



## Refresher Course on **Crop Improvement: From Breeding to Genome Editing**

March 3-7, 2025 | Online Mode

Organized by Agri Biotech Foundation (ABF), Hyderabad and Federation of Asian Biotechnology Associations (FABA), Hyderabad, and ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad



### About the program:

The objective of the program is to keep the participants abreast with the latest developments in:

- Plant genomics and marker-assisted breeding for trait improvement in crop plants
- Genetically modified crops for the improvement of nutritional quality, insect and pathogen resistance, and the regulatory guidelines

- RNA interference as a new platform for crop protection against pathogens and pests, as well as crop improvement
- Genome editing and its potential for crop improvement

### **About the Organizers:**

#### **Agri Biotech Foundation (ABF):**

Agri Biotech Foundation formerly (Andhra Pradesh- Netherlands Biotechnology Programme) is an autonomous interdisciplinary research institute engaged in promotion of agricultural biotechnologies and human resource development since 2007. The Foundation has been recognized as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), DST, New Delhi. ABF works closely with premier research organizations like ICAR, DST, DBT, CSIR, NABARD, etc. ABF focuses on Agri technology development and technology transfer, public engagement on technology policy issues and HRD activities.

#### **Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA):**

The Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA) is a non-profit organization established in 2004 for providing a platform for academy, industry, and government bodies. FABA has launched the FABA academy to bridge the gap between academy and industry in human resources development by providing professional development programs to science graduates.

#### **ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR):**

The ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR) was established as All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP) by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1965, with its headquarters at Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. The pre AICRIP Indian Rice Research system was isolated, in some research establishments and universities. The varied difference of opinion regarding the testing of first semi dwarf rice variety TN(1), in every major rice growing areas of India led to the establishment of first nationally coordinated rice improvement project with a fulltime coordinator.

## About the program:

The objective of the program is to keep the participants abreast with the latest developments in:

- Plant genomics and marker-assisted breeding for trait improvement in crop plants
- Genetically modified crops for the improvement of nutritional quality, insect, and pathogen resistance, and the regulatory guidelines
- RNA interference as a new platform for crop protection against pathogens and pests, as well as crop improvement
- Genome editing and its potential for crop improvement

## Speakers:

The lectures will be delivered by the eminent scientists from India and abroad on the relevant topics of the refresher course theme. The following are proposed names of the speakers and several speakers have already accepted the invitation (**Highlighted with yellow colour\***) and confirmation is awaited from other speakers:

### Molecular Plant Breeding and Genomics:

Prof. Rajeev K. Varshney FRS, Murdoch University, Australia\*

Dr. T. R. Sharma, Former DDG, Crop Science and Horticulture, ICAR, ICAR National Professor-BP Pal Chair, NIPB, IARI, New Delhi\*

Dr. Giuseppe L. Rotino, Former Research Director, CREA, Research Centre of Genomics and Bioinformatics, Montanaso Lombardo, Italy\*

Dr. Ramesh Sonti, Director, ICGEB, New Delhi

Prof. A. K. Singh, Former Director, IARI, New Delhi

Dr. V. Ramanathan, Rallis India Ltd.

Prof. J. S. Bentur, Former Principal Scientist, DRR, Hyderabad and Professor, ABF\*

Dr. C. N. Neeraja, IIRR, Hyderabad\*

Dr. M. Muthamilarasan, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad\*

Dr. Kalyani M. Barbadikar, IIRR, Hyderabad\*

### **Genetically Modified Crops:**

Dr. Usha B. Zehr, Director and Chief Technology Officer, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company Pvt. Ltd., Jalna

Dr. P. Ananda Kumar, Former Director, NIPB, IARI Campus, New Delhi\*

Prof. P. B. Kirti, Former Professor, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad and Professor, ABF\*

Prof. K. V. Rao, Former Professor, CPMB, Osmania University, Hyderabad

Dr. V. S. Reddy, Former Group Leader, ICGEB, New Delhi

Dr. Ashwini Malla, R&D Project Manager, Baiya Phytopharm Co. Ltd., Thailand\*

Dr. Siddharth Tiwari NABI, Mohali

### **Plant Molecular Biology:**

Prof. Akhilesh K. Tyagi, Former Director, NIPGR, University of Delhi-South Campus, New Delhi

Prof. A. S. N. Reddy, Colorado State University, Colorado, USA

Prof. Paramjit Khurana, Former Professor, University of Delhi-South Campus, New Delhi\*

Prof. Usha Vijayraghavan, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Dr. Subra Chakraborty, Director, NIPGR, New Delhi

Prof. Attipalli R. Reddy, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad and Professor, ABF

Prof. Ashwani Pareek, Executive Director of NABI, Mohali\*

Dr. Pooja Bhatnagar-Mathur, CIMMYT, Mexico

Dr. Vaibhaw Dwivedi, CEO and Co-Founder of Proleri, Hyderabad

Dr. Rahul Kumar, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad\*

Dr. Bhharat Char, Chief Scientific Officer, MAHYCO, Jalna

### **RNA interference:**

Prof. M. V. Rajam, Former Professor, University of Delhi-South Campus, and Professor Emeritus, ABF\*

Prof. Utpal Nath, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru

Prof. Supriya Chakraborty, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi\*

Dr. Neeti Sanan-Mishra, Plant RNAi Biology Group Leader, ICGEB, New Delhi\*

Dr. P. V. Shivaprasad, National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR, Bengaluru\*

Dr Anirban Roy, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi\*

### **Genome Editing:**

Dr. Fabienne Gehrke, Germany\*

Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Principal Scientist, IARI, New Delhi\*

Dr. Tanushri Kaul, Group Leader, ICGEB, New Delhi\*

Dr. Naveen C. Bisht, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi\*

Dr. Mangrauthia SK, ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad\*

Dr. K. A. Molla, ICAR-NRRI, Cuttak

### **Bioinformatics:**

Prof. D. Sundar, Director and Biocon Chair, Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology, Bengaluru\*

Prof. S. Raghuvamshi, University of Delhi-South Campus, New Delhi

### **Nanotechnology:**

Prof. Absar Ahmad, Director, INC, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh\*

### **Plant-microbe Interactions:**

Prof. Apparao Podile, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad

Prof. Jagreet Kaur, University of Delhi-South Campus, New Delhi\*

Dr. Hitendra K. Patel, CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad\*

Dr. K. R. K. Reddy, Sri BioAesthetics Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad\*

### **Pannel Discussion on “Biotechnological Intervention for Sustainable Agriculture”**

Dr. K. K. Narayan (Moderator)\*, Prof. Sudhir Sopory\*, Prof. Arjula R. Reddy\*, Prof. K. C. Bansal\*,  
Dr. S. R. Rao, Dr. Vibha Ahuja, and Dr. Raman Sundaram\*.

---

\*Accepted and highlighted with yellow colour.

### **Scientific Advisory Committee:**

Prof. P. Reddanna, Prof. M. V. Rajam, Prof. P. B. Kirti, Prof. A. R. Reddy, Prof. J. S. Bentur,  
Prof. G. Pakki Reddy, and Dr. Raman Sundaram,

### **Who can attend?**

The program is open for UG/PG/PhD students/Young scientists/faculty in colleges and Universities/Industry personnel. Participants will be provided certificate of attendance.

**Last date of registration: February 28, 2025**

**Apply Here: <https://forms.gle/Tayat14CfHCVxST38>**

**For more details, visit : [www.abfindia.org](http://www.abfindia.org) ; [www.biofaba.org.in](http://www.biofaba.org.in) or Contact:**

Program Co-ordinators: Prof. M. V. Rajam, Professor Emeritus, ABF, Email: [rajam.mv@gmail.com](mailto:rajam.mv@gmail.com)

Prof. G. Pakki Reddy, Director, ABF, Email: [gpakkireddy@gmail.com](mailto:gpakkireddy@gmail.com)

Dr. G. Jagdeesh, Chief Operating Officer, FABA, Email: [gandla.jagadeesh@gmail.com](mailto:gandla.jagadeesh@gmail.com)