

FUTURE-PROOFING FOOD:

Career Pathways Conserving Crop Diversity for Resilience



*Side Event at Dryland Congress 2026
organized by the Crop Trust and
ICRISAT*

Inspiring the next generation of leaders in crop diversity

Dryland agriculture stands at the forefront of some of the world's greatest challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and food insecurity. Addressing these challenges will require skilled professionals dedicated to conserving and using crop diversity to build resilient food systems.

Join the Crop Trust for an engaging and interactive discussion exploring career pathways that contribute to the future of food security and agricultural resilience.

What to expect

- ✓ Insights into careers in crop diversity conservation and use
- ✓ Perspectives from leading professionals working across research, innovation and food systems
- ✓ Discussion on opportunities in genebank science, genomics, plant breeding, biotechnology and partnerships
- ✓ Networking with peers and experts from across the drylands community

 **11 September 2026**

 **15:30 – 17:30**

 **Agni Hall**
NASC Complex, New Delhi,
India

More information under
www.croptrust.org



DRYLAND CONGRESS 2026
Transforming Dryland Agriculture
with South-South Cooperation

Speakers

- Dr. Sarada Krishnan, Director of Programs, Crop Trust
- Dr. Mahesh Rao, ICAR-National Institute of Plant Biotechnology
- Dr. V. Celia Chalam, Head & Principal Scientist, Division of Plant Quarantine, ICAR-NPGR
- Dr. Gayatri Tripathi, DBT-Bio-Care Scientist, Department of Plant Molecular Biology, Delhi University South Campus
- Dr. Sivasubramanian R, National Agri-Food Biomanufacturing Institute, Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India
- Ms. Usha Zehr, Executive Director, Grow Indigo Private and Director at Mahyco
- Dr. Manish Pandey, Principal Scientist-Genebank and Trait Discovery, ICRISAT
- Prof. KC Bansal, Former Director, ICAR-NBPGR
- Dr. Julianne Biddle, Partnerships Lead, Crop Trust (Chair)