

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON

SPICES AND AROMATIC CROPS

SYMSAC-XII 2027

Smart-Ecosystems for Spices and Aromatic Crops: Sustainable Technologies and Policy Perspectives



17–19 FEBRUARY 2027
Three days of science, policy & industry dialogue

VENUE
ICAR – Indian Institute of Spices Research
Kozhikode, Keralam, India

ORGANIZED BY
Indian Society for Spices (ISS)
Kozhikode, Keralam
Established 1991 · SYMSAC series since 2004

IN COLLABORATION WITH
Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
ICAR – Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Keralam
ICAR – National Research Centre on Seed Spices, Ajmer, Rajasthan
Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Development, Kozhikode, Keralam
Spices Board, Kochi, Keralam

FIVE THEMATIC AREAS

01 Varietal Development

02 Soil Health & Smart-production Systems

03 Integrated Plant Health Management

04 Nutraceuticals, Value-addition & Food Safety

05 Socio-economic, Trade & Policy

Who should join: Scientists · Researchers · Policymakers · Industry · FPOs · Farmers · Students & Research Scholars

CALL FOR PAPERS | *Abstract submission closes 31 December 2026* | symsacxii2027@gmail.com

ABOUT SYMSAC-XII

Spices and aromatic crops have been cherished since ancient times and are revered for their ability to preserve, enhance flavour and contribute to traditional medicinal practices worldwide. Indispensable in diverse cuisines and embodying cultural heritage, they are increasingly explored for chemical, pharmaceutical and nutraceutical applications that address modern-day wellness and dietary needs.

The global spice trade has grown remarkably in volume and value over the past few decades, with an estimated worth exceeding 25 billion USD and a wide array of products, including extracts, oils and oleoresins. As the spice ecosystem evolves, it is imperative to cultivate sustainable production practices, foster innovation and ensure responsible stewardship of these invaluable resources.

The Indian Society for Spices (ISS), founded in 1991, advances research and development in spices, aromatic and related crops. It provides a common platform for researchers to exchange scientific knowledge and ideas, and fosters linkages among research institutions, development agencies and industry. Since 2004, its seminar series has been named SYMSAC.

Against the backdrop of emerging challenges and new opportunities, SYMSAC-XII aims to foster scientific collaboration, knowledge sharing and stakeholder engagement. Leading scientists, researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders will deliberate across five thematic areas, in a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary interaction and the exchange of innovative ideas.

THEMATIC AREAS



THEME 1 Varietal Development for Addressing Sustainability Issues

In light of escalating concerns about the impacts of climate change, this theme explores breeding strategies and genomic approaches aimed at developing resilient varieties capable of withstanding environmental stressors and ensuring the sustainability of spice production.



THEME 2 Soil Health, Smart-production System and Agro-technologies

The latest innovations and technologies reshaping spice cultivation, including inter alia precision agriculture, INM and organic farming, vertical farming and controlled environment systems, targeted at optimizing yields, resource efficiency and quality standards.



THEME 3 Integrated Plant Health Management

Emerging threats, advanced diagnostics and sustainable management strategies: emerging and re-emerging insect pests and diseases, epidemiology and pathogen dynamics, vector-mediated transmission, advanced molecular diagnostics, AI and digital technologies for plant health monitoring, host–pathogen interactions, plant and soil microbiome research, host plant resistance, biological control, IPM/IDM and innovative approaches for sustainable plant health management.



THEME 4 Nutraceuticals, Value-addition and Food Safety

Emerging trends in nutraceutical applications, novel product development and innovative processing techniques, unlocking new avenues for value creation and market expansion. The theme spans the entire value chain, scrutinizing strategies for food safety and market access to promote sustainable growth and equitable participation across the spice industry.



THEME 5 Socio-economic, Trade and Policy Perspectives

Recognizing the predominant role of the socio-economic context of the spice economy in making effective interventions, this theme takes an incisive, policy-design look at the spice ecosystem and its socio-economic setting, and fosters business innovation.

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Farmers' Interactive Sessions.	**FPO – Spice Industry Meet**	**Dr. Y.R. Sarma Memorial Lecture**	**Western Ghats Kokum Foundation Lecture**

Together, let us embark on this journey of exploration and collaboration, as we strive to shape a resilient, vibrant future for the global spices and aromatics ecosystem.

PROGRAMME & AWARDS

PROGRAMME

The symposium will be held during 17–19 February 2027 at ICAR – Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode, Keralam, India. The latest developments in the field will be presented and discussed. Each technical session will have lead papers (invited) and contributory papers (oral and flash presentations).

AWARDS

Apart from the session-wise awards, there will be overall awards for the participants:

- H S Mehta Memorial Awards – best oral presentation
- Alapatti Prasada Rao Award – poster presentation

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Times New Roman	≤ 300 words	3–5	E-mail
12 pt · double line spacing	Maximum length of abstract	Keywords to be included	symsacxii2027@gmail.com

IMPORTANT DATES

25 Nov 2026	25 Nov 2026	31 Dec 2026	01 Jan 2027	17–19 Feb 2027
Abstract submission opens	Registration opens	Abstract submission closes	Notification of acceptance	SYMSAC-XII, Kozhikode

REGISTRATION FEES

Category	Early Bird (up to 31 December 2026)	Regular (from 1 January 2027)
Professionals / Academicians / ISS Life Members	₹ 5,000	₹ 6,000
Professionals / Academicians / ISS Non-Members	₹ 6,000	₹ 7,000
Students / Research Scholars	₹ 2,000	₹ 3,000

Payment (online): A/c Name: Indian Society for Spices | A/c No: 1855208908 | IFSC: CBIN0282689 | Branch: Chelavoor, Kozhikode | Bank: Central Bank of India

The online registration form will be shared by 25 November 2026 on **www.indiansocietyforspices.in**



ABOUT KOZHIKODE

Kozhikode (Calicut) is a historically and culturally significant city in Keralam, with a rich legacy rooted in the spice trade and maritime connections. Vasco da Gama landed at Kappad Beach, 15 km from the city, in AD 1498 in search of the spice wealth of the region. Popularly known as Malabar, this region is a centre of ethnobotanical knowledge, especially of spices, aromatic plants and ayurvedic herbs. A prominent trade centre, Kozhikode became a cultural hub and is India's first UNESCO City of Literature. During the symposium season, the weather is typically mild, comfortable and pleasant.

STAY & EXPLORE

ACCOMMODATION

Guest-house accommodation will be available to a limited number of participants on a sharing, first-come-first-served basis at ICAR-IISR, Kozhikode. Remaining delegates will stay in hotels at Kozhikode (tariff ₹ 3,000–7,000). Requests may be sent to symsacxii2027@gmail.com.

POST-SYMPOSIUM TOUR

A post-symposium tour will be arranged for all interested participants, offering a chance to experience Malabar's spice heritage and landscapes beyond the conference venue.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLATINUM ₹ 3,00,000	GOLD ₹ 2,00,000	SILVER ₹ 1,00,000	BRONZE ₹ 50,000
• Logo on conference website, proceedings, backdrops, hoardings at the venue, etc. • One-page colour advertisement in the proceedings • Special acknowledgement during inauguration and valedictory functions • Three complimentary registrations	• Logo in proceedings, website, backdrops, hoardings at the venue, etc. • Half-page colour advertisement in the proceedings • Special acknowledgement during valedictory function • Two complimentary registrations	• Logo on conference website, hoardings at the venue, proceedings, etc. • Half-page colour advertisement in the proceedings • One complimentary registration	• Half-page b/w advertisement in the proceedings • Hoardings at the venue

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