

REGISTRATION: 09:00 – 10:00 AM

INAUGURAL SESSION | MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

Opening Programme • 10:00 AM – 11:40 AM

INAUGURAL PROGRAMME		
TIME	PROGRAMME / SPEAKER	
10:00 – 10:05 AM	University Tarana	EMRC, University of Kashmir
10:05– 10:10 AM	Dr. Riffat John <i>Organiser, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir</i>	Welcome Address
10:10 - 10:12 AM	Release of Conference Souvenir	
10:12 – 10:17 AM	Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah <i>Head, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir</i>	Opening Remarks and about the Department
10:17 – 10:22 AM	Dr. Arindham Bhattacharyya <i>Scientist, DST (Special Guest)</i>	Funding opportunities for International Collaboration
10:22– 10:30 AM	Prof. Bashir Ahmad Ganaie <i>Dean Research, UoK (Guest of Honour)</i>	Research Perspective
10:30 – 10:40 AM	Prof. Nilofer Khan <i>Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, UoK (Chief Guest)</i>	Presidential Address
10:40 – 10:45 AM	Dr. Neela Yennawar <i>Co-organiser, Penn State University, USA</i>	Vote of Thanks
10:45 – 11:30 AM	GROUP PHOTOGRAPH AND TEA BREAK	

DAY 1 | MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

Scientific Programme • Part I • 12:00 AM – 2:20 PM

THEME I | MOLECULAR & PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF PLANT RESILIENCE

TIME	PROGRAMME / SPEAKER	SESSION CHAIR(S) / NOTE
11:30 – 11:50 PM	INVITED LECTURE Dr. Neeti Sanan-Mishra <i>RNA Biology Lab, ICGEB</i> miRNAs for Rewiring Stress Responses in Crops	

11:50 – 12:50 PM | SESSION I — FLASH TALKS | MOLECULAR & PHYSIOLOGICAL BASIS OF PLANT RESILIENCE

CHAIRS: KHURSHID AHMAD SHAH, JAVID IQBAL MIR

TIME	PRESENTER / AFFILIATION	PRESENTATION TITLE
11:50 – 11:56	Abu Imran Baba (University of Sweden)	RG-II Dimerization Deficiency Impairs the Coordination Between Growth and Adhesion Maintenance in Plants
11:57 – 12:03	Tahira Akhter (University of Kashmir)	Understanding the Role of Titanium Dioxide Nanoparticles on Low Temperature Stress in Maize
12:04 – 12:10	Arashjyot Kour (BGBSU, Rajouri)	Variation in the abundance, community structure and metabolic footprints of soil nematode assemblages across different forest types in Jammu Division.
12:11 -12:17	Dipak Gayen (Central University of Rajasthan)	Temperature-Induced Lipocalin Acts as Key Regulator of Seed Longevity and Abiotic Stress Tolerance in Chickpea
12:18 – 12:23	Rahila Nazir (Johns Hopkins University)	Construction and Characterization of Genetically Encoded FRET-Based Nanosensors for Real-Time Monitoring of Metal Ions in Living Cells
12:24 – 12:30	Jitendra Singh (ICGEB, New Delhi)	A sweet trade-off between plant growth and immunity
12:31 – 12:37	Roohi Mushtaq (Dept. of Higher Education)	Proteomics Reveals Occurrence of Irreversible Events in Flag Leaf of Rice Under Severe Drought.
12:38 – 12:44	Ravneet Kaur (Chandigarh University)	Silymarin and Melatonin Synergistically Improve Cadmium Tolerance Through Reprogramming of Photosynthesis and Ascorbate–Glutathione Metabolism in <i>Brassica napus</i>
12:45 – 12:51	Satapathy (University of Hyderabad)	Improving Amplification of Structurally Complex Plant Regulatory Sequences for Vector Development
12:51 – 12:58	Parvaze A. Sofi (SKUAST-K)	Roots–Water–Nutrient Stress Nexus: Insights from Legume Root Architectural Studies to Identify Functional Traits

1:00 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK (ZABARWAN GUEST HOUe)

DAY 1 | MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

Scientific Programme • Part II • 02:05 PM – 04:45 PM

THEME II | ADVANCES IN CROP IMPROVEMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

TIME	SPEAKER/AFFILIATION	SESSION CHAIR(S) / NOTE
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02:05 – 02:25 PM	INVITED LECTURE Dr. Hemant Yennawar Penn State, USA Understanding Nature via Molecular Structures	
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02:26 – 4:00 PM SESSION II — FLASH TALKS • ADVANCES IN CROP IMPROVEMENT AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE	CHAIR(S): RUQEYA NAZIR AND GANGAPRASAD
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TIME	PRESENTER / AFFILIATION	PRESENTATION
02:27 – 02:33 PM	Reena Prusty (ICAR)	Evaluation of Floral Biology, Pollen Viability, and In Vitro Germination in Hazelnut
02:34 – 02:40 PM	Ambreen Tahir Shah (University of Kashmir)	DNA Methylation Analysis of Conyza canadensis L. Show Differential Pattern in the Native and Non-Native Range
02:41 – 02:47 PM	Saika Nabi (SKUAST-K)	Accelerated Development of Nutrition-Rich Maize Hybrids Through Marker-Assisted Introgression of Low Phytic Acid Gene (LPA2) into the Parental Lines of Improved Shalimar QPM Hybrid-3 (SQPMH-3-IM) for North-Western Hill Ecologies of J&K
02:48 – 02:54 PM	Sudhakara N.R. (ICAR)	Comparative Effect of Organic Farming, Natural Farming and Conventional Farming on Apricot Fruit Quality Traits
02:55 – 03:01 PM	Uzma Mehraj (ICAR)	In Vitro Regeneration and Micropropagation of Chrysanthemum Through Vegetative Explants: A Biotechnological Tool for Plant Resilience and Germplasm Conservation.
03:02 – 03:08 PM	Manikandan Krishnan (SKUAST-K)	Integrative Genome-Wide Association Analysis Reveals Stable SNPs and Candidate Genes for Lodging Traits in Buckwheat (<i>Fagopyrum</i> spp.): A First Report
03:09 – 03:15 PM	Kareem A. Farouk (SKUAST-J)	Enhancing Yield and Fruit Quality of Guava by Preharvest Application of Methyl Jasmonate and Chitosan
03:16 – 03:22 PM	Melle Sugandha (SKUAST-K)	A Low-Cost, High-Throughput Colorimetric Method for Quantified Seed Coat Phenol Reaction in Bread Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>).
03:23 – 03:30 PM	Musharib Gull (SKUAST-K)	Marker-Assisted Introgression of Blast Resistance Genes into the Heritage Red Rice Cultivar Zag Tamul While Retaining Nutritional Profiles
03:31 – 03:37 PM	Rafee Jan (SKUAST-K)	Propagation of a Climate-Resilient Underutilized Tree Species, <i>Diospyros lotus</i> L. Under Temperate Conditions of Kashmir
03:38 – 03:43 PM	Gousia Nabi (University of Kashmir)	Molecular Characterization and Population Structure of the Wild-Weedy-Cultivated <i>Amaranthus</i> Complex from the Kashmir Himalaya: Implications for Climate-Resilient Breeding.
03:44 – 03:50 PM	Nowsheen Nazir (SKUAST)	Physiological Resilience and Water Productivity in High-Density Apple to Deficit Irrigation Under Changing Climate: Integrating Soil and Plant Signals for Adaptive Irrigation.
03:51 – 04:00 PM	Dr Sajad Un Nabi (ICAR-CITH)	Harnessing the Rhizo- and Endosphere Microbiota of Apple Rootstocks for Plant Growth Promotion and Sustainable Root Rot Management in Temperate Fruit Crops.

4:00 – 4:45 PM	TEA BREAK & POSTER EVALUATION	Poster evaluators: Mohd Arief Zargar Mudasir Andrabi Aijaz Ahamd Dar Firdous A. Khanday
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DAY 1 | MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2026

Scientific Programme • Part III • Young Researcher Forum • 4:46 – 6:01 PM

THEME III | YOUNG RESEARCHER FORUM — FLASH TALKS CONTINUED

TIME	PROGRAMME / SPEAKER
4:46 – 5:06 PM	INVITED LECTURE Soumen Manna Kanti <i>Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics</i>
	Metabolic Reprogramming Associated with Abiotic Stress Response in Plants: Cues for Climate Resilience

05:06 – 06:05 PM YOUNG RESEARCHER FORUM		CHAIR: ZAHOOR AHMAD KALOO, MUTHAMILARASAN
	PRESENTER / AFFILIATION	PRESENTATION
05:06 – 05:12 PM	Bilal Ahmad Sheikh (University of Kashmir)	Characterization and Evaluation of Potential Mechanisms of Resistance in Maize Genotypes Against the Oriental Armyworm <i>Mythimna separata</i> (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae).
05:13 – 05:19 PM	Divya Sharma (SKUAST-K)	Genetic Variability, Heritability, and Trait Associations in Sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> L.) Under Temperate Agro-Ecological Conditions
05:20 – 05:26 PM	Samreen Fatima (SKUAST-K)	Unveiling the Biochemical Basis of Bean Common Mosaic Virus (BCMV) Resistance in Cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> L. Walp.) Under Western Himalayan Conditions.
05:27 – 05:33 PM	Ronit Jaiswal (ICAR)	A Multilayer Vision Transformer for Robust Apple Leaf Disease Identification
05:34 – 05:40 PM	Priyanka M.S. (University of Kerala)	Biochemical Characterization of Lectin from the Coastal Halophyte <i>Canavalia rosea</i>
05:41 – 05:47 PM	Mohd Abas Shah (ICAR)	Phylogeographic Analysis of Their Global COI Haplotypes of Apple Aphids, <i>Aphis pomi</i> DeGeer and <i>Aphis spiraeicola</i> Patch on Apple.
05:48 – 05:54 PM	Manisha Kumari (University of Jammu)	New Records of Fungal Endophytes from India
05:55 – 06:01 PM	Mudasir Ahmad Dar (University of Kashmir)	Microbial valorisation of <i>Platanus orientalis</i> biomass through process optimization of psychrotolerant Himalayan bacteria for enhanced lignocellulolytic enzyme production

DAY 2 | TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

Scientific Programme • Part I • 9:00 AM – 10:56 PM

THEME I | YOUNG RESEARCHERS, PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS & SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

9:00 – 10:00 AM YOUNG RESEARCHER FORUM — FLASH TALKS		•CHAIR(S): ANZAR AHMAD KHUROO AND IRFAN RASHID (BOT)
	PRESENTER / AFFILIATION	PRESENTATION
09:00 – 09:06 AM	Prof. Sajad Ahmad Gangoo (SKUAST-K)	One Product per Forest Division (OPFD) — A Localised Strategy for Strengthening Forest-Based Livelihoods and Biodiversity Conservation in Jammu & Kashmir.
09:07 – 09:13 AM	Pervaiz A. Dar (GDC Sopore)	Are High Altitude Ecosystems of Kashmir Himalaya Resistant to Plant Invasions?
09:14 – 09:20 AM	Shaista Khan (SKUAST-K)	Phytoremediation Potential of Native Salix Species in Metal-Stressed Himalayan Soils.
09:21- 09:27 AM	Shaker Kabir (BGSBU Rajouri)	Altitudinal and Crop-Driven Structuring of Nematode Communities in Wheat, Maize, and Rice Agro-Ecosystems of the Pir Panjal Region, Jammu and Kashmir.
09:28 – 09:34 AM	Masoodi Shaista Khan (SKUAST-K)	Evaluation of Compost Making and Nutrient Dynamics from Fallen Leaves of Prominent Tree Species of Kashmir Valley.
09:35 – 09:41 AM	Ananya Borah (SKUAST-K)	Integrated Evaluation of Agro-Morphological, Nutritional and Molecular Diversity in Advanced Finger Millet (Eleusine coracana L.) Breeding Lines for Climate Resilience Under Temperate.
09:42 – 10:00 AM	Gazala Bashir (GDC Kokernag)	Responses of Glycine max (L.) Merr.: Implications for Climate Change Resilience and Sustainable Agriculture.

TIME	PROGRAMME / SPEAKER	SESSION CHAIR(S) ABDUL HAMID WANI AND MOHD YAQUB BHAT
10:00 – 10:25 AM	INVITED LECTURE Prof. Dилфуза Jabborova <i>Institute of Genetics and Plant Experimental Biology, Uzbekistan</i> Plant-Microbe Interactions for Sustainable Plant Growth and Climate Resilience	
10:26 – 10:56 AM	INVITED LECTURE Prof. Sudesh Kumar Yadav <i>IHBT, Palampur</i> Lecture title to be confirmed	

10:56 – 11:20 AM	TEA BREAK & STUDENT-SCIENTIST INTERACTION	Networking with invited scientists
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DAY 2 | TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2026
Scientific Programme • Part II • 11:20 AM – 01:00 PM

THEME I | EMERGING APPROACHES FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT PLANTS AND CROPS

11:20 AM – 11:45 AM

INVITED LECTURE
Prof. Shivaprasad
NCBS, Bengaluru
Molecular Strategies for Enhancing Climate Resilience in Crops

LASH TALKS | 11:46 – 12:42 PM

11:46 – 12:51 PM | FLASH TALKS

•CHAIR(S): **ALTAF AHMAD BHAT** AND **AFLAQ AHMAD WANI**

TIME	PRESENTER / AFFILIATION	PRESENTATION
11:46 – 11:52 AM	Sehrish Fayaz (University of Kashmir)	Diversity and biocontrol potential of endophytic fungi associated with apple malus domestica borkh.
11:53 – 11:59 AM	Vidhi Sapara (ICGEB, New Delhi)	Enhancing rice yield through crispr/cas9-mediated ostb1 knockout and re-editing of wrky53 and myb108 for improved lodging resistance.
12:00 – 12:06 PM	Shailesh Kumar Patidar (Central University of Rajasthan)	Proteomics insights into quorum-sensing-induced modulation of lipid metabolism in chlorella sp.
12:07 – 12:13 PM	Rohied Ahmad Najar (University of Kashmir)	Population genetic diversity and functional strategies underpinning invasion success and endemic vulnerability in the Kashmir Himalaya
12:14 – 12:20 PM	Ayesha Sarfaraz (Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University)	Species diversity, richness, and evenness of insect pollinators of luffa acutangula l. (ridge gourd).
12:21 – 12:27 PM	Rayees Ahmad Rather (University of Kashmir)	From Altitudinal Proteomics to Functional Validation: Functional Validation of Chalcone flavanone isomerase
12:28 – 12:34 PM	Sakib Hassan (University of Kashmir)	Plant Growth Promoting Rhizospheric Funginassociated with Bacopa monnerie
12:35 – 12:40 PM	Jishnu V.M. (University of Kerala)	An iterated chamber grafting method to overcome vegetative recalcitrance in garcinia dhanikhariensis s.k. srivastava
12:40 PM – 01:00 PM	KEYNOTE LECTURE Dr. Neela Yennawar Penn State, USA Understanding Protein Crystallization in Plants	

01:00 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

THEME III | POSTER PRESENTATIONS & VALEDICTORY PROGRAMME

TIME	PROGRAMME / SPEAKER	
2:00 – 3:00 PM	POSTER PRESENTATIONS Poster presentations and interaction with evaluators.	Poster evaluators: Irfan Rashid (Geoinformatics) Latief Ahmad Peer Manzoor Ahmad Mir Dilfuza Jabbarova
03:00 – 04:00 PM	VALEDICTORY & PRIZE DISTRIBUTION Prof. Naseer Iqbal Registrar, University of Kashmir Prof. Fayaz Ahmad Dean, School of Biological Sciences Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Shah Head, Department of Botany Dr. Riffat John Organizing Secretary	
4:00 – 5:30 PM	TEA & DEPARTURES	Conference close