



13th National Seed Congress

{ Under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India }

*Fostering Regional Cooperation, Partnership, and Knowledge Exchange in
the Seed Sector*

**November 28-30, 2024
Varanasi, India**

Organizer: International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) South Asia Regional
Centre (ISARC)

Co-organizer: National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC)
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
Government of India

Our Partners



Seeds are crucial for empowering farmers to address various agricultural challenges, by enabling gain in crop productivity, enhancing livelihood and ensuring food and nutrition security. In India, producing and distributing quality, affordable seeds tailored to agro-climatic zones significantly boosts agriculture. The seed system, involving public and private agencies, is continuously evolving to meet the needs of the farmers amid climate change and dynamic market demands. Innovations in seed technology and policy support have spurred the sector's growth, with India's seed market expected to reach US\$ 11.3 billion by 2027, despite its modest global share of 4%.

The National Seed Congress (NSC 2024) is an annual convergence for researchers, experts, policymakers, representatives from the private sector, government officials, farmers, and other stakeholders to discuss critical issues affecting the seed sector. Building on the success of the previous NSC editions in accelerating developments in seed production, policies, delivery channels, and future directions, NSC 2024 will emphasize various seed system innovations, regional cooperation, seed policy, community engagement in seed delivery, seed entrepreneurship, crop improvement, use of digital innovations and more. NSC 2024 will bring a global perspective to the Indian seed industry, planning for its sustained growth and strengthening its competitive and evolving landscape.



Objectives of NSC 2024

- Create a platform for different stakeholders from the seed sector to share and exchange innovations curated around different domains of seed systems in India
- Reflecting on the system's capacity and priorities to meet the emerging needs of the seed sector
- Deliberate on the progress and new interest in public-private partnerships in seed businesses
- Learn and disseminate the good practices for promoting community engagement for the scaling program for working around challenges
- Formulate a roadmap for sustainable growth of the seed sector in India

NSC 2024 Themes

NSC 24 will focus on the following themes to enhance global food security through improved and inclusive seed systems, regional cooperation, policies, and innovative technologies:

- Challenges and opportunities in the seed sector and the need for regional collaboration
- Enhance market access by strengthening seed trade networks and leveraging digital tools to improve knowledge exchange
- Public-private partnerships for addressing food security through quality seed access
- Technological advancements in crop improvement, increasing productivity, diversification, natural farming, and regulation
- Intellectual property rights and seed movement across borders

Broad program agenda of NSC 2024



Inaugural Session



Panel Discussions (Plenary Sessions)



Technical Sessions



Oral Presentations



Poster Presentations



Exhibition Stalls



Awards and Recognitions



Closing Ceremony

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

Time	Session	Session Venue
Day 1		
8.00 AM Onwards	Registration	
9.00 – 10.30	Technical Session 1: Current innovations in seed technology and quality assurance systems	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
9.30 - 10.30	NSC 2024 Curtain Raiser Welcome and Key Note Messages from Key Organizers and Chief Patrons	Main stage
10.30 - 11.00	Tea Break and Stall Visit	Exhibit Area (Lawn)
11.00 - 1.00	Ceremonial Inauguration and Addresses of Chief Guests	Main stage
1.00 - 1.30	The Seeds of Change Achiever Awards	Main stage
1.30 - 2.30	Lunch Break	Lawn
2.30 - 4.00	Inaugural Panel 1: Indian Seed Sector – The Strides made, challenges remain and way forward	Main stage
	Technical Session 2: Current gaps and future prospects in hybrid development, seed production, marketing	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
4.00 - 5.30	Panel Session 2: India and Globe: Fostering South South Collaboration in Seed Sector	Main stage
	Technical Session 3: Innovative tools, methods and strategies in crop improvement to meet emerging climate and market needs	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
5.30 - 6.00	Tea Break	
6.00 - 7.30	The Great Voyage – Through the lanes of Varanasi (Cultural Programme)	Main stage
7.30 - 9.00	Reception Dinner	

Time	Session	Session Venue
Day 2		
9.00 - 10.30	Panel Session 3: The role of Public Private Partnership for strengthening Indian Seed Sector	Main stage
	Special Pep Talk (Side Event 1): Seeding the Change: Meet the change makers	Lawn
10.30 - 12.00	Panel Session 4: Harnessing Informal Seed Systems for Sustainable seed business: Challenges and Opportunities in South Asia	Main stage
	Technical Session 4: Unleashing the potential of landraces and indigenous crops towards farmers empowerment	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
	Special Round Table (Side Event 2): Strengthening seed sector in Uttar Pradesh	
12.00 - 1.00	Poster Presentation and Stall Visits	
1.00 - 2.00	Lunch	
2.00 - 3.30	Panel Session 5: Revisit the Custodians: Women in Seed System	Main stage
	Technical Session 5: Innovations and impacts of agribusiness, seed delivery and scaling systems	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
3.30 - 5.00	Panel Session 6: Leveraging Market Intelligence in Seed Industry: Bringing Genetic Giants to the Field	Main stage
	Special Round Table (Side Event 3) : Targeting the fallow lands of India through integrated GIS enabled interventions, varietal fitment and cropping system	Main stage

Time	Session	Session Venue
Day 2		
5.00 - 6.00	Tea Break, Poster Presentation and Stall Visit	
6.00 - 7.00	In conversation with the Experts 1: Key Note Speaker	Main stage
Day 3		
9.00 - 10.30	Panel Session 7: A Resilient Future: Development, Advancement and scaling of crops and new genotypes for climate resilience	Main stage
	Technical Session 6 : Strengthening development, market and seed systems for bio-fortified and value-added crops	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
10.30 - 11.30	In conversation with the Experts 2:	Main stage
11.30 - 1.00	Panel Session 8: A Nutritious Future: Development and Advancement of new genetics for Nutrition and hidden hunger Dr Nese Srinivasulu / Dr Saurabh Badoni	Main stage
	Technical Session 7: Practices and emerging protocols and seed health and post-harvest management in varied crops	ISARC PM Hall (1st Floor)
1.00 - 2.00	Lunch	
2.00 - 3.00	Closing Ceremony	
3.00 - 6.00	Varanasi Cultural Tour (Based on pre-book)	

Registration, Sponsorship & Exhibition



Call for Registration

Be a part of impactful discussions, networking opportunities, and the future of the seed sector at NSC 2024. Register now to secure your place and contribute to advancing seed science and policy transformation.

Registration category	Fees (₹)
Industry Personnel	10000
Scientist/Faculty/Govt. Officials	7000
Research Scholar/Research Fellow	5000
Retired officials/FPO/FPC/ Progressive farmers	2500
Accompanying person (s)	2500

The registration fee includes the congress kit, access to plenary and technical sessions, and food and beverages during the congress. Congress kits will not be provided for accompanying persons. **Travel and accommodation expenses are to be borne by the participants. Details of potential accommodation and contacts of the various hotels will be shared on the website.**

Exhibition booth details

The National Seed Congress (NSC 2024) also features an exhibition to help interested companies or organizations showcase their innovations , technology, brand, products, or services. Refer to the tables below for the specifications and costs.

Booths (No.)	Size (meter)	Numbers	Registration Fee (₹)
Regular	3x3	15	50000
Super	6x3	8	80000

Note- In-conference meals and refreshments will be provided to all exhibitors throughout the conference.

Why Exhibit?

- **Visibility:** Showcase your innovations, technology, products and services to a targeted audience of industry professionals
- **Networking:** Connect with the key decision-makers, researchers, and potential clients
- **Brand Positioning:** Strengthen your brand's presence in the seed sector
- **Market Insights:** Gain valuable insights into the latest trends and innovations

Call for Sponsorship

Align your brand with excellence in seed sector innovation and collaboration. NSC 2024 sponsorship opportunities are available to enhance your visibility and engagement with more than 300 key stakeholders who will be a part of NSC 2024.

- **Platinum Sponsorship- 10,00,000/- INR**
- **Diamond Sponsorship- 7,00,000/- INR**
- **Gold Sponsorship- 5,00,000/- INR**
- **Silver Sponsorship- 3,00,000/- INR**
- **Bronze Sponsorship- 2,00,000/- INR**

Sponsorship details	Sponsorship levels				
	Platinum	Diamond	Gold	Silver	Bronze
	₹ 10 lakh	₹ 7 lakh	₹ 5 lakh	₹ 3 lakh	₹ 2 lakh
Complementary delegate registration	10	7	5	3	2
Complementary Super Exhibitor booth	✓	✓			
Complementary Regular Exhibitor booth			✓		
Company logo on Congress mainstage backdrop (Dynamic banner)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Sponsorship details	Sponsorship levels				
	Platinum	Diamond	Gold	Silver	Bronze
	₹ 10 lakh	₹ 7 lakh	₹ 5 lakh	₹ 3 lakh	₹ 2 lakh
Company logo on congress website	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
One speaker slot for a company executive in technical/panel discussions	✓				
Promotional materials allowed in the delegate bags	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advertisement in Congress Souvenir	Full page	Full page			
Special flex/ Banner in display zone	✓	✓			

Additional Sponsorship opportunities:

Lunch/High Tea/Dinner sponsorship

In addition, sponsorships are open for hosting high tea, @200/- per person, lunches @ Rs 500/-per person and special dinner @ Rs. 1500/- per person for a minimum of 300 to 500 participants.

Special flex/ Banner display zone: (companies/FPO & FPC can display new products)

Banner of dimension (3 x 2.5) sqm for 10,000/- per banner (max 2 banners per entry). The design for the banner will provided by the sponsor of this category.

Promotional materials in conference kit:

One product brochure per entry @ 10,000 /-

Logo on lanyards:

Lanyards will include the item sponsor of this category and platinum sponsor

Advertisement tariff in SOUVENIR (Publication and website)

Front cover inside (colour): Rs. 125000/-

Back cover inside (Colour): Rs. 100000/-

Full page (colour): Rs. 50000/-

Full page (black and white): Rs.30000/-

Half page (black & white): Rs.20000/-

Important dates

Last date of registration for delegates & exhibitors	31 October 2024
Submission of abstracts	31 October 2024
Notification of acceptance	07 November 2024



About **IRRI South Asia** **Regional Centre**

Located within the premises of the National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC), Varanasi, ISARC is IRRI's central hub for research partnerships in South Asia and Africa. The Centre was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 29 December 2018 and provides cutting-edge research and capacity development facilities to improve and boost the rice-based agri-food systems in the region.



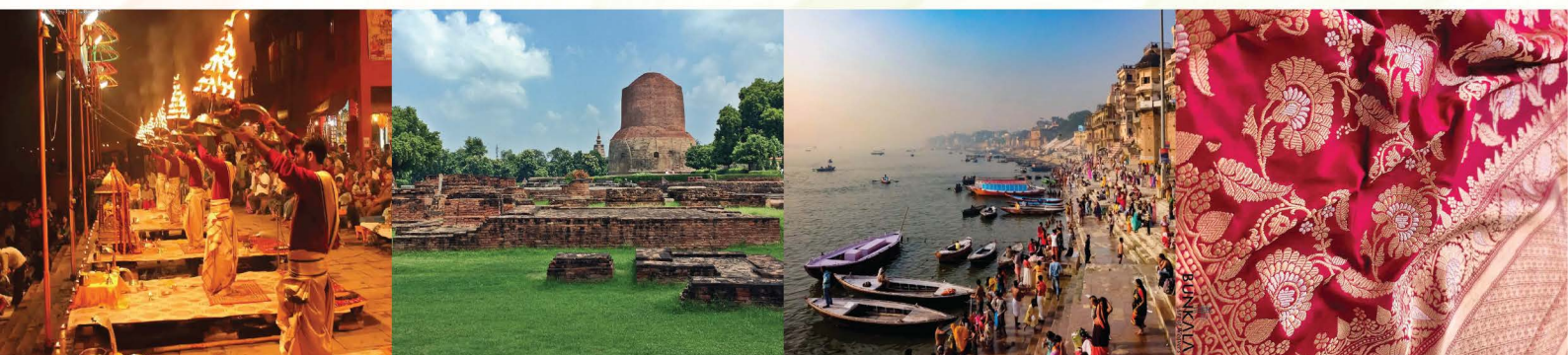


About **NSRTC**

The National Seed Research and Training Centre (NSRTC) is the apex institution for maintaining uniformity in seed testing and human resource development at the national level. NSRTC oversees State Seed Testing Laboratories and addresses their challenges. It educates and empowers seed entrepreneurs through national training programs, workshops, and the National Seed Congress. The NSRTC was established to have a separate National Seed Quality Control Laboratory, which serves as the Central Seed Testing Laboratory (CSTL) for maintaining uniformity in seed testing results among all State Seed Testing Laboratories nationwide. As a member of the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), CSTL is working towards ISTA accreditation to ensure India's seed industry remains globally competitive.

About the **Venue:**

The 13th National Seed Congress will be organized in Varanasi, U.P. which is unique in several ways. Several Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and state-level centers of excellence are located in U.P. and around Varanasi. The research collaboration and shared goals of institutes like Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (IIVR), Indian Institute of Seed Science, etc. are strategically advantageous as the venue for the NSC 2024. A well-connected city, Varanasi is known for its cultural heritage. The world-class infrastructure of ISARC and NSRTC makes it a strategic venue for hosting the NSC 2024.



Convenor : Dr. Sudhanshu Singh, Director, ISARC

Co-Convenor : Mr. Manoj Kumar (IAS), Director, NSRTC

Organizing Secretary : Dr. Swati Nayak, Scientist & South Asia Lead,
Seed Systems, IRRI

NSC Secretariat - IRRI South Asia Regional Centre, NSRTC Campus, Varanasi

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