



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

Harnessing Microbes for Sustainable Farming System In The Era of Climate and Pathogen Population Change

Organized by
Regional Research Station (Hill Zone),
UBKV, Kalimpong
In Collaboration with
Indian Mycological Society (IMS), Kolkata
&
Kalimpong Science Centre, Kalimpong

November 15-16, 2025

For detailed information visit the website :www.imskolkata.org
Email:rrsimsconf2025@gmail.com/ims.kolkata@yahoo.com



ABOUT US

The Indian Mycological Society (IMS) was founded in 1954 at the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta, Kolkata-700019, West Bengal by eminent mycologists such as Prof. S.R. Bose, Dr. S.N. Banerjee, Dr. S.N. Dasgupta, Dr. S.N. Bhaduri, Dr. S.B. Chattopadhyay, Dr. T. Ghosh, and others. As the oldest society dedicated to Mycology in India, IMS serves scientists nationwide, with a focus on the North Eastern region. The society actively hosts National and International Conferences, conducts Memorial Award Lectures, and publishes the Journal of Mycopathological Research quarterly.

The Regional Research Station (Hill Zone) in Kalimpong, Darjeeling District, is the one of the research stations that focuses on addressing challenges faced by the farming community through on-station and on-farm research on key crops, cultivation techniques, soil issues, and pest and disease problems. Since February 2001, the station has been under the administrative control of Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya. The station is dedicated to meeting the future challenges of feeding a growing population and ensuring food security amidst climate change. It regularly reviews and adjusts its research priorities based on past findings and the evolving needs of the hill environment.

The Kalimpong Science Centre, established in 2008 near Deolo Hill in Kalimpong, West Bengal, is a science and technology center developed by the National Council of Science Museums. Its primary goal is to promote science education and cultivate a scientific mindset among the public, especially students. The center aims to communicate science and technology in an engaging manner to develop a scientific temper in society and enhance the understanding of science in educational institutions and organizations. The center is dedicated to popularizing science and technology among the general public, with a focus on students, through high-quality knowledge-based initiatives.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Harnessing microbes for sustainable farming systems has become increasingly vital in the era of climate change and evolving pathogen populations, including the rising threat of plant diseases and fungi. Beneficial microbes—such as Nitrogen-Fixing Bacteria, Mycorrhizal Fungi, and Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria—enhance soil health, stimulate plant growth, and bolster resistance to both biotic and abiotic stresses. As climate change alters precipitation patterns and temperature regimes, the incidence and severity of plant diseases caused by pathogenic fungi and bacteria are also shifting, posing new challenges to crop health. Microbial inoculants and biocontrol agents offer promising alternatives to chemical pesticides, helping to suppress harmful pathogens while promoting beneficial microbial diversity. By integrating microbial-based strategies into sustainable agriculture, farmers can build more resilient systems that reduce environmental impact, improve crop productivity, and adapt to the dynamic pressures of a changing climate and pathogen landscape.

This seminar will focus on the role of microbes in maintaining plant health amid climate change and shifting pathogen populations. It will explore how microbes can support small-scale farmers and highlight the impact of cutting-edge technologies on research and practical solutions in this field. The conference will bring together scientists, researchers, and students from across the country to present their findings on the following themes and engage in meaningful discussions.



THEMES AND PROGRAMME

THEMES

- I. Climate Change Affecting Microbial Diversity**
- II. Dynamics of Pathogen Population and Their Effect on Farming Systems**
- III. Biotechnology, Bioinformatics and AI in Pathogen Detection and Crop Improvement**
- IV. Host -Parasite Interaction and Disease Management**
- V. Microbiome for Improvement of Plant Health**

SPECIAL SESSION ON

Stake holder Interface:

Dialogue between Farmers, Scientists and Pesticide Industry

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

November 15, 2025

- Registration & Inauguration**
- Presentation of Prof. K. R. Samaddar Life Time Achievement Award**
- Felicitation of IMS Fellows**
- 2 Award Lectures & 3 Technical Sessions**

November 16, 2025

- 1 Award Lecture & 2 Technical Sessions**
- Special Session**
- Poster Session**
- Valedictory Session**

Chief Patrons

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary, DARE, Director General (ICAR)

Prof. Debabrata Basu, Vice Chancellor, UBKV, Coochbehar

Patrons

Prof. Ashok Choudhury, Director of Research, UBKV, Coochbehar

Prof. Prabhat Kumar Pal, Director of Extension Education, UBKV, Coochbehar

Prof. Apurba Kumar Chowdhury, Dean, Post Graduate Studies, UBKV, Coochbehar

Prof. Dibyendu Mukhopadhyay, Dean (Actg., Faculty of Ag, UBKV, Coochbehar

Prof. Soumen Maitra, Dean (Actg.), Faculty of Ag, UBKV, Coochbehar.

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Organizing Committee

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Assistant Treasures	Dr. Biplab Tudu, RRSS, UBKV, Pedong Dr. Bandan Thapa, RRS (Hill Zone), UBKV, Kalimpong

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Indrani Naskar	Manas Bag	Ranajit Panda	T.S. Ghimiray

The Kalimpong Science Centre



VENUE

KALIMPOONG SCIENCE CENTRE: The venue of the conference will be the Kalimpong Science Centre, located at **Deolo—the highest point in Kalimpong**. Situated at an **altitude of 5,590 feet above sea level**, the centre lies approximately 9 km north of Kalimpong town and spans an area of 7 acres of picturesque hilly terrain. This unique location offers a serene and inspiring environment, ideal for scientific discussions and academic exchange.

Kalimpong, a scenic hill station in the eastern Himalayas of West Bengal, is known for its rich cultural heritage, stunning landscapes, and pleasant climate. Perched at an altitude of around 4,100 feet, it offers panoramic views of snow-capped mountains, lush green valleys, and winding rivers. Once an important center for trade between India and Tibet, Kalimpong still reflects its multicultural legacy through its architecture, cuisine, and vibrant festivals. The town is also a hub for horticulture, particularly famous for its wide variety of orchids and nurseries. With its blend of natural beauty, historical significance, and educational institutions, Kalimpong stands as a peaceful retreat as well as a growing center for learning and research in the Eastern Himalayas.

Climate

The climate of Kalimpong is classified as temperate, with cool summers and mild winters, making it a comfortable destination year-round. During the summer months (April to June), temperatures typically range between 15°C and 25°C, offering a pleasant escape from the heat of the plains. Monsoon season (July to September) brings moderate to heavy rainfall, adding lushness to the surrounding greenery but also causing occasional landslides in the region. **Winters (November to February) are generally mild, with temperatures ranging from 5°C to 15°C, and rarely dipping below freezing. (Participants are advised to carry warm winter cloths)**

How to reach the venue ?

By Air

The nearest airport is **Bagdogra International Airport**, approximately **86 km from Kalimpong**. From the airport, you can hire a private or shared taxi to reach the Science Centre, which takes about 3 to 4 hours.

By Train

The closest railway station is **New Jalpaiguri Junction (NJP)**, **about 78 km away**. From NJP, taxis or shared vehicles are available to take you to Kalimpong, a journey of approximately 2 to 3 hours

By Road

Kalimpong is well-connected by road to nearby cities like Darjeeling, Gangtok and Siliguri. **The Science Centre is about 9 km away from the main Town of Kalimpong**. You can take a local bus or hire a private taxi to reach the centre.



REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DETAILS

Registration Categories

Scientists/Faculty	Rs. 4000/-
IMS and UBKV faculty Members	Rs. 3000/-
Research Scholars*	Rs. 2000/-
M. Sc students	Rs. 1500/-
Accompanying Person	Rs. 2000/-

**Only those who are currently doing Ph.D and are not employed*

Registration Fee covers admission to all the scientific sessions, other programmes of the Conference, Registration Kit, tea/coffee and lunch during the conference.

How to Register

Registration is to be done only by clicking the link for registration provided, filling it up and submitting within the last date. Uploading of abstract and payment transaction slip is necessary while submitting the form.

Link for Registration: <https://forms.gle/sqC1f3tF6dzVywvJA>

Payment details

All payments (Registration Fee/Accommodation Booking charges) can be paid Online. For online payment, details are as follows:

Account Name	HMFSF 2025
Account No	44187001560
Bank & Branch	STATE BANK OF INDIA, KALIMPONG
Address	KALIMPONG, MAIN ROAD, KALIMPONG 734301
IFS Code	SBIN0000105

Payment can be made directly by scanning the QR Code provided here or through NEFT.

Please upload transaction slip of payment of registration fee while submitting abstract and registration form.



The Last date of Registration
and receipt of abstract is
October 15,2025

UPI ID : hmfsf2025@sbi

INSTRUCTION FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

Abstract Submission

Submission of abstracts is necessary for all presentations. Abstracts of only those who have paid Registration Fee will be included in the publication. Full papers of the presented papers will be published in the Journal of Mycopathological Research, after review if possible. Abstracts should be prepared not exceeding 350 words (A4 size with 3cm margins, Times New Roman, 12pt. Font). The title of the paper, name(s) of author(s) and their address(es) should be typed in Capital letters, along with email id and phone number of the corresponding author. Abstracts are to be uploaded while submitting the Registration Form.

Oral Presentations

For oral presentation, make presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint only and save it in the version 2007 or higher, (Windows 11). **Slides not exceeding 20 in numbers and presentation time of not more than 10 minutes.** Facilities will be provided for PowerPoint presentations.

Poster Presentation

Poster presentation will form an integral part of the Conference. Posters will be grouped under the major themes. **Specifications of the poster board are 140cm x 90cm (length x breadth).** The title, names of authors and the institutional address should be placed in a panel across the top of the poster using letters of not less than 40 mm high. The contents of the posters should be legible from a distance of 1 m while heading and text letters should be not less than 15 mm and 10 mm high, respectively. It should be properly laid out for assisting the viewers to follow the order of the information presented.

Accommodation

Accommodation may be booked directly by contacting the hotel/lodge by the participants. Participants may also book online and stay in hotels / homestays and accommodations of their own preferences. Kindly carry valid ID cards for all type of hotel/lodge/guest house bookings.

Hotel/Home stay	Contact information	email and website	Tariff
GOLDEN HOTELS & RESORT	Pradip 8972891330/ Arvind 8942052417 9126943221	arbind@goldenhoteles.in www.goldenhoteles.in	Rs. 2500/- for double bed room with breakfast and Rs.3500/- including dinner
YURU	Abel 8918623485	yurukalimpong@gmail.com www.yururetreat.com	6000/- for suite with view with complimentary breakfast 3500/- double bedroom with complimentary breakfast
MISTY DEOLO HOMESTAY	Prasanna 7098595552	https://g.co/kgs/XJDQVC7	1500/- per person with breakfast and dinner
HIMADRI HOMESTAY	79081 55326	https://g.co/kgs/vuwbRnb	1500/- per person with breakfast and dinner

CONTACT PERSONS

General Inquiry

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Prof. Sajeed Ali: 8906705665

Prof. Usha Chakraborty: 9002002096

Prof. Bishwanath Chakraborty: 9800266298

For Registration and Abstracts- Dr Kiran Sunar (8373902354)

For Assistance in Accommodation

Dr Biswajit Patra (9547152202); Dr Pranay Bantawa (9933190382)

Dr Saran Kumar Gupta (7908607969); Mr Furtengi Sherpa (9064744618)

PLACES OF INTEREST IN AND AROUND KALIMPONG

Kalimpong, a scenic hill station in West Bengal, India, is known for its serene beauty and rich cultural heritage. Nestled in the eastern Himalayas, it offers stunning views of the Kanchenjunga range. One of the main attractions is *Deolo Hill*, the highest point in Kalimpong, offering panoramic vistas and adventure activities. *Durpin Monastery* is another popular site, known for its peaceful ambiance and impressive Buddhist murals. Nature lovers can visit the *Kalimpong Cactus Nursery*, which houses a vast variety of exotic cacti and orchids. Nearby, *Lava* and *Loleygaon* are charming villages surrounded by pine forests, ideal for trekking and bird watching. The *Teesta River* flowing through the region adds to its charm, offering opportunities for rafting. Kalimpong and its adjoining areas are perfect for travelers seeking a blend of nature, spirituality, and tranquility.

Kalimpong is well-connected to several scenic and culturally rich destinations across the Eastern Himalayas, making it an ideal base for exploring the region. The vibrant city of **Siliguri**, a major gateway to the hills, lies approximately **65 kilometers** away and can be reached in around **2.5 hours** by road. The famous hill station of **Darjeeling**, known for its tea gardens and colonial charm, is about **50 kilometers** from Kalimpong, offering a memorable drive of around **3 hours** through winding mountain roads. To the west, the serene town of **Mirik**, surrounded by forests and a tranquil lake, is located nearly **60kilometers** away and takes about **3 to 3.5 hours** to reach. Southward, the beautiful town of **Namchi** in Sikkim, known for its towering Buddha statue and peaceful monasteries, is roughly **55 kilometers** from Kalimpong, taking around **2.5 to 3 hours** to access. For those seeking untouched natural beauty, **Gorubathan**, nestled amidst forests and tea gardens, lies just **35 kilometers** away and is a scenic **1.5-hour** drive. Each destination offers a unique blend of nature, culture, and tranquility, making Kalimpong a perfect hub for unforgettable Himalayan getaways.

