



National Conference on
Transforming Plant Health Management:
Integrating Traditional Practices with
Modern Innovations for Global Food Security



18th & 19th December 2025



Organized by

Indian Phytopathological Society (Southern Zone Chapter)

&

**Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute
(PAJANCOA & RI), Karaikal, UT of Puducherry.**



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

It gives immense pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute (PAJANCOA & RI)**, Karaikal and the **Indian Phytopathological Society – South Zone** to the **National Conference - 2025** on the theme “Transforming Plant Health Management: Integrating Traditional Practices with Modern Innovations for Global Food Security, scheduled on **18th & 19th, December 2025**. The conference aimed at bringing together plant pathologists, researchers, academicians, farmers and policymakers to address the pressing challenges of crop health in the face of climate change and global food insecurity is scheduled to be organised at the renowned Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute (PAJANCOA&RI), Karaikal of UT of Puducherry.

The conference will explore the probabilities on merging the indigenous knowledge systems with cutting-edge technologies that could enhance sustainable plant protection practices. With a focus on climate-resilient agriculture, integrated disease management and eco-friendly interventions, the event would ensure a platform for a comprehensive deliberation on recent advances, innovations and field-level applications towards a sustainable management. Special emphasis on promoting farmer-led innovations, bio-input technologies, traditional pest deterrents and policy-level integration for mainstreaming sustainable plant health strategies are also planned. Through fostering collaboration among scientists, institutions and farming communities, the conference focuses on redefining the paradigm of plant disease management as well as strengthening India’s role in ensuring global food and environmental security.

ABOUT INDIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The **Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS)** is a premier professional organization dedicated to the advancement of plant pathology. Established on **February 28, 1947**, at the Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology (now the Division of Plant Pathology), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, IPS is currently the third-largest society of plant pathologists in the world. The Society serves as a vibrant platform for scientists engaged in diverse fields such as Mycology, Plant Pathology, Bacteriology, Virology, Phytoplasmology and Nematology, promoting scientific exchange, research collaboration, and professional development. With a strong membership base of **over 2,700 members across more than 50 countries**, IPS connects researchers, extension professionals, students, technicians and plant health practitioners worldwide. The Society plays a pivotal role in disseminating recent advancements and fostering collaboration among stakeholders in plant health management through national and international symposia, seminars and training programs. The IPS continues to contribute significantly to the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge in Plant Pathology, supporting global efforts towards sustainable crop protection and food security.

CONFERENCE VENUE

The symposium will be held in the Seminar Hall of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture and Research Institute, Karaikal, Puducherry (UT). <https://maps.app.goo.gl/maYlKwTcJS61zmLAA>

ABOUT KARAIKAL

Karaikal, located along the Coromandel Coast in the Union Territory of Puducherry, is a region of historical, cultural, and spiritual significance. Enriched by the distributaries of the Cauvery River, it is known for its agricultural vitality and serene coastal landscape. A former French colony, Karaikal retains its colonial charm while being home to prominent religious landmarks such as the revered Saneeshwara Bhagavan Temple at Thirunallar and the shrine of Karaikal Ammaiyar. Its strategic location offers easy access to nearby pilgrimage centers such as Thirukadaiyur, Chidambaram, Velankanni, and Nagore, as well as ecological destinations like the Pichavaram mangroves, making it an ideal hub for academic pursuits enriched with cultural exploration.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College of Agriculture (PAJANCOA), established on 2nd October 1987 as an autonomous body by the Government of Puducherry to provide higher education in agriculture and to serve the research and extension needs of the Union Territory was upgraded as a Research Institute (PAJANCOA & RI) in 1997. The Postgraduate programmes were introduced in 1999–2000, followed by the launch of the B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture degree programme in 2016–17 and from the academic year 2023–24, the institute has commenced Ph.D. programmes in five agricultural disciplines.

Affiliated with the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) until 2014, the Institute is presently affiliated with the Pondicherry University and is governed by the PAJNCOA society, with the Chief Secretary as the Chairman. The institute is accredited by ICAR (NAEAB), Central Insecticide Board and Registration Council (CIBRC), National Assessment and Accreditation Committee (NAAC) and recognized under Section 12B of the UGC Act (1956), besides DBT Star College status, reflecting its sustained commitment to academic excellence, scientific research, and capacity building in agricultural sciences.

The discipline of Plant Pathology was established as one among the constituent discipline along with Agricultural Entomology and Plant Nematology under the Department of Crop Protection in 1987 and established as a separate Department of Plant Pathology in March 1993. The division of Agricultural Microbiology and Nematology were merged during April 2003 and April 2019 respectively, with the Department of Plant Pathology. This department is offering Plant Pathology, Agricultural Microbiology, and Nematology courses to the B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture and B.Sc. (Hons.) Horticulture degree programmes. The department features well-equipped laboratories, mushroom mother spawn production unit and a greenhouse with necessary infrastructure facilities established under the National Horticulture mission (NHM), Submission on seed and Planting material (SMSP), Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India for performing research both at fundamental and advanced level, thus involving in teaching, diagnostic and advisory services.

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THEMES FOR TECHNICAL SESSION

- Theme 1** : Novel tools for the detection and diagnosis of biotic and abiotic stresses.
- Theme 2** : Modern innovations for improving soil and plant health, climate change issues
- Theme 3** : Advances in biocontrol for resilient agroecosystems, mycorrhiza, novel formulations, commercialization, and quality control
- Theme 4** : Plant-microbe interactions and host resistance, genome editing, transgenics, and application of omic tools
- Theme 5** : Mechanization, digital agriculture, and smart disease surveillance system, quarantine and phytosanitary issues
- Theme 6** : Emerging diseases and pests, novel chemicals, molecules against plant diseases and novel chemical delivery systems
- Theme 7** : Advances in mushroom technology and food mycology

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts related to the thematic areas of the symposium are invited for oral and poster presentations. Each abstract must be typed in MS word doc, Times New Roman (font size-12, single line space, title running bold with font size 14). Authors' details and title should be centre aligned and the body of abstract should be justified. The abstract should include a brief background of the research area, main focus of the study, major results and few lines of discussion and conclusion on the application of the research. The name and Email of presenting author should be underlined, full author details with affiliation address, mobile number and email should be provided. A soft copy in Microsoft Word format must be submitted along with the hard copy. Authors are requested to submit their abstracts either online or via email to the Organizing Secretary at **ipssz2025@gmail.com** ensuring that the submission reaches **on or before 28.11.2025**. Abstracts should be formatted strictly following the style of the journal Indian Phytopathology. Acceptance notifications will be sent within two weeks of submission. Please note that registration of the presenting author is mandatory for the abstract to be included in the Souvenir. A maximum of two abstracts per first author will be considered for publication and presentation.

E-Poster should have the extended contents of the abstract with major details of methodology, results, discussion including images and graphs, 2-4 recent and related references. The e-posters are given 5 minutes of presentation. Oral presentation for any paper will be given 10 minutes duration with a maximum of ten slides

Important Notes for Abstract Submission

- Submission of an abstract does not guarantee acceptance.
- The abstract must reflect original and recent research conducted by the authors.
- The decision regarding oral or poster presentation will be decided by the Scientific Committee.
- Abstracts accompanied by completed registration and payment of fees will be given preference

BEST ORAL AND E-POSTER PRESENTATION AWARDS

Best oral and e-poster presentations by young scientists and students will be given prizes on each theme.

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration for the conference can be made by paying registration fees as detailed below through online transfer, UPI or credit /debit card. Payment through cash, cheque and demand draft is not acceptable.

Category of Scientist	Member	Non-Member
Faculties/ Scientists	₹4000	₹4500
RA/SRFs	₹1500	₹2000
Students	₹1000	₹1500
Corporate Member	₹5000	₹5500
Accompanying person	₹1500	-

REGISTRATION

The registration fee is neither refundable nor transferable to another delegate. Registration will be confirmed on receipt of full fee. The registration fee covers conference kit, name badge, souvenir booklet, breakfast, lunch, dinner and a certificate of participation and /or presentation. The registration should be done through google form <https://forms.gle/LdEzvGCYw5BvrkhKA> only. The last date for registration is 28.11.2025. The candidates are requested to fill out the google form only after the payment of fees. Registration fee payment can made via UPI/internet banking using the following details

Name of the Account : PAJANCOA-KKL-IPS(SZ)-CONFERENCE
Account Number : 8113651946
IFSC code : IDIB000P192
Bank Name & Address : Indian Bank, PAJANCOA &RI Branch,
Serumavilangai, Karaikal 609603
UPI ID : ipsszconf@indianbk



Important Dates to Remember

Abstract Submission : October 10, 2025 - November 28, 2025
Registration : October 10, 2025 - November 28, 2025

SOCIETY AWARDS

APS Travel Sponsorship for PhD Students to USA

The American Phytopathological Society (APS), USA, in collaboration with the Indian Phytopathological Society, offers a prestigious Travel Sponsorship for Ph.D. students pursuing plant pathology in India. This award encourages IPS student members enrolled in doctoral programs to participate in the APS Annual Meeting or other APS-endorsed events, as approved by the IPS and the APS Foundation Board.

The sponsorship, supported by Indian-origin Plant Pathologists, will be awarded to the top student presenter selected through zonal competitions across India. The award includes reimbursement for international airfare, accommodation and incidentals, while the registration fee must be borne by the awardee.

Prof. M J Narasimhan Merit Academic Award

The Prof. M.J. Narsimhan Academic Merit Award is open to all IPS members below 35 years of age. Applicants must provide proof of age and a certificate from their guide or supervisor. Interested candidates should submit an abstract of their original research work (not exceeding 200 words) to the Organizing Secretary via email at ipssz2025@gmail.com, before the last date of submission.

All abstracts will undergo preliminary evaluation by a screening committee, and selected candidates will be invited for oral presentations during the symposium. For detailed terms and conditions, please visit: **www.ipsdis.org**.

ACCOMODATION

The organizers would make all efforts to make the stay of delegates comfortable. There are many hotels located in Karaikal town at a reasonable tariff. Hence participants are advised to make their own arrangements for accommodation. Paid accommodation can be arranged by the organizers upon prior request. Participants will be notified of their accommodation status in advance to avoid any inconveniences. Limited accommodation is available for the students at college Hostels and will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Details of Hotel Accommodation

Hotel name	Email Id	Contact numbers
Le Royale Palace	www.leroyalpalace.com	04368-293865, +91 8939302233
AVS Imperiaa	reservation@avsimperiaa.com	04368-22855, 228666
Chandrodayan Residency	booking@chandrodayamresidency.in	+91 7904648787
Le Arul Park	hotellarulpark@gmail.com	+91 8870831258
Geetan Residence	-----	04368-237555
Minnal Residency	-----	+91 8667731517
Hariharaa Residency	-----	+91 9003815962
Thirunallar SA Residency	-----	+91 7305232799

Travel Guidance – How to Reach Karaikal?

Karaikal is well connected with the rest of the states through air, rail, and road. Delegates are advised to fill the itinerary plan through google form

Air: The nearest airport is Tiruchirappalli International Airport (IATA: TRZ), located approximately 140 Km away. The Chennai International Airport (IATA: MAA) is located approximately 280 Km away from Karaikal. Puducherry Airport (IATA: PNY) is located nearly 140 Km away. From the airport, the delegate can reach the venue by road via taxi or bus.

Train: Karaikal Railway Station (CODE: KIK) is well-connected by rail to major cities like Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur, Coimbatore, Ernakulam etc. Mayiladuthurai (MV) is the next closest railway station, located 30 Km away from Karaikal.

Bus: Karaikal is connected by a network of roads, and regular bus services are operated by government and private agencies. Karaikal is connected from Chennai, Puducherry, Chidambaram, Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli and many other locations in Tamil Nadu and nearby states. The nearest major bus terminal is Nagapattinam, about 15 Kms from Karaikal.

Registration Form

1	Name (Mr./Ms./ Dr.)	:	
2	Designation	:	
3	Institution Affiliation	:	
4	Address	:	
5	Mailing Address a) E-Mail ID b) Mobile No.	:	
6	Name & Relation with the accompanying person (if any)	:	
7	Type of Registration a) Member b) Non-Member c) RA/SRFs d) Students e) Corporate Member	:	
8	Registration Fee a) Cheque / draft / RTGS / NEFT, etc. details (including date of transaction and send the proof along with this form) b) Amount Paid	:	
9	Accommodation required (Yes/No)	:	
10	Details of Arrival a) Mode of arrival (flight no. for air travel) b) Date & expected time of arrival	:	
11	Details of departure a) Mode of Departure b) Date & expected time of departure	:	
12	Food preference (Vegetarian/Non-Vegetarian)	:	

Place & Date: Signature:

The dully filled in registration form along with a copy of online transfer, UPI or credit /debit card payment receipts may please be sent to the email: ipssz2025@gmail.com

(To fill Google form <https://forms.gle/LdEzvGCYw5BvrkhKA>)

For any queries related to registration: ipssz2025@gmail.com

TOURIST ATTRACTION



Tirunallar Saneeswara Bhagavan Temple (3 km)

One of the most sacred temples dedicated to Lord Shani (Saturn), this ancient shrine draws thousands of devotees seeking relief from astrological afflictions. Located in the nearby town of Tirunallar.



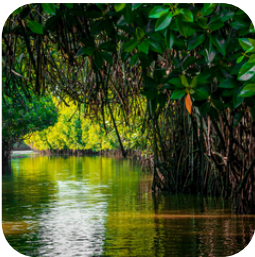
Nagore Dargah (22 km)

The Nagore Dargah is a revered Islamic pilgrimage site built in honor of the saint Hazrat Syed Shahul Hameed. With its Indo-Islamic architecture and peaceful ambiance, it attracts people of all faiths.



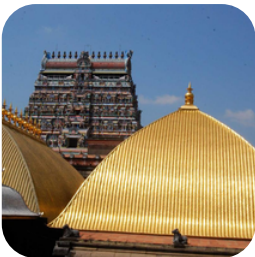
Velankanni Church (39 km)

Located along the Bay of Bengal, the Velankanni Basilica is a revered Catholic pilgrimage site. Often called the "Lourdes of the East," it draws millions of devotees each year. The shrine is known for its spiritual aura and graceful architecture.



Pichavaram Mangrove Forest (39 km)

One of the world's largest and most pristine ecosystems. Its scenic boat rides through narrow canals offer a close view of lush greenery and rich wildlife. A paradise for birdwatchers and it showcases vibrant coastal biodiversity.



Nataraja Temple, Chidambaram (60 km)

This majestic temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva in his cosmic dancing form, Nataraja. A masterpiece of Dravidian architecture, it is not only a spiritual hub but also a symbol of India's classical dance and cultural heritage.



Puducherry (140 km)

A charming coastal town with a distinct French colonial legacy, Puducherry blends serene beaches, vibrant cafés, and spiritual retreats like Auroville. Its tree-lined boulevards and tranquil ashrams make it a refreshing getaway for cultural and spiritual exploration.

