honour Addresses, Vote of Thanks	Organizing Committee / Dignitaries	Inaugural
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Tea Break & Group Photograph		
Plenary / Keynote Lecture			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
3:15 – 4:00 PM	Bridging Science and Yield: The Role of Crop Physiologists in Modern Horticulture	Prof. R. Uma Shaankar — Former Head, Dept. of Crop Physiology, UASB & Former Senior Faculty, IIT Jammu	Keynote Address
Poster Session			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
4:00 – 5:00 PM	AIHS Lifetime Achievement Awards	Organizing Committee	
5:00 – 6:30 PM	Poster presentations and Evaluations 1	Presenting Authors	Poster Session
7:00 PM onwards	Welcome Dinner		

DAY 2 — Wednesday, 28 October 2026

Time	Lecture Title	Speaker & Affiliation	Remarks
Technical Session I — Climate Resilience & Stress Physiology in Horticultural Crops			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
9:00 – 9:25 AM	Physiology-led Strategies for Climate Adaptation in Plantation Crops	Dr Hebbbar K.B. — Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod, Kerala	Invited Lecture
9:25 – 9:50 AM	Scientific Insights to Practical Solutions in Challenging Agro-ecology of Fruit Crops	Dr Jagdish Rane — Director, CIAH, Bikaner, Rajasthan	Invited Lecture
9:50 – 10:15 AM	Title to be decided	Prof. Nazir Ahmad, Former Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K	Invited Lecture
10:15 – 10:40 AM	Harnessing Plant Physiology for Rapid Breeding and Smarter Cultivation in Protected Agricultural Systems	Dr Sairam Parichala, Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Urban Kissan, Hyderabad	Invited Lecture
10:40 – 10:50 AM	Oral Presentation 1 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)	Oral Presentation
10:50 – 11:00 AM	Oral Presentation 2 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)	Oral Presentation
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Tea Break/ Poster presentations and Evaluations 2		
Technical Session II — Hormonal & Growth Regulation in Horticultural Crops			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
11:30 – 11:55 AM	Translational Application of Photoperiod and Hormones in Floriculture	Dr Devaraja Achar — Head, Biotechnology, IAHS, Bengaluru	Invited Lecture
11:55 – 12:20 PM	Practical Applications of Plant Growth Regulators in Fruit Crops	Dr Sankaran K. — Head, Fruit Crops, ICAR-IIHR	Invited Lecture
12:20 – 12:45 PM	Role of Hormones and Rootstock in the Success of Grapes in India	Dr G.S. Prakash — Former HOD (Fruit Crops), ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru	Invited Lecture
12:45 – 1:10 PM	Importance of Canopy Management in Seed Production of Solanaceae Crops	Dr Raghavendra Sandhikar, MD, United Genetics India, Bangalore	Oral Presentation
1:10 – 2:05 PM	Lunch Break		
Technical Session III — Physiological Regulation of Growth, Yield & Orchard Productivity			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			

2:05 – 2:30 PM	Plant Physiology in Hormone Regulation for Growth and Productivity	<i>Dr T.G. Prasad / Dr Nataraja Karaba — Former HOD (Plant Physiology), UAS, Bengaluru</i>	Invited Lecture
2:30 – 2:55 PM	Unlocking Vegetable Physiology to Optimize Molecular Breeding and DH Production in Vegetables	Dr Ashish Patel — Global Lead, Cucurbits Germplasm Development, Syngenta. Bangkok	Invited Lecture
2:55 – 3:20 PM	Physiological Regulation of Productivity in Fruit Crops: Bridging Physiology and Yield	<i>Dr Prakash Patil — PC (Fruits), ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru</i>	Invited Lecture
3:20 – 3:30 PM	Oral Presentation 5 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	<i>Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)</i>	Oral Presentation
3:30 – 3:40 PM	Oral Presentation 6 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	<i>Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)</i>	Oral Presentation
3:40 – 4:10 PM	<i>Tea Break/ Poster presentations and Evaluations 3</i>		
Technical Session IV — Post-Harvest Physiology & Quality Management – I			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
4:10 – 4:35 PM	Applications of Plant Physiology in Postharvest Horticulture	<i>Dr Sunil Pareek — NIFTEM, Kundli, New Delhi</i>	Invited Lecture
4:35 – 5:00 PM	Applications of Plant Physiology in Enhancing Crop, Seed Productivity, Quality and Storage in Potato	<i>Dr P.M. Govindakrishnan — Former PC (AICRP-Potato)</i>	Invited Lecture
5:00 – 5:25 PM	Application of Plant Volatile Organic Compounds in Horticulture	<i>Dr K.S. Shivashankar — Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR</i>	Invited Lecture
5:25 – 5:35 PM	Oral Presentation 7 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	<i>Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)</i>	Oral Presentation
5:35 – 5:45 PM	Oral Presentation 8 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	<i>Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)</i>	Oral Presentation

DAY 3 — Thursday, 29 October 2026

Time	Lecture Title	Speaker & Affiliation	Remarks
Technical Session V — Post-Harvest Physiology & Quality Management – II			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
9:00 – 9:25 AM	Spongy Tissue Management (Internal Breakdown) in Mango	<i>Dr Ravindra (Rtd.) — Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR</i>	Invited Lecture
9:25 – 9:50 AM	Physiological and Biochemical Foundations of Crop Quality and Productivity: A Seed-to-Post-Harvest Perspective in Potato	<i>Dr Dinesh Kumar / Dr P.M. Govindakrishnan</i>	Invited Lecture
9:50 – 10:15 AM	Physiological Interventions for Higher Productivity and Quality	<i>Dr S.J. Ankegowda / Dr K.S. Krishnamurthy — ICAR-IISR, Kerala</i>	Invited Lecture
10:15 – 10:40 AM	Title to be decided	<i>Prof. Zaffar A. Reshi, Former Registrar, University of Kashmir</i>	Invited Lecture
10:40 – 10:50 AM	Oral Presentation 9 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	<i>Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)</i>	Oral Presentation
10:50 – 11:00 AM	Oral Presentation 10 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	<i>Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)</i>	Oral Presentation

11:00 – 11:30 AM	Tea Break		
Technical Session VI — Precision Agriculture, Protected Cultivation & Soilless Farming			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
11:30 – 11:55 AM	Title to be decided	Prof. M. K. Verma, Director, CITH	Invited Lecture
11:55 – 12:20 PM	Title to be decided	Prof. Farooq Ahmad Zaki, Ex-Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir	Invited Lecture
12:20 – 12:45 PM	Title to be decided	Prof. F.A. Khan/Prof. Sajad A. Bhat/Dr. Prajjal Dey, Div. of Basic Sciences and Humanities, SKUAST-K	Invited Lecture
12:45 – 12:55 PM	Oral Presentation 11 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)	Oral Presentation
12:55 – 1:05 PM	Oral Presentation 12 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)	Oral Presentation
1:05 – 2:05 PM	Lunch Break		
Technical Session VII — Plant Breeding, Biotechnology & Genomics for Horticultural Improvement			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
2:05 – 2:30 PM	Physiology in Plant Breeding	Dr Viswanathan Chinnusamy — Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi	Invited Lecture
2:30 – 2:55 PM	Tissue Culture and Its Benefits in Horticultural Crops: Role of Plant Physiology	Mr Balakrishna Yadav / Mr PatilKalyansing — Jain Irrigation Systems, Jalna	Invited Lecture
2:55 – 3:20 PM	Physiological intervention enhancing yield and quality in Oil Palm	Dr K. Suresh, Director Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi, AP	Invited Lecture
3:20 – 3:30 PM	Oral Presentation 13 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)	Oral Presentation
3:30 – 3:40 PM	Oral Presentation 14 (8 min + 2 min discussion)	Presenting Author — TBD (from selected abstracts)	Oral Presentation
3:40 – 4:10 PM	Tea Break		
Valedictory Session			
Chair: _____ Co-Chair: _____ Rapporteur: _____			
4:10 – 5:00 PM	Best Oral & Best Poster Awards, Participant Feedback, Valedictory Address, Vote of Thanks	Organizing Committee / Dignitaries	Valedictory