Indian Phytopathological Society

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Next-Generation Plant Pathology:

Smart Crop Health Management, Precise Diagnostics and Biosecurity







DATE
21-23 January, 2027

VENUE
Breeze Residency,
Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India

- Smart Crop Health Management
- Precise Diagnostics
- Biosecurity for Sustainable Agriculture
- Bringing Together Scientists, Researchers, Students & Stakeholders

Organized by

ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR-NRCB), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India
Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi, India
Society for Banana Research and Development (SBRD), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India

Invitation

Dear Members of the Indian Phytopathological Society, Scientists, Academicians, Students and Stakeholders,

It gives us immense pleasure to invite you to participate in the IPS National Conference on "Next-Generation Plant Pathology: Smart Crop Health Management, Precise Diagnostics and Biosecurity", being organized by Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi in collaboration with Society for Banana Research and Development (SBRD), Tiruchirappalli and ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR-NRCB), Tiruchirappalli at Breeze Residency, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu during 21–23 January 2027.

The conference aims to bring together plant pathologists, researchers, academicians, students, industry representatives, policymakers and extension professionals to discuss recent advances and emerging challenges in plant health management. The technical sessions will include keynote lectures, invited talks, oral and poster presentations covering diverse areas of contemporary Plant Pathology.

Major themes include emerging disease threats, precision diagnostics, artificial intelligence, omics technologies, climate-smart crop health management, nanotechnology, host resistance and plant biosecurity. A workshop on "Fusarium Wilt of Crop Plants" will also be organized as part of the conference.

The conference will provide an excellent platform for scientific exchange, networking and collaboration among researchers and stakeholders from across the country. We cordially invite you to join us in Tiruchirappalli and contribute to this important scientific gathering.

We look forward to welcoming you to the IPS National Conference.

Organizing Secretaries



Dr. R. Selvarajan
Director, ICAR-NRC for Banana
Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India



Dr. Malkhan Singh Gurjar
Secretary, IPS, New Delhi, India

About the conference

Plant diseases remain a major challenge to agricultural productivity, food security and environmental sustainability. Climate change, the emergence of new pathogens, evolution of virulent races and increasing global trade have made plant disease management more challenging than ever before. At the same time, advances in genomics, molecular biology, artificial intelligence, remote sensing, nanotechnology and biological sciences are transforming the way plant diseases are detected, monitored and managed.

Recognizing these challenges and opportunities, the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi in association with Society for Banana Research and Development (SBRD) Tiruchirappalli and ICAR–National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR-NRCB), Tiruchirappalli is organizing the IPS National Conference on "**Next-Generation Plant Pathology: Smart Crop Health Management, Precise Diagnostics and Biosecurity**" during **21–23 January 2027**. The conference aims to provide a vibrant forum for scientists, academicians, students, industry professionals, policymakers and extension personnel to share knowledge, exchange ideas and explore innovative approaches for safeguarding crop health.

The conference will focus on climate-driven disease threats, AI-assisted surveillance and forecasting, precision diagnostics, omics technologies, climate-smart crop health management, biological control, nanotechnology-based crop protection, advanced breeding approaches and plant biosecurity. By promoting scientific exchange and collaborative research, the conference seeks to advance innovative and sustainable approaches for managing plant diseases. It will provide a platform to discuss emerging technologies and future strategies for strengthening crop health, enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.

About the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS)

The Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), a premier professional Society dedicated to advancing the science of plant pathology, was established on February 28, 1947, in the Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology at the then Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. The IPS promotes research and development in the disciplines of Mycology, Plant Pathology, Bacteriology, Virology and Nematology.

The IPS provides a vibrant platform for scientists, researchers, academicians, and students engaged in plant health research to share their scientific achievements and exchange knowledge. The society keeps its members informed about recent developments in Plant Pathology and facilitates interactions among professionals working in diverse areas of plant health science. Through its official journal, *Indian Phytopathology* (IF 1.0, published by Springer), IPS disseminates the latest research findings and advances in plant health management. The society also serves as a bridge between the scientific community, policymakers, industries, extension agencies, and the public by promoting the exchange of information on plant health issues of national and global importance. With a strong membership base of over 3500 members, IPS connects stakeholders worldwide and fosters scientific communication, collaboration, and professional development. The society regularly organizes national and international conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars on emerging and significant aspects in Plant Pathology. (www.ipsdis.org).

About ICAR-NRCB (www.nrcb.org.in)

ICAR-NRCB, Tiruchirappalli, located in the heart of Tamil Nadu adjacent to the banks of river Cauvery. The centre was established on 21st August 1993 by ICAR, New Delhi with an aim to increase the production and productivity of banana and plantains through mission mode basic and strategic research approaches. The centre experiences warm and humid weather with the average minimum and maximum temperatures of 25°C and 35°C, respectively. The Office-cum-Laboratory building is located on Thogamalai road at Thayanur. The farm has a total area of 38 ha at Podavur village which is 1.5 km from the office cum laboratory building and is located in the New Kattalai Command area of the river Cauvery. The Centre works on four major thrust areas of research *viz*., Crop Improvement, Crop Protection, Crop Production and Post-Harvest Management. It has well-equipped research laboratories for Molecular Plant Pathology, Virus Diagnostics, Biocontrol, Tissue-Culture, Biotechnology, Soil Science, Physiology, Biochemistry, Entomology, Nematology, and Post-Harvest Technology. ICAR-NRCB has state-of-the-art facilities such as Bioreactor, GCMS, HPLC, ICP-OES, etc. Other infrastructure facilities such Common Incubation Centre, library, meeting and exhibition halls, green houses, quarantine lab and net houses are also available. The Mission of the Centre is to become the global leader in banana production, productivity and export. The vision of the centre is to increase the production and productivity of quality bananas through technological interventions.

About Tiruchirappalli

Tiruchirappalli, popularly known as Trichy, lies on the plains between the Shevaroy Hills to the north and the Palani Hills to the south and south-west. The two major rivers flowing in Tiruchirappalli are the Kaveri and its tributary the Kollidam. Tiruchirappalli has been recognised in India as an important educational centre since the time of British rule and it has reputed IIM and NIT. It is a city that beautifully blends history, spirituality, and natural charm. The most iconic landmark is the Rockfort Temple, perched atop a massive ancient rock, offering panoramic views of the city and housing cave temples of great archaeological value. Just across the Cauvery River lies the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple at Srirangam, one of the largest functioning Hindu temples in the world, renowned for its architectural grandeur and spiritual significance. The Jambukeswarar Temple at Thiruvanaikaval, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is unique for its association with the element of water, while the Samayapuram Mariamman Temple draws thousands of devotees seeking blessings from the goddess. Beyond temples, Trichy showcases engineering marvels like the Kallanai (Grand Anaicut), a dam built by the Cholas in the 2nd century that still regulates the Cauvery's waters, and Mukkombu, a scenic spot where the river splits. Nature lovers can enjoy the Butterfly Park in Srirangam, one of Asia's largest, or explore the Pachamalai Hills with their lush greenery and tribal culture and it has the wonderful birds park. The city also has colonial-era churches such as St. Lourde's Church and St. Mary's Cathedral, adding to its diverse heritage.

Venue

The IPS National Conference will be organized in the Breeze Residency (3/14, McDonalds Rd, near Central Bus Stand, Melapudur, Cantonment, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu 620001; Phone: 097900 32444). The hotel is positioned in a prime location and has a reputation of hosting many international and national conferences with its modern facilities.

How to reach Venue?

The conference venue Breeze residency is conveniently located in the city centre. It is approximately 8 kms from the airport and Panjapur Integrated Bus Terminus, 1 km from the Railway station and Central Bus stand. Participants have the option to hire a taxi or auto or utilize right sharing service for transportation to the hotel Intermittent city bus service are available to the conference venue from both the airport, railway station and Panjapur Integrated Bus Terminus.

Indian Phytopathological Society

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Breeze Residency, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

1 Climate Change and Emerging Disease Threats



- Emerging and re-emerging plant diseases
- Climate-resilient disease management strategies
- Shifts in pathogen distribution under changing climates
- Predictive epidemiology and disease forecasting
- Adaptive crop protection strategies
- Climate change and nematode diseases
- Extension Plant Pathology

2 Precision Diagnostics and AI-Driven Early Warning Systems





- Remote sensing and drone-based disease monitoring
- AI-enabled decision-support systems
- CRISPR-based detection technologies
- Portable diagnostic kits
- Molecular diagnostics for pathogen indexing, surveillance and quarantine

3 Genomics, Interactomics and Metabolomics in Plant Pathology



- Pathogen genomics and functional genetics
- Transcriptomics and proteomics in host–pathogen interactions
- Metabolomics for disease resistance studies
- Genome editing and gene function analysis

4 Climate-Smart Crop Health Management



- Eco-friendly disease management practices
- Botanical pesticides and bioactive compounds
- Sustainable disease suppression methods
- Organic and regenerative plant protection
- Biological control and plant microbiome engineering
- Bioformulations for commercial applications
- Sustainable nematode management strategies

5 Nanotechnology and Smart Delivery Systems in Crop Protection



- Nanotechnology for pathogen detection and identification
- Nano-formulations for plant disease management
- Smart and targeted delivery systems
- Next-generation crop protection molecules

6 Host Resistance and Advanced Breeding Approaches



- Marker-assisted and genomic selection
- Gene editing for disease resistance
- Utilization of wild germplasm for resistance breeding
- Durable resistance breeding strategies

7 Policy, Biosecurity and Future Perspectives in Plant Health



- National and global plant biosecurity frameworks
- Quarantine, surveillance and invasive pathogen management
- Regulatory aspects of biological products and biopesticides
- Future perspectives in sustainable plant health

8 PANEL DISCUSSION

Crop Protection Industry – Scientists – Farmers Interaction Session

- Industry led initiatives for sustainable crop protection.



WORKSHOPS

W1 Fusarium wilt of Crop Plants



W2 Quality seed and planting material for sustainable agriculture towards Viksit Bharat@2047



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ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana (ICAR-NRCB), Tiruchirappalli

Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), New Delhi

Society for Banana Research and Development (SBRD), Tiruchirappalli

Abstract Preparation guidelines

Software	Abstract should be prepared in MS Word or equivalent software compatible with MS Word
File Format	.doc or .docx
Page Size	A4 (210 x 297 mm)
Margins	1 inch/2.54 cm from all sides
Theme	Mention the Thematic area on the upper left corner of the page. Typography: Times New Roman Font, 12 pt size, Bold, Sentence case, 1.5 spaced, Left alignment
Title	The title should be concise, specific and informative. Avoid abbreviations and formulae wherever possible. Typography: Times New Roman Font, 14 pt size, Bold, Sentence case, 1.5 spaced, Justify alignment
Authors	All authors should write their full name. The name of the corresponding author should be prefixed with an asterisk (*). The name of all authors should be prefixed with superscript numerals if authors belong to more than one organization. Typography: Times New Roman Font, 12 pt size, Bold, 1.5 spaced, Justify alignment
Affiliation	Complete address of the institution(s) should be given for all author(s) in the same order of sequence of authors. The respective addresses of all authors should be prefixed with superscript numerals if authors belong to more than one organization. Typography: Times New Roman Font, 11 pt size, Italics, Sentence case, 1.5 spaced, Justify alignment
Corresponding Author's Contact	The active email id of the corresponding author should be given below the affiliation. Acceptance letter and subsequent communications will be sent to the given email. Typography: Times New Roman Font, 11 pt size, Regular, 1.5 spaced, Justify alignment
Main Content	The main abstract should state briefly the purpose of the study, significant findings and major conclusions. The abstract should not contain any table, figure, references and non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. The abstract should not exceed 300 words. Typography: Times New Roman Font, 12 pt size, Regular, 1.5 spaced, Justify alignment
Keywords	Please mention 4-7 relevant keywords and arrange them alphabetically separated by comma (,). Typography: Times New Roman Font, 12 pt size, Regular, 1.5 spaced, Justify alignment.

Registration Fee*

The details of the registration fee are given below. The online Registration at the conference website (https://conference.ipsdis.org/national/nrcb) is mandatory for the participating delegates.

Categories of Delegates	Early bird registration (in ₹) (till 15 November, 2026)	On spot/late Registration (in ₹)
IPS Members	6500.00	7500.00
Non-Members	7500.00	8500.00
Students/RA/SRF	3000.00	4000.00
Industry/Corporate representative	10000.00	12000.00
Accompanying person (No kit to be provided)	2500.00	2500.00

*Registration fees includes conference kit, high tea, lunch and dinner

Registration fee should be paid through online transfer and UPI. Payment through cash, cheque and demand draft is not acceptable. The official bank account of SBRD is given below:

Name of the Account Holder	:	Society for Banana Research and Development (SBRD)
Account Type	:	Current Account
Name of the Bank	:	State Bank of India
Branch Name	:	Trichy Main Branch
Account No.	:	45323432555
IFSC code	:	SBIN0000930



Sponsorship

Type	Amount (Rs.)	Facilities
Platinum	5,00,000.00	• Complimentary Stall (Large Size) 16 ft x 8 ft • Logo in all Printed Materials & Conference Circular/ Brochure • 5 Complimentary Registration • 2 Full Page Color Advertisement in the Souvenir cum Abstract Book • Recognition as Sponsorship Partner • Broadcasting of Video as Promotional Advertisement
Diamond	3,00,000.00	• Complimentary Stall (Medium Size) 12 ft x 8 ft • Logo in all Printed Materials • 3 Complimentary Registration • One Full Page Color Advertisement in the Souvenir cum Abstract Book • Recognition as Co-Sponsorship Partner
Gold	2,00,000.00	• Complimentary Stall (Small Size) 8 ft × 8 ft • Logo in all Printed Materials • 2 Complimentary Registration • One Full Page Color Advertisement in the Souvenir cum Abstract Book • Recognition as Co-Sponsorship Partner
Silver	1,00,000.00	• 1 Complimentary Registration • One Full Page Color Advertisement in the Souvenir cum Abstract Book
Bronze	50,000.00	• 1 Complimentary Registration • Full Page Advertisement in the Souvenir cum Abstract Book
Advertisement in Souvenir cum Abstract Book	30,000.00 20,000.00 15,000.00	• Full page • Half Page • Quarter Page

Important dates to remember

Conference dates	**21-23 January, 2027**
Early bird Registration	1st September, 2026 - 30th November, 2026
Abstract submission (Oral / poster)	1st September, 2026 - 15th December, 2026
Acceptance of Abstract (Oral/poster)	15th December, 2026

Accommodation

Accommodation for delegates will be available in nearby hotels in advance booking on payment basis. Rooms in the hotels will be booked after receiving accommodation form and deposit.

Accommodation	Approximate Tariff (Rs.)
Three star hotels	4000-6000/-
Single deluxe	3000/-
Double deluxe	4000/-
Budget hotels	1000-1500/-

Note: Further details will be available in the conference website.

Awards

The Indian Phytopathological Society confers several awards for excellence in Phytopathological research and their contributions. Details of individual awards are available on IPS website (www. ipsdis.org/awards). Best presentation awards will be given for each technical session which is to be decided by a panel of distinguished jury members.

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:

- The fund will be reimbursed to the awardee directly by APS for return airfare from India to the meeting venue, accommodation and incidentals.
- The awardee is expected to bear the cost of meeting registration.
- There will be no financial liability to the IPS.
- All the contestants/recipients should be the member of the Society during the year of
- presentation.
- The contestants will have to submit a brief biodata, certificate furnishing the age and proof of pursuing Ph.D. (First to Third year only) along with a short note (not exceeding one page) stating how participation in the APS meeting will help in achievement of their professional goals.
- The award will be given to the best paper presented in the Annual Meeting of APS.

- The awards will be judged by a committee appointed for the purpose and their decision will be final.
- The award will be given only to the Ph.D. Student presenting the paper.
- The time allocated for presentation of paper is 15 minutes.
- 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 along with brief biodata to the Secretary, Indian Phytopathological Society through Zonal President on or before November 30, 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. Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Merit Academic Award contest shall be organized during Annual Meeting of the Society.

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Sites in and around Tiruchirappalli



Rockfort Temple- Tiruchirappalli



Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple- Tiruchirappalli



Velankanni, Nagapattinam



Meenakshi Sundaraswarar Temple, Madurai



Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameshwaram



Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur



Darasuram temple, Kumbakonam



Keezhadi museum, Madurai



Kodaikanal



All correspondence for the Conference related matters may be addressed to:

Dr. R. Selvarajan, Organizing Secretary, IPS National Conference & Director, ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, Tiruchirappalli - 620102, Tamil Nadu, India
Mob.: 9843278364 (WhatsApp); Email: ncips2027@gmail.com; selvarajanr@gmail.com

All correspondence for the Annual Meeting related matters may be addressed to:

Dr. Malkhan Singh Gurjar, Secretary, Indian Phytopathological Society, Second Floor, A - Block, National Agricultural Science Centre Complex, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa, New Delhi 110012, India; Mobile: 9999103422; Email: ipsdis@yahoo.com

Further Details Contact:

Dr. M. Loganathan (9454749152, 9344759783)
Dr. K. Nagendran (9629252738, 9452565995)
Dr. S.R. Prabhukarthikeyan (9655807346, 7735526961)
Dr. R. Saranya (7846046383)
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Mr. R. Sridhar (9443700463, 9080018556)

Indian Phytopathological Society

National Conference

Next-Generation Plant Pathology: Smart Crop Health Management, Precise Diagnostics and Biosecurity

Date: 21-23 January, 2027
Venue: Breeze Residency, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India

