



# **National Conference on Strengthening Food Systems through Increased Fruit Cultivation**



**Advancing scientific research and funding initiatives  
to increase fruit accessibility for low-income families**

18-19 November 2025  
NASC Complex, New Delhi

Co-organisers





## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

TIME SLOT	AGENDA TOPIC	PRESENTER
<b>Day 1, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025</b>		
<b>09:00-09:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>09:30-11:00</b>	<b>Inaugural session</b>	
	Facilitation	<b>Sonal Dsouza</b> Associate Manager, Partnerships Asia, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
<b>09:30-09:45</b>	Welcome	<b>Dr Chris Kettle</b> Principal Scientist, Lead Tree Biodiversity for Resilient Landscapes, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
<b>09:45-10:00</b>	Overview of CFI-Mission & Implementation	<b>Dr P.N. Mathur</b> Technical Advisor, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
<b>10:00-10:10</b>	Remarks by Special Guest	<b>Dr R.R. Burman</b> Assistant Director General (Agriculture Extension), Indian Council of Agriculture Research
<b>10:10-10:20</b>	Remarks by Guest of honour	<b>Dr S.K. Malhotra</b> Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Horticulture, Karnal
<b>10:20-10:30</b>	Remarks by Guest of honour	<b>Dr H. P. Singh</b> Founder and Chair of the Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India
<b>10:30-10:35</b>	Book Launching of "Fruitful Insights: Heritage, Ecology and Promise of India's Fruit Trees" Authors: <i>Prasanna NS, Ravikanth G, Eapsa Berry, Ganesan R, Uma Shaanker R and Kamal Bawa</i>	<b>Dr Ravikanth</b> Senior Fellow and Convenor, ATREE Academy
<b>10:35-10:55</b>	Remarks by Chief Guest	<b>Dr R. S. Paroda</b> Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences
<b>10:55-11:00</b>	Vote of thanks	<b>Dr J.C. Rana</b> Senior Scientist and Country Representative for India, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT
<b>11:00-11:15</b>	<b>Tea break &amp; group photo</b>	
<b>11:15-14:30</b>	<b>Technical session - I</b> : Innovative Strategies for Fruit Tree Cultivation and Community Engagement	<b>Chair: Dr H.P. Singh</b> Founder and Chair of the Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India <b>Co-Chair: Dr S.K. Malhotra</b> Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Horticulture, Karnal
<b>11:15-11:30</b>	MIDH Support for Enhancing Fruit Production for Strengthening Nutritional Security for Low-Income Farmers by way of Quality Germplasm, Planting Material and Use of Water Efficient Technologies	<b>Dr S.K. Malhotra</b> Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Horticulture, Karnal

<b>11:30-11:45</b>	Promoting Non-traditional Fruit Cultivation in Urban and Peri urban Landscapes.	<b>Dr K.K. Srivastava</b> Principal Scientist, ICAR -CISH, Lucknow
<b>11:45-12:00</b>	Strengthening the Supply chain of Quality Planting Material for Sustainable Fruit Cultivation	<b>Dr Shailendra Rajan</b> Former Director, ICAR-CISH, Lucknow
<b>12:00-12:15</b>	Reviving Lesser - Known Potential Fruits for Nutritional security and Community Empowerment.	<b>Prof. Tridip Kumar Hazarika</b> Professor and HOD Horticulture, Mizoram University
<b>12:15-12:30</b>	Advancing Fruit Cultivation through WADI System for Improved Livelihoods of Small and Marginal Farmers- Success and Research Gaps	<b>Dr Bharat Kakade</b> President & Managing Trustee, BAIF Development Research Foundation
<b>12:30 -12:45</b>	Community Led Initiatives for Post - Harvest Management of Fruits, Value addition and Sharing	<b>Dr Dinesh Kumar</b> Principal Scientist and Head, Food Science & Post Harvest Technology, ICAR -Indian Agricultural Research Institute
<b>12:45 -13:00</b>	Community Planting of Fruits for Climate Resilience and Nutritional Security	<b>Dr S. Naresh Kumar</b> Head and Principal Scientist, Division of Environmental Sciences, ICAR -Indian Agricultural Research Institute
<b>13:00 -13:30</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	
<b>13:30 -14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:30 -16:30</b>	<b>Technical session -II:</b> Enhancing and Conserving Fruit Tree Diversity to Strengthen Nutritional Security	<b>Chair: Dr Chris Kettle</b> Principal Scientist, Lead Tree Biodiversity for Resilient Landscapes, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT  <b>Co-Chair: Dr Prakash Tyagi</b> Executive Director, GRAVIS
<b>14:30 -14:50</b>	Fruit tree Diversity for Nutritional Security and Periodic Table of Food Initiative	<b>Dr Gina Kennedy</b> Principal Scientist, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, USA
<b>14:50 -15:10</b>	Plate to Plough: Implications of Emerging Trends in Fruit Consumption	<b>Dr P.S. Birthal</b> Director, ICAR -National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NIAP)
<b>15:10 -15:30</b>	<b>Tea break</b>	
<b>15:30 -18:00</b>	<b>Technical session -III:</b> Sharing Experiences for Advancing Fruit Tree Cultivation from Grassroot Key Stakeholders:	<b>Chair: Dr J.C. Rana</b> Senior Scientist and Country Representative for India, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT  <b>Co -Chair: Dr Bharat Kakade</b> President, BAIF
<b>15:30 -15:45</b>	Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd	<b>Mr. Bal Krishna</b> Sr. Vice President Agri Biotech R&D, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd.
<b>15:45 -16:00</b>	Indo-Israel Avocado -Promoting Avocado	<b>Mr. Harshit Godha</b> CEO, Indo -Israel Avocado
<b>16:00 -16:15</b>	DragonFlora Farms LLP - Promoting Dragon fruit	<b>Dr Sunila Kumari</b> Founder & CEO of DragonFlora Farms LLP

<b>16:15-16:30</b>	VNR Nursery Private Limited	<b>Mr. Randip Gosh</b> Asst. Manager, Production, VNR Nursery Pvt. Ltd.
<b>16:30-16:45</b>	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NHRDF)	<b>Mr. Rajveer Singh Panwar</b> CEO, NHRDF
<b>16:45-17:00</b>	Sachdeva Nursery	<b>Dr Ramakrishna Satyadeva,</b> Sachdeva Nursery
<b>17:00-17:15</b>	Chaturvedi Botanicals	<b>Mr. Shwetanshu Chaturvedi</b> Director, Chaturvedi Botanicals, Secretary Lychee Growers Association
<b>17:15-17:30</b>	Orchards of Nayanagar	<b>Mr. Sudhanshu Kumar</b> Founder Orchards of Nayanagar

**17:30-18:00** General discussion

**18:00-19:00** **Networking break**

**19:00 hrs onwards** **Dinner**

### Day 2, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### Workshop: CFI Grant Proposal Presentations

<b>9:00-9:15</b>	Ensuring the Nutritional Security and Climate Resilience through Fruit tree Cultivation-ICAR perspectives	<b>Dr S.K. Singh</b> Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research
<b>9:15-13:00</b>	<b>Presentation of grant proposals</b> - Presentations by invited Principal Investigator for CFI grant proposals-SLOT I	<b>Chair: Dr S.K. Singh</b> DDG (Horticulture), ICAR <b>Co - Chair: Dr Prem Mathur</b> Technical Advisor, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT

**Presentations  
(10 min each)**

1. Research for Fruiting Nutrition in Tribal India:**Girgan Gopi**, MSSRF
2. Forests of the Future: Empowering Indigenous Women through Food Forests:**Rekha R Warriar**, Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding
3. Promoting nutritional security through Cultivation of Chironji, Tamarind, and Wood Apple in Forest Fringe Areas:**Hari Om Saxena**, ICFRE – Tropical Forest Research Institute
4. Increased availability of bio-diverse fruits among poor and rural people for better household nutritional security, Livelihood, and Sustainable Land Management: **Akhilesh Kumar Srivastava**, Banda University of Agriculture & Technology
5. Fruit based Multistoried Cropping System for Ensuring Nutritional and Livelihood Security to Small Landholders of Chitrakoot district Bundelkhand region: **R.S Negi**, Deendayal Research Institute
6. Testing different farming practices of fruit production aiming farm sustainability and environmental wellbeing: **Ganesh Bedare**, BAIF Development Research Foundation
7. Exaltation of quality planting material production of nutritious and climate resilient varieties of Fig, bael, karonda, Jamun, phalsa, prickly pear, mulberry and carambola fruits for diversification towards Livelihoods and Environment Sustainability in Haryana: **Shalini Pilonia**, Maharana Pratap Horticulture University
8. Developing a community-based innovative model for the cultivation of locally adapted climate-resilient fruit crops and their processing in the Hill districts of Uttarakhand:**Omveer Singh**, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology
9. Community-led locally adapted fruit nutri-gardens in Anganwadi Centres and Schools, in the aspirational district of Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh:**Ashok Singh**, Aga Khan Foundation
10. Development of New Cultivation Methods through Community Participation to Improve Access to Nutritious Fruits for Landless and Marginalised Communities in Rural, Peri-Urban and Urban Landscapes in Kaushambi District, Uttar Pradesh: **Akhilesh Mishra**, Jan Evom Krishi Vikas Sansthan

11:30-11:45

**Tea break**

11. Characterization and Evaluation of Citrus Genotypes for Nutrition-rich and Zero-waste Utilization: **Nimisha Sharma**, Indian Agricultural Research Institute
12. Enhancing Nutrition through Women led Horticulture in Thar (ENWH): **Rajendra Kumar**, Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti
13. Improving Rural Livelihoods through collection, domestication and establishment of Indigenous Fruit Trees in arid zone:**Dheeraj Thakural**, Central Arid Zone Research Institute
14. Clonal propagation, nutritional profiling and value addition of climate resilient native fruit species for sustainable horticulture in arid region:**Kishan Lal Kumawat**, ICAR–Central Institute for Arid Horticulture
15. Pathways to “Eco-Nutrition” and Climate Resilient Livelihood for Small and Marginal Farmers: **Luna Panda**, Pragati
16. Develop new cultivation methods through community participation to improve nutritious fruit access for landless and marginalised communities in rural, peri-urban and urban landscapes: **M. Thenmozhi**, SRM Institute of Science and Technology
17. Collection, Conservation and morpho-phenological Characterization of Avocado germplasms found in Sikkim: **Yamuna Pandey**, Central Agricultural University
18. Nutritional Profiling, Mass Multiplication, and Promotion of Scientific Cultivation of Indigenous Wild Edible Fruits in Nagaland for Nutritional Security and Sustainable Income Generation for Farmers: **M. Mathiyazhgan**, Nagaland University
19. Nurturing Ecological Sustainability and Tribal Livelihoods through Innovative and Climate-Smart Fruit Tree Systems in NEHR of India:**Prashant Kisan Nimbolkar**, Central Agricultural University Imphal
20. Underutilized Wild Fruits for Nutrition Security: Profiling, Public Health Impact, and Community Access in Assam’s Upper Brahmaputra Valley: **Manisha Choudhury**, Assam Agricultural University

<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
<b>14:30-17:30</b>	<b>Presentation of grant proposals</b> - Presentations by invited Principal Scientist for CFI grant proposals-SLOT II	<b>Chair: Dr Chris Kettle</b> Principal Scientist, Lead Tree Biodiversity for Resilient Landscapes, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT <b>Co-Chair: Dr Geeta Joshi</b> Assistant Director General (Media and Extension), the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

21. Agroecology for Nutrition and Resilience: Scaling Natural Farming for Sustainable Fruit Production: **Sudhir Verma**, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry
22. Kiwifruit as a Catalyst for Crop Diversification and Nutrition in the Himalayan Mid-Hills under Climate Change: **Narender Negi**, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources
23. Identification of suitable fruit crops for year-round nutrition through Nutrigarden in Bihar: **Vikas Chandra**, Bihar Agricultural University
24. Litchi-Based Diversified Fruit Production Models and Participatory Genetic Resource Management for Nutritional Security of Small and Marginal SC and ST Farmers in Nawada and Jamui Districts of Bihar: **Bikash Das**, ICAR-National Research Centre on Litchi
25. Promotion of Growing Fruit Trees for Efficient Land Use, Food Security, Nutrition and Value Addition: **Rajeev Kumar Narolia**, Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner
26. Unconventional Modes of Growing Fruit Trees that Makes Efficient use of Land Planting on Wasteland, Field Bunds, Community Land: **Om Prakash Sharma**, Gram Chetna Kendra
27. Innovative and Community-Based Approaches for Fruit Tree Cultivation to Enhance Nutrition and Livelihoods in Limited Land Households of Prayagraj (UP): **Gopal Krishna**, e-PAHEL
28. High-density multilayered agroforestry (FOOD FOREST): **Reji Joseph**, Jaivorg
29. Development of "Model Fruit Farm" for sustainable livelihood through Innovative Fruit Cultivation: **Grey 2 Green Foundation**
30. Enhancing Affordable Access to Nutritious Fruits for Underprivileged Communities through Diversified Production, Value Chain Optimization and Nutrition-Sensitive Interventions: **Shoaib Nissar Kirmani**, ICAR - Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture
31. Harnessing Wild Edible Fruit Diversity of Western Ghats of India for Nutritional Security, Sustainable Livelihoods and Conservation: **BM Muralidhara**, ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Central Horticultural experiment Station
32. Climate - Smart Fruit Farming through Crop Diversification: **G Karunakaran**, ICAR - Indian Institute of Horticultural Research

<b>17:30-18.00</b>	<b>Dr S.K Singh, Dr Chris Kettle, Dr P.N. Mathur &amp; Dr J.C. Rana</b>	
<b>18:00-19:00</b>	<b>Networking break</b>	
<b>19:00-20:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>	



**CFI Contact Details:**

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