

**FINAL CIRCULAR**

**(Last date of abstract submission extended till 11<sup>th</sup> November' 2024)**

**7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium  
on  
Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants  
November, 22-23, 2024**

**Theme  
Underutilized Crops for Health, Wealth,  
Sustainability and Livelihood**

**Organized by**



**Department of Horticulture & Postharvest Technology  
Institute of Agriculture (PalliSikshaBhavana), Visva-Bharati  
Sriniketan, West Bengal, India**

**&**



**Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants**



## **PREAMBLE**

Rural areas are the habitat of the world's three-quarter poorest people who are dependent for their livelihoods in one way or another on agriculture and access to natural resources. Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) of developing countries not only provide vital food supply, employment, health care and raw materials for billions of their own population but valuable raw materials, cash crops and timber for the developed world population as well. Most of these are minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants and other underutilized crops which are cheap and readily available. Underutilized crops often referred to as orphan or neglected crops hold immense potential for addressing food security, nutritional diversity, and environmental sustainability. These crops, which include a variety of grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables, are adapted to local climates and conditions, making them resilient to pests, diseases, and extreme weather. Their genetic diversity can enhance agricultural systems' resilience, reduce dependence on a few staple crops, and safeguard against climate change impacts. Nutritionally, many underutilized crops are rich in vitamins, minerals, and other essential nutrients, contributing to more balanced diets and combating malnutrition, particularly in developing regions. Economically, these crops can offer smallholder farmers new market opportunities and pathways to improve livelihoods by tapping into niche markets and traditional food systems. Additionally, cultivating underutilized crops can help preserve cultural heritage and traditional agricultural knowledge, as they are often integral to local diets and farming practices. Environmentally, they can support sustainable agriculture by improving soil health, reducing the need for chemical inputs, and promoting biodiversity. Therefore, integrating underutilized crops into mainstream agriculture and food systems is crucial for creating a more sustainable, diverse, and resilient global food supply.

Today almost all modern human food is based on a limited number of crops. Since food and phyto-resources are shrinking globally with in population, it is need of the hour to find new alternatives. Thus, these minor indigenous or wild edible fruits and medicinal plants species can aid in crop improvement, ecological and food security. Although these species continue to be maintained by cultural preferences and traditional practices but they still remain inadequately characterized and neglected by research and conservation. Lack of attention indicates that their potential value is underestimated and under-exploited. It also places them in danger of continued genetic erosion and disappearance. This would further restrict development options for poor. Therefore, exploration and listing of these plants with their ethno-biological values are important for knowing and evaluating their economic potential.

Research on the utilization aspect will help to identify new uses, improve production of already known products and also promote welfare of the local community. Unfortunately, little research has been done on identification and utilization. These species have a great potential in the development of herbal enterprise that can be linked with conservation and economic development. Efforts need to be directed towards better maintenance of their resource base, both through *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation methods, to ensure their development and sustainable use by present and future generations. Underutilized fruits and vegetables are nutritional powerhouses that can significantly enhance dietary diversity and health. These crops are often rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and dietary fibre, which are essential for maintaining overall health and preventing chronic diseases. These nutrients are crucial for boosting the immune system, promoting healthy skin and eyes, and supporting metabolic functions. Moreover, these crops can support sustainable diets by promoting biodiversity and reducing the environmental impact of food production. Therefore, integrating underutilized fruits and vegetables into regular diets is an effective strategy for enhancing nutrition and promoting public health.

Considering the pivotal role of minor and indigenous fruit and other edible species, medicinal and aromatic plants species in ecological and nutritional security along with sustainable livelihood development of a region, the present symposium will be an endeavour to bring together all the global stakeholders in one platform to share and exchange their research experiences, exchange knowledge, discuss issues, ideas and views, share innovations and network for the development of minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants. This gathering will also help traditional communities and researchers to collaborate for generating more information on these lesser known plant species and its conservation. Further it aims to highlight the crucial role of ecosystem services towards livelihood and thus is an attempt to relate global millennium goals in order to achieve sustainable development. The Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and Department of Horticulture and Postharvest Technology, Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati, through this International Symposium will also highlight the impact of climate change on these bio-resources and discuss ways to enhance participation of all stakeholders or the community at large to improve their management for ecosystem sustenance and livelihood.

### **About Visva-Bharati**

The University Visva-Bharati was founded by the Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thākur (popularly known as Tagore) in 1921. Visva-Bharati was declared to be a Central University and "An Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament in May 1951. It was granted the status of a unitary, teaching and residential university. The President of India is the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (Rector), and the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (Chancellor). The President of India appoints the Upacharya (Vice-chancellor) of the University.



### **About Department of Horticulture and Postharvest Technology, Visva-Bharati**

The seed of the Institute of Agriculture (Palli Siksha Bhavana) was sown with the establishment of Department of Agriculture and Village Economics was formally inaugurated on February 6, 1922 with Leonard K. Elmhirst as the first Director. In 1957, in accordance with the recommendation of the National Commission on Agriculture of which Elmhirst was a member, an Institute of Rural

Higher Education was set up at the present site of the Institute of Agriculture which was one of a few started all over India. The Institute offered a 3-year diploma course in rural services and a 2-year certificate course in Agriculture. The Institute was meant to produce rural leaders. However, later in September 1, 1963, Palli Siksha Sadana (College of Agriculture) was set up offering 4-year degree course in Agriculture and 3-year degree course in Social Science. Under the latest revised Act of the University, the college has been renamed as Palli Siksha Bhavana (Institute of Agriculture) in the year 1984 where the discipline horticulture was a section under the composite department namely Crop Improvement, Horticulture and Agricultural Botany (CIHAB). The Department of Horticulture & Post-Harvest Technology under Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, started functioning as independent department from September, 2016. Since its inception, the department offers various courses on Horticulture and Post-Harvest aspects of horticultural crops at U. G., P.G. and Ph.D. levels. Besides the academics, the faculty members of the department are also actively engaged in research and various extension activities.



### **About the Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants**

The International Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (SMFM & AP). (SMFM&AP) was established in the year 2013 with objective of promoting research and development and disseminating information on minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants globally. The membership of the society is international and till date the society has successfully conducted six international symposiums including Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. The official publication of the Society is **International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants** published biannually. The journal covers basic and applied aspect of original research on all branches of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and any crops, plants and plant parts having medicinal, aromatic and nutritional properties. The journal is indexed under many international indexing bodies as well as it has NAAS score of 4.7. The official website of the society is <https://www.ijmfmap.in/>

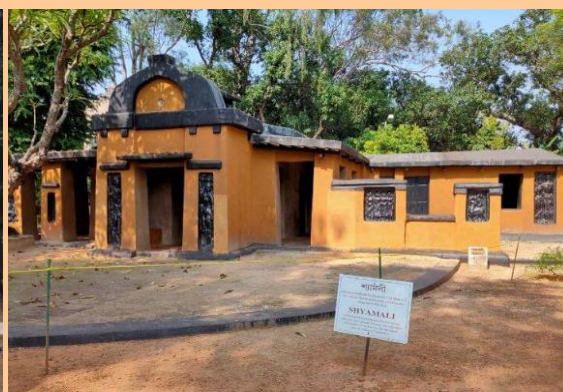
### **Climate**

Very comfortable weather remains during the end of November. The mild and pleasant weather is characterized by cool morning and moderate warm afternoon followed by cooler night. The delegates are suggested to bring normal clothing along with light warm clothes.

### **How to reach Visva-Bharati?**

Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan is ensconced in a rural setting in the district of Birbhum, about 160 km by road from Kolkata i.e. the capital city of West Bengal. Bolpur-Santiniketan is connected both by railway line and road. It takes around 3 hours either by road/train to reach Bolpur-Santiniketan. The nearest railway station is Bolpur-Santiniketan on the Eastern Railway (3.5 km) and the air terminals are Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport, Durgapur (73 km) and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International

Airport, Kolkata (158 km). There are several Express/mail/local trains either from Howrah/Sealdah Railway Stations for those who will come from South/West part of India and from Bardhaman/Durgapur for those who will come from Northern India.



### Sub-themes of the symposium

1. Ethnobotanical exploration, traditional knowledge, documentation and utilization.
2. Genetic diversity, conservation and biotechnology and genetic improvement.
3. Advancement in propagation, nursery management and quality planting material production.
4. Nutraceutical properties, secondary metabolites and postharvest management and value addition.
5. Advancement in production technology for input use efficiency.
6. Advancement in crop health management practices.
7. Marketing, entrepreneurship development, extension and policy issues.

### Abstract and Full Paper Submission

Organizing committee invites delegates/participants to submit abstract for presentation (oral or poster) along with full paper in different technical sessions based on the sub-themes given above. The manuscript/abstract (abstract strictly not more than 500 words) must be in English with the title of the paper, name of author(s), presenting author, designation and affiliation in MS Word (Justified, Times New Roman and 1.5 lines spacing with margin of 2.5 cm on all sides). For submission of full-length paper, the author guidelines given in the website (<https://www.ijmfmap.in/>) should strictly be adhered to. The full-length research papers after double blind peer review will be published in the **International Journal of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (SCOPUS Indexed and NAAS rated)**. All the abstracts/full length paper must be sent as an e-mail attachment

([ismfmap7@gmail.com](mailto:ismfmap7@gmail.com)) to the **Organizing Secretary** **on or before 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**. Abstracts will be published in the symposium proceedings to be released during the symposium. The organizing committee reserves the right to delegate mode of presentation depending on the number of papers and merit of the paper based on originality/novelty of research work on the themes of conference. An area of 4' x 3' feet will be allotted for each poster presentation and for oral 10 to 15 minutes time will be given for each participant.

### Registration, Fees and Accommodation

Application for registration in the given format along with the stipulated registration fees can be directly transfer to the society's bank account as per following detail:

<b>Account holder name</b>	Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants
<b>Bank name</b>	State Bank of India
<b>Account number</b>	37992861230
<b>IFS code of bank</b>	SBIN0001082
<b>Address of Bank</b>	B-9/139 Civic centre, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India, PIN-741235

Electronic receipt copy along with the registration form should be emailed to the Organizing Secretary by email. *Registration fees include conference kit, and fooding.*

Limited accommodation may be available in the guest houses inside the university campus. Request for accommodation of participant must be indicated in the registration form well in advance to arrange for the same on "first-come- first serve" basis. Accommodation will be arranged after payment of requisite hotel charges. The organizers will not be responsible for accommodation for registration done after 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 or on the spot.

### Awards and Recognition

Interested candidates are requested to apply or nominate in the given format for the awards with relevant self-attested documents. Application without supporting documents will be rejected. The Young Scientist Award (up to 35 years) and the Fellow of the Society (not below 40 years) will conferred by the Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants. The duly filled application form (can be asked from Organizing Secretary) with all claims pertaining to award/fellowship must be mailed to [profsnghosh@gmail.com](mailto:profsnghosh@gmail.com) and [ismfmap7@gmail.com](mailto:ismfmap7@gmail.com) addressing to the **President, ISMFM&AP** on or before 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. *The applicant/nominee for the awards must register for the conference as par the date and registration fees given below which will include life membership of the organizing society including the award processing and other fees. No application is required for best oral and best poster presentation award.*

### Dates to remember

Abstract/ full length paper/Award application form submission and registration starts from	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2024
Notification of abstract/full length paper acceptance starts	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2024
Closing date for receipt of nomination and/or award application	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
<b>Closing date for receipt of abstract/full length paper</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>
Closing date of early bird registration	30 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Closing date of late registration and declaration of award recipients	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Registration Fees

Participants/delegates	Early bird	Late	On the spot
Society members (Indians)	INR 3000.00	INR 3500.00	INR 4000.00
<b>Applicant/nominee for the awards</b>	INR 5000.00	INR 5500.00	
Society members (SAARC)	US \$ 100	US \$ 150	US \$ 200
<b>Applicant/nominee for the awards</b>	US \$ 250	US \$ 300	
Society members (non-SAARC)	US \$ 150	US \$ 200	US \$ 250
<b>Applicant/nominee for the awards</b>	US \$ 300	US \$ 350	
Faculty members/Scientists (Indians)	INR 3500.00	INR 4000.00	INR 4500.00
<b>Applicant/nominee for the awards</b>	INR 7500.00	INR 8000.00	
Faculty members/Scientists SAARC	US \$ 200	US \$ 250	US \$ 300
<b>Applicant/nominee for the awards</b>	US \$ 300	US \$ 350	
Faculty members/Scientists Non-SAARC	US \$ 300	US \$ 350	US \$ 400
<b>Applicant/nominee for the awards</b>	US \$ 500	US \$ 550	
Indian students (Bonafide Certificate required)	INR 2000.00	INR 2500.00	INR 2500.00
SAARC students (Bonafide Certificate required)	US \$ 30	US \$ 50	US \$ 100
Non-SAARC students (Bonafide Certificate required)	US \$ 50	US \$ 75	US \$ 150
Industry delegates	INR 5000.00	INR 7500.00	INR 10000.00
Farmers/Growers	INR 500.00	INR 750.00	INR 1000.00
Accompanying person (Indian)	INR 2000.00	INR 2000.00	INR 2000.00
Accompanying person (Foreign)	US \$ 100	US \$ 100	US \$ 100

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

**7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium  
on  
Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants  
November, 22-23, 2024**

(Institute of Agriculture, Visva-Bharati, Sriniketan, West Bengal, India)

Name:

Designation:

Affiliation and address:

Participant/Delegate category (see registration fees section in the brochure):

Corresponding mail and mobile (with country code):

Title of abstract/full paper with sub-theme:

Preferred mode of presentation: Oral/Poster:

Help in booking of accommodation required: Yes/No (if yes, please mention the range of tariff)

**Online registration fees transfer details with amount:**

**Signature with date**