



International Symposium
TROPICAL ROOT & TUBER CROPS
 for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience,
 Entrepreneurship and Sustainability

ISTRTC 4 NARES

17-21 November 2025

Venue: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

Organized by
 ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Kerala, India

in collaboration with
 Indian Society for Root Crops, Kerala, India
 &
 International Society for Tropical Root Crops



BACKGROUND

The tropical root and tuber crops (cassava, sweet potato, yams, aroids and other minor tuber crops) provide dietary food and nutritional security for millions around the world. They are important staples and a major source of energy especially in developing world with rapid population expansion. These crops contribute significantly to the socio-economic security of the people in the tropics in the coming decades particularly under changing agro-climate. Tuber crops are also medicinally important and preferred as health foods due to the presence of many nutraceuticals and antioxidants. Besides, there is immense scope for commercial exploitation in food, feed and industrial sectors. Presently, opportunities for production of biofuels from these crops, especially cassava, are being explored. However, spatio-temporal variability in yield, biotic and abiotic stresses and poor shelf life or poor marketing system due to their perishable nature are some of the issues that need research attention. Vegetative propagation and seed certification are the major concerns in these crops. Some of these crops still remain under-exploited and deserve considerably more research input. This symposium will provide a platform to discuss the recent developments in the production, utilization and marketing of roots and tubers in the context of changing agro-climate and formulate strategies and future collaborative action plan to exploit its potential in agri-food systems.

ABOUT ISTRC

The International Society for Tropical Root Crops (ISTRC) was established in 1967. The objectives of the society are to foster, stimulate and support any type of activity leading to the general improvement of tropical root crop production and utilization. To achieve this, the ISTRC holds international symposia every three years. Countries that hosted previous events included Trinidad and Tobago, USA, Nigeria, Colombia, The Philippines, Peru, Guadeloupe, Thailand, Ghana, Brazil, Japan, Tanzania, India and China. The ISTRC held its first International Symposium in 1967, and the last one (19th) in 2022. The Society's triennial symposia serve as a convening platform for interaction among scientists working on all tropical root and tuber crops from various backgrounds.

ABOUT ICAR-CTCRI

The ICAR-Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI), Thiruvananthapuram, a premier institute under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, carries out R&D activities in 15 tropical tuber crops. The Institute has developed and popularized 71 improved varieties besides evolving zone-specific agro-techniques and cropping systems for climate resilient farming as well as an array of value added food, feed and industrial products to improve the livelihoods of about 200 million people who directly or indirectly depend on these crops for food and nutritional security.



ABOUT ISRC

The Indian Society for Root Crops (ISRC), a registered scientific society devoted to research and development of tropical root and tuber crops was established in 1972 and has more than 500 members including those from overseas. A biannual publication of the society, The Journal of Root Crops, publishes research papers on tropical root and tuber crops.

ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The International Symposium on Tropical Root & Tuber Crops for Nutrition, Agri-food systems, Resilience, Entrepreneurship and Sustainability (ISTRTC 4 NARES) is organized with an aim to understand the scope and importance of tropical tuber crops among various stakeholders including researchers, farming community and policy makers. Keeping in view of the present scenario, various sessions on befitting themes are designed to bring the best research work from researchers and students. The symposium will highlight the importance of traditional food values, improve the sustainability of farmers through better agri-food systems and throw light on the resilience of tuber crops in view of climate vagaries of nature.

A wealth of information on tuber crops has been generated over the years on the improved varieties, management practices and value addition. This international symposium is intended to take stock of the research efforts on tuber crops and identify the befitting technologies. The symposium is also visualized as an eye-opener for the policy makers to introduce feasible technologies to popularize nutritious, processed foods from tuber crops. A concrete strategic plan involving root and tuber crops for addressing the global food security challenges by harnessing tuber-tech innovations is expected to be the major outcome of this symposium.

THEME AREAS

- Session I : Biodiversity and crop improvement
- Session II : Sustainable resource management including seed systems
- Session III : Biotic and abiotic stresses
- Session IV : Secondary agriculture
- Session V : Transfer of technology and commercialization

CALL FOR PAPERS

There will be oral as well as poster presentations as decided by expert peer review team. In each session, there will be lead lecture(s) followed by oral and poster presentations. Authors should upload the abstract (not more than 300 words) in the symposium website before 31 July 2025 or it can also be mailed to the Organizing Secretary (e-mail: istrtc2025@gmail.com). Template for the abstract will be available in the symposium website. Acceptance of the paper will be intimated on or before 30 August 2025. The accepted paper, not more than 1500 words, should be submitted before 30 September 2025 to bring out a special issue of the Journal of Root Crops.



LANGUAGE

English will be the official language of the conference

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission of abstract : 31 July 2025
Issue of acceptance letters for abstracts : 30 August 2025
Submission of full paper : 30 September 2025

REGISTRATION FEE

| Participant Category | Early Bird (30 August 2025) | Regular (30 September 2025) | On Spot |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Indian delegates (Life members of ISRC) | ₹ 9,000/- | ₹ 10,000/- | ₹ 11,000/- |
| Indian delegates (Non members of ISRC) | ₹ 11,000/- | ₹ 12,000/- | ₹ 13,000/- |
| Indian student delegates | ₹ 3,500/- | ₹ 4,000/- | ₹ 4,500/- |
| Overseas delegates | USD 450 | USD 500 | USD 550 |
| Overseas student delegates | USD 225 | USD 250 | USD 275 |

MODE OF PAYMENT

Delegates can pay the registration fee online in favour of 'ISTRTC 2025' payable at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. Alternatively they can transfer the amount in the bank account.

Name of Bank : State Bank of India
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Note:Registration fee includes participation in the conference, lunch, refreshments, conference bag, abstract book, conference proceedings, welcome and closing ceremony.

ABOUT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Thiruvananthapuram, also known as Trivandrum, the capital and the largest city in the state of Kerala is built on seven hills by the seashore and is on the west coast, near the southern tip of mainland. Geographically it is situated at 80 29' N latitude and 760 59' E longitude. The city has a climate that lies on the border between a tropical savanna and a tropical monsoon. During November, weather will be pleasant with mean day and night temperature of 29°C and 22°C. The capital city is blessed with some of the most enchanting picnic spots such as Ponmudi, Varkala Cliff, Aruvi Waterfalls, Kovalam Beach, Poovar, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Neyyar Dam and Shanghumugham Beach. Backwaters of Veli, Kadinamkulam, Anchuthengu and Edava Nadayara canals give a heavenly experience.



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