

FIRST CIRCULAR



1st

INTERNATIONAL MAIZE CONFERENCE 2026

“Next-Generation Maize: Security Pathways for 4F with Environmental Sustainability”



OCTOBER 26-28, 2026



Hyderabad, India 

ORGANIZERS

- Maize Technologists Association of India (MTAI), New Delhi, India
- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, India
- Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTUAU), Hyderabad, India
- ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR), Ludhiana, India
- International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), India



Background and Rationale

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) has evolved into a strategic global commodity at the nexus of food systems, energy transitions, and industrial bio-economies. Its unique versatility across the **4F system (Food, Feed, Fodder, and Fuel)** positions it as a cornerstone crop for addressing the ongoing global “**polycrisis**” characterized by food insecurity, volatile energy markets, and climate change. Globally, maize is cultivated on approximately 210 million hectares with an annual production exceeding 1.2 billion tonnes and an average productivity of about 5.8 tonnes per hectare, making it the most widely produced cereal and a **critical contributor to agricultural GDP and livelihood security across more than 160 countries**. Beyond its conventional role in food and feed, particularly in the poultry sector, which accounts for a major share of utilization, maize has increasingly emerged as a key industrial feedstock for biofuels, starch, and other bio-based products. The global transition toward **Net-Zero Emissions** has further accelerated the demand for maize-based ethanol, intensifying the **food-feed-fuel nexus** and necessitating a careful balance between industrial utilization and food and nutritional security.

The global maize production system is currently under significant stress from interconnected challenges. Climate change is exerting region-specific impacts, including recurrent droughts, heat stress, and erratic rainfall, which are undermining yield stability and increasing production risks. Concurrently, the spread of transboundary pests and diseases is intensifying under changing climatic conditions. These biophysical challenges are compounded by disparities in access to **advanced breeding technologies, digital agriculture, mechanization, and quality seed systems, particularly between developed and developing regions**.

In addition, increasing global demand, input cost volatility, and supply chain disruptions are contributing to market instability. The expanding role of maize in bioethanol, bioplastics, and biorefineries is further reshaping demand patterns, calling for more efficient, sustainable, and coordinated production systems. Addressing these complex and interlinked challenges requires integrated approaches combining genetic innovation, climate resilience, resource-use efficiency, and market intelligence. In this context, India is rapidly positioning itself as a significant player in the global maize landscape, with a growth rate of around 6% in production and utilization. The national target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26 is expected to substantially increase maize demand, requiring an additional 18-20 million tonnes annually. India's strengths in developing cost-effective single-cross hybrids and advancing bio-refinery models also offer opportunities for **South-South and triangular cooperation**, particularly for countries in **Asia and Africa**.

Against this backdrop, the **1st International Maize Conference 2026** is proposed as a strategic global platform to address these multifaceted challenges in a coordinated and collaborative manner. The conference aims to:

- **Facilitate convergence of global research efforts in genetic improvement, biotechnology, and climate-resilient breeding.**
- **Promote integrated approaches for abiotic and biotic stress management.**
- **Advance precision agriculture, AI-enabled systems, and resource-use efficiency for sustainable intensification.**
- **Strengthen dialogue on industrial utilization, bioenergy pathways, and food-feed-fuel balance.**
- **Enhance global partnerships, trade resilience, and South-South cooperation.**

Overall, the conference aims to align scientific innovation, policy frameworks, and international collaboration to build a resilient, sustainable, and future-ready maize ecosystem.

About the conference

Keeping the above in view, the ‘**1st International Maize Conference 2026**’ under the theme ‘**Next-Generation Maize: Security Pathways for 4F with Environmental Sustainability**’ will be organized by the **Maize Technologists Association of India (MTAI), New Delhi, India** in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi; Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTU), Hyderabad, India; ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR), Ludhiana, India; and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), New Delhi, India. The conference will be held at **Hyderabad, India** during **26-28, October 2026** with over 600 global participants. The forum will specifically emphasize South-South Collaboration, bringing together the researchers, policymakers, leaders, representatives of ICAR and CGIAR centres, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs), women farmers, industry, start-ups, entrepreneurs and students to co-create inclusive technology ecosystems.

Objectives

- To facilitate a global dialogue on maize as a strategic asset for the 4F systems and the green industrial revolution.
- To showcase breakthrough innovations in climate-resilient hybrids, speed breeding (Doubled Haploid technology), and AI-driven precision farming.
- To deliberate on global supply chain resilience, biofuel feedstock security, and equitable trade policies.
- To strengthen partnerships between Asian, African, and Latin American research systems for technology transfer and capacity building.
- To mainstream bio-fortified maize (QPM, Pro-vitamin A, Zinc) into global food aid and school feeding programs.



Expected Outcomes

- A global "Hyderabad Declaration" for sustainable maize-based bio-economies and climate-smart production.
- Strategic roadmap for sustainable and climate-resilient maize systems at national and international levels.
- Action plan for strengthening maize-based bioenergy and industrial value chains.
- Compendium of best practices and scalable technologies for productivity enhancement and sustainability.
- Strengthened national and international collaborations for research, innovation, and capacity building.

Conference Themes

Genetic Enhancement in Maize under Changing Scenarios

Precision Breeding & Next-Gen Biotechnology in Maize

Integrated Abiotic and Biotic Stress Management

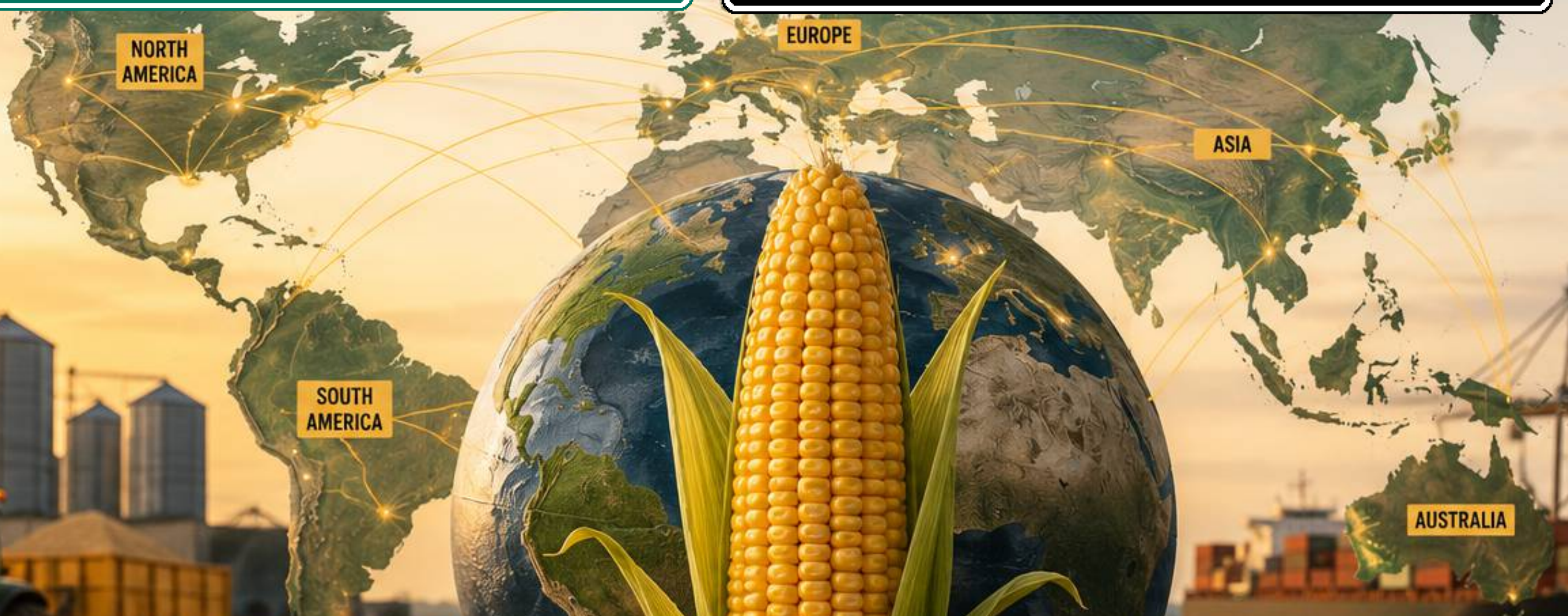
New Vistas in Crop management for Resource Use Efficiency

Precision Ecosystems: AI, Mechanization & Smart Farming

Youth, Societal Retirement & Entrepreneurship in Maize: The Next-Gen Innovation Hub

Industrial Utilization, Bioenergy and Value Addition

Global Trade, South-South Cooperation & Market Intelligence



Conference Presentations

Keynote Lectures

Eminent international and national experts, scientists from academia and industry, policymakers, and progressive farmers will be invited to deliver keynote lectures (15-20 minutes) on major thematic areas related to maize-based agri-food systems, climate resilience, sustainability, and bioenergy.

Invited Lectures

Each invited lecture will comprise a focused presentation of 10-15 minutes, highlighting cutting-edge research, emerging technologies, and recent scientific advancements in maize improvement, production, protection, mechanization, and industrial utilization.

Satellite Symposia/Panel Discussions

High-level expert dialogues will be organized to deliberate on critical and emerging issues in maize systems, including climate change adaptation, bioenergy prospects, enabling policy frameworks, value chain development, market integration, and future growth pathways. **Themes for satellite symposia include:**

- Emerging Scholars Conclave
- Policy Pathways for Sustainable and Resilient Maize Systems
- Voices from the Field: Farmer-Led Innovations
- Women in Maize Systems: Leadership, Innovation & Inclusion
- Public-Private Partnership
- Next-Generation Smart Breeding
- Mechanization in the Maize Value Chain
- Maize Beyond Food: Expanding Industrial and Bioeconomic Horizons

Rapid Oral Presentations

Contributed papers will be screened by a scientific committee based on their novelty, scientific merit, and relevance to conference themes. Selected authors will deliver short oral presentations of 5-6 minutes, followed by brief discussions.

Poster Presentations

All delegates will have the opportunity to present their research findings and innovations through poster presentations. Posters should be concise, visually appealing, self-explanatory, and informative, facilitating effective scientific interaction and knowledge exchange.

Advertisement/Exhibition Opportunity

Advertisement: Institutes, Organizations, and Industries are invited to place advertisements in the souvenir to enhance their visibility among a wide academic and professional audience.

Exhibition: Exhibition on maize innovation & technology will be organized during the conference to showcase advanced technologies related to maize. The exhibition will bring together international and national research institutions, industries, startups, FPOs, and agri-entrepreneurs.

| Advertisement Categories | Fee (INR) | Exhibition Stall | Fee (INR) |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Cover Page | 50,000 | Public Sector/FPOs | 50,000 |
| Full Page Insertion | 25,000 | Private Sector | 100,000 |
| Half Page Insertion | 20,000 | - | - |

Registration Fee

| Categories | Registration Fee for Indians (INR) | After Due Date or On-Spot Registration (INR) | Registration Fee for Foreigners (USD) | After Due Date or On-Spot Regist. (USD) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| MTAI Members | 6,000 | 7,500 | 100 | 120 |
| Retired MTAI Members | 4,000 | 5,000 | 80 | 100 |
| Non-MTAI Members | 8,000 | 10,000 | 120 | 150 |
| Students/Research Fellows/Farmers | 4,000 | 4,500 | 80 | 100 |
| Start-ups/ NGOs | 7,000 | 10,000 | 150 | 200 |
| Accompanying Person | 4000 | 4000 | 80 | 80 |
| Industries | 10,000 | 12,000 | 300 | 350 |

Registration/ Sponsorship/ Advertisement/ Exhibition fee may be deposited through QR code or NEFT transactions in the following bank account:

Beneficiaries Name: Maize Technologists Association of India

Bank Account No. : 91211010001252

Bank & Branch Name: Canara Bank (NSC Branch)

IFSC Code: CNRB0019121

MICR Code: 110015429

Bank Address: National Seeds Corporation Beej Bhavan, Pusa Campus, New Delhi

Pan Card No: AAJAM8544M



NOTE: The registration fee for the participants will cover registration kit, participation in all sessions, a copy of the proceedings, and other soft and printed material concerning the conference, dinner, lunch, and tea/coffee.

Goods and Services Tax (GST): Not applicable.

Sponsorship Opportunity

| Categories* | Amount (INR) | Advertisement Benefits | Free Registration for Representatives | Oral Presentation + Exhibition Stall |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Platinum Sponsor | 1,000,000 | Logo on Website/Banner/Backdrop/Final Program/Full Page Publication | 4 | 2 + 2 |
| Gold Sponsor | 750,000 | -do- | 3 | 1 + 1 |
| Silver Sponsor | 500,000 | Half Page in Publication | 2 | 0 + 1 |
| Bronze Sponsor | 300,000 | Half Page in Publication | 1 | - |
| Satellite Symposia Sponsor | 200,000 | Half Page in Publication | 1 | - |
| High Tea (Exclusive) | 200,000 | Logo of Sponsor with MTAI in Respective Area (First day of conference after inangural function) | 1 | - |
| Registration Area (Exclusive) | 200,000 | Opportunity to place signage in the registration | 1 | - |
| Confernece Bags (Exclusive) | 600,000 | Logo of Sponsor + MTAI discreetly on each bag | 2 | - |
| Pen drive | 400,000 | Logo of Sponsor + MTAI discreetly on each | 2 | - |
| Lanyards for badges | 100,000 | Lanyard will bear the Sponsor's and MTAI logo | 1 | - |
| Notepads and Pens | 100,000 | Logo of Sponsor + MTAI on the front side of the notepads, and one side of the pens | 1 | - |

*Institutions, Organizations and Industries are invited to support the conference through advertisements in the Souvenir/Abstract Book, which will feature messages from dignitaries and articles by renowned scientists from India and abroad, as well as through sponsorship of Satellite Symposia/Panel Discussions on emerging challenges and innovations in maize systems. **Interested companies may fill out the sponsor form (QR code)** or contact to MTAI on maizeindia@gmail.com.



Currency: Indian Rupee (INR) is the official currency of India. Foreign currencies can be exchanged at airports, banks, and major hotels. International credit cards are widely accepted at hotels and shopping centres.

Official language: The official language of the symposium will be English for all communications and presentations.

How to Reach Hyderabad

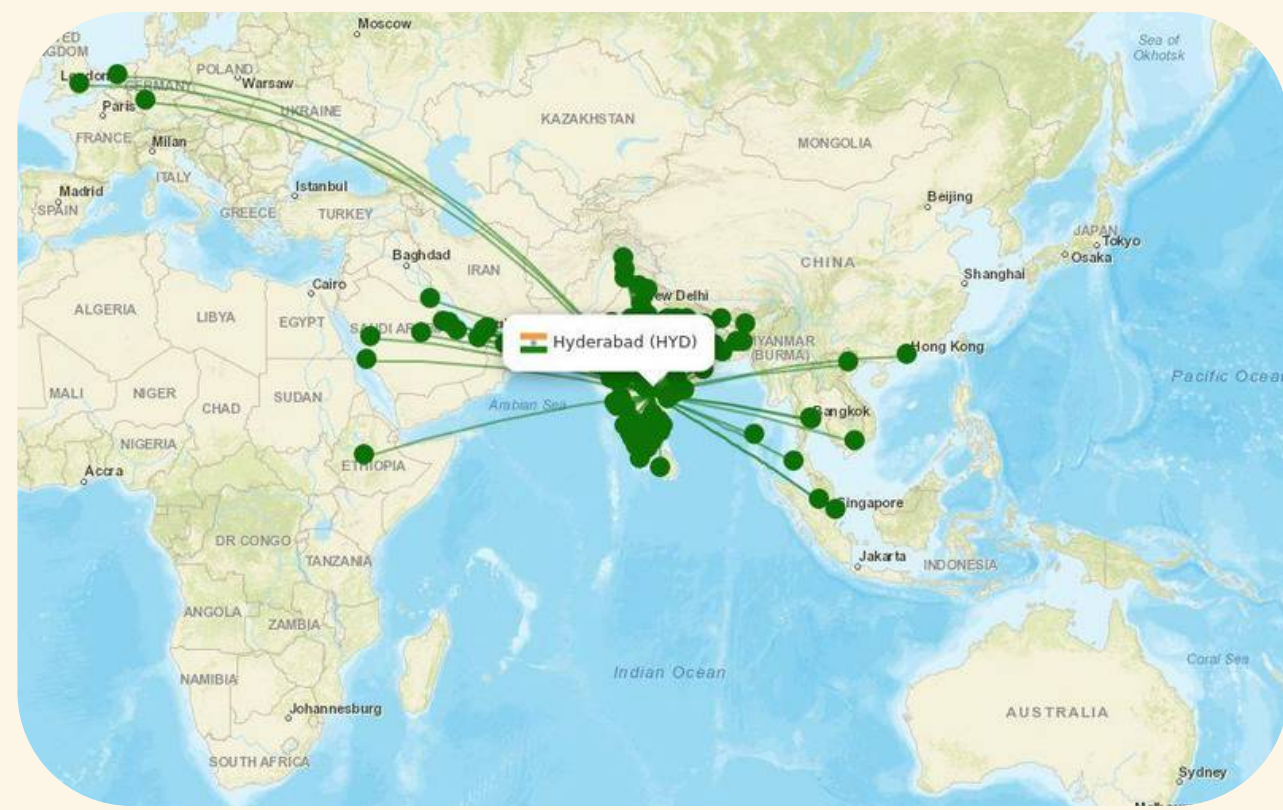
By Air: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad, India

Well connected across Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and beyond. Major international connections include the UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, UK, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar. **Other International Airport:** Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai. The airport also offers visa-on-arrival facilities for citizens from over 140 countries, making it highly convenient for overseas travelers.

By Train: Direct trains connect Hyderabad to all major cities.

- Hyderabad Deccan Railway Station, India
- Secunderabad Junction, Hyderabad, India
- Kacheguda Railway Station, Near Hyderabad, India

By Road: Well-connected through national highways and state roads. Regular bus services (TSRTC/APSTS) from nearby and distant cities. Easy access by hired private car, taxi, or interstate buses.



VISA ASSISTANCE

Where required, for visa purpose the international participants will be provided the invitation letters upon request made to the Society: maizeindia@gmail.com

General Information about the City

Hyderabad is the capital of Telangana which is a vibrant and cosmopolitan city, blending rich historical heritage with modern infrastructure and technological advancement. Founded in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the city has been ruled by the Qutb Shahi dynasty, the Mughals, and the Nizams, leaving behind a legacy of splendid architecture, culture, and cuisine. Hyderabad is today a major hub of IT (Information technology), pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, education, and research, earning it the reputation of “Cyberabad” and “Genome Valley.” Major tourist attractions include Charminar, Golconda Fort, Chowmahalla Palace, Mecca Masjid, Hussain Sagar Lake, Salar Jung Museum, Birla Mandir, Lumbini Park, Necklace Road, Ramoji Film City, and HITEC City. The city is also renowned worldwide for its Hyderabadi Biryani, pearls, handicrafts, and vibrant bazaars. Hyderabad offers excellent air, rail, and road connectivity, modern convention facilities, and a pleasant blend of heritage, culture, and urban comfort, making it an ideal destination for international conferences and academic interactions.

Weather: In October, Hyderabad experiences pleasant and comfortable weather, marking the post-monsoon season. The temperature generally ranges between 20-30°C, with moderate humidity and occasional light showers.



Conference Venue

Hyderabad, India



(PLEASE USE THE QR CODE TO REACH THE VENUE)

Important Dates

Notice of Intent (First Circular) –04 May, 2026

Last date for Submission of Abstract –30 July, 2026

Registration fee (without late fee) –15 Sept., 2026

Tour

Pre- or Post-conference tours to tourist spots will be organized for the registered delegates and accompanying persons in and around Hyderabad, as well as other places of interest on a payment basis.

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Core Organizing **COMMITTEE**



About the Organizers



Maize Technologists Association of India (MTAI), New Delhi, India is a registered society is working towards bringing together all professionals from public and private organizations involved in maize research & development; facilitate linkages among maize stake holders to disseminate latest technology/information; and publish multidisciplinary scientific journal devoted to the maize research.

Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University (PJTU), Hyderabad, India is the premier agricultural university of Telangana, dedicated to excellence in crop improvement, climate-resilient agriculture, natural resource management, and farmer-centric innovations, contributing significantly to sustainable agricultural development and food security in the region.



ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR-IIMR), Ludhiana, India is a premier national institute under the aegis of the Crop Science Division of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. ICAR-IIMR is mandated to plan, coordinate and execute the research programmes to augment the production and productivity of maize in India.

International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), New Delhi, India works in close partnership with ICAR, SAUs, policymakers, and industry to advance maize and wheat research, climate-resilient technologies, digital agriculture, and conservation farming, while strengthening capacity building and evidence-based policy support for sustainable and inclusive agri-food system transformation in India.



Second Circular

The second circular containing further information will be shared soon.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please use a separate form for each delegate)



Registration form are available on the following link:

[Registration Link](#) (click here)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The organizing committee cordially invites abstract submission, typed in MS Word, Font Size 12, Times New Roman font, title, authors, presenting/author's email, affiliating institute(s), theme, and abstract text of 250 words, which should be submitted **with the participation form** or sent to maizeindia@gmail.com.



ACCOMODATION

Participants and their accompanying persons must make payment for accommodation, as it is not included in the registration fee.

Participants may indicate a preference (guest house/hotel) in the registration form.

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