First Circular

International Conference

on

Transforming Hill Agri-Food Systems through Innovation, Resilience and Entrepreneurship (THASIRE-2026)

Important Dates:

Registration Starts: 15th Jul, 2026

Abstract Submission last Date: 15th Sept, 2026

Acceptance modification: 30th Sept, 2026

Registration Close: 15th Nov, 2026

Jointly Organized by:

ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region , Sikkim Centre &

Indian Association of Hill Farming (IAHF), Umiam

Date:

November 26-27 2026

Venue:

ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region,

Sikkim Centre, Gangtok, Sikkim.

भाकृअनुप ICAR

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF HILL FARMING
Estd: 1987

About the conference

The "Transforming Hill Agri-Food Systems through Innovation, Resilience and Entrepreneurship (THASIRE-2026)" is a three-day international conference organized to bring together scientists, researchers, policymakers, extension professionals, farm innovators, and stakeholders to discuss and chart pathways for transitioning from subsistence, risk-prone agriculture to tech-enabled, sustainable, and high-value, climate-resilient hill farming systems. The event is scheduled to be held on 26th & 27th November, 2026 at the ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hill (NEH) Region, Sikkim Centre Campus, Gangtok. Organized by ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, and Indian Association of Hill Farming (IAHF) a society registered under Societies Registration Act, 1983

About ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre

ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre is located at Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim, in the eastern Himalayas. It functions under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. The parent ICAR, RC for NEH Region was established on 9th January, 1975 to address the region-specific agricultural challenges of the North Eastern Hill states. The Sikkim Centre was created to develop and disseminate location-specific, climate-resilient and sustainable farming technologies suited to fragile hill ecosystems. Its core purpose is to enhance productivity, profitability, and livelihood security of hill farmers. The Centre focuses on organic farming, natural resource management, horticulture, livestock, and allied sectors. The institute plays a vital role in integrating traditiodnal knowledge with modern agricultural and allied sciences through research, training, and extension activities. ICAR NEH Sikkim Centre is engaged in research on sustainable organic farming, environmental quality, ecosystem services and socio-economic development of hill communities in Sikkim in particular and the exhibitions by fostering education and empowerment, helping farmers

improve productivity, income, and sustainability. Events often include field demonstrations, seed sales, livestock shows, and cultural elements, making them a blend of tradition and technology NEH region as whole.

Farmer's Fair and farmer-scientist interaction

THASIRE-2026 will encompass Farmer's Fair (Kisan Mela) and provide a scope for the farmers to make two-way interaction with experts/ research scientists to discuss their field challenges like pest management, soil health, climate-resilient farming, and organic field techniques. The farmer-scientist interaction session will promote knowledge transfer process and draw the outline to adopt scientific field management practices; while giving scientists insights into real-world issues in hill farming and organic agriculture. Moreover, the event course will include exhibition to foster farmers' achievements; technology dissemination through field demonstrations/ farm visits, farm produce sale counters and woman empowerment for helping farmers to improve crop productivity, annual income, and long period sustainability with diverse cultural blend of tradition and modern technologies for eccentric hill farming.

About Indian Association of Hill Farming (IAHF)

The Indian Association of Hill Farming (IAHF) is a professional scientific society dedicated to the promotion of hill and mountain agriculture in India. It provides a national platform for researchers, academicians, extension professionals, and policymakers working on hill farming systems. The Association aims to advance sustainable, climate-resilient, and livelihood-oriented agricultural practices suited to fragile hill ecosystems. IAHF plays a key role in knowledge sharing, capacity building, and policy dialogue through conferences, workshops, and collaborative initiatives, contributing to the socio-economic development of hill communities.

Broad Themes of the Conference

1. Sustainable farming recourse for hill agro-ecosystems: Development of climate-resilient, high-yielding crop varieties, agro-biodiversity conservation, field gene banks, bio resource engineering, field scale crop management options, and sustainable crop protection strategies to ensure self-sufficiency in food production, better daily livelihood earning and nutritional security of hill denizens.
2. Resource conservation and ecosystem health management: Soil health management through resource conservation technologies, efficient utilization of soil resources, conjunctive use of water, eco-restoration process, ecosystem services, integrated watershed management; Use of modern field techniques, remote sensing/ GIS tools, Artificial intelligence and other digital

tools for resource mapping and precision agriculture options to sustain crop productivity and maintain ecological balance in the hill landscapes.

3. Functional horticulture for hill farming: Emphasizing intensive high value cultivation of vegetables, fruit crops, spices, aromatic plants, floriculture etc. and other horticultural innovations including other offbeat hill farming options like ancillary agriculture viz. apiculture, sericulture, mushroom farming, lac culture, to enhance farm productivity as well as farmers' income in hill agriculture.
4. Organic farming and green agriculture: Eco-friendly clean farming technologies developed through location specific research and extension activities for future self-sustenance, building environmental stewardship, and maintaining ecological balance in hill farming.
5. Climate resilience hill farming: Address the periodic weather aberrations and climate change impacts on ecosystem services, and environmental sustainability through strengthening farmer-centric knowledge transfer, capacity building, and agro- advisory services to accelerate adoption of innovative hill farming practices.
6. Livestock & fishery management: Integrated low-input livestock rearing, animal health management, disease surveillance networking and hill aquaculture and fishery resource management options for income resilience of mountain households.
7. Farm mechanization, renewable energy and post-harvest engineering for futuristic hill farming: Scalable farm mechanization opportunities, skill development towards energy efficient and hill-specific storage system, processing, and value-addition technologies to reduce post- harvest losses, value chain development through including secondary agriculture options for waste management and improve market accessibility/ networking across the remote hilly terrain
8. Extension service for rural development: Navigate farmer-led innovations, gender mainstreaming, agri-entrepreneurship development, agribusiness opportunities and viable public-private partnership options for the digital extension delivery system of hill agriculture.
9. Poultry farming in hill agriculture: Special session on location specific suitable poultry breeds, housing & temperature control, feeding pattern of both free range and backyard poultry farming system towards sustainable rural livlihood

Organizing Committee

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		Dr. Mukesh Bhatt	
Executive Council of IAHF			
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		Dr. A. A. P. Milton	

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Scan for Abstract Submission

Call for Papers / Abstracts

The Organizing Committee of the International Conference on "Transforming Hill Agri-Food Systems through Innovation, Resilience and Entrepreneurship (THASIRE-2026)" invites original research papers, review papers, case studies, and field-based innovations from scientists, academicians, researchers, extension professionals, policymakers, industry experts, and students. Contributions should focus on innovative, sustainable, and climate-resilient approaches relevant to hill and mountain agriculture and allied sectors. Abstracts are invited under the broad conference themes, including Crop Science, Natural Resource Management, Horticulture Science, Livestock & Fisheries Management, Post-Harvest Engineering, Extension Science, and Environmental Science, with

special emphasis on livelihood enhancement, technological interventions, and policy implications for hill regions.

Submitted abstracts will be peer-reviewed by the Technical Committee, and selected contributions will be considered for oral or poster presentations. Accepted abstracts will be included in the Conference Abstract Book, and selected full-length papers may be considered for publication in conference proceedings or allied journals, subject to review and guidelines. Participants are encouraged to submit abstracts highlighting research findings, best practices, indigenous knowledge, and scalable models that can contribute to the sustainable development and prosperity of hill communities.

Registration

The registration fee may be paid through online transfer in favour of ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hill (NEH) Region, Sikkim Centre, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim

Account Name: IAHFSK-2026
Account Number: 45251778229
Branch: Tadong
IFSC Code: SBIN0007950

Scan for Payment

REGISTRATION FEE		
	In Rs.	**In $**
Student	2000/-	21.14/-
Research Staff	3000/-	31.70/-
IAHF Member	7000/-	73.97/-
Non IAHF Member	8000/-	84.54/-
Industry personnel	15000/-	158.52/-

Event Highlights

Special Sessions / Side Events

- Farmers exhibitions
- Agri- entrepreneur/ farm- industry meet

Awards / Recognition:

- Different categories of IAHF awards
- Best Oral and Poster Presentation awards

Logistics & Contact

Venue Details: ICAR Research Complex for North Eastern Hill (NEH) Region, Sikkim Centre, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim

The conference venue is situated in the picturesque Himalayan city of Gangtok and provides an ideal setting for scientific deliberations, networking, and exposure to hill farming systems. The campus is equipped with modern conference facilities and is conveniently accessible from major transportation hubs.

Accommodation & Travel (Brief)

Limited accommodation facilities are available on a paid basis in and around Gangtok. Participants are advised to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements well in advance. The Organizing Committee will provide assistance and guidance regarding nearby hotels, guest houses, and local transportation upon request.

Nearest Airport: Pakyong Airport (approximately 30 km) and Bagdogra Airport, West Bengal (approximately 125 km)

Nearest Railway Station: New Jalpaiguri (NJP), West Bengal (approximately 120 km)

Gangtok is well connected by road from both Pakyong Airport, Bagdogra Airport, and NJP Railway Station through shared taxis, private cabs, and bus services. The journey offers breathtaking views of the Eastern Himalayas and the Teesta River valley.

Weather during Conference

November in Gangtok is generally pleasant, with daytime temperatures ranging from 10°C to 20°C. Participants are advised to carry light woollen clothing, jackets, and comfortable walking shoes.

Registration Desk

The registration desk will remain open from 08:00 AM onwards on 25 November 2026 at the conference venue. Participants are requested to carry a valid photo identity card and proof of registration.

Contact Information

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Places of interest for visit

Gangtok

The scenic capital city with mountain views, vibrant markets, monasteries, viewpoints, cafes, and cultural spots — perfect base for exploring Sikkim.

Tsomgo (Changu) Lake

A stunning high-altitude lake often partly frozen by late November, framed by snow-clad peaks — a must-visit for nature lovers

Nathu La Pass & Baba Mandir

Historic mountain pass on the India–China border and the revered Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple — great for scenic drives (permits required).

Buddha Park, Ravangla

Also known as Tathagata Tsal, this peaceful park features a majestic Buddha statue with Himalayan views and meditation spaces.

Gurudongmar Lake

Located in North Sikkim, India, at an altitude of approximately 17,800 ft (5,430 m), is one of the highest and most scenic lakes in the world.

Chenrezig Statue & Skywalk

Home to one of the tallest Buddhist deity statues in India and a thrilling glass skywalk overlooking the valley.

Monasteries & Cultural Sites

Explore historic monasteries and heritage spots in and around Gangtok like Rumtek Monastery, Enchey Monastery, and Tsuklakhang Palace

Char Dham, Namchi

A spiritual and scenic pilgrimage complex with replicas of India's four sacred Dhams and a huge Shiva statue.

Tenzing-Hiliary Memorial Park

The Tenzing-Hillary Memorial Park (often referred to as Tenzing Hillary Park) is a prominent tourist attraction located in Uttarey, West Sikkim