

Second Circular
(Barisal)



International Conference

on

Food Systems in Transition

Navigating the Future of Food

February 11-13, 2026

Organized by

Bihar Agricultural University

Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar

India

Food safety and nutrition are fundamental to achieving good health, productivity, and sustainable development. According to the WHO, over 820 million people globally suffer from hunger, while more than 2 billion lack access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food. Meanwhile, diet-related non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like obesity, heart disease, and diabetes are on the rise. These facts underline the need for urgent attention toward both safe food systems and nutritional quality. In 2023, nearly 282 million people or 21.5 % of the analysed population in 59 countries/territories faced high levels of acute food insecurity requiring urgent food and livelihood assistance. According to the 2025 edition of the Global Report on Food Crises, over 295 million people experienced acute hunger last year. At the same time, climate extremes are becoming more severe, disrupting global food security by damaging harvests and breaking supply chains. Regulatory frameworks such as Codex Alimentarius (set by FAO and WHO) and national bodies like the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) play a critical role in establishing safety standards, food labelling rules, and inspection systems. These ensure that consumers have access to safe, accurately labelled, and high-quality food. In the food sector, Geographical Indication tagged foods such as makhana, shahi litchi, Zardalu mango, etc. are getting promoted. These products possess unique qualities linked to their specific geographical origin. Many GI-tagged foods are traditional, minimally processed, and based on indigenous cultivation or preparation practices, which often retain higher nutritional value compared to mass-produced alternatives.

Around the world, innovative startups are increasingly stepping up to address food safety concerns, malnutrition, and changing dietary needs. India, too, has witnessed a rapid rise in startups that contribute to both food safety and nutritional advancement. Startups provide fast, scalable technological solutions to persistent challenges, while policies offer the regulatory framework and infrastructure for widespread adoption. Public-private partnerships, capacity building, and community engagement are key to achieving these goals. By working together, startups and government bodies can help ensure that the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) are met effectively and equitably.

In recent years, the global food industry has witnessed a paradigm shift driven by rising consumer awareness, technological advancements, and increasing demand for safe, nutritious, and sustainable food products. At the same time, challenges such as food adulteration, malnutrition, supply chain disruptions, and environmental concerns continue to pose serious threats to food security and public health. Traditional diets, which were once rich in whole grains, legumes, seasonal fruits, and vegetables, are increasingly being replaced by highly processed foods high in sugar, salt, unhealthy fats, and refined carbohydrates. This shift contributes to rising cases of Non Communicable diseases. The Global Burden of Disease Study (2019) attributes 11 million deaths annually due to unhealthy diets. To address these issues, promoting traditional, balanced diets and regulating ultra-processed food consumption through policy, education, and food system reforms is essential for safeguarding global health. Nations worldwide are prioritizing resilient food systems through innovations in functional foods, nutraceuticals, and eco-friendly processing and packaging technologies. Against this backdrop, the International Conference on Food Systems in Transition: Navigating the Future of Food (FST-2026) aims to provide a dynamic platform for academicians, researchers, industry experts, and policymakers to share insights, explore solutions, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing the pressing issues shaping the future of food and nutrition at both national and global levels.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- To Address Emerging Challenges in Food Safety, Quality and Regulatory Compliance
- To Promote Innovation in Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals and Sustainable Processing
- To Foster Collaboration Between Academia, Industry and Policy Makers

THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

1. Agroecology, Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

- Indigenous and traditional knowledge in farming, storage and food use
- Sustainable and regenerative agricultural production systems
- Food and nutrition security under changing climate

2. Postharvest Management, Cold Chain and Food Loss Reduction

- Postharvest handling, storage and quality management of agri-produce
- Innovative packaging, Cold and supply chain management
- Food loss, waste reduction and postharvest food safety

3. Innovative Food Processing Technologies

- Non-thermal Processing and Automation and Digitalization in Food Industries
- AI, IoT, blockchain and data driven food supply chains
- Robotics, Machine Vision and Intelligent Quality Control Systems

4. Advances in Functional and Future Foods

- Functional foods, nutraceuticals and bioactive compounds
- Protein innovations: Plant based, microbial, insect and cell based
- Personalized, therapeutic and precision nutrition

5. Consumer Behaviour, Food Safety, Quality and Markets

- Food safety, quality standards and regulatory frameworks
- Consumer preferences, nutrition awareness and health focused foods
- Domestic and global agri-food markets, trade and value chains

6. Agri-Food Start-ups, Govt. policies and Extension Technologies

- New product development and technology commercialization
- Empowering women and youth in food systems
- Government policies on strengthening and promoting food start up

Call for Abstract

The Abstract must be submitted to email icfstbausaabour@gmail.com on or before 10th January, 2026. The abstract may follow a range of 200 to 300 words and should be typed in MS-Word (Times New Roman, Font size 12, Line spacing 1.5).

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Supporting Journals

Journal of Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Foods (Q1; IF-5.3/SCI)

Food & Humanity (Elsevier; Scopus; ESCI)

Journal of Packaging, Technology & Research (Springer)

Our Speakers

- Prof J.F. Ayala-Zavala, Professor, CIAD Mexico
- Dr Somsak Kramchote, Professor, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand
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- Prof. Ashwani Kumar Thakur, Professor, Department of BSBE, IIT Kanpur
- Dr. Siddhartha Singha, Associate Professor, School of Agro and Rural Technology, IIT Guwahati
- Prof R. S. Dhua, Former Head and Professor (Retd), Department of Postharvest Management, BCKV, West Bengal
- Dr Pradeep Singh Negi, Professor, Department of Fruit and Vegetable Technology, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysore
- Dr. Asna Urooj, Professor, Food Science and Nutrition, University of Mysore, Mysore
- Shri Uttam Kumar, Eggoz Nutrition, Gurgaon, Haryana, India
- Dr Deepak Kumar, Nextnode Bioscience Pvt Ltd., Kadi, Gujarat,
- Shri Sayyad H. K., Karnuur India, Pune, India
- Shri M. K. Thakur, Chairman, Mithila Vegetable Cooperative Union, Darbhanga

About The Organizer

Established on August 5, 2010, Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, serves as a foundational and strategic agricultural institution in the state of Bihar. It focuses on providing education at the graduate and postgraduate levels, conducting basic, strategic, applied, and adaptive research, ensuring effective technology transfer, and enhancing the capacity of farmers and extension personnel. The university comprises 10 colleges of agriculture and allied streams and twelve research units across three agro-ecological zones in Bihar. Additionally, it has 22 extension units (Krishi Vigyan Kendras) under its jurisdiction. Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour has been accredited by the prestigious Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and University Grants Commission (UGC). The Department of Food Science and Postharvest Technology of Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities that foster quality teaching, cutting-edge research, hands-on learning, and innovative experimentation in food sectors. World-class laboratories, including Chromatography, Proximate Analysis, Postharvest Biology, and Chemical Analysis Labs, provide an ideal environment for students and researchers to explore and discover. The department's processing units, featuring a beverage processing line, canning line, maize processing line, honey processing line, and bakery line, enable practical training and innovation. NABL-accredited testing and certification laboratory (ISO 17025:2017) ensures high-quality research and supports start-ups, farmers, and entrepreneurs in industrializing food sector innovations. The department is actively engaged in research and development activities focused on traditional food transition to modern food, shelf life extension, packaging, and storage of fresh fruits and vegetables. Our faculty and researchers have developed several patented technologies in the line of modernization and development of novel food products, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the food industry. With a strong emphasis on practical training and innovation, the department aims to produce graduates who are well-equipped to address the challenges of the food industry and make a positive impact in the field of food science and postharvest technology.

Who Should Attend?

Food and Postharvest Technologist and Allied Agricultural Field
Nutritionists and Public Health Experts
Industry Leaders & Innovators
Government Regulators & Policymakers
Academic Researchers & Students
NGOs and Sustainability Advocates

Conference Highlights

Plenary Talks by Global Experts
Technical Sessions & Poster Presentations
Industry-Academia Panel Discussions
Networking Opportunities
Exhibition of Emerging Technologies

Registration Fee

Category	Registration Fee		Overseas
	Pre-registration	On spot	
Scientists/ Faculty/ Start-up/Industries	₹ 4000.0	₹ 5000.0	\$120.0
Students/Entrepreneurs/Farmers	₹ 1000.0	₹ 1200.0	\$60.0



Registration fee may be deposited directly in the account or through QR Code
(A/c No. 04870110105511; IFS Code : UCBA000487)

Sponsorship & Exhibition Opportunity

Partnership Opportunities

We are excited to announce the upcoming International Conference on Food Systems in Transition: Navigating the Future of Food (FST-2026), a premier gathering of experts and professionals in the field of Food Science and Postharvest Technology on February 11 to 13th, 2026 at Bihar Agricultural University, Sabour, Bhagalpur, Bihar. The conference aims to bring together academia, industry, and stakeholders to share knowledge, showcase innovations, and discuss the latest trends and challenges in the field.

Why Sponsor?

By sponsoring FST-2026, your organization will benefit from:

1. Increased visibility and brand awareness among a targeted audience of industry professionals, researchers, and students
2. Opportunities to showcase your products and services through exhibition booths and sponsorship packages
3. Thought leadership and networking opportunities with key decision-makers and influencers in the field
4. Access to cutting-edge research and innovations in food science and postharvest technology

Sponsorship Packages

We offer customized sponsorship packages to suit your organization's needs and goals. Our packages include:

Items and Partnership Contribution	Full colour page Ad Free in Technical Souvenir	Log on Brochure/ Back Drop	Speaker	Free Delegates	Branding
Platinum partners (8.0 Lakh)	Yes	Yes	Yes	8	Yes
Gold partners (5.0 Lakh)	Yes	Yes	Yes	5	Yes
Silver partners (3.0 Lakh)	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	Yes
Bronze partners (1.0 Lakh)	Yes	Yes	-	2	Yes
Exhibition Booth Sponsorship (0.25 Lakh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10x10 sq ft stalls available for food companies, startups and sponsors• Exhibit your food products and connect with a global audience.• Enhance visibility, branding, and marketability				

Join Us!

We're inviting industries and companies to partner with us by sponsoring FST-2026. Your support will help us make this event a success and contribute to the growth and development of the food industry. If you're interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at icfstbausabour@gmail.com.

Let's work together to make FST-2026 a success!



International Conference

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Registration Form

Name : (Prof./Mr./MRs./Ms.): _____

Designation : _____

Organization: _____

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Thematic Area: _____

Title of Paper/ Abstract: _____

Mode of presentation: Oral ☐ Poster ☐

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Accommodation : Required ☐ Not Required ☐

Travel Itinerary : Arrival : _____ Departure _____

Date



Signature of Participant

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