



National Conference 2026

Fruitful Landscapes for Healthy People and Planet

*Harnessing Fruit Diversity for
Nutrition, Nature and Climate Resilience*



4-6 November, 2026



ICAR NASC Complex,
New Delhi



fruitcon.in



Nutrition



Biodiversity



Sustainability



Resilience

Jointly Organised by



Background and Rationale

India is one of the world's richest countries in fruit diversity, with a wide range of cultivated, local, minor, wild, and underutilized fruit species adapted to diverse agroecological regions. Many of these fruits are rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, dietary fibre and other health-promoting compounds. They have the potential to contribute to household nutrition security, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, women-led livelihoods and nature positive farming systems. Despite this richness, many nutritious fruits under cultivated, underutilized, inadequately conserved, weakly linked to quality planting material systems, and largely absent from mainstream nutrition and horticulture programmes. Resource-poor households, especially in rural, tribal, dryland, hilly and nutritionally vulnerable regions, often have limited access to diverse, affordable and locally available fruits throughout the year.

The **Centre for Fruitful India (CFI)**, hosted in India by the **Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT**, seeks to address pressing challenges in fruit diversity and nutrition security by promoting fruit tree-based farming systems, strengthening quality planting material, enhancing community and household-level fruit access through, building school and Anganwadi linkages, fostering women and youth participation, and scaling partnerships. CFI approach aims to move “tree to mouth” by making nutrient-rich fruits more easily available, accessible, and affordable to low-income communities throughout the year, while simultaneously strengthening nature-positive and climate-resilient landscapes.

As a flagship initiative of the **Centre for Fruitful India (CFI)**, the National Conference is envisioned as a strategic platform to advance CFI’s mission of promoting fruit-based solutions for nutrition, livelihoods and resilient landscapes. To strengthen its reach and impact, CFI has partnered with the **Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences (IAHS)** to co-host the conference and bring together science, policy and practice.

Building on this shared purpose, the conference aims to:

- **Share knowledge** on fruit diversity, conservation, nutrition and climate resilience.
- **Support policy action** to include nutritious and underutilized fruits in horticulture and nutrition programmes.
- **Strengthen community leadership** through women, youth, farmer groups and grassroots innovations.
- **Build partnerships** among research, government, NGOs, private sector and community institutions.
- **Showcase innovations** in fruit-based farming, nutrition access and climate-resilient landscapes.
- **Create networks** to scale quality planting material, conservation and nutrition-linked fruit systems.



Conference Theme

The conference will translate CFI's vision into a collaborative agenda for strengthening fruit tree-based solutions across India. It will focus on nutrition security, resilient livelihoods, climate adaptation and nature-positive development by linking evidence, innovation, community action and policy support. The discussions will connect fruit diversity, quality planting material, agroecological production, landscape restoration, nutrition access, markets and partnerships into practical pathways for scaling Fruitful Landscapes. The conference will thus focus on the following themes.

Theme 1: Biodiversity for Fruitful Landscapes – Conserving, Characterising and Mobilising Fruit Diversity for Nutrition and Resilience

This theme explores how India's rich fruit diversity can strengthen healthier diets, resilient farms, livelihoods, and climate adaptation by linking scientific research with farmer and community knowledge to identify, conserve, and promote promising species and varieties

Focus areas

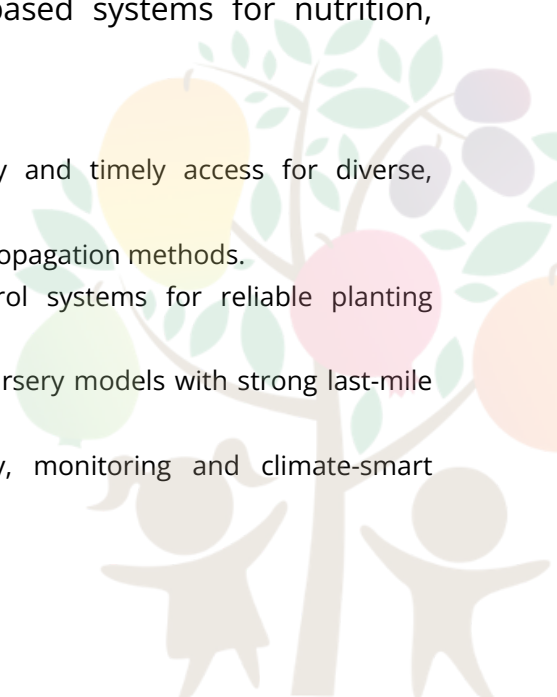
- Document, characterize and conserve cultivated, traditional, minor, wild, semi-wild and underutilized fruit resources.
- Identify fruits with high nutrition value, health benefits and climate resilience.
- Combine scientific methods with farmer and traditional knowledge to select and improve promising fruit diversity.
- Link promising fruit diversity with nurseries, quality planting material and climate-resilient farms.
- Support community-led use of fruit diversity to improve nutrition, local access and livelihood opportunities.

Theme 2: Quality Planting Material and Innovation Systems - Science, Technology and Nursery Pathways for Sustainable Fruit Production

This theme addresses the critical challenge of ensuring reliable, affordable, and locally adapted quality planting material to scale fruit tree-based systems for nutrition, resilience, and livelihoods.

Focus areas

- Improve availability, genetic purity, plant health, affordability and timely access for diverse, nutritious and locally adapted fruit species.
- Strengthen mother blocks, scion banks, rootstock sources and propagation methods.
- Develop standards, accreditation, certification, - quality-control systems for reliable planting material supply.
- Promote low-cost, community-based and entrepreneur-led - nursery models with strong last-mile delivery.
- Use nursery registries, geo-tagging, traceability, AI advisory, monitoring and climate-smart technologies to improve planning, quality and delivery.



Theme 3: Restoring and Managing Fruitful Landscapes - Nature-Positive Solutions for People, Climate and Ecosystems

This theme explores how fruit trees can restore and diversify farms and landscapes while supporting livelihoods, nutrition, biodiversity, and climate resilience through agroforestry and integrated systems across vulnerable ecosystems.

Focus areas

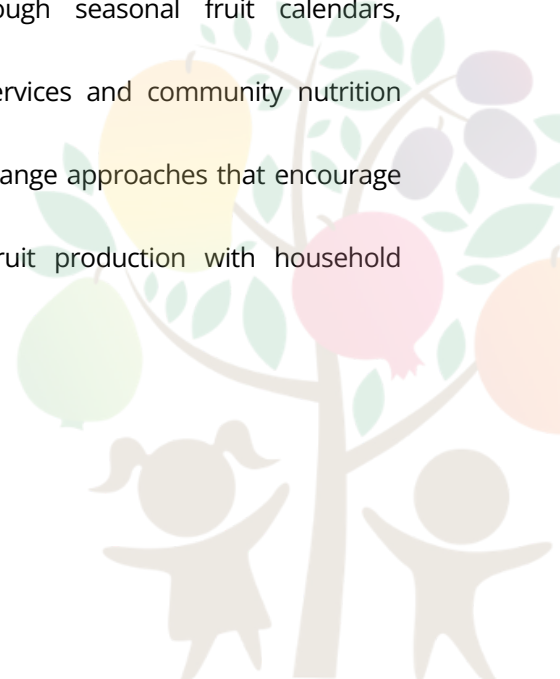
- Integrate fruit trees with crops, livestock and other farm enterprises in dryland, rainfed, hill, tribal and climate-vulnerable systems.
- Use fruit tree-based approaches to restore degraded, marginal, common, Panchayat and community-managed lands.
- Improve soil health, water harvesting, moisture conservation and erosion control to build productive and resilient fruit-based landscapes.
- Design multifunctional fruit landscapes that conserve biodiversity, support pollinators, store carbon and provide ecosystem services.
- Promote WADI, community orchards, homestead fruit gardens and farmer-led models that link restoration with nutrition, livelihoods and local resilience.

Theme 4: Fruit Consumption for Nutrition, Health and Dietary Behaviour Change - Improving Year-Round Access to Nutritious Fruits for Children and Vulnerable Communities

This theme focuses on improving year-round access to affordable, nutritious fruits for children, women, low-income households, and vulnerable communities by linking local production with household use, schools, and community nutrition programmes.

Focus areas

- Use nutrient-rich fruits to improve dietary diversity, micronutrient intake and healthy diets for children, adolescents, women and vulnerable groups.
- Improve year-round availability, affordability and access through seasonal fruit calendars, complementary species and local supply systems.
- Integrate locally available fruits into school meals, Anganwadi services and community nutrition programmes.
- Promote nutrition literacy, community awareness and behaviour-change approaches that encourage regular fruit consumption.
- Connect homestead gardens, community orchards and local fruit production with household consumption and nutrition outcomes.



Theme 5: Scaling Fruitful Landscapes through Policy, Markets and Partnerships - Enabling Systems and Partnerships for Lasting Impact

This theme explores the policy, institutional, financial, and market support needed to scale fruit-based approaches across India by fostering convergence, inclusive partnerships, viable markets, innovative financing, and evidence-based learning.

Focus areas

- Align national, state and local policies, schemes and institutions to support integrated and sustained fruit-based development.
- Strengthen inclusive partnerships among Panchayats, SHGs, FPOs, community organisations, NGOs, research bodies and private actors.
- Develop value chains, processing, local markets, institutional markets, enterprises and livelihood opportunities for nutritious and underutilized fruits.
- Use public investment, CSR, philanthropy, blended finance and private investment to support establishment, enterprises and long-term scaling.
- Use monitoring, evaluation, evidence and learning to adapt and replicate scalable models across regions and communities.

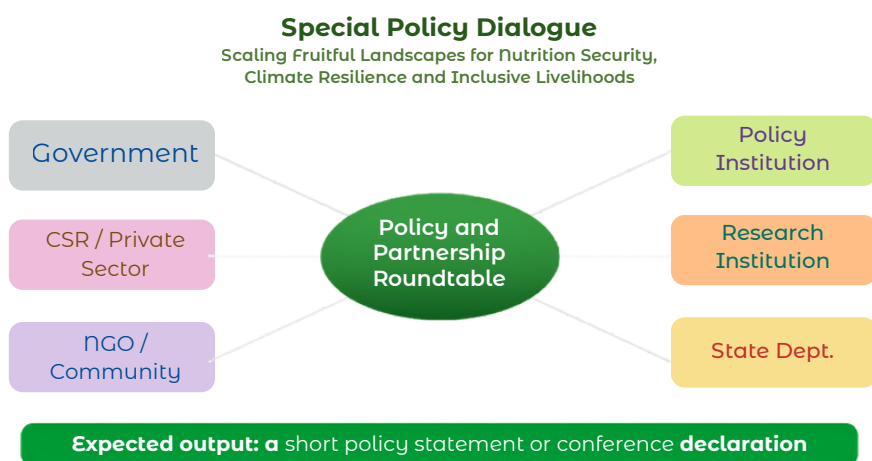
Special Policy Dialogues: Enabling Policies, Partnerships and Investments for Scaling Fruitful Landscapes in India

The conference will include a high-level Special Policy Dialogue with government, research, development, finance, private sector, civil society and farmer representatives. The session will focus on aligning policies, programmes, investments and partnerships to scale fruit-based, nutrition-sensitive and nature-positive landscapes across India.

The dialogue will identify priority actions for policy convergence, coordinated implementation and evidence-based scaling across regions. Its main output will be a concise set of policy and investment recommendations for Fruitful Landscapes in India.

Expected outcome:

A Conference Policy Statement with priority actions, investment opportunities and partnership mechanisms for scaling Fruitful Landscapes in India.



Conference Official Website

www.fruitcon.in

This official website is your one-stop destination for all event-related activities:

- ✓ Abstract Submission & Guidelines – Access submission details and guidelines
- ✓ Event Registration – Register easily online
- ✓ Secure Payment Gateway – Make hassle-free payments
- ✓ Download Documents – Get your abstract acceptance letter & registration confirmation
- ✓ Event Fee Receipt – Get your event Fee Receipt instantly
- ✓ Accommodation Facilitation– Submit your stay preferences
- ✓ Travel Itinerary Submission – Share your travel details effortlessly
- ✓ Presentation Guidelines – Find instructions for oral and poster presentations
- ✓ Event Announcements – Stay updated with important news
- ✓ Contact Organizing Team – Get assistance when needed

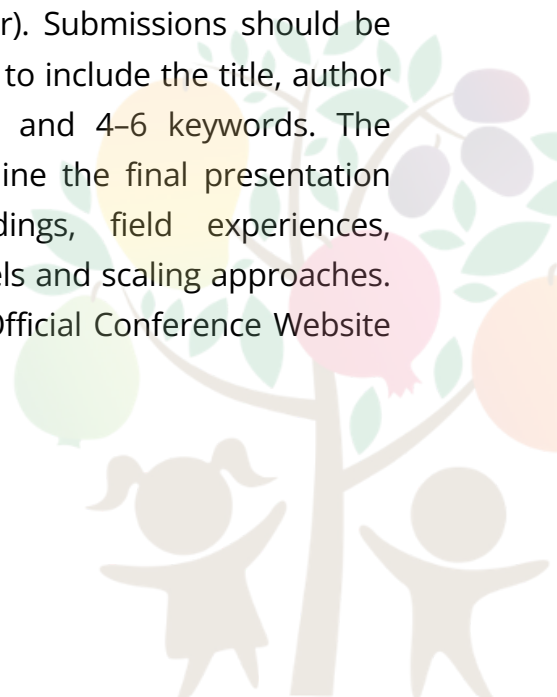
Everything you need for a seamless event experience is just a click away!

Participation and Call for Contributions

The conference invites participation from researchers, policymakers, development organisations, community institutions, private sector actors, students, farmer organisations and practitioners working on fruit diversity, horticulture, nutrition, agroecology, landscape restoration, quality planting material, value chains and inclusive scaling.

Abstract submission guidelines

Abstracts are invited under the five technical themes of the conference. Authors may indicate their preferred presentation mode (oral or poster). Submissions should be 250–300 words in length, written in English, and formatted to include the title, author names, affiliations, email address, theme, abstract text and 4–6 keywords. The Scientific Committee will review all abstracts and determine the final presentation format. Suitable contributions include research findings, field experiences, innovations, case studies, policy analysis, community models and scaling approaches. Abstract submission will be accepted online through the Official Conference Website only.



Registration Categories

Category	Early Bird (Rs)	Regular (Rs)
Scientist and researchers	5,250/-	6,500/-
IAHS members/ Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT	4,750/-	5,500/-
Industry Representative / International Category	7,250/-	8,500/-
Students, Farmer organisations, SHGs and community representatives	1,750/-	2,500/-

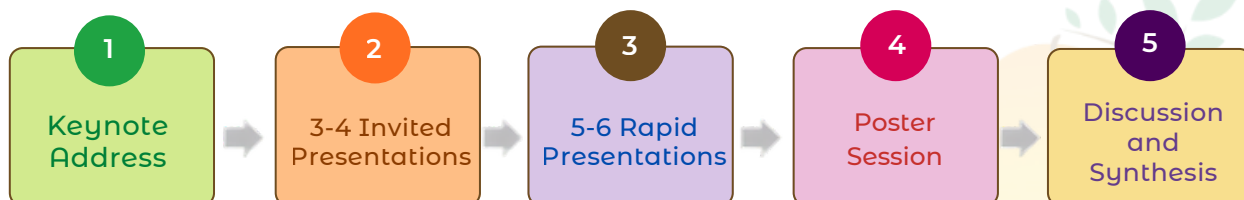
Important Dates

Milestone	Date
Abstract submission opens	25 August 2026
Last date for abstract submission	25 September 2026
Notification of acceptance	5 October 2026
Last date for Early Bird registration	10 October 2026

Conference Structure

Each technical theme will follow a common structure to encourage depth, inclusion and synthesis. Keynote addresses will provide conceptual direction, invited presentations will provide evidence and institutional perspectives, rapid presentations will open space for emerging work, and posters will provide a wider platform for students, practitioners and partners.

Technical Session Format for Each Theme



Each theme will include a dedicated poster cluster and a short rapporteur summary for conference outputs.

Awards and Recognition



Call for Sponsorship



Conference Organizing Committee

Committee	Names / Institutions
Patron	Dr. Umesh Maheswari , Founder of the Fruitful India
Chairperson	Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh , DDG (Horticultural Sciences), ICAR Dr. Chris J. Kettle , Principal Scientist, Lead Tree Biodiversity for Resilient Landscapes, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
Co-Chairperson	Dr. Prem Mathur , CFI's Technical Advisor, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT & Scientific Leader and Coordinator, The Kirkhouse Trust SCIO Dr. Suresh K. Malhotra , Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal, Haryana and Vice President, IAHS
Organising Secretaries	Dr. V.B. Patel , Assistant Director General Horticultural Science Division, ICAR, New Delhi Dr. J.C. Rana , Senior Scientist and Country Representative for India, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, New Delhi

Conveners

- Dr Ram Asrey, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
- Dr Jai Prakash, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
- Dr Shyam Sundar Dey, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
- Dr Nripendra Vikram Singh, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
- Dr P. C. Tripathi, ICAR, New Delhi
- Dr Anjani Kumar Jha, ICAR, New Delhi.
- Disha Sanwal - Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
- Dr. Harinder Vishwakarma - Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

Contact

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For Technical Related Assistance



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support@eventup.in (Official Hours)

+91-70198 10047 - Quick Support (24/7)

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About the Organisers

Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

The **Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT** is a CGIAR organisation transforming food, land, and water systems in the face of the climate crisis. Working at the intersection of **agriculture, environment, and nutrition**, it engages governments, civil society, and the private sector across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Through innovative collaborations, the Alliance generates evidence and mainstreams solutions for systemic change.

Alliance India office has built strong partnerships with national research organizations and government agencies. Its work addresses biodiversity loss, environmental degradation, and nutrition insecurity, while advancing **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. By harnessing local expertise and developing region-specific strategies, the Alliance strengthens resilience and secures livelihoods across India.

Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences (IAHS)

The **Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences (IAHS)**, established in 1942 and formerly known as the Horticultural Society of India, is a premier national scientific organization dedicated to advancing horticultural education, research, innovation and development in India. The Academy provides a common platform for scientists, academicians, policymakers, industry representatives, development organizations and farming communities to exchange knowledge and promote excellence across horticulture and allied sciences. Through the Indian Journal of Horticulture, scientific congresses, seminars, symposia, expert consultations and recognition of outstanding contributions, IAHS plays an important role in strengthening collaboration and translating scientific knowledge into developmental impact. The proposed seminar, to be jointly organized with the Centre for Fruitful India, will bring together leading experts to deliberate on emerging opportunities, scientific innovations, institutional partnerships and actionable strategies for developing a productive, nutritious, climate-resilient and globally competitive fruit sector in India.

