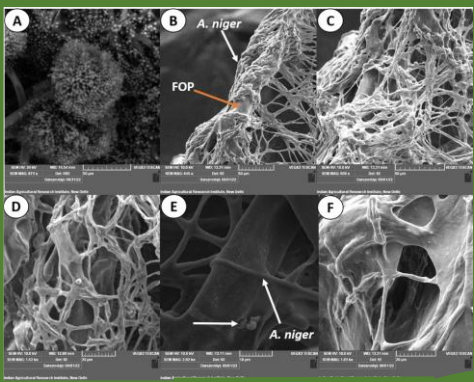
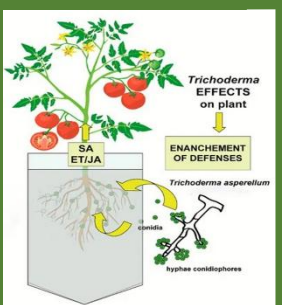


Advanced Faculty Training 2026

Training Programme on

Smart Biocontrol Strategies for Sustainable Plant Disease Management

February 19 - March 11, 2026



Course Director

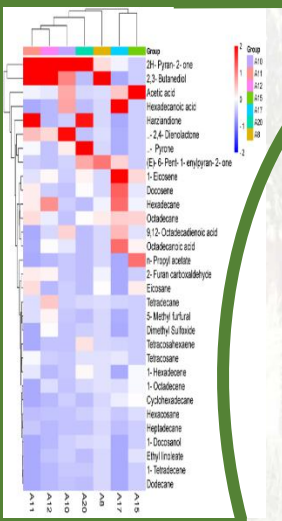
Dr. M.S. Saharan

Course Coordinators

Dr. Lakshman Prasad

Dr. Deeba Kamil

Dr. Vaibhav Kumar Singh



Centre of Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT)

Division of Plant Pathology

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

PUSA Campus, New Delhi - 110 012

Training Programme on
Smart Biocontrol Strategies for Sustainable Plant Disease Management
February 19 - March 11, 2026

The ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, invites applications from faculty members and researchers of Indian universities/research institutions for a 21-days advanced training programme on “**Smart Biocontrol Strategies for Sustainable Plant Disease Management**” sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, scheduled from February 19 - March 11, 2026.

Objective

The major objective of the training programme is to train young faculty and scientists on the basic and strategic front of agriculture with particular reference to biological control with advanced knowledge of bio-agents and their application for plant disease management. The recent advances on morpho-chemo and molecular characterization of bioagents, functional genomics of biocontrol mechanism, nano biotechnology application, use of AI etc. will assist researchers to update their skills on active exploitation of biocontrol agents. The proposed training programme would, therefore, be an essential event for researchers of Plant Pathology on a national scale to have active interactions and experiences to hone their skills in the area of biocontrol. Hands-on training on various topics will be imparted in addition to lectures by eminent speakers so that the participants could apply the same in their research programmes.

Eligibility

1. Master's Degree in Plant Pathology and related disciplines.
2. Working/teaching experience in plant diseases
3. Working not below the rank of Assistant Professor and equivalent in the concerned subject under Agricultural University/ICAR Institute.

Registration Fee

A registration fee (non-refundable) of Rs. 1000/- per participant (Rs. 5000/- in case of candidates from private ICAR-accredited colleges/universities).

How to Apply

The application in the prescribed format must be filled and submitted in physical form or via email to the Course Director (head_patho@iari.res.in) or a copy to the Course Coordinator (lakshmanp013@gmail.com), as the ICAR CBP portal is currently non-functional. The interested candidates need to take approval of the competent authority of your institute/organization/university for application in advance. The final selection will be made only if the application duly recommended by the competent authority is received. The duly forwarded application form alongwith DD/Postal order should be received by the Course Director latest by 15th January, 2026 through email/postal services/courier. The selected candidates will be informed individually through mail till 20th January, 2026.

Total Number of Participants: 25 (Twenty-five only)

TA/DA and Accommodation

The participants will be provided, to and fro fare restricted, however, to AC-II-Tier train fare or as per actual, whichever is less. Participants should produce a certificate that they have not been given TA/DA by their host institute (Head of the Department/Institute), and the training period should be considered 'On Duty' by the participant's parent institution. Boarding and lodging for the participants will be provided at the IARI guest houses, and the training programme will meet the charges.

About the Training Programme

The proposed programme designed for advanced capacity building in smart biocontrol technologies, aligning with national priorities for sustainable crop protection. Most of the biocontrol agents are mainly used as bio-pesticides; bio-fertilizers and acts via releasing enzymes, hormones and different organic compounds. This bring about organic matter decomposition; are in symbiotic relation with plants under crop production particularly organic farming. However, identification, evaluation and selection of bioagents is must, as wrong identification and selection of microbe would result in poor effectiveness/ineffective in biocontrol programmes. With increasing challenges from climate change, pesticide resistance, and emerging pathogens, the training will equip researchers and stakeholders with cutting-edge tools such as molecular diagnostics, SynComs, AI-driven strategies, and commercialization of bioformulations. Diverse groups of biocontrol agents will be studied to update the latest developments in biocontrol research through detailed descriptions of fungi, bacteria and EPNs. Recently, our group has been instrumental in successfully demonstrating the functional analysis of microbial consortia; induced systemic resistance; trapping fungi and characterization of potential bioactive compounds from fungi and bacteria etc. Emphasis on field-level application, regulatory awareness, and innovation ensures practical skill enhancement and supports the development of science-backed, eco-friendly biocontrol solutions for resilient and sustainable agriculture with the main objective to provide a hands-on training on impending biocontrol research.

CONTACT

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Division of Plant Pathology
ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi-110012

Application form for Training Programme on “**Smart Biocontrol Strategies for Sustainable Plant Disease Management**”, February 19 to March 11, 2026.

1.	Name of Applicant:
2.	Sex (Male/Female):
3.	Present Position:
4.	Age and date of birth:
5.	Communication Address:
6.	Phone: Office: Residence:
7.	Mobile:
8.	Fax:
9.	E-mail:
10.	Permanent Address:
11.	Educational Qualifications (From graduation onwards):

Degree	Subject	Year	Percentage of marks/division	Name of the University/Institute

12.	Research Experience:
a)	Area of Research:
b)	Publications during last 5 years (Please attach list):
c)	Indicate the future plans on utilizing the technical expertise gained from the training programme in your research (Attach separate sheet if necessary):
d)	Indicate whether you have attended for summer/winter school/training programme earlier:
13.	Dietary requirements:
14.	Arrival information:
a)	Train Name / No.:
b)	From To:
c)	Date:
d)	Time:
15.	Departure information:
a)	Train Name / No.:
b)	From To:
c)	Date:
d)	Time:

Date:
Place:

Signature of the Applicant

Endorsement & Seal of the Head of Department /Head of the Institution