



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUTRACEUTICAL POTENTIAL OF MILLETS

(ICNPM-2026)

9–10 FEBRUARY 2026

AUDITORIUM, PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL, INDIA

SMALL GRAINS, BIG IMPACT

**International Conference on Nutraceutical Potential of Millets
(ICNPM-2026)**

**9–10 February 2026
People's University, Bhopal, India**

Organised by

Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology, Centre for Scientific Research and Development (CSRD), and Department of Food Technology

People's University, Bhopal, India

Supported by

People's University, Bhopal, India

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The International Conference on Nutraceutical Potential of Millets (ICNPM-2026) aims to provide a multidisciplinary platform for researchers, academicians, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals to exchange knowledge, discuss emerging research, and promote innovations in the field of millets and their nutraceutical potential.

This two-day international conference will focus on scientific advances, technological developments, and translational applications of millets for human health, nutrition, sustainable food systems, and food security.

ICNPM-2026 also emphasizes capacity building for young researchers, promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration, and strengthening national and international partnerships.

About the Conference

Millets are climate-resilient, nutrient-dense crops with immense potential to address global challenges related to nutrition security, non-communicable diseases, sustainable agriculture, and climate change. Recognizing their growing importance, ICNPM-2026 brings together experts from diverse disciplines to deliberate on the nutraceutical value of millets and their role in future food systems.

The conference is designed to bridge research, policy, and practice, fostering dialogue between academia, industry, and decision-makers, while promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and societal impact.

Objectives of the Conference

The objectives of the conference (ICNPM-2026) are to:

1. Promote scientific understanding of millets and their nutraceutical value.
2. Facilitate knowledge exchange and interdisciplinary research collaboration.
3. Support national and international priorities on millets and food security.
4. Encourage innovation, value addition, and entrepreneurship in millet-based products.
5. Provide a platform for young researchers and students to showcase their work.
6. Bridge research, policy, and practice in nutrition and sustainable food systems.
7. Strengthen national and international academic and institutional collaborations.
8. Promote public awareness and societal impact of millet-based nutrition.

Important Dates

- Abstract Submission Opens: December 5, 2024
- Abstract Submission Deadline: January 25, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: January 28, 2026
- Registration Deadline: January 31, 2026
- Spot registration available
- Conference Dates: **9–10 February 2026**

Technical Sessions, Panel Discussions & Young Scientist Sessions

1. Technical Session I	:	Phytochemistry and Nutraceutical Properties of Millets
2. Technical Session II	:	Processing, Fortification, and Product Development using Millets
3. Panel Discussion I	:	Millets in the National Nutrition Mission and Market Prospects
4. Technical Session III	:	Health Benefits, Nutritional Interventions, and Clinical Studies on Millets
5. Technical Session IV	:	Millets for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
6. Young Scientist Session I	:	Oral Presentations
7. Young Scientist Session II	:	Poster Presentations
8. Panel Discussion II	:	Women Entrepreneurship and Start-ups in Millet-Based Nutraceuticals

Keynote & Invited Speakers

Expert Speakers (Confirmed):

1. **Dr. Satyen Yadav**, Chairman, India Millet Initiative, India.
2. **Prof. Shonil Bhagwat**, Professor of Environment and Society, The Open University, UK.
3. **Prof. Sadequr Rahman (Ret.)**, Adjunct Professor, School of Science, Monash University (Australia), Malaysia Campus.
4. **Prof. Ashok Sangappa Alur**, Vice Chancellor, Kodagu University, Karnataka, India.
5. **Dr. J. Stanley**, Director/CEO, Nutrihub and Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.
6. **Dr. Usha Dharmaraj**, Principal Scientist, Department of Grain Science and Technology, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, India.
7. **Dr. Dilip Jain, FNAAS**, Ex-Head and Principal Scientist (Retd.), India.
8. **Dr. M. Govindaraj**, Senior Scientist, Crop Improvement, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, India.
9. **Dr. Mehrajuddin Sofi**, Professor, Faculty of Agriculture (FOA), SKUAST-Kashmir, India.
10. **Dr. Amber Kumar**, Additional Professor, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS, Bhopal, MP, India.

11. **Dr. Hemangini Gandhi**, Visiting Faculty, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India.
12. **Dr. C. K. John**, Retired Scientist, CSIR-NCL, Pune, Maharashtra, India.
13. **Dr. Simran Singh**, Sr Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, IIS Deemed to be University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

Note: Additional details are in the Programme Schedule

Young Scientist Sessions

ICNPM-2026 strongly encourages participation of research scholars, post-doctoral fellows, and early-career researchers.

- **Session I:** Oral presentations by Young Scientists
- **Session II:** Poster presentations by Young Scientists (parallel session)
- A certificate of presentation will be provided to all (oral and poster) presenters in the Young Scientist Sessions.

Abstract Submission Guidelines

- Abstract should be written in English.
- The Title should not be more than 15 words.
- Abstract should not be more than 250 words, excluding title, author names and affiliations.
- It is necessary to have 4-6 keywords below the abstract.
- Abstract must include 4 major sections such as Background, Methods, Results, and Conclusions.
- The Organizing Committee reserves the right to edit the Title and Abstract to maintain the quality and or consistency.
- The abstract should be original and not submitted previously to other journals/conferences /or meetings.
- The presenting author's name must be underlined, and the addition of a new author after the submission and acceptance of the abstract is not encouraged.
- The presenting author must register for the conference. The abstracts of unregistered candidates will not be processed for publication in the conference proceedings.
- The presenting author is responsible for the accuracy of the scientific content of the submitted abstract. The organizing committee is not responsible for the results and conclusions provided in the abstract.
- You may download a copy of the [**Abstract Template**](#).
- **All abstracts must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines. Abstract must be emailed before January 25, 2026, to the conference secretariat at: icnpm-2026@peoplesuniversity.edu.in**

Programme Schedule and Details

Two-Day Technical Program with Session-Wise Details and Name of Session Chair/Co-Chair

International Conference on Nutraceutical Potential of Millets (ICNPM-2026)

Dates: 9-10 February 2026

Venue: Auditorium, People's University, Bhopal, India

Organized by: Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology, Centre for Scientific Research and Development (CSRD), and Department of Food Technology, People's University, Bhopal, India

Day 1 – Monday, 9 February 2026

Time	Session	Theme / Focus	Session Chair	Co-Chair
09:00-10:30	Inaugural Session	Welcome, lighting of the lamp, Welcome Address by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of People's University, Prof. Harish Rao. Conference overview by the Conference Convener, Prof. Dr. Subash J Bhore International Decade of Millets (IDoM 2024-2034): Road Map for Taking International Year of Millet 2023 Initiatives Ahead - Keynote address by Dr Satyen Yadav, Chairman, India Millet Initiative, Noida, NCR Delhi, India		
10:30-10:45	Tea / Coffee Break & Networking			
10:45-11:30	Keynote Session I	Millets for a Healthier Tomorrow: Insights from Research and Innovation – by Prof. Sadequr Rahman, Ret Professor, School of Science, Monash University, (Australia) Malaysia Campus.	Dr Satyen Yadav, Chairman, India Millet Initiative, India.	–

11:30-13:00	Technical Session I	Phytochemistry and Nutraceutical Properties of Millets	Dr. Dilip Jain, FNAAS, Ex-Head and Principal Scientist (Ret), India.	-
11:30-12:15	Keynote Lecture	Millets - Miracle Crops of the Millennium – by Prof. Ashok Sangappa Alur, Vice Chancellor, Kodagu University, Karnataka, India.		
12:15-13:00	Keynote Lecture	Unlocking the Nutraceutical Potential of Millets for Modern Food Processing– by Dr. J Stanley, Director/CEO Nutrihub and Principal Scientist, ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India.		
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break & Networking			
14:00-15:45	Technical Session II	Processing, Fortification, and Product Development using Millets	Dr. J Stanley, Director/CEO, Nutrihub and Principal Scientist, ICAR- Indian Institute of Millets Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana, India	-
14:00-14:45	Keynote Lecture	Novel Production, Processing, and Value-Addition Technologies for Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development in Millets – by Dr. Udaykumar Nidoni, Professor & University Head, Department of Processing and Food Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka.		
14:45-15:05	Invited Talk#1	Millet Processing – The Gaps and Challenges for Value Addition and Globalization – by Dr. Usha Dharmaraj, Principal Scientist, Department of Grain Science and Technology, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, India.		
15:05-15:25	Invited Talk#2	Innovative Pearl Millet-Based Product Development From Traditional Foods to Market-Ready Functional Products – by Dr. Dilip Jain, FNAAS, Ex-Head and Principal Scientist (Ret), India.		

15:25- 15:45	Invited Talk#3	Designing Millet-based Functional Foods for Metabolic Health Products – by Dr. Simran Singh, Sr Assistant Professor, Department of Home Science, IIS Deemed to be University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.		
15:45- 16:00	Tea / Coffee Break & Networking			
16:00- 17:00	Panel Discussion I	Millets in the National Nutrition Mission and Market Prospects	<p>Moderator: Dr. M Govindaraj, Senior Scientist, Crop Improvement, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, India.</p>	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Dr. Udaykumar Nidoni, Professor & University Head, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka. ii. Prof. Ashok Sangappa Alur, Vice Chancellor, Kodagu University, Karnataka, India. iii. Dr. J Stanley, Director/CEO, Nutrihub and Principal,

				India. Scientist, ICAR-IIMRR, Hyderabad, Telangana, India. iv. Dr. Usha Dharmaraj, Principal Scientist, CFTRI, Mysore, India. v. Dr. Dilip Jain, FNAAS, Ex- Head and Principal Scientist (Ret), India.
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Day 2 – Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Time	Session	Theme / Focus	Session Chair	Co-Chair
09:00-09:45	Keynote Session II	Global Impacts of Biofortified Millets on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Resilience – by Dr. M Govindaraj, Senior Scientist, Crop Improvement, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, India	Dr Hemangini Gandhi, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India.	–
09:45-11:05	Technical Session III	Health Benefits, Nutritional Interventions, and Clinical Studies on Millets	Prof. Harish Rao, Vice Chancellor,	Dr. Richa Jain, CSRD, People's

09:45-10:05	Invited Talk#4	Millets for Health and Nutrition – by Dr. Ajay Kumar Khera, Country Representative, EngenderHealth, New Delhi, India.	People's University, India.	University, Bhanpur, Bhopal, MP.
10:05-10:25	Invited Talk#5	Millets for Healthy Growth: Nutritional Benefits and Clinical Perspectives in Pediatric Health – by Dr Amber Kumar, Additional Professor, Department of Paediatrics, AIIMS, Bhopal, MP.		
10:25-10:45	Invited Talk#6	Health Awareness Level and Consumption Pattern of Millets Among Urban, Rural, Tribal Gujarati Households – by Dr Hemangini Gandhi, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India.		
10:45-11:05	Invited Talk#7	A Journey of a Dietician Towards Milletpreneurship – by Dt. Lavanya SR, Clinical Dietician & Founder — Chethanya - Ojas Sadhana -A pathway to conscious Healing Director — TrueBowl Therapeutic Nutrition Service Systems, Functional Food Research and Formulation Division Associate Director — India Millet Initiative.		
11:15-11:30	Tea / Coffee Break & Networking			
11:30-13:00	Technical Session IV	Millets for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems	Prof. Dr. Subhash J Bhore, CSRD, People's University, Bhanpur, Bhopal, MP.	Dr Ashiq Hussain Magrey, CSRD, People's University, Bhanpur, Bhopal, MP.
11:30-12:15	Keynote Lecture	The Potential of Millets in Plant-Based Food Futures – by Prof Shonil Bhagwat, Professor of Environment and Society, The Open University, UK.		
12:15-13:00	Keynote Lecture	Integrating Millets into Sustainable Agri-Food Systems: Policy, Economics, and Global Perspectives – by Dr. C. K. John, Ret Scientist, CSIR-NCL, Pune, Maharashtra, India.		

13:00-14:00	Lunch Break & Networking			
14:00-15:00	Young Scientist Session I (Young Scientist Session I & II will be Parallel Sessions)	Oral Presentations	Dr. Udaykumar Nidoni, Professor & University Head, Department of Processing and Food Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka.	Dr. Abin Mani, CSRD, People's University, Bhopal, India.
14:00-15:00	Young Scientist Session II (Young Scientist Session I & II will be Parallel Sessions)	Poster Presentations	Dr. C. K. John, Ret. Scientist, CSIR-NCL, Pune, Maharashtra, India.	Dr. Moumita Majumdar (Assistant Professor, CSRD, People's University, Bhopal.
15:00-15:45	Panel Discussion II	Women Entrepreneurship and Start-ups in Millet-Based Nutraceuticals	Moderator: Dr. Udaykumar Nidoni, Professor & University Head,	Panellists: i. Dr Satyen Yadav, Chairman, India

			Department of Processing and Food Engineering, College of Agricultural Engineering, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka.	Millet Initiative, India. ii. Dr. Ajay Kumar Khera, Country Representative, EngenderHealth, New Delhi, India. iii. Prof. Ashok Sangappa Alur, Vice Chancellor, Kodagu University, Karnataka, India. iv. Dr Amber Kumar, Additional Professor, Department of Pediatrics, AIIMS, Bhopal, MP, India.
15:45- 16:15	Valedictory Session	Certificates (of Oral and Poster Presentation) Distribution to Young Scientists Conference Summary, Recommendations, and Closing Remarks	-	-
END OF TWO-DAY CONFERENCE				

Note: The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme if deemed necessary.

Registration and Payment Instructions

Registration Fee

Category	Indian Participants (Rs)		International Participants (USD)	
	In Person	Online	In Person	Online
1. Students (UG / PG) Early Bird Rate	500	250	50	25
After 17th January 2026	700	250	50	25
2. Research Scholars / Young Scientists	1,000	500	100	50
3. Faculty / Academicians	2,000	1000	150	75
4. Industry / Entrepreneurs	2,000	1000	150	75
5. Attendees (No Presentation)	1,000	500	100	50

Registration Fee Includes

- Access to all scientific sessions
- Conference kit (for in-person registrants only)
- Tea/coffee and working lunch on both days
- E-certificate of participation/presentation

Bank Details to Make Registration Fee Payment

Account Holder's Name: People's University
Name of Bank: ICICI Bank, Bhopal
Account Number: 005505010742
IFSC Code: ICIC0000055
Currency of the Account: Indian Rupees

QR Code to Make Registration Fee Payment



Note: Please send your Registration Fee transaction details to:

icnpm-2026@peoplesuniversity.edu.in

& WhatsApp to: +917999891780

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/H7tYosy5Tn3RDbxL6>

Publications & Proceedings

- All accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference Abstract Book
- Papers will be published in a special Issue of a suitable Scientific Journal
- Publication ethics and plagiarism policies will be strictly followed

Venue & Travel Information

Venue:

Auditorium, People's University, Ayodhya Bypass Road, Bhanpur, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India

Nearest Airport:

Raja Bhoj International Airport, Bhopal

Nearest Railway Station:

Bhopal Junction

Detailed travel and accommodation information will be updated.

Sponsors & Partners

- People's University, Bhopal
- Institutional and industry partners (*Details to be updated*)

About the University

People's University is a multidisciplinary higher education institution committed to excellence in education, research, healthcare, and societal development. Located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the University offers a wide range of undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes across health sciences, life sciences, engineering, management, humanities, and allied disciplines. With a strong emphasis on research, innovation, ethics, and community engagement, People's University fosters an ecosystem that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration, capacity building, and translation of knowledge for the public good. The University is dedicated to addressing national and global challenges through quality education, impactful research, and meaningful academic-industry partnerships.

About Bhopal City & Nearby Attractions

Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, is popularly known as the “City of Lakes” for its picturesque natural and artificial lakes, rich greenery, and serene environment. The city beautifully blends heritage, culture, and modern urban development, making it an ideal destination for academic and professional gatherings. Bhopal is home to several renowned attractions, including the Upper Lake, Van Vihar National Park, Taj-ul-Masajid, and Bharat Bhavan. In the vicinity, participants may also explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site Sanchi Stupa, the historic rock shelters of Bhimbetka, and the natural beauty of Pachmarhi. Together, these attractions offer a rich cultural and natural experience to visitors attending ICNPM-2026.

Accommodation Near the Conference Venue

For the convenience of participants attending ICNPM-2026, the following hotels are located close to People's University, Bhopal. Participants are advised to contact the hotels directly for availability, tariffs, and reservations.

1. Dayal Shree Paradise

Email: reservations@dayalshreeparadise.com
Phone: +91 7024212882 | +91 9752155566 | +91 8085955566
(Rate Range Rs 3000.00 to Rs 5000.00)

2. Hotel New Shikha

Email: hotelnewshikha@gmail.com
Phone: +91 9981370179 | +91 7987490150
(Rate Range Rs 1200.00 to Rs 1500.00)

3. Hotel Geetkavya Inn

Email: reservations@hoteldeetkavyainn.com
Phone: +91 7880054949 | +91 7880055050
(Rate Range Rs 3200.00 to Rs 4200.00)

Guest House (People's University)

Pratiksha Guest House

Email: dayashankar53765274@gmail.com
Phone: +91 9753995180 (Mr. Dayashankar Sharma)

Note: Participants may choose to stay at any other hotel in Bhopal city as per their preference.

Policies & Declarations

The ICNPM-2026 is committed to maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity, professional conduct, inclusivity, transparency, and ethical responsibility. All participants are expected to adhere to the following policies.

1. Code of Conduct

ICNPM-2026 provides a respectful, inclusive, and professional environment for all participants, irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, or academic status.

All participants are expected to:

- Conduct themselves with professionalism, courtesy, and mutual respect.
- Engage in constructive academic discussions and debates.
- Refrain from any form of harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or disruptive behaviour.
- Respect diverse viewpoints, cultures, and academic opinions.
- Follow the instructions of the organising committee and session chairs.
- Use conference platforms and facilities responsibly.

2. Anti-Plagiarism Policy

ICNPM-2026 upholds strict standards of academic honesty and originality.

- All submitted abstracts and papers must be original and must not have been previously published or submitted elsewhere.
- Plagiarism in any form, including self-plagiarism, duplicate publication, or improper citation is strictly prohibited.
- Proper acknowledgment of sources, data, and prior work is mandatory.

3. Data Privacy Policy

ICNPM-2026 respects the privacy and confidentiality of all participants.

- Personal information collected during registration (such as name, affiliation, contact details) will be used solely for conference-related purposes, including communication, registration management, certificate issuance, and reporting to funding agencies (if applicable), where required.
- Personal data will not be shared with third parties for commercial purposes.
- Reasonable measures will be taken to protect personal information from unauthorised access or misuse.
- By registering for the conference, participants consent to the collection and use of their data in accordance with this policy.

4. Disclaimer

- The views and opinions expressed in presentations, posters, and publications are solely those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organisers, People's University, or the funding agency.
- The Organising Committee reserves the right to modify the conference programme, speakers, or schedule due to unforeseen circumstances.
- While all efforts will be made to ensure accuracy of information, the organisers shall not be responsible for any inadvertent errors or omissions.
- Participation in the conference implies acceptance of all conference policies and decisions of the Organising Committee.

Note

ICNPM-2026 is committed to academic excellence, inclusivity, transparency, and societal relevance, in line with the national priorities on nutrition and sustainable food systems.

Chief Patron & Patron

Chief Patron

Suresh N. Vijaywargia, Hon'ble Chancellor, People's University

Patron

Megha Vijaywargia, Trustee and Pro-Chancellor, People's University

Organising Committees

Committee	Members
Organising Committees Chair	Prof. Dr. Harish Rao, Vice Chancellor, People's University
Organising Committees Co-Chair	Prof. Dr. Neerja Mallick, Registrar, People's University Prof. Akhilesh Mittal, Dean of Academic Affairs, People's University
Conference Convener	Prof. Dr. Subhash J. Bhore Head, Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology, Centre for Scientific

	Research and Development (CSRD), People's University
Conference Secretariat	Dr. Abin Mani Dr. Ashiq Hussain Magrey
Scientific Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Satyen Yadav • Dr. J. Stanley • Prof. Dr. Udaykumar Nidoni • Prof. Dr. Subhash J. Bhore • Assoc. Prof. Dr. Abin Mani • Prof. Dr. Bhaskar Gupta • Assoc. Prof. Dr. Richa Jain • Dr. Moumita Majumdar • Dr. Ashiq Hussain Magrey
Venue Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Divya Tiwari • Dr. Shikha Jain • Dr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra
Online Session Management Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh • Ms. Soumya Sharma
Young Scientist & Student Engagement Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Abin Mani • Dr. Moumita Majumdar
Registration & Participant Support Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Richa Jain • Dr. Priya Dwivedi • Mr. Chandra Shekhar Rajak
Finance & Compliance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. G V Jalkhare • Mr Amish Pandey
Sponsorship & Industry Engagement Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Devendra Singh Chouhan • Mr. Pawan Kumar
Publicity, Media & Communication Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dipendra Shrivastava • Dr. Shikha Jain • Ms. Neelu Singh • Ms. Jaya Prajapati • Ms. Neha Sarathe

Hospitality & Speaker Support Committee

- Dr. Divya Tiwari
- Mr. Ravi Shankar
- Dr. Sapna Madan

Contact Information**Conference Secretariat**

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