

PATHOGENS, MICROBES AND PLANT DEFENSE:
Bridging Research and Applications
(PMPD-2026)

28-29 January, 2026

**PATHOGENS, MICROBES
AND PLANT DEFENSE**

Bridging Research and Applications



Jointly Organized by

**Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi and
ICAR-National Bureau of Agriculturally Important
Microorganism (NBAIM)**

Venue

ICAR-NBAIM, Kushmaur, Maunath Bhanjan, U.P.-275103

INVITATION

On behalf of the ICAR–National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), Mau and the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi, we are delighted to invite you to participate in the National Conference & IPS Mid-Eastern Zonal Meet on Pathogens, Microbes and Plant Defense: Bridging Research and Applications (PMPD-2026); 28-29 January, 2026, at ICAR–NBAIM, Kushmaur, Maunath Bhanjan, Uttar Pradesh – 275103. This two-day event will provide a vibrant platform for scientists, academicians, students, and industry stakeholders to deliberate on recent advances in plant–microbe interactions, disease management, and translational applications of microbial research in agriculture. The scientific program will feature plenary lectures, invited talks, oral and poster presentations, and interactive sessions, focusing on: Emerging pathogens and plant defense mechanisms; Microbial ecology and functional genomics; Innovations in microbial technologies for sustainable crop protection; Translational research and applications for farmers and industries. We cordially invite you to contribute through abstract submission, research presentations, and active participation, and join us in bridging fundamental research with practical applications for sustainable agriculture.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The **ICAR–National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM), Mau**, is a premier institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, dedicated to the conservation, characterization, and sustainable utilization of agriculturally important microorganisms. Established as a national repository, the Bureau houses a vast microbial germplasm and provides cutting-edge research support in microbial ecology, genomics, and biotechnology. NBAIM plays a pivotal role in developing microbial-based technologies for crop improvement, soil health, and eco-friendly plant disease management, thereby contributing to sustainable agricultural productivity and food security.



ABOUT INDIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (IPS)

IPS, a professional forum for promoting the science of Phytopathology is the third largest society of plant pathologists in the world. The Society was established on February 28, 1947 at Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology (Now Division of Plant Pathology), Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The Society focuses on the fields of Mycology, Plant Pathology, Bacteriology, Virology, Phytoplasmology and Nematology. It provides a unique platform to the scientists working in the field of plant pathological related research to share their research achievements. It also updates various activities related to the development of plant pathology and about the members of the Society. It provides a platform for collaboration of symposia and seminars on plant pathology. The society membership stands above 2500 spread over more than 50 countries. The members include research scientists, extension professionals, students, technicians, agricultural field representatives and pest management personnel.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The National Conference & IPS Mid-Eastern Zonal Meet on “Pathogens, Microbes and Plant Defense: Bridging Research and Applications (PMPD-2026)” is being organized to provide an interdisciplinary platform for plant pathologists, microbiologists, biotechnologists, agronomists, students, and industry stakeholders to exchange knowledge and foster collaborations. With the growing challenges of emerging pathogens, climate change, and the urgent need for eco-friendly crop protection strategies, this conference seeks to highlight the critical role of microorganisms in plant health, disease suppression, and sustainable agriculture. The deliberations will focus on cutting-edge research in plant pathogen interactions, microbial genomics, functional biology, and defense signaling pathways, while emphasizing innovations that can be translated into practical applications at the farm level. The conference will host plenary lectures, invited talks, oral and poster sessions, and panel discussions, thereby creating opportunities for knowledge sharing and networking among diverse stakeholders. The main objectives of conference are- To deliberate on recent advances in the biology, diversity, and management of plant pathogens. To explore the role of beneficial microbes in plant growth promotion, induced systemic resistance, and disease suppression. To bridge the gap between fundamental research and field application through translational technologies and innovations. To highlight the potential of microbial genomics, metabolomics, and bioinformatics in unraveling host-microbe interactions. To encourage academia-industry partnerships for the development and commercialization of microbial technologies and bioformulations and to provide a platform for young researchers and students to present their work, interact with experts, and build professional networks.

Interested participants are encouraged to fill out the Participation Form. The registration fee will cover all ancillary expenses, including lunch, dinner, and refreshments during the sessions. However, participants will be responsible for their own boarding, lodging, and travel expenses.

Themes of the Conference

1. Emerging and Re-emerging Plant Pathogens

- Diversity, evolution, and epidemiology of fungal, bacterial, and viral pathogens.
- Impact of climate change on pathogen dynamics and disease outbreaks.

2. Plant–Microbe Interactions and Defense Mechanisms

- Molecular signaling in host–pathogen and host–beneficial microbe interactions.
- Induced systemic resistance and priming of plant defense pathways.

3. Beneficial Microbes for Sustainable Agriculture

- Role of rhizosphere and endophytic microbes in plant health.
- Biocontrol strategies and bioformulation development.

4. Genomics, Metagenomics, and Functional Biology of Microorganisms

- Advances in microbial genomics, transcriptomics, and metabolomics.
- Microbial gene functions, secondary metabolites, and VOCs in disease management.

5. Translational Research and Applications in Crop Protection

- AI, remote sensing, and digital tools for disease detection and management.
- Microbial-based technologies for climate-resilient agriculture.

6. Policy, Outreach, and Industry Partnerships

- Scaling microbial technologies from lab to land.
- Strengthening academia–industry collaborations for farmer-centric solutions.

The conference is envisioned as a step forward in developing **sustainable solutions for plant health and food security**, fostering collaborative research, and translating microbial innovations into agricultural practices.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Abstracts of unpublished research work (up to 250 words) are invited for oral and poster presentations under the themes of the conference. The abstract should include title, author(s) name(s), affiliation(s), and corresponding author's email ID. The name of the presenting author must be underlined, and their email ID clearly mentioned. Formatting Guidelines: File format: MS Word (.doc/.docx), Font: Times New Roman, Font size: 12 pt, Line spacing: 1.5. Abstract length: Maximum 250 words, Submission Process: All abstracts, along with keynote and lead papers, should be submitted preferably as email attachments to: IPSMEZ2025@gmail.com, Important Dates: Last date for abstract submission: 5 January 2026; Notification of acceptance: 10 January 2026. We encourage young researchers, students, and faculty to actively contribute and showcase their innovative research at the conference.

PRESENTATIONS

The scientific program of the conference has been designed to provide a balanced mix of expert lectures, research presentations, and interactive discussions across all themes

Plenary Lectures: Nationally recognized eminent scientists/academician will be invited to deliver special lectures on the frontier research and technologies related to agricultural stress management. Plenary lectures will be of 30 minutes duration.

Lead Talk: Researchers/faculty/scientist will be identified by technical committees to give lead lectures which will throw insight into the various themes of the conference. Each lecture will be of 15 minutes followed by discussion.

Oral Presentation: Delegates with excellent research will be chosen to deliver talk on their subject area in each theme with a duration of 10 minutes with discussion.

Poster Presentation: All delegates will have the opportunity to present their research papers through poster presentations. Materials for affixing the posters will be provided by the organizers. Posters should measure 4 feet (L) x 3 feet (W) and use standard font sizes appropriate for posters.

REGISTRATION FEE

The conference will be open for registered delegates. The details of the registration fee are given below.

Delegate Type	Early Bird Registration	Late Registration
Scientist / Faculty / Govt. officials/IPS members	INR 3000.00	INR 3500.00
Scientist / Faculty / Govt. officials/ Non-members	INR 3500.00	INR 4000.00
Research Scholar	INR 2000.00	INR 2500.00
Student	INR 1000.00	INR 1500.00
Corporate	INR 5000.00	INR 5500.00

BANK DETAILS FOR RTGS/ONLINE TRANSFER

All the payment shall be made through online transfer.

Name of the Account Holder	Indian Phytopathological Society
Name of the Bank and Branch	CANARA Bank, Pusa Campus, IARI, New Delhi 110012
Account Number	90292010005900
RTGS/NEFT/IFS Code	CNRB0019029
MICR Code	110025041



IPS AWARD CONTESTS

Prof. M. J. Narasimhan Merit Academic Award (IPS) - Zonal level contest for selection to National level contest

The contest for Prof. M.J. Narsimhan Academic Merit Award is open to all members of IPS under 35 years of age. The Mid-Eastern Zone will organize a contest among the zonal members during the Zonal Chapter's Meeting for preliminary selection of contestants. Only two names will be recommended by Zonal President/councillor for the final contest to be held during IPS Annual Meeting and International/National Conference.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is to be certified that the paper entitled “.....” presented for Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Merit Academic Award Contest for the year (2025) pertains to the major work done by the candidate (Name of the candidate). It is further certified that the work has not been published and presented for any other award till date and contestant is below the age of 35 years and is a member of the society.

Signature of the student

Guide/Advisor of the student

APS-IPS TRAVEL SPONSORSHIP FOR Ph.D. STUDENTS

American Phytopathological Society has offered the travel award to a Ph.D. student, who is member of IPS. Competitions among Ph.D. students in IPS-Mid-Eastern region will be held during the IPS Mid-Eastern Zonal symposium. Ph.D. students (MEZ) are invited to participate in this contest in single or joint authorship. The purpose of the award is to encourage plant pathology students pursuing a doctoral degree in India and who are members of IPS to attend the APS annual meeting or APS sanctioned meeting if deemed appropriate by the Indian Phytopathological Society and APS Foundation Board.

Guidelines

- All interested should send their abstracts (not exceeding 200 words) of their bonafide research work / paper to the Organizing Secretary before the last date of submission by email to IPSMEZ2025@gmail.com. The abstracts will be evaluated by a preliminary screening committee and selected persons will be allowed oral presentation in the conference.
- For terms and conditions, please visit www.ipsdis.org

BEST ORAL / POSTER PRESENTATION AWARD

Best Oral / Poster Presentation award will be given in each session.

ABOUT MAU

Mau (Maunath Bhanjan), located in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, is known for its rich cultural heritage and textile industries, especially handloom weaving. It is also emerging as a hub for agricultural and microbial research, with the ICAR–National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Microorganisms (NBAIM) playing a pivotal role in advancing microbial sciences for sustainable agriculture.

WEATHER

The weather in Mau during November is generally **pleasant and comfortable**, with temperatures ranging between **15°C to 28°C**. Light woollens are recommended for mornings and evenings.

HOW TO REACH

By Road: Mau is well connected by a network of national and state highways. Regular UPSRTC and private buses connect Mau with major cities like Varanasi (120 km), Gorakhpur (95 km), Azamgarh (55 km), Lucknow (325 km), and Patna (220 km). Taxis and shared vehicles are also available for convenient road travel.

By Rail: Mau Junction (MAU) is well connected by rail to major cities such as **Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Delhi, and Kolkata**. Regular trains are available from these cities, making it a convenient travel option.

By Air: The nearest airport is **Varanasi (Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport)**, about **120 km from Mau**, with regular flights from Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and other major cities.

Another nearby option is **Gorakhpur Airport**, located about **95 km from Mau**. From both airports, taxis and buses are available for onward travel to Mau.

Nearby Visiting Sites-

Delegates may explore nearby places of cultural and spiritual significance:

- Varanasi (120 km):** The spiritual capital of India, famous for the Ganga ghats, Kashi Vishwanath temple, and Banaras silk.
- Gorakhpur (95 km):** Known for the Gorakhnath temple and cultural heritage.
- Sarnath (125 km):** A major Buddhist pilgrimage site where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon.
- Ayodhya Dham (214 km):** Shri Ram Janmabhomi teerth sthan, a religious place located on the east bank of River Saryu.



Steering committee

Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) New Delhi
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Dr. Bijendra Singh, Vice Chancellor of Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya
Prof. S.V.S. Raju, joined as Vice Chancellor of Banda University of Agriculture and Technology, Banda.
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Dr. D.C. Pant, Ex Professor, Mycology and Plant Pathology, IAS BHU Varanasi
Dr A. N. Mukhopadhyay, Former Vice Chancellor Assam Agricultural University Jorhat
Dr. C.D. Mayee, Former Chairman, ASRB
Professor H. B. Singh Rtd. Professor, Department of plant Pathology IAS BHU Varanasi

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Dr Sushil Kumar Singh, Head Plant Pathology, ANDUAT, Kumarganj
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Dr Yogendra Singh Professor Plant Pathology, G.B.PUAT, Pantnagar
Dr Mohamad Akaram Head, Crop Protection, IIPR Kanpur
Dr R. K Mishra, Principal Scientist Plant Pathology IIPR

Organizing committee

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Member from other Institute

Dr. Mukesh Srivastava — Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Pathology, CSAUA&T, Kanpur

Dr. A. K. Singh — Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, CSAUA&T, Kanpur

Dr. S. N. Singh — Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, CSAUA&T, Kanpur

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Dr. Dharmendra Kumar — Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, BUAT, Banda

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Dr. P. P. Jambhulkar — Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Pathology, RLBCAU, Jhansi

Dr. Meenakshi Arya — Scientist (Sr. Scale), Dept. of Plant Pathology, RLBCAU, Jhansi

Prof. Abhilasha Amita Lal — Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Dr. Sunil Zacharia — In-Charge, Dept. of Plant Pathology, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Dr. J. S. Chauhan — Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, SHUATS, Prayagraj

Dr. R. K. Tiwari — Associate Professor, Integral University, Lucknow

Dr. A. Ahmad — Assistant Professor, Integral University, Lucknow

Dr. K. P. Singh — Professor & Head, Dept. of Plant Pathology, GBPUAT, Pantnagar

Dr. Yogendra Singh — Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, GBPUAT, Pantnagar

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Treasurer	Dr. Malkhan Singh Gurjar
Chief Editor	Dr. R. Viswanathan
Zonal President (MEZ)-	Dr. H. V. Singh
Zonal Councillor (MEZ)	Dr. Abhijeet. S. Kashyap

For further details, please contact:

Organizing Secretary, Dr. Harsh Vardhan Singh/ Dr. Abhijeet S. Kashyap

Mobile: 9455924615/8810512074; Email: ipsmez2025@gmail.com

website: www.ipsdis.org

Indian Phytopathological Society

(Regn. No. S399 of 1949-50 under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860)

IPS Mid-Eastern Zonal Meet & National Conference on
Pathogens, microbes and plant defense:
bridging research and applications
(PMPD2026), 13-14 Nov2026

Registration Form

Surname: Name:

Designation:

Address:

.....

City: Pin:

State:..... Country:

Mobile:.....Email:.....

Title of the abstract:.....

.....

Theme Area (SI No):.....

Mode of Presentation (O/P).....

Payment Details

Cheque No*/Online payment details.....Dated.....

Registration fee of Rs./US\$.....paid in
favour of "Indian Phytopathological Society"

Arrival Date.....Time.....

Travel mode (Itinerary Details).....

Departure Date.....Time.....

Date.....Signature.....

The filled-in registration form should be sent to: ipsmez2025@gmail.com

Pathogens, microbes and plant defense: bridging research and applications (PMPD2026)

SPONSORSHIP

Type	Amount	Facilities
Platinum	Rs. 3,00,000/- & above	• Complementary stall : 10 ft x 20 ft • 3 Complementary Registration • Logo in all printed material • Front or back full page color inside cover of Abstract/Souvenir book • Recognition as sponsorship partner • Permission to run company AV on screen for 1-2 min • Inclusion of sponsor's brochure in delegate kit (materials to be provided by company)
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Silver	Rs. 1,00,000/-	• Logo in all printed material • 1 Complementary Registration • 1/4 page color advertisement in the Abstract/Souvenir book
Bronze	Rs. 50,000/-	• 1 Complementary Registration • Full page black and white advertisement in the Abstract/Souvenir book