

INDIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, NEW DELHI

First Circular

**National Conference
on
Current Perspectives on
Crop Health and Sustainable
Plant Disease Management**

February 18-20, 2026

Organized by

**Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya
Indian Phytopathological Society**

Venue

**Farmers' Academy and Convention Centre
(Formerly Lake Hall)
Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV)
Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India**



Invitation

Dear Esteemed Members!

Greetings from the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS)!

We are happy to inform you that Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal and Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi is organizing a National Conference on **“Current Perspectives on Crop Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management”**, at **BCKV, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal** during **February 18-20, 2026**.

The conference aims to bring together leading scientists, researchers, academicians, industry experts, and policymakers from around the world to exchange ideas and foster collaborative efforts in the field of plant health and sustainable disease management. In light of growing global challenges such as climate change, emerging pathogens, and food insecurity, the conference will focus on innovative strategies and integrated approaches to ensure resilient and sustainable agricultural systems.

The scientific program will include keynote addresses, plenary lectures, award lectures, panel discussions, oral and poster presentations on a wide range of themes in the National Conference.

We would be honoured by your presence and contribution to this significant event, and we sincerely hope you will join us in BCKV to share your valuable insights and expertise.

We look forward to your gracious presence and active participation in making this National Conference a grand success.

With warm regards,

Dr. Jayanta Tarafdar, Organizing Secretary

Dr. Goutam Mondal, Organizing Secretary

Dr. Kajal Kumar Biswas, Secretary, IPS

PREAMBLE

Plant health is a cornerstone of sustainable agriculture and global food security. In an era marked by climate change, intensifying agricultural demands, and evolving pathogen dynamics, the challenge of managing plant diseases has become more complex and urgent than ever. Ensuring the health of crops is not only vital for achieving higher yields but also for safeguarding biodiversity, environmental sustainability, and the livelihoods of millions of farmers worldwide.

Recognizing the pressing need for integrated and innovative approaches to plant disease management, the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi, is organizing its National Conference on "Current Perspectives on Plant Health and Sustainable Plant Disease Management Ensuring Food Security" in BCKV, Kalyani, Nadia, W.B. during February 18–20, 2026. This conference aims to provide a dynamic platform for leading researchers, academicians, industry professionals, and policymakers from across the globe to exchange knowledge, share recent advances, and deliberate on future directions in the field of plant pathology.

The conference will focus on cutting-edge research and strategies in plant health management, including host-pathogen interactions, disease forecasting, biological control, molecular diagnostics, climate-resilient crop protection technologies, and policy frameworks. It will also highlight the pivotal role of interdisciplinary and national collaboration in addressing emerging plant health threats and achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly those related to zero hunger and sustainable agriculture. Through keynote lectures, technical sessions, panel discussions, and poster presentations, this national gathering seeks to foster scientific innovations and actionable solutions that can effectively contribute to global food and nutritional security.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

The Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS) is a premier professional organization dedicated to the advancement of plant pathology. Established on February 28, 1947, at the Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology (now the Division of Plant Pathology), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, IPS is currently the third-largest society of plant pathologists in the world. The Society serves as a vibrant platform for scientists engaged in diverse fields such as Mycology, Plant Pathology, Bacteriology, Virology, Phytoplasmology and Nematology, promoting scientific exchange, research collaboration, and professional development. With a strong membership base of over 2,700 members across more than 50 countries, IPS connects researchers, extension professionals, students, technicians and plant health practitioners worldwide. The Society plays a pivotal role in disseminating recent advancements and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in plant health management through national and international symposia, seminars and training programs. The IPS continues to contribute significantly to the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge in Plant Pathology, supporting global efforts towards sustainable crop protection and food security.

About Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV)

The Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) with the headquarters at Mohanpur, Nadia was established in 1974. This University has already completed more than four decades of its establishment and made an important contribution towards the development of agricultural - education, research and extension. In the beginning, the university had two constituent faculties viz., Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. Later on, in the year 1980, the North Bengal campus of BCKV was established at Pundibari, Cooch Behar, to cater agricultural education and research needs in the northern part of West Bengal where the agro-ecological characteristics are distinctly different from that in South Bengal where the main campus of the university is located. While the newly emerged University was engaged in the gradual rebuilding of various facilities in the different campuses, it was bifurcated to establish a new university, West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences, separating out the faculty of Veterinary Sciences in 1995. It was further split into two agricultural universities with the establishment of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV) in 2001 utilizing the infrastructural facilities of the erstwhile North Bengal Campus of BCKV and its other infrastructural facilities located in the districts of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Malda, and North-and South-Dinajpur. At that time two new faculties viz., Faculty of Horticulture and Faculty of Agricultural Engineering were added to the existing Faculty of Agriculture under BCKV. In the recent past, the university has established two extended campuses as college of Agriculture at Burdwan (in 2014) and Bankura (in 2015) for teaching undergraduate studies in Agriculture only.

How to reach Farmers' Academy and Convention Centre (FACC), BCKV, Kalyani

The Farmers' Academy and Convention Centre (FACC), BCKV, Kalyani erstwhile Lake Hall which is well connected with rail and road-ways. It takes around 10 min to reach the FACC from Kalyani railway station which is one hour distant by train from Sealdah Railway station. It takes around one and half hour to reach FACC by car from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport (Dum Dum Airport), Kolkata.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Abstract submission & Registration (opening date)	:	November 15, 2025
Abstract submission (closing date)	:	January 31, 2026
Early-Bird Registration & Abstract submission (closing date)	:	January 31, 2026

THEMES OF THE CONFERENCE

1. Emerging and Re-emerging Plant Diseases

- Global distribution, outbreaks, and surveillance and diagnostics
- Transboundary plant pests, pathogens, disease threats and biosecurity

2. Climate Change and Plant Disease Dynamics

- Climate-smart plant protection strategies,
- Epidemiology and disease forecasting systems under changing climates for adaptive disease management
- Climate-resilient cropping systems

3. Host-Pathogen Interactions and Resistance Breeding

- Molecular and genetic basis of plant immunity, resistance, pathogen population & pathogen variability
- Genome editing for crop management and breeding for durable resistance
- Transgenics and related approaches for disease management

4. Innovations in Plant Disease Diagnostics

- Molecular, genomic and point-of-care diagnostic tools for rapid disease detection
- Next-generation sequencing and metagenomics in plant pathology

5. Integrated Disease Management (IDM) and Post Harvest Disease Management

- Cultural, chemical, biological disease control strategies and biopesticides
- Challenges and innovative sustainable management strategies
- Integration of Indigenous Technical Knowledge (ITK) with modern practices & Precision agriculture
- Leveraging novel IPM strategies and Pesticide Residue Management
- Disease control during storage and transportation, Strategies to reduce post-harvest losses

6. Biological Control, Conservation agriculture, organic and natural farming

- Role of beneficial microbes in disease suppression and rhizosphere microbiomes
- Development and commercialization of biopesticides
- Plant-microbe-environment interactions and disease management in problematic soil & environment
- Conservation agriculture, natural and organic farming for plant disease management

7. AI Digital Tools and Smart Plant Health Management

- Digital agriculture, decision support systems, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and mobile-based plant health advisory Services
- AI and IoT in natural resource management, AI-driven crop protection
- Use of drone for monitoring of plant health management

8. Policy Frameworks, Quarantine, and Regulatory Affairs – Panel Discussion

- National and international phytosanitary standards and role of government and international agencies
- Policy support for sustainable plant protection and Strengthening plant health infrastructure and services

9. Public-Private Partnerships and Innovations in Plant Protection – Panel Discussion

- Industry-led initiatives for sustainable crop protection
- Public-private partnerships in plant health innovation
- Commercialization of plant protection technologies
- KVKs' role in entrepreneurship development to achieve Vikshit Bharat

PROGRAMME

- The design of the conference would be such so as to present the conference themes through
- Plenary lectures: to offer an overview of the conference themes
- Keynote & Invited lectures: to offer an in depth analysis of conference themes
- Contributory oral papers: presented in parallel sessions, to elaborate upon the various conference themes.
- Contributory posters: presented in parallel sessions, to provide an opportunity to the participants to present their work in more informal manner with personalized interaction with participants
- Invited corporate lectures on prospects and constrains: directed towards diverse audience
- Scientists-Industries-Farmers-Policy makers’ interface

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission of abstract for oral/poster presentation

Abstract (250 words excluding, title, name and affiliation) for the conference should be submitted through online mode only (<https://conference.ipsdis.org/national/bckv>). Please contact the Conference Secretariat (ipsdis@yahoo.com) if you don't receive confirmation about the receipt of your abstract within 10 days. The Scientific Programme Committee reserves the right to edit/reject any abstracts, if required. Abstracts will be printed only after receiving the registration fee.

A maximum of two abstracts by each participant will be accepted. Presenting author's full address, including phone and fax numbers, and the indication of topic area must be sent along with the abstract. Please underline the name of the presenter and mention their email ID. The poster format will be available online on IPS website.

Important Note:

In case, the acknowledgement of registration and submission of abstract(s) are not received through mail, please check the SPAM folder of the mail. The acceptance of the abstract can also be downloaded from the online portal of the conference website after login using ID & Password created by the delegates.

Guidelines for poster preparation is available on IPS conference website : <https://conference.ipsdis.org/national/bckv>

REGISTRATION FEE

The conference will be open for registered delegates. The details of the registration fee are given below. The online Registration Form is available on the IPS website (<https://conference.ipsdis.org/national/bckv>) for registration and abstract(s) submission.

Delegates category	Early Bird Registration fee (INR)	Late Registration fee (INR)
Members	5000.00	6000.00
Non-Members	6000.00	7000.00
Students/RA/SRFs	2500.00	3000.00
Corporate	8000.00	9000.00
Accompanying person	2500.00	2500.00

Registration fee can be made via net banking (NEFT)

Name of the Account Holder : **Indian Phytopathological Society**
 Name of the Bank : Canara Bank
 Branch Name : Kalyani, Central Park
 Branch Address : Kalyani, B7/33(S) 34(S),
 Central Park West
 Account Number : 120000504411
 IFSC Code : CNRB0002691

IPS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2025

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

APS Travel Sponsorship for Ph.D. Students

APS Travel Sponsorship for Students has been instituted by the IPS. The purpose of this award is to encourage plant pathology students pursuing a doctoral degree in India, who are members of IPS, to attend the American Phytopathological Society (APS) Annual Meeting or other APS approved meetings, if deemed appropriate by the IPS and APS Foundation Board. The award has been established with contributions from Plant Pathologists of Indian Origin. Students will compete at the zonal and national level competitions in India and the awardee will be selected from the top ranking student presenters at the national level competitions.

The terms and conditions for participating in APS meeting are as follows:

1. The fund will be reimbursed to the awardee directly by APS for return airfare from India to the meeting venue, accommodation and incidentals.
2. The awardee is expected to bear the cost of meeting registration.
3. There will be no financial liability to the IPS.
4. All the contestants/recipients should be the member of the Society during the year of presentation.
5. The contestants will have to submit a brief biodata, certificate furnishing the age and proof of pursuing Ph.D. (First to Third year only) alongwith a short note (not exceeding one page) stating how participation in the APS meeting will help in achievement of their professional goals.
6. The award will be given to the best paper presented in the Annual Meeting of APS.
7. The awards will be judged by a committee appointed for the purpose and their decision will be final.
8. The award will be given only to the Ph.D. Student presenting the paper.
9. The time allocated for presentation of paper is 15 minutes.
10. In-service candidates are not eligible for this APS travel award.

Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Merit Academic Award

Zonal Chapter should organize a contest among the zonal members during the Zonal Chapter's Meeting for preliminary selection of contestants. Only two names from each Zonal Chapter will be recommended by Zonal President for final contest to be held during Annual Meeting of the Society. The age limit for the contestant would be 35 years. Selected contestant will provide an abstract upto 250 words alongwith brief biodata to the Secretary, Indian Phytopathological Society through Zonal President on or before January 15, 2026. The Society will award a medal to award recipient and Commendation Certificate to other contestants. Society will publish the paper of awardee. The award recipient must submit full-length paper (as per IPS guidelines) for its publication in the journal Indian Phytopathology. There is no restriction of the age of co-author, if any. The paper should be submitted online (<https://www.editorialmanager.com/ippj/default1.aspx>).

Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Merit Academic Award contest shall be organized during Annual Meeting of the Society.

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Dr. Prashant P. Jambhulkar, India		

Sponsorship/Exhibition

A world class exhibition will be held concurrently in the conference sessions, showcasing the latest advances and techniques in the science of Plant Pathology. Conference provides an excellent platform to our industry partners to capitalize on their exposure to research scientists, teachers, extension professionals, students, private consultants, technicians, agricultural field representatives, and pest management personnels. The Organizing Committee has developed a range of sponsorship opportunities to suit your marketing goals and maximize delegate exposure.

Type	Amount	Facilities
Platinum	Rs. 5,00,000.00	• Complimentary Stall (Large Size) 20 ft x 12 ft • Logo in all Printed Materials & Conference Circular/Brochure • 5 Complimentary Registration • 2 Full Page Color Advertisement in the Abstract Book • Recognition as Sponsorship Partner • Broadcasting of Video as Promotional Advertisement
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Conference Kit/Advertisement	Rs. 25,000.00	• Half Page Black and White Advertisement in the Abstract Book

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Dakshineswar Temple



Belur Math



Science City



Eden Gardens



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Victoria Memorial



Prinsep Ghat



Chandannagar



Diamond Harbour



Palashi

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Correspondence related to IPS Awards and Annual Meeting

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