



Progressive Horticulture Conclave (PHC) 2026

Climate Smart Horticulture:

Ensuring Sustainability and Farmers' Prosperity



 **04–06 December 2026**

 **ICAR–CAZRI,
Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

 **ishrd.in**
Conclave Official Website

Organized by
**Indian Society for Horticultural
Research & Development
(ISHRD), Uttarakhand**

Facilitated by
**ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research
Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur**



Progressive Horticulture Conclave (PHC) 2026 (Jodhpur, Rajasthan)



Horticulture has emerged as one of the fastest-growing sectors of agriculture, contributing significantly to food and nutritional security, rural livelihoods, export earnings, and environmental sustainability. However, increasing climate variability, natural resource degradation, labour shortages, market uncertainties, and rising consumer demand for quality produce necessitate a paradigm shift towards climate-smart, technology-driven, and sustainable horticultural production systems.

The Progressive Horticulture Conclave (PHC) 2026 provides a unique global platform for scientists, academicians, policymakers, entrepreneurs, industry leaders, students, extension professionals and progressive farmers to exchange ideas, showcase innovations, strengthen collaborations, and develop strategies for sustainable horticultural development.

The theme, "***Climate-Smart Horticulture: Ensuring Sustainability and Farmers' Prosperity***", highlights the importance of integrating advanced breeding technologies, quality planting materials, precision agriculture, digital horticulture, artificial intelligence, smart-orchard management, protected cultivation, plant protection, natural farming, regenerative practices, post-harvest innovations, supply chain management, entrepreneurship and market intelligence to build resilient horticultural systems capable of addressing future climatic and economic challenges. A special highlight of the conclave is the Scholar's Conclave, designed to nurture and encourage postgraduate and doctoral scholars from horticulture and allied disciplines. Hosted in the arid landscapes of Jodhpur, the conclave offers an ideal venue to discuss innovative technologies that improve productivity, resource-use efficiency, profitability and environmental sustainability of horticulture under diverse agro-climatic conditions.



About the Indian Society of Horticultural Research and Development (ISHRD), Uttarakhand

Indian Society for Horticultural Research and Development (SHRD) is one of India's oldest and most prestigious professional scientific societies dedicated to the advancement of horticultural research, education, innovation, and technology dissemination. Established in March 1969 as Hills Horticulture Development Board at Chaubatia (Ranikhet), Society has served for more than five decades as a vibrant platform for bringing together scientists, academicians, students, policymakers, industry professionals, entrepreneurs, extension workers, and progressive farmers committed to strengthening the horticulture sector. ISHRD has played a pioneering role in promoting excellence in horticultural science through national and international conferences, symposia, workshops, training programmes, and scientific deliberations that foster interdisciplinary collaborations and facilitate the exchange of knowledge across diverse disciplines of horticulture.

One of the Society's most distinguished contributions is the publication of Progressive Horticulture since April 1969, one of India's oldest peer-reviewed journals in horticultural sciences. The journal has earned national and international recognition for publishing high-quality research on fruit, vegetable, ornamental, plantation, medicinal and aromatic crops, postharvest technology, biotechnology, crop improvement, natural resource management, and emerging frontiers in horticulture. Through its scientific publications and professional activities, ISHRD has consistently promoted innovation, encouraged young researchers, strengthened academia-industry partnerships, and facilitated the translation of research into practical technologies for farmers. Building upon the remarkable success of the Progressive Horticulture Conclaves organized at Lucknow (2019), Pantnagar (2023), and Navsari (2024), the Society proudly presents the Progressive Horticulture Conclave (PHC) 2026 & International Meet at Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Under the theme "Climate-Smart Horticulture: Ensuring Sustainability and Farmers' Prosperity," the conclave seeks to foster global scientific collaboration, showcase cutting-edge innovations, and develop sustainable, technology-driven horticultural solutions that enhance productivity, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and farmers' livelihoods.



About the Venue: ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute (ICAR–CAZRI), Jodhpur, Rajasthan

The ICAR–Central Arid Zone Research Institute (ICAR–CAZRI), Jodhpur, established in 1959 under the ICAR, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It is India's premier research institute dedicated to the sustainable development of arid and semi-arid ecosystems. Situated at the gateway to the 'Thar Desert', the Institute addresses the unique challenges of dryland agriculture, including water scarcity, soil degradation, salinity, desertification, climate variability, and declining natural resources. Over the past six decades, ICAR–CAZRI has developed numerous location-specific technologies in arid horticulture, dryland crop production, agroforestry, rangeland management, livestock production, soil and water conservation, watershed management, renewable energy, protected cultivation, precision agriculture, and climate-resilient farming systems. Its research has significantly contributed to improving agricultural productivity, conserving fragile ecosystems, and enhancing the livelihoods of farming communities across arid regions of India.

The Institute has developed climate-resilient cultivars of ber, pomegranate, lasora, and karonda, besides developing improved production technologies for ber, pomegranate, date palm, aonla, bael, citrus, lasora, grafted khejri, and horticulture-based agrivoltaic and integrated farming systems. It has also successfully introduced fig, dragon fruit, sapota, and mango to diversify fruit production and enhance farmers' income in the arid and semi-arid regions. ICAR–CAZRI has emerged as a national leader in protected cultivation, soilless cultivation, vegetable grafting, and precision horticulture, with innovations in micro-irrigation, precision fertigation, hydroponics, aeroponics, digital horticulture, solar–rainwater harvesting-based protected cultivation, post-harvest management, value addition, and solar tunnel drying. Through its Agri-Business Incubation (ABI) Centre, the Institute has also developed hundreds of successful entrepreneurs in modern horticultural nurseries, vegetable grafting, and protected cultivation, creating a successful model for engaging rural youth in horticultural enterprises. Through strong collaborations with national and international organizations, universities, industry partners, and farming communities, ICAR–CAZRI continues to deliver science-based solutions for climate-resilient and sustainable dryland horticulture.

Hosting the Progressive Horticulture Conclave (PHC) 2026 & International Meet at ICAR–CAZRI provides an ideal platform for showcasing cutting-edge innovations in climate-smart horticulture while fostering scientific partnerships and policy dialogue aimed at ensuring sustainable production systems, environmental resilience, and enhanced prosperity for farmers in a changing climate.



Technical Sessions

Abstracts are invited under the following thematic areas:

Session I: Genetic Diversity, Crop Improvement and Plant Variety Protection

Genetic resources, conventional and molecular breeding, genomics, gene editing, climate-resilient and biofortified varieties, hybrid development, seed quality, DUS testing, plant variety protection, intellectual property rights (IPR), and precision breeding.

Session II: Clean Planting Materials, Propagation and Nursery Management

Propagation technologies, tissue culture, nursery production systems, certification, quality planting materials, rootstocks, grafting technologies, nursery automation and entrepreneurship.

Session III: Climate-Smart Horticulture Production and Plant Health Management

Climate-smart production systems, protected cultivation, integrated crop management, nutrient management, water-use efficiency, biostimulants, integrated pest and disease management, and climate-resilient crop protection technologies.

Session IV: Digital Horticulture and Precision Farming

Artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), drones, sensors, GIS, remote sensing, automation, digital twins, decision support systems (DSS), robotics, precision irrigation, fertigation, crop monitoring and protected cultivation technologies.

Session V: Natural, Organic and Regenerative Horticulture

Natural farming, organic horticulture, regenerative agriculture, soil health, biofertilizers, beneficial microorganisms, circular nutrient management, carbon sequestration and sustainable resource-use practices.

Session VI: Nutraceuticals and Human Health

Medicinal and aromatic plants, horticultural crops for nutrition and health, nutraceuticals, functional foods, bioactive compounds, Ayurveda, herbal products and plant-based wellness.

Session VII: Postharvest Management and Circular Bioeconomy

Postharvest physiology, packaging, cold chain management, processing, value addition, food safety, waste utilization, circular bioeconomy and sustainable supply chains.

Session VIII: Farmer-Industry Innovations, Start-ups and Horti-Business

Agri-startups, incubation, agribusiness management, technology commercialization, public-private partnerships, precision horticultural enterprises and farmer-industry collaborations.

Session IX: Horticultural Extension, FPOs, Policy, Market Intelligence and Trade

Farmer Producer Organizations, digital extension, market intelligence, value chains, export promotion, policy interventions, success stories, agri-financing and global horticultural trade.

Scholar's Conclave

Special Session for Budding Researchers

- Thesis presentations (M.Sc. & Ph.D.) and Best Thesis Presentation Awards.
- Career guidance, scientific writings and publication, entrepreneurship and mentoring by Eminent Speakers.

Conclave Official Website

www.ishrd.in



This official website is your one-stop destination for all event-related activities:

- ✓ Abstract Submission & Guidelines – Access submission details and guidelines
- ✓ Event Registration – Register easily online
- ✓ Secure Payment Gateway – Make hassle-free payments
- ✓ Download Documents – Get your abstract acceptance letter & registration confirmation
- ✓ Event Fee Receipt – Get your event Fee Receipt instantly
- ✓ Accommodation Facilitation– Submit your stay preferences
- ✓ Travel Itinerary Submission – Share your travel details effortlessly
- ✓ Presentation Guidelines – Get the instructions for oral and poster presentations
- ✓ Event Announcements – Stay updated with important news
- ✓ Contact Organizing Team – Get assistance as and when needed

Everything you need for a seamless event experience is just a click away!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS & PRESENTATIONS

Guidelines for Submission

Abstracts should be submitted **ONLINE ONLY** under the defined thematic areas. The 250-word abstract must be in MS Word, Times New Roman, 12 font size containing a short title, name and affiliation of the author(s), introduction of the problem, methodology followed, and experimental results with conclusions. The e-mail address of the corresponding author must be mentioned. The top right side of the abstract **MUST** mention the name of the Technical Session opted.

Presentation Modes

- **Lead/ Invited Papers:** Invited from leading researchers and authorities to be published in the conference proceeding/compendium.
- **Oral and Poster Presentations:** Screened by a competent committee. Abstracts of registered participants will be published in the Book of Abstracts.
- Selected full papers (Lead/Oral/poster) will be published in *Progressive Horticulture/ Annals of Arid Zone Journals*.

Important Dates & Deadlines

Event / Milestone	Date
Abstract Submission Opens	August 25, 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	October 15, 2026
Notification of Acceptance	October 30, 2026
Submission of Full-Length Papers	November 10, 2026
Early Bird Registration Closes	November 10, 2026
Conclave Dates	December 04-06, 2026



Registration Fees

Category	Early Bird (Till Nov 10, 2026)	Standard (After Nov 10, 2026)
ISHRD Members	₹6,000	₹7,000
Scientist / Faculty	₹7,000	₹8,000
Students - UG/PG/PhD/PostDoc	₹2,000	₹2,500
Project Staff / PostDoc - JRF/SRF/YP/RA	₹4,000	₹4,500
Industry Delegate	₹10,000	₹12,000
Farmers	₹2,000	₹2,500
Accompanying Person (without registration)	₹2,000	₹2,500

***Students** are required to produce a copy of their valid identity card with the registration form and a certificate confirming they do not receive a full fellowship.

NOTE: Accompanying person is not allowed to enter scientific sessions

Registration fee includes:

ISHS member, Non-ISHS member

- Admission to all sessions
- Delegate bag and badges
- Certificate of attendance
- Lunches, dinner, and tea/coffee breaks
- The industry-grower's experience on
- Access to Horti-Expo
- Technical visit

Registration fee includes:

Student Delegates

- Admission to all sessions
- Delegate bag and badges
- Certificate of attendance
- Lunches, dinner, and tea/coffee breaks
- Career guidance by researchers/ academicians and industry experts
- Access to Horti-Expo
- Technical visit

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 1 Exhibitor Registration



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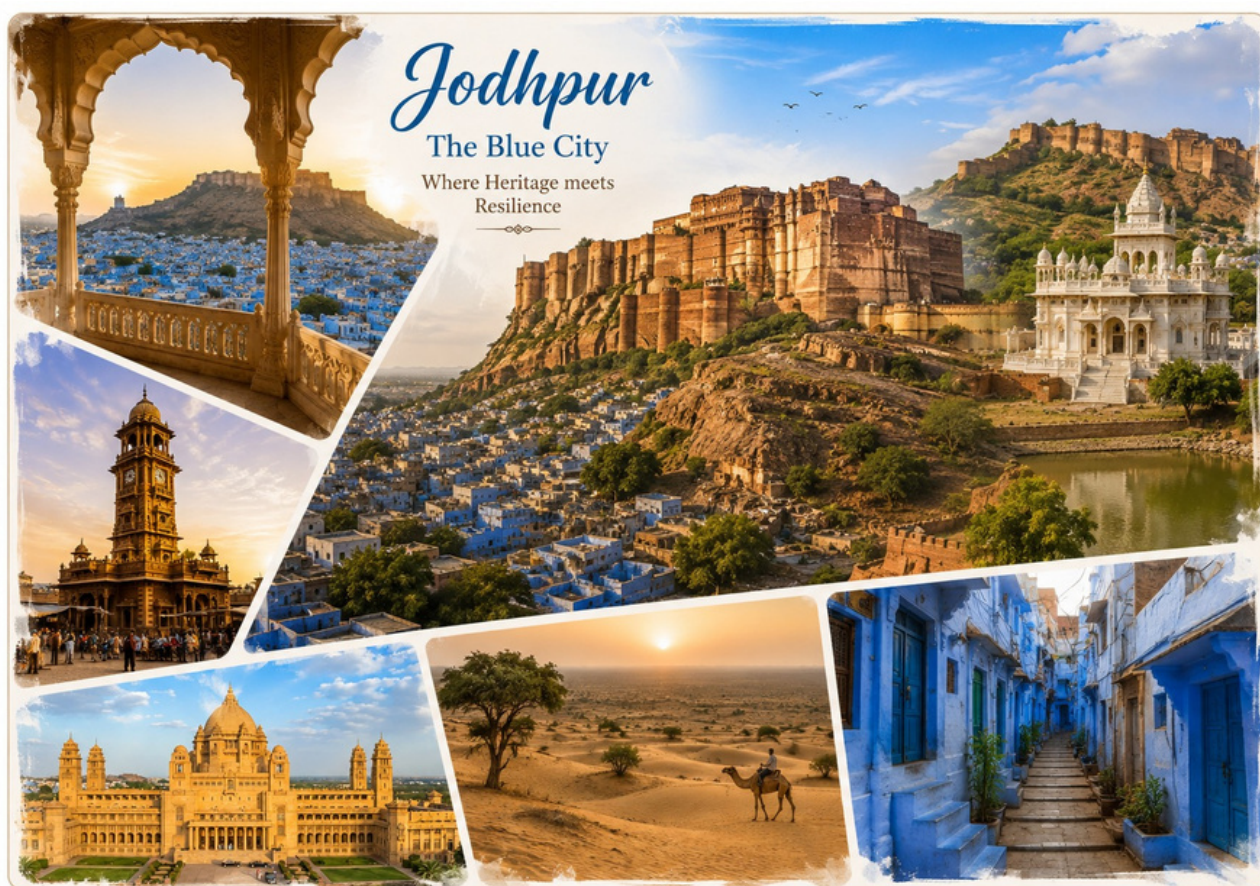
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Jodhpur: The Gateway to India's Thar Desert

Nestled on the eastern edge of the Thar Desert, Jodhpur, the second-largest city of Rajasthan, is one of India's most captivating heritage destinations. Founded in 1459 AD by Rao Jodha, the fifteenth Rathore ruler of Marwar, the city has flourished for over five centuries as a centre of trade, culture, and architecture. Known as the "Blue City" for its iconic blue-painted houses surrounding the majestic Mehrangarh Fort, and the "Sun City" for its abundant year-round sunshine, Jodhpur beautifully blends its rich heritage with modern scientific institutions, where tradition, innovation, and sustainability coexist. For delegates attending PHC 2026 (4–6 December 2026), Jodhpur offers one of the most pleasant seasons of the year. Early December brings clear blue skies, bright sunshine, low humidity, and comfortable daytime temperatures of 24–28°C, with cool evenings and mornings (10–14°C), creating ideal conditions for scientific interactions, technical visits, sightseeing, and cultural programmes. Participants are advised to carry a light jacket or woolen clothing for the evenings. Jodhpur is renowned for its magnificent landmarks, including the imposing Mehrangarh Fort, the elegant marble cenotaph Jaswant Thada, and the grand Umaid Bhawan Palace, one of the world's largest private residences. Visitors can also explore the vibrant Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) and Sardar Market, famous for colourful textiles, handicrafts, spices, antiques, and traditional Rajasthani souvenirs. Beyond its architectural splendour, Jodhpur offers rich cultural experiences through Marwari folk music, Kalbeliya and Ghoomar dances, colourful attire, leather crafts, wooden furniture, block-printed textiles, and metal handicrafts. Nearby Bishnoi villages showcase centuries-old traditions of wildlife conservation, while the desert landscapes, camel safaris, and the historic temples of Osian provide memorable excursions. Jodhpur is equally celebrated for its authentic cuisine. Delegates can savour the famous Dal Baati Churma, along with Mirchi Vada, Pyaaz Kachori, Ker Sangri, Gatte ki Sabzi, Bajra Roti, Makhaniya Lassi, Mawa Kachori, Ghewar, and Malpua, reflecting the warmth and hospitality of Rajasthan. As a leading centre for dryland agriculture, arid horticulture, and climate resilience, Jodhpur has inspired innovations in water harvesting, protected cultivation, precision irrigation, drought-tolerant fruit production, and sustainable natural resource management. These achievements make it an ideal venue for PHC 2026 – "Climate-Smart Horticulture: Ensuring Sustainability and Farmers' Prosperity." Delegates will enjoy not only stimulating scientific discussions but also the remarkable heritage, vibrant culture, warm hospitality, and timeless charm of one of India's most iconic desert cities.



How to Reach Jodhpur

- **By Air:** Jodhpur Airport (JDH) features regular domestic flights connecting directly to major hubs like Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, and Jaipur.
- **By Train:** Jodhpur Railway Station is a major rail head well-connected to all major cities across India.
- **By Road:** Excellent national highway infrastructure connects Jodhpur directly to Jaipur, Udaipur, and Delhi.

Airport and Railway station are 5-6 km away from Conclave venue.