



DRYLAND CONGRESS 2026

Transforming Dryland Agriculture
with South–South Cooperation

○..... Celebrating 50 years of ICRISAT-ICAR Collaboration & Commemorating UN Day for South-South Cooperation○

Date: 10-12 September, 2026

Venue: National Agricultural Science Center Complex,
New Delhi, India

Organised by



DAY 1: THURSDAY 10 September 2026		
TIME	PROGRAM	
0800-0900	REGISTRATION	
0900-1000	INAUGURAL SESSION	
0900-0905	National Song, Felicitations, Lighting the Lamp	Master of Ceremony
0905-0910	Welcome Address	Dr Stanford Blade, DDG-R&I, ICRISAT and Congress Co-Chair
0910-0915	Remarks	Dr William Dar, Former DG, ICRISAT
0915-0920	Remarks	Dr T Mohapatra, Former Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR
0920-0925	Remarks	Dr Panjab Singh, Former Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR
0925-0930	Remarks	Dr Himanshu Pathak, DG ICRISAT and Congress Patron
0930-0935	Remarks	Dr ML Jat, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR and Congress Patron
0935-0940	Release of publications	Dignitaries on the dais
0940-0945	Address by the Chair	Ms Cathy Reade, Board Chair, ICRISAT
0945-0955	Address by the Chief Guest	Dr RS Paroda, Former Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR
0955-1000	Vote of Thanks	Dr DK Yadava, DDG (CS), ICAR and Congress Co-Chair
1000-1045	PANEL DISCUSSION: Theme 1- Breeding for Tomorrow: Accelerating Genetic Gains Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Dr T Mohapatra, Chairperson, PPV&FRA, M/o Agriculture & FW, New Delhi & Dr Sandra Milach, Chief Scientist, CGIAR, Nairobi, Kenya Convenor: Dr Raman Babu, Global Research Program Director-ACI, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: Dr Gopala Krishnan S, Head, Genetics, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi & Dr Rakesh Srivastava, Principal Scientist I - Chickpea Breeding, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India OPENING TALK: Dr Sandra Milach, Chief Scientist -CGIAR, Nairobi, Kenya (15 mins) Roundtable discussion: 6 panellists (12 questions, 25 mins) PANELLISTS 1. Dr Julian Biddle, Partnership Lead, Crop Trust, Germany 2. Dr Nandini Krishnamurthy, Biotechnology Portfolio Leader, Corteva Agrisciences, USA 3. Dr OP Yadav, Member, ASRB, New Delhi and Former Director, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur, India 4. Dr Sanjeev Gupta, Vice Chancellor, Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUAT), Kanpur, India 5. Dr C Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India 6. Dr KC Bansal, Former Director, NBPGRI- ICAR, New Delhi, India	
1045-1110	HIGH TEA	

1110-1200	PANEL DISCUSSION: Theme 2-Climate-Resilient Dryland Landscapes Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Prof KV Raju, Member, NITI Aayog, Govt. of India, India & Ms Cathy Reade, ICRISAT Board Chair, Australia Convenor: Dr Martin Moyo, Country Representative – Zimbabwe, ICRISAT Rapporteurs: Dr Adlul Islam, Principal Scientist, NRM, ICAR, New Delhi & Dr Venkataradha Akuraju, Senior Scientist – Hydrology, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India OPENING TALK: Dr Cargele Masso, Outreach, Engagement and Communication Lead, ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya (15 mins) SPECIAL REMARKS: Mr Nitin Khade, IAS, Joint Secretary (WM), DoLR, GoI, New Delhi, India (10 mins) Roundtable discussion: 5 panellists (10 questions, 20 mins) PANELLISTS 1. Mr Sanjay Agarwal, Assistant Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India 2. Dr Amresh Kumar Nayak, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi, India 3. Dr B Venkateswarlu, Ex-VC, VNMKV, Parbhani, Maharashtra, India 4. Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 5. Dr Shree Prasad Vista, Director, Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Nepal
1200-1250	PANEL DISCUSSION: Theme 3- Better Diets and Nutrition, through Markets & Policies Venue: Bharat Ratna C Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Govt of Odisha, India & Ms Bonnie McClafferty, Chair, ICRISAT Program Committee, USA Convenor: Dr Victor Afari-Sefa, Global Research Program Director, TAS, ICRISAT, Nigeria Rapporteurs: Dr Alka Singh, Head, Division of Agricultural Economics, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi & Dr Swamikannu Nedumaran, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Economist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India OPENING TALK: Dr Pramod Kumar Joshi, Former Director - South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute, New Delhi, India (20 mins) Roundtable discussion: 6 panellists (12 questions, 25 mins) PANELLISTS

	1. Dr E Revathi, Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, India 2. Dr Sarah Pedersen, Senior Nutrition and Food Systems Officer, Food and Nutrition Division (ESN), FAO, Bangkok 3. Mr Mahesh Patel, Executive Chairman, Export Trading Group (ETG), Tanzania 4. Dr Purnima Menon, Director for Strategy & Partnerships, IFPRI, New Delhi, India 5. Dr Viengsavang Thipphavong, DDG, Institute for Industry, Commerce and Energy (IICE), Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR 6. Dr Pratibha Singh, Regional Manager, South Asia, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India		
1300-1400	LUNCH		
1400-1500	Dryland Congress 2026: Address by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Government of India		
1500-1600	Visionary Talks Co-Chairs: Dr RS Paroda, Former Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR and Ms Cathy Reade, Board Chair, ICRISAT Convenor: Master of Ceremony Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre		
1500-1530	Dr ML Jat Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India	Transforming Dryland Agricultural Systems: India's Experience for the Global South	
1530-1600	Mr Narendra Bhooshan, IAS Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India	Reimagining Drylands: Institutions, Digital Public Infrastructure and Community Action for a Climate-Resilient Future	
1600-1620	TEA BREAK		
1620-1720	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 1.1) Pre-Breeding & Genetic Diversity Platforms for Dryland Crops Venue: Audi 1 Chair: Dr NK Singh, President, The Genomics Foundation, JC Bose National Fellow, ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr Raman Babu Global Research Program Director, ACI ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Convenor: Dr Hamidou Falalou, Country Representative, Niger, ICRISAT	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 2.1) Soil Health and Ecosystem Functioning in Dryland Landscapes Venue: Audi 2 Chair: Dr AK Nayak, DDG, NRM, ICAR, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr TBS Rajput, Ex- Project Director, WTC, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India Convenor: Dr Padmaja Karanam, Senior Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 3.1) Mainstreaming Nutri-Sensitive Dryland Food Systems Venue: Audi 3 Chair: Dr Rajbir Singh, DDG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr Anjani Kumar, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI, New Delhi, India Convenor: Dr Swamikannu Nedumaran, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Economist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India

	Rapporteurs: - Dr Debasis Pattanayak, Professor, ICAR-NIPB, New Delhi, India - Dr Vetriventhan Mani, Senior Scientist, Genebank, ICRISAT, India	Rapporteurs: - Dr RS Yadav, Principal Scientist, ICAR, New Delhi, India - Dr Aiendrilla Dey, Associate Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Rapporteurs: - Dr D Kumaracharyulu, Senior Scientist, Agricultural Economics, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India - Dr Keshav Kumar, Principal Scientist, ICAR, New Delhi, India
1620-1635	Keynote Presentation Dr Augusto Becerra DDG-R, ICARDA, Rabat, Morocco	Keynote Presentation Dr SK Singh Dean, Institute of Ag Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Shalander Kumar Principal Scientist & Global Theme Leader-SMIP, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India
1635-1645	Lead Presentation Dr Sarada Krishnan Director of Science & Programs Global Crop Diversity Trust, Germany	Lead Presentation Dr VK Singh Director, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad, India Dr Gopi Nath, Principal Scientist, CRIDA, Hyderabad, India	Lead Presentation Dr Pradnya Paithankar Head- Climate Change, Resilient Food Systems and DRR, World Food Programme, New Delhi, India
1645-1653	Invited Presentation Dr Satendra Kumar Mangruthia Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India	Invited Presentation Dr YS Saharawat Director, Resilience Program IFDC, USA	Invited Presentation Dr RR Burman Assistant Director General, Ag. Extn, ICAR, New Delhi, India
1653-1701	Invited Presentation Dr Amit Singh Principal Scientist, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Mr Loken Das Chief General Manager, FSDD NABARD	Invited Presentation Dr Dinesh Kumar Chauhan Theme Lead – Agribusiness Innovations and Nutrition, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India
1701-1709	Invited Presentation Dr Manish K Pandey Principal Scientist- Genebank, Genomics & Pre-breeding, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Invited Presentation Dr DR Sena Principal Scientist, Agricultural Engineering, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Ms Soumya Kochar Partnership Officer, Soket AI Lab, Gurugram, Haryana, India
1709-1720	Q&A		
1720-1820	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 1.2) Breeding for Climate-Resilient and Nutrition Rich Varieties/hybrids Venue: Audi 1 Chair: Dr Tara Satyavathi Director, ICAR IIMR, Hyderabad, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 2.2) Water Resource Assessment and Landscape Hydrology Venue: Audi 2 Chair: Dr YSR Rao Director, NIH, Roorkee, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 3.2) Building Demand-Driven, Inclusive and Resilient Value Chains Venue: Audi 3 Chair: Dr PS BIRTHAL, Distinguished Fellow, Research and Information System, New Delhi, India

	Co-Chair: Dr SK Bera Director, ICAR- IIGR, Junagadh, Hyderabad, India Convenor: Dr Ephrem Habyarimana Principal Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Prakash Gangashetty, Senior Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India - Dr Satendra Kumar Mangruthia, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Hyderabad, India	Co-Chair: Dr PK Singh Joint Director Research, Professor, Irrigation & Drainage Engg, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar, India Convenor: Dr Anantha KH Principal Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Gopi Nath AA, Principal Scientist, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad, India - Dr Debi Prasad Sahoo, Associate Scientist – LRI and Hydrology, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Co-Chair: Dr Naveen P Singh, Assistant Director General (International Relations), ICAR, New Delhi, India Convenor: Dr Dinesh Chauhan Theme Lead – Agribusiness Innovations and Nutrition, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Disha Bose, Associate Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India - Dr AK Mishra, Principal Scientist (IR), ICAR, New Delhi, India
1720-1735	Keynote Presentation Dr BM Prasanna Managing Director, BISA-CIMMYT, Regional Director for CIMMYT- Asia, New Delhi, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Ramesh Singh Global Research Program Director-RFS ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Smita Sirohi ICAR National Professor, ICAR-NIAP New Delhi, India
1735-1745	Lead Presentation Dr Christian Werner Quantitative Genetics, CIMMYT, Mexico	Lead Presentation Dr Ambrish Kumar PS & Head, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Dehradun, India	Lead Presentation Dr Seema Bathla Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
1745-1753	Invited Presentation Dr Firoz Hossain Principal Scientist, & Programme Leader (Maize), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Dr RM Singh Professor, Department of Agronomy, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU, Varanasi, India	Invited Presentation Mr Deepak Pareek Founder & CEO HnyB Tech-Incubators Pvt. Ltd.
1753-1801	Invited Presentation Dr SK Gupta Global Breeding Lead, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Invited Presentation Dr B Krishna Rao Head, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Research Centre, Ballari, Karnataka, India	Invited Presentation Dr Swamikannu Nedumaran Principal Scientist, Agricultural Economist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India
1801-1809	Invited Presentation Dr C Bharadwaj	Invited Presentation Dr Jay Nigam	Invited Presentation Dr Purushottam Sharma,

	Principal Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India	General Manager, FSDD, NABARD	Principal Scientist, ICAR –National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP)
1809-1820	Q&A		
1820-1920	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 1.3) Frontier Technologies to Accelerate Genetic Gains and Plant Health Management Venue: Audi 1 Chair: Dr Ashwani Pareek, Executive Director-DBT NABI, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr Sanjay Kalia, Scientist F, DBT, New Delhi, India Convenor: Dr Manish K Pandey, Principal Scientist- Genebank, Genomics & Prebreeding, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Samuel Njorge, Country Representative – ICRISAT, Malawi - Dr Vignesh M, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 2.3) Nature-Based Solutions and Regenerative Landscapes Venue: Audi 2 Chair: Dr Rajender Parsad Former Director, ICAR-IASRI, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr Inder Dev, ADG Education Planning and Home Science, ICAR Convenor: Dr Venkata Radha Akuraju, Senior Scientist - Hydrology, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Asha Ram, Senior Scientist in Agronomy, ICAR-CAFRI, Jodhpur, India - Dr Sourav Roy, Associate Scientist-NRM, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 3.3) Enabling Policy Ecosystems For Dryland Transformation Venue: Audi 3 Co-Chair: Dr YPS Malik DDG (Ag Education), ICAR, New Delhi Co-Chair: Dr E Revathi, Director, Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, India Convenor: Dr Shalander Kumar Principal Scientist & Global Theme Leader-SMIP, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Abhishek Das, Scientist- Agricultural Economist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India - Dr P Subhash, Senior Scientist- Agricultural Economics, ICAR-NIAP, New Delhi, India
1820-1835	Keynote Presentation Prof. Rajeev Varshney, FRS Director, Western Australian State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Director, Centre for Crop & Food Innovation, Murdoch University, Australia	Keynote Presentation Dr JVNS Prasad, Principal Scientist (Agronomy), Project Coordinator, AICRP- Dryland Agriculture, ICAR-CRIDA, Hyderabad, India	Keynote Presentation Dr A Ganesh Kumar Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), Government of India, New Delhi, India
1835-1845	Lead Presentation Dr Bhimanagouda Patil Regents Professor & Director, Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Centre, Texas A&M, USA	Lead Presentation Dr Gizaw Desta, Country Representative, ICRISAT-Ethiopia	Lead Presentation Dr Mamta Pradhan Research Coordinator, IFPRI, New Delhi, India

1845-1853	Invited Presentation Dr Kutubuddin Ali Molla Senior Scientist, ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack, India	Invited Presentation Dr RS Yadav Principal Scientist, Soil Science, ICAR New Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Mr Apoorve Khandelwal Lead, Food System Team, CEEW New Delhi, India
1853-1901	Invited Presentation Prof. Adam Kleczkowski Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, Univ. of Strathclyde	Invited Presentation Dr Manoj Dabas Country Director, India, CIFOR-ICRAF New Delhi	Invited Presentation Dr CA Ramarao Principal Scientist, ICAR- CRIDA, Hyderabad, India
1901-1909	Invited Presentation Dr Damaris Odeny Theme Lead- Trait Discovery and Delivery, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Invited Presentation Dr Benukar Biswas Professor (Agronomy) and Officer-In-Charge, AICRP Agroforestry, BCKV, West Bengal, India	Invited Presentation Dr Subhash Chand Principal Scientist, NIAP, New Delhi, India
1909-1910	Q&A		
1910-2000	CULTURAL EVENT		
2000-2100	GALA DINNER		

DAY 2 FRIDAY: 11 September 2026									
Time	Program								
0900-1100	Celebrating 50 Years of ICAR-ICRISAT Collaboration Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Dr RS Paroda, Former Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR and Founder Chairman, TAAS, New Delhi & Dr William Dar, Former DG ICRISAT and Former, Secretary of Agriculture of the Philippines Convenors: Dr Stanford Blade, DDG-R&I, ICRISAT and Dr DK Yadava, DDG-Crop Sciences, ICAR, New Delhi, India Rapporteurs: Dr C Bharadwaj, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India, and Dr SK Gupta, Global Breeding Lead, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Welcome and Opening Remarks (05 mins)</td><td>Dr DK Yadava, DDG-Crop Sciences, ICAR and Congress Co-Chair</td></tr> <tr> <td>Introduction to the Session and Distinguished Guests (05 mins)</td><td>Dr Stanford Blade, DDG-R&I, ICRISAT and Congress Co-Chair</td></tr> <tr> <td>Five Decades of ICAR-ICRISAT Partnership and Impact (10 mins)</td><td>Dr Himanshu Pathak, DG, ICRISAT</td></tr> <tr> <td>Roadmap of ICRISAT-ICAR Collaboration for Viksit Bharat 2047 (20 mins)</td><td>Dr DK Yadava, DDG-Crop Science, ICAR Dr Raman Babu, Global Research Program Director-ACI, ICRISAT</td></tr> </table>	Welcome and Opening Remarks (05 mins)	Dr DK Yadava, DDG-Crop Sciences, ICAR and Congress Co-Chair	Introduction to the Session and Distinguished Guests (05 mins)	Dr Stanford Blade, DDG-R&I, ICRISAT and Congress Co-Chair	Five Decades of ICAR-ICRISAT Partnership and Impact (10 mins)	Dr Himanshu Pathak, DG, ICRISAT	Roadmap of ICRISAT-ICAR Collaboration for Viksit Bharat 2047 (20 mins)	Dr DK Yadava, DDG-Crop Science, ICAR Dr Raman Babu, Global Research Program Director-ACI, ICRISAT
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Roadmap of ICRISAT-ICAR Collaboration for Viksit Bharat 2047 (20 mins)	Dr DK Yadava, DDG-Crop Science, ICAR Dr Raman Babu, Global Research Program Director-ACI, ICRISAT								

	MAHARISHI (Millets and Other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative) (15 mins)	Dr Tara Satyavathi, Director, ICAR-IIMR	
	Visiting memory lane (30 mins)	ICRISAT and ICAR Delegates to share experiences - Dr Panjab Singh, Former Secretary DARE & DG ICAR - Dr CLL Gowda, Former DDG-ICRISAT - Dr TR Sharma, Former DDG-CS, ICAR - Dr Swapan Datta, Former DDG-CS, ICAR	
	General Discussion (20 mins)	Co-Chairs	
	Strategic Outlook (15 mins)	Dr ML Jat, Secretary DARE & DG ICAR	
1100-1130	TEA BREAK		
1130-1220	PANEL DISCUSSION: Theme 4- Reimagining Resilient Dryland Farming Systems Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Dr Himanshu Pathak, DG, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India & Dr Manjurul Kadir, DG, Bangladesh, Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Convenor: Dr Ramesh Singh, Global Research Program Director-RFS, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: Dr Sanjay Singh Rathore, Head, Division of Agronomy, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India & Dr Gajanan Sawargaonkar, Principal Scientist-Agronomy, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India OPENING TALK: Dr Debashis Chakraborty, OSD to Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR and (Formerly) National Fellow, ICAR (20 mins) Roundtable discussion: 6 panellists (12 questions, 30 mins) PANELLISTS 1. Dr Santiago Lopez-Ridaura, Senior Researcher, CIMMYT-Mexico 2. Dr Krishna S Vatsa, IAS, Member & Head of the Department, NDMA, New Delhi, India 3. Mr Prem Chandra Chaudhary, IAS, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, GoO, Odisha, India 4. Dr BP Bhat, Vice Chancellor, VCSGU University of Horticulture & Forestry, Bharsar, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India 5. Dr Sanjay Tomar, Senior Advisor, GIZ, New Delhi, India 6. Dr HS Jat, Director, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India		
1220-1310	PANEL DISCUSSION: Theme 5- Transforming Seed Systems in the Global South Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Dr Stanford Blade, DDG-R&I, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India & Dr AK Singh, Former Director, IARI, New Delhi, India Convenor: Dr Manzoor Dar, Global Lead, Seed Systems & Delivery, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India		

	Rapporteurs: Dr Sandeep Kumar Lal, Principal Scientist, Seed Science and Technology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi & Dr Albert Tsindi, Scientist, ICRISAT, Zimbabwe OPENING TALK: Dr Francis Mwatuni, Lead- Seed Systems Analysis and Knowledge Resources, CESSA, AGRA, Nairobi, Kenya (20 mins) Roundtable discussion: 5 panellists (10 questions, 30 mins) PANELLISTS 1. Dr Kevin Pixley, Director, Dryland Crops Program, CIMMYT, Nairobi, Kenya 2. Dr SK Yadav, Head, ICAR-IARI, RS Karnal, Haryana, India 3. Dr Ajai Rana, Chairman, FSII & CEO and Managing Director, Savannah Seeds Pvt Ltd, Gurugram, Haryana, India 4. Sri Shubham Saxena, IAS, Director, Agriculture and Food Production, Government of Odisha, Odisha 5. Dr AK Singh, VC, RLBCAU, Jhansi, India
1310-1410	LUNCH
1410-1500	PANEL DISCUSSION Theme 6- Gender and Youth-centred Transformation Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre Co-Chairs: Prof Yaye Kene Gassama, Member, ICRISAT Board, Senegal, and Dr Mridula Devi, Director, ICAR-CIWA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India Convenor: Dr Padmaja R, Lead, Gender and Youth, Knowledge and Capacity Development, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: Dr Kapila Shekhawat, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi & Dr Kavitha Kasala, Associate Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India OPENING TALK: Dr Nicoline de Haan, Director, CGIAR Gender Equality and Inclusion Accelerator, Nairobi, Kenya (20 mins) Roundtable discussion: 6 panellists (12 questions, 30 mins) PANELLISTS 1. Dr Nicoline de Haan, CGIAR, GEI Director 2. Dr Seema Jaggi, Assistant Director General-HRD Education, ICAR, New Delhi, India 3. Dr Poonam Jasrotia, Assistant Director General, Plant Protection & Biosafety, ICAR, New Delhi, India 4. Dr Surya Rathore, Principal Scientist (Extension Information Systems), ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad, India 5. Ms Shefali Agarwal, CGM, DMFI, NABARD 6. Ms Rajitha Naredla, Chief Operating Officer of the Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Govt of Telangana
1500-1550	Visionary Talk Dr RS Paroda, Former Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR and Chairman, TAAS, New Delhi Title: Agrobiodiversity for Building Resilience of Drylands Convenor: Master of Ceremony

	Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre		
1550-1650	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 4.1) Climate Resilient Farming Systems and Regenerative Agriculture Venue: Audi 1 Chair: Dr Sunil Kumar Director, ICAR- Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, Meerut, India Co-Chairs: Dr VK Mishra, Director, Institute of Agriculture Science, BHU, Varanasi, India and Dr AV Bhavani Shankar, CGM, Maharashtra RO, NABARD Convenor: Dr Gizaw Desta, Senior Scientist, Landscape Management, ICRISAT, Ethiopia Rapporteurs: - Dr CM Parihar, Principal Scientist & National Fellow, Agronomy, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India - Dr Kapil Raje, Scientist, Entomology, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 5.1) Climate Responsive Seed Supply and Resilient PPP Delivery Models Venue: Audi 2 Chair: Dr Shiv Kumar Agrawal Regional Coordinator, South Asia and China, ICARDA Co-Chair: Dr Prabhat Kumar, Mission Director- Oilseeds/Oil Palm & Horticulture Commissioner (DA&FW), New Delhi, India Convenor: Dr Albert Tsindi, Scientist, ICRISAT, Zimbabwe Rapporteurs: - Dr Aditya Pratap, Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur - Dr Esnart Yohane, Legume breeder Chitedze Agricultural Research Station Lilongwe, Malawi	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 6.1) Empowerment, Youth thriving at the Center and Transformative Change in Dryland Agri-Food Systems Venue: Audi 3 Chair: Dr Kakoli Ghosh, Chief Technical, Officer, FAO-Saudi Arabia Chair: Dr Neeru Bhooshan, ADG (IP&TM), ICAR, New Delhi Convenor: Dr Padmaja R Lead, Gender and Youth, Knowledge and Capacity Development, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Disha Bose, Associate Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India - Mr Vishwambhar Duche, Senior Scientific Officer, ICRISAT
1550-1605	Keynote Presentation Dr N Ravi Shankar PC, AICRP IFS, ICAR-IIFSR, Modipuram, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Usha Zehr Executive Director, Grow Indigo Private Limited & Director Mahyco, Mumbai, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Pratibha Singh Regional Manager, South Asia, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, New Delhi, India
1605-1615	Lead Presentation Dr Gajanan S Principal Scientist- Systems Agronomy & NRM, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	Lead Presentation Dr Manish Patel Director, Incotec India Pvt Ltd. Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India	Lead Presentation Dr Soma K Parthasarathy Policy Analyst, Researcher & Advisor

			Gender, Sustainable Development, Ecology and Livelihoods, MAKAAAM
1615-1623	Invited Presentation Dr UK Behera Dean (PGS), RPCAU, Pusa, Bihar	Invited Presentation James Mwololo Groundnut Breeder, Malawi	Lead Presentation Dr Shijagurumayum Meghajt (Alliance Bioversity-CIAT), Karnataka, India
1623-1631	Invited Presentation Dr Abi T Vanak Director, Centre for Policy Design, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, India	Invited Presentation Mr Prabhakar Babu CEO & Co-founder, Foragen Seeds Pvt Ltd, AP, India	Lead Presentation Dr Smita Kaul Associate Scientist, Genetic Resources ICARDA, New Delhi
1631-1639	Invited Presentation Dr Rinku Dey Head & Principal Scientist, Microbiology, NIASM Baramati, Maharashtra, India	Invited Presentation Dr SK Bera Director, ICAR- IIGR, Junagadh, India	Invited Presentation Dr Padmaja Ravula Lead, Gender and Youth Program ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India
1639-1700	Q&A		
1700-1720	TEA BREAK		
1720-1820	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 4.2) Sustainable Intensification and Livelihood Enhancement Venue: Audi 1 Chair: Dr Suresh Kumar Chaudhari Director General, The Fertiliser Association of India, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr Monica Priyadarshini, IAS State mission director cum CEO Odisha Livelihood Mission, Gov of Odisha Convenor: Dr Aviraj Datta, Scientist- Wastewater Management, ICRISAT, Hyderabad Rapporteurs:	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 5.2) Strengthening Seed Systems in Africa Venue: Audi 2 Chair: Dr Manjurul Kadir, DG-BARI, Bangladesh Co-Chair: Prof. Sanusi Gaya Mohammed, Director, Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA), Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria Convenor: Dr Macdonald Bright Jumbo, Senior Scientist - Crop Improvement Operations, ICRISAT, Mali Rapporteurs:	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 6.2) Strengthening Inclusive Solutions for Resilient and Nutri-Smart Drylands Venue: Audi 3 Chair: Dr Govind Kelkar Professor and Executive Director GenDev Centre, Gurugram, Haryana, India Co-Chair: Dr Sudha Narayanan, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI, New Delhi Convenor: Dr Kavita Kasala, Associate Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs

	- Dr Subhash Babu, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi - Dr Rohan K, Scientist- Horticulture, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India	- Dr Sandeep Kumar Lal, Principal Scientist, Seed Science and Technology, ICAR-IARI - Dr Isaac Kamveru, Associate Scientist, ICRISAT, Kenya	- Dr Renu, Principal Scientist (Commercial Crops), Crop Science Division, ICAR - Dr Roopa Banerjee, Senior Scientist- Biochemistry and Grain Food Quality, ICRISAT
1720-1735	Keynote Presentation Dr Samapti Guha Professor, CSESMLS, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Kevin Pixley Director, Dryland Crops Program CIMMYT, Nairobi, Kenya	Keynote Presentation Dr Vidya Vemireddy Professor of Gender and Development IIM, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India
1735-1745	Lead Presentation Dr Anup Das Director, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna, Bihar, India	Lead Presentation Dr Vishnuvardhan Reddy Lead Inclusive Delivery, B4T, CGIAR Science Program, Ibadan, Nigeria	Lead Presentation Dr Deepa Joshi GESI Specialist, IMWI, Colombo, Sri Lanka
1745-1753	Invited Presentation Dr SL Jat Senior Scientist, Agronomy ICAR-IIMR, Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Dr Bright Jumbo Senior Scientist - Crop Improvement Operations, ICRISAT, Mali	Invited Presentation Dr A Amarendra Reddy Joint Director, Policy Support Research ICAR-NIBSM, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India
1753-1801	Invited Presentation Dr Martin Moyo Principal Scientist, Country Representative, ICRISAT-Zimbabwe	Invited Presentation Dr Maryam Dawud Pearl Millet Breeder, Lake Chad Research Institute, Nigeria	Invited Presentation Dr Rupesh K Director, Experimental Station, Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas, USA
1801-1809	Invited Presentation Dr Smitha Krishnan, Senior Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, New Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Dr Poozha Doris Kanvenaa, Seed Systems Specialist, CIMMYT, Dakar, Senegal	Invited Presentation Dr Rengalakshmi R Executive Director, MSSRF, Chennai, India
1809-1820	Q&A		
1820-1920	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 4.3) Scaling Innovations and Best Management Practices Venue: Audi 1 Chair: Dr Pradeep Kumar Singh Former Dean, CTAE, MPUAT, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 5.3) Harmonising Seed Systems: Potential and Policy Needs Venue: Audi 2 Chair: Dr OP Yadav, Member, ASRB, New Delhi, India Co-Chair: Dr Kuldeep Singh, CMD, HIL India Ltd., New Delhi, India	PARALLEL SESSION (THEME 6.3) Beyond Digital Agriculture: Building Intelligent, Resilient and Connected Drylands Venue: Audi 3 Chair: Dr Pramod Kumar Meherda Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India

	Co-Chair: Ms Wanjiku Guchu, Global Coordination and Management Lead - Sustainable Farming Program, CIP Convenor: Dr Mukund Patil, Senior Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Rapporteurs: - Dr RS Bana, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi - Dr Prasad Kamdi, Manager, Watershed, ICRISAT	Convenor: Dr Randhir Singh, Former ADG-ICAR, Consultant-ICRISAT, New Delhi, India Rapporteurs: - Dr Vishwanath Rohidas Yalamalle, Senior Scientist, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi - Mr Jerome Jonah - Seed Systems, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, Nigeria	Co-Chair: Dr Shaik N Meera, Director, ICAR- ATARI, Hyderabad Convenor: Dr Murali Krishna Gumma, Theme Leader, Digital Agriculture, ICRISAT Rapporteurs: - Dr Kidia Gelaye, Scientist–Science and Data Lead, ICRISAT - Dr Sweta Kumari, ICAR-IARI
1820-1835	Keynote Presentation Dr Mahesh Gathala Country Representative, CIMMYT, New Delhi, India	Keynote Presentation Dr Justify Shava International Director, SADC Plant Genetic Resources (SPGRC), Zambia	Keynote Presentation Mr Dushyant K Tyagi Chief Executive Officer, Farmgate Technologies Pvt. Ltd.; Former Strategic & Implementation Partner for e-NAM, Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), Government of India
1835-1845	Lead Presentation Dr Gouranga Kar Director, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore, West Bengal, India	Lead Presentation Dr Chetan Joshi Managing Director, Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd (BBSSL), New Delhi	Lead Presentation Dr Rabi N Sahoo Principal Scientist & Program Leader, NePPA ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi
1845-1853	Invited Presentation Dr Satish Sanwal Director, ICAR-CSSRI, Karnal, Haryana, India	Invited presentation Dr Swati Nayak Country Manager & Seed Systems Lead, IRRI (SA), New Delhi, India	Invited Presentation Dr Shalini Gakhar Centre Lead, CGIAR DTA, IRRI, New Delhi, India
1853-1901	Invited Presentation Mr Suraj P Teja CEO, Sow & Reap, Hyderabad, India	Invited Presentation Dr Paresh Verma ED & Chief Executive, Bioseed, SE Asia, Hyderabad, India	Invited Presentation Dr Manish Pandey Principal Scientist-Genebank and Trait Discovery, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India
1901-1909	Invited Presentation Dr TP Swarnam Head, Division of Organic Agriculture System, IIFSR, Modipuram, UP, India	Invited Presentation Dr Aditya Pratap Principal Scientist and PC, AICRP on Kharif Pulses, ICAR-IIPR, Kanpur, India	Invited Presentation Dr Mukund Patil, Senior Scientist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India
1909-1920	Q&A		

1740-1840	POSTER SESSION I		
1930-2100	DINNER		
DAY 3 SATURDAY: 12 September 2026			
Time	Program		
0900-1000	Commemoration Ceremony - UN Day for South-South Cooperation Convenor: Dr Suryamani Tripathi , Global Head, Legal Services at ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre		
	Time	Particulars	
	0900 - 0902 (2 mins)	Welcome Remarks	Mr Ramon Peachey Director – Communications, ICRISAT
	0902 - 0915 (13 mins)	Messages from Distinguished International Dignitaries	
		- UN Secretary-General	
		- FAO Director General	
		- UNOSSC Director	
	0915 - 0917 (2 mins)	Vision of ISSCA	Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT
	0917 - 0920 (3 mins)	ISSCA video	
	0920 - 0930 (10 mins)	Videos of ISSCA Partners: RIS-DAKSHIN and CGIAR CapSHA	
	0930 - 0935 (05 mins)	Nurturing Solidarity -Strengthening Cooperation through ISSCA	ISSCA Team
	0935 - 0955 (20 mins)	Open Mic - Reflections and Closing Remarks	Mr Ramon Peachey Director – Communications, ICRISAT
0955 - 1000 (05 mins)	Hands United, Futures Rooted - A Human Chain of Cooperation	Team ISSCA and Communications Dept	
1000-1145	Celebration of UN Day for South-South Cooperation Knowledge without borders: Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Convenor: Markus Palenberg, CapSHA, CGIAR		
	Title	In-charge/Speaker	
1000 -1007	Welcome and framing: From successful partnerships to systemic change	Gert-Jan Stads, CGIAR	
1007-1015	Engagement with audience through QR CODE POLL on SSTC	Anilyn Maningas, CGIAR	
1015-1055	Panel Discussion 1: What makes South-South and Triangular Cooperation work? <i>Moderated by: Angelica Barlis, CGIAR</i>	- Dejene Abera, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) - Ndjido Kane, Regional Center for the Improvement of Adaptation to Drought, Senegalese Institute of Agriculture Research (ISRA-CERAAS)	

		- Jose Ednilson Miranda, Brazilian Agricultural Research Cooperation (Embrapa) - Weiping Hao, China Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) - Alka Singh, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
1055-1100	Q&A	
1100-1120	Panel Discussion 2: How do we take South-South and Triangular Cooperation to scale? <i>Moderated by: Nozomi Kawarazuka, CGIAR</i>	- Samitha Halder, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) - Dr Aggrey Agumya, Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) - Dr Srivalli Krishnan, Gates Foundation, India
1120-1125	Q&A	
1125-1135	Engagement with audience through QR CODE POLL on SSTC	Anilyn Maningas, CGIAR
1135-1145	SSTC 2030: From ambition to action	Charles Kleinermann, CGIAR
1045-1145	POSTER SESSION-II	
1145-1200	TEA BREAK	
1200-1330	Visionary Talks Convenor: Master of Ceremony Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre	
1200-1230	Dr Panjab Singh Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR	Drylands-Beyond Knowledge To Impact
1230-1300	Dr William D Dar Former DG, ICRISAT	Resilience Revolution Is A Must In Agriculture: Science, Policy, And Practice
1300-1330	Dr Ismahane Elouafi Executive Managing Director, CGIAR (Virtual)	The CGIAR Vision for the Future Of Dryland Agriculture: Innovation, Resilience And Partnerships
1330-1430	LUNCH	
1430-1730	VALEDICTORY Convenor: Master of Ceremony Venue: Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Convention Centre	
1430-1435	Welcome of dignitaries to dais	Master of Ceremony
1435-1535	Recommendations from various sessions	Congress Co-Chairs
1535-1555	New Partnerships and MOUs - Agreement between ICRISAT and Global Crop Diversity Trust, Germany	Master of Ceremony

	- Agreement between ICRISAT and Avior Life Sciences Private Limited, India - MOU between ICRISAT and National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), India - MOU between ICRISAT and Wipro Limited, India - MOU between ICRISAT and Angul District Administration, Govt of Odisha, India - MOU between ICRISAT and Rayagada District Administration, Govt of Odisha, India	
1555-1655	Award Distribution - ISSCA Awards - Best Poster Awards	Master of Ceremony
1655-1700	Delhi Declaration on Dryland (3D)	Congress Co-Chairs
1700-1705	Closing Remarks	Dr ML Jat, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR and Congress Patron
1705-1710	Closing Remarks	Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT and Congress Patron
1710-1720	Address by the Chief Guest	Dr Sandra Milach, Chief Scientist, CGIAR
1720-1730	Vote of Thanks, ADG, ICRISAT	Mr Sanjay Agarwal, ADG, ICRISAT

SIDE EVENTS

SIDE EVENTS						
Date	Time	Description	Organizer	Convenors	Seating	Venue
10/09/2026	1630-1800	<i>Side Event 1: CAPSHA Accelerator to operationalise the SSTC area of work</i> <i>Title: Innovation Lab for South-South Collaboration (Pitching for New Ideas and Funding)</i>	CapSHA, CGIAR	Dr D Kumaracharyulu	100	Aakash
10/09/2026	1630-1800	<i>Side Event 2: CGIAR Global Strategy for Resilient Drylands: Connecting Tropical and Non-Tropical Drylands through Science, Innovation and South-South Cooperation</i>	ICRISAT-ICARDA	Dr Gizaw Desta	100	Prithvi
10/09/2026	1630-1800	<i>Side Event 3: Sustainable Farming (SF)</i> <i>Title: Transforming Dryland Agriculture Through Sustainable Farming: CGIAR and Partner Contributions Toward Climate Resilience, Productivity and Livelihoods</i>	SF, CGIAR	Dr Gajanan Sawargaonkar	100	Kapila
10/09/2026	1630-1800	<i>Side Event 4: Waste to Wealth Initiative</i> <i>Title: Waste to wealth initiatives: Unlocking the potential of eutrophicated water bodies</i>	ICRISAT	Dr Ramesh Singh	60	Agni
10/09/2026	1630-1830	<i>Side Event 5: Seed Systems and Delivery</i> <i>Global Partnership Meeting for Seed Dissemination</i>	ICRISAT	Dr Manzoor Dar	40	Vayu
11/9/2026	1630-1830	<i>Side Event 6: CAPSHA Accelerator to operationalise the SSTC area of work</i> <i>Capacity Sharing Marketplace: A Mechanism for Enabling South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)</i>	CapSHA	Dr D Kumaracharyulu	100	Aakash
11/09/2026	1530-1730	<i>Side Event 7: Future-Proofing Food: Career Pathways Conserving Crop Diversity for Resilience</i>	Crop Trust	Dr Manish Pandey	60	Agni
11/09/2026	1500-1630	<i>Side Event 8: Multifunctional Landscape (MFL)</i> <i>Title: From Degraded Lands to Resilient Landscapes: Scaling Multifunctional Solutions for Drylands</i>	MFL, CGIAR	Dr Ramesh Singh	60	Prithvi
11/09/2026	1500-1630	<i>Side Event 9: Title: Combating the Silent Killer: Innovations in Red Palm Weevil Surveillance and Management for Resilient Date Palm Systems</i>	ICRISAT-ICARDA	Dr Pranuthi Gogumalla	40	Vayu
11/09/2026	1500-1630	<i>Side Event 10: Title: Climate Smart & Value Chain Analytics for Resilient & Sustainable Agriculture</i>	ICRISAT-LeadsConnect	Dr Bouba Traore	40	Jal

11/09/2026	1630-1800	<i>Side Event 11: Title: Agrivoltaics</i> for Climate-Resilient Dryland Agriculture	ICRISAT- Vasudha Foundation	Dr Hari Sudini	40	Vayu
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