

**8th International Symposium
on
Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants**

February, 26-27, 2027

Theme

***Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants:
Health, Wealth and Sustainability***



Jointly Organized by

**Department of Horticulture
North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus
Tura, Meghalaya**

&

**Department of Environmental Science
Gauhati, University, Guwahati, Assam**

**In Collaboration with
Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants
&
Botanical Society of Assam**



Background

Rural areas are home to nearly three-quarters of the world's poorest people, most of whom depend directly or indirectly on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods. Agricultural and Natural Resources (ANR) in developing countries provide essential food, employment, healthcare, and raw materials to billions of people. At the same time, they contribute valuable raw materials, cash crops, timber, and other resources to global markets. Many of these resources are minor, inexpensive, easily accessible, and locally available. Their nutritional, medicinal, therapeutic, and industrial significance has long been recognized and utilized by indigenous and local communities. A wide range of value-added products can also be developed from these resources. However, many minor fruits, edible plants, medicinal plants, and aromatic plants are increasingly threatened in their natural habitats because of overexploitation, deforestation, habitat degradation, pollution, and other environmental changes. The continuing deterioration of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity highlight the urgent need for the conservation, systematic documentation, and sustainable utilization of these plant resources. In particular, it is essential to preserve the traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities and promote their sustainable application for livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation. At present, human food production relies heavily on a relatively small number of major crops. With increasing population pressure, changing environmental conditions, and the continuing decline of food and plant resources, there is an urgent need to explore alternative and underutilized plant resources. Minor indigenous and wild edible fruits, food plants, medicinal plants, and aromatic species can play an important role in crop improvement, ecological sustainability, nutritional security, and food security. Although many of these species continue to be conserved through traditional practices and cultural preferences, they remain poorly characterized and receive limited attention from researchers, policymakers, and conservation agencies. Their inadequate recognition and documentation have resulted in their potential being largely underutilized. This situation also increases the risk of genetic erosion and eventual disappearance of several valuable species, thereby reducing livelihood and development opportunities for rural and resource-dependent communities. Therefore, systematic exploration, documentation, and evaluation of these plant resources and their ethnobiological significance are essential for assessing their ecological, nutritional, medicinal, and economic potential. Research focusing on the utilization and value addition of these resources can help identify new uses, improve existing products, enhance local production systems, and contribute to the socioeconomic well-being of rural communities. Unfortunately, research and reliable documentation on the identification, utilization, cultivation, processing, and commercialization of many such plant species remain limited. The available information is often scattered and inadequate. Nevertheless, these lesser-known plant resources possess considerable potential for the development of herbal, nutraceutical, food, and other nature-based enterprises that can simultaneously support biodiversity conservation and local economic development. Greater emphasis should therefore be placed on strengthening the resource base through appropriate in situ and ex situ conservation approaches. Such efforts are essential to ensure the sustainable management, utilization, and continued availability of these resources for present and future generations. Considering the important contribution of minor fruits, indigenous and wild edible plants, medicinal and aromatic plants to ecological security, nutritional well-being, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods, there is a need for greater collaboration among researchers, policymakers, practitioners, industries, and indigenous and local communities. In this context, the proposed symposium will provide a common platform for stakeholders from different parts of the world to share research findings, exchange knowledge and experiences, deliberate on emerging challenges, generate new ideas, showcase innovations, and establish collaborative networks for the conservation, utilization, and sustainable development of minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants, and other lesser-known plant resources. The gathering will also facilitate interaction between traditional knowledge holders and researchers, thereby promoting collaborative documentation, validation, conservation, value addition, and sustainable utilization of these valuable plant species. Furthermore, the symposium will emphasize the role of ecosystem services in supporting rural livelihoods and sustainable development and explore their linkages with global sustainable development goals. The International Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants, North-Eastern Hill University, Tura Campus and Gauhati University, Guwahati, through this International Symposium, will also draw attention to the impacts of climate change on these important bioresources and deliberate on strategies for strengthening the participation of local communities and other stakeholders in their conservation and management. Such collective efforts will contribute to ecosystem sustainability, biodiversity conservation, nutritional security, livelihood enhancement, and sustainable development.

About The Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants

The Society of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (SMFM & AP) was established in the year 2013 with the objectives of promoting research and development and disseminating scientific and developmental information on minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants globally. The membership of the society is spread through the world and till date the society has successfully conducted seventh 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 which covers basic and applied aspect of original research on all branches of Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants as well as the crops, plants and plant parts having medicinal, aromatic and nutritional properties. The official website of the society is <https://www.ijmfmap.in/>

About NEHU

North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), a central university established in 1973, is headquartered at Shillong with a campus at Tura, Meghalaya. Created to serve the educational and developmental needs of the north eastern region, NEHU today has over 47 postgraduate departments, five Centres of Studies, and around 79 affiliated colleges offering undergraduate and professional courses. It provides programs ranging from undergraduate to doctoral levels in diverse disciplines such as sciences, humanities, social sciences, education, technology, law, and environmental studies. The university is supported by a strong infrastructure that includes a well-stocked central library, specialized laboratories, a Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF), and dedicated research centres, fostering advanced learning and innovation. Known for its strong student-teacher ratio and vibrant academic culture, NEHU consistently features in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) and was ranked 29th among central universities in the IIRF 2025. Over the decades, it has played a pivotal role in promoting higher education, research, and cultural integration, emerging as a hub of knowledge and regional development in Northeast India.



About Gauhati University:

Established on January 26, 1948, Gauhati University (GU) is the oldest, largest, and premier public state university in Northeast India. Located on a sprawling 650-acre residential campus in Jalukbari, Guwahati, the institution serves as a vital intellectual, research, and socio-cultural hub for the entire region. Accredited with a NAAC 'A+' Grade, Gauhati University is consistently recognized for its academic excellence, ranking 9th among all State Public Universities and 33rd among all Indian Universities in the National Institutional Ranking Framework

(NIRF). The university comprises over 40 postgraduate departments across diverse faculties—including Arts, Science, Technology, Commerce, Law, and Medicine—and exercises academic jurisdiction over more than 300 affiliated colleges. Deeply rooted in heritage, its historical legacy is championed by its founding Vice-Chancellor, the legendary scholar Prof. Krishna Kanta Handique, and celebrated by alumni icons such as Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. Today, Gauhati University stands at the forefront of cutting-edge research, regional policy formulation, and global academic collaborations.



About Department of Horticulture, NEHU: The Department of Horticulture at North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Tura Campus, was established in 2012 under the School of Human & Environmental Sciences with the aim of advancing horticulture education and research in Northeast India. It currently offers M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes, focusing on producing skilled Horticulture professionals and promoting sustainable management of horticulture resources. The department emphasizes research in Fruit production, flower production and value addition, vegetable science and postharvest management of horticultural crops. With a dedicated department integrates teaching, research, and community engagement, positioning itself as a centre for knowledge and innovation in horticulture and allied sciences in the ecologically sensitive region of Meghalaya.

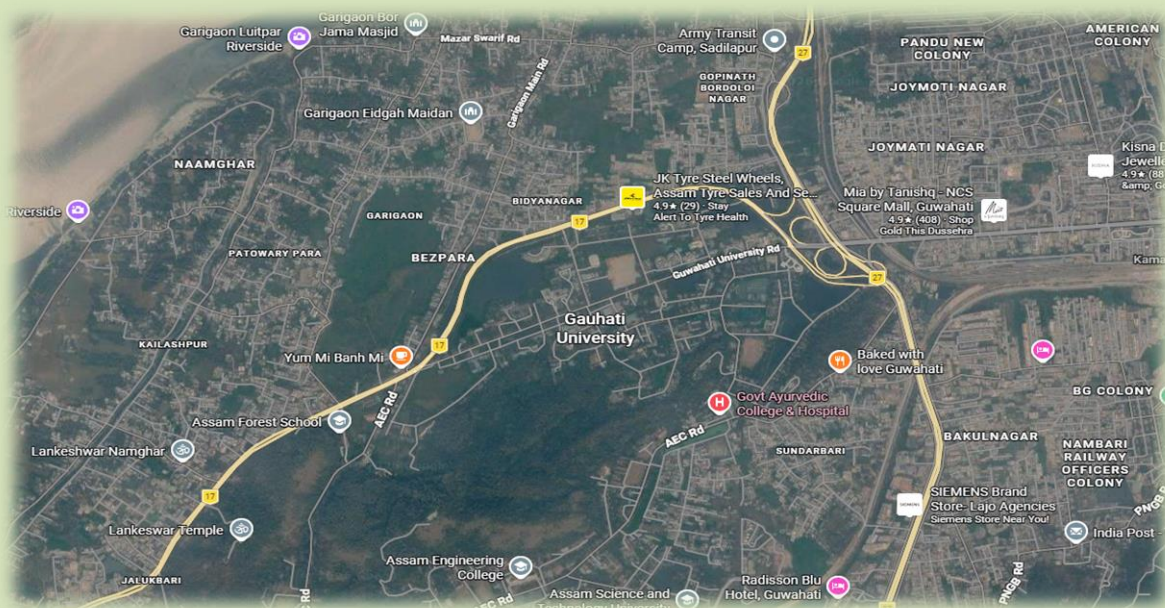


About Department of Environmental Science, Guwahati University: The Department of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, established in 1978 as an Environmental Research Unit and upgraded to a full-fledged Department in 1980, is the first in Northeast India to offer teaching and research in this interdisciplinary field. Dedicated to quality higher education and addressing regional environmental needs, the department has served for over 45 years in teaching, research, and extension activities covering areas like environmental meteorology, geophysics, pollution studies, and natural hazards. It has been playing a leading role in environmental conservation, sustainable resource management, and public awareness, supported by advanced facilities in GIS, remote sensing, seismic monitoring, pollution analysis, and EIA in the region since its inception. The Department houses a beautiful MAP gardens for the benefits of the researchers and students.



Venue

The venue of the symposium will be Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India. Gauhati University, located in Jalukbari, Guwahati, is one of the premier centres of higher education and research in Northeast India. The university is well connected by air, rail and road, making it convenient for delegates from across the country.



With its excellent connectivity, academic environment and scenic setting, Gauhati University offers a convenient and appropriate venue for a national seminar/conference. Foreign delegates may reach Guwahati airport via any airport of India. Pre-paid taxis are available at the Guwahati airport which will drop to Gauhati University. Indian delegates either may also reach Guwahati airport or can travel by train up to Kamakhya Railway station or Guwahati Railway station.

By Air: The nearest airport is Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (Guwahati Airport), approximately 20 km from the university. Regular flights connect Guwahati with major Indian cities including Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad.

By Railway: Guwahati Railway Station and Kamakhya Railway Station provide excellent rail connectivity with major cities across India. The university is approximately 8–10 km from Guwahati Railway Station and about 5 km from Kamakhya Railway Station.

By Road: Guwahati is well connected by national highways and inter-state road networks to major cities of Assam and neighbouring states. Gauhati University is situated at Jalukbari and is readily accessible from the city centre, airport and major transport terminals.

Climate and Weather Information

The conference takes place during late February, which features some of the most pleasant, clear, and comfortable weather of the year in Guwahati. Based on long-term data from the Global Historical Climatology Network, daytime maximum temperatures comfortably average around 27.0°C (80.7°F) under mostly sunny skies, making it ideal for outdoor movement and campus transit. Evening temperatures drop to a refreshing and cool average minimum of 14.8°C (58.7°F). Late November sits firmly in the dry post-monsoon winter transition, with negligible rainfall averaging just 0.2 mm (0.01 inches) daily. Because of the clear skies, daytime conditions are warm while early mornings and late nights feel crisp. Delegates are highly encouraged to pack lightweight attire for daytime sessions and layered clothing—such as a light jacket, sweater, or shawl—for cooler evening events and outdoor commutes across the Gauhati University campus.

TOUR

A free tour to Nokrek Biosphere Reserve for all the participants is planned depending on number of delegates interested. Tours for the other spots can be arranged on demand only.

Sub-themes of the symposium

1. Biodiversity, conservation and genetic improvement
2. Convincing Agricultural Practices: Propagation, nursery management, production, protection and harvest technology
3. Pre and Post harvest management, value addition, marketing and entrepreneurship development
4. Ethnobotanical exploration, traditional agricultural practices, organic and natural farming, hill farming and IKS in relation to minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants
5. Pharmaceuticals, secondary metabolites, health and nutrition and biotechnology
6. Policy platform and grower- industry-stakeholders interface
7. Extension: dissemination and popularizing the benefits

Abstract and Full Paper Submission

Organizing committee invites delegates/participants to submit abstract (s) for presentation (oral or poster) along with full paper related to different technical sessions based on the sub-themes as specified. The manuscript/abstract (abstract strictly not more than 500 words) must be in English with the title of the paper, name of author(s), designation and affiliation of author (s) with email Id of corresponding author and contact number in MS Word (Justified, Times New Roman, 12 pt, 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 should strictly be adhered to (<https://www.ijmfmap.in/page/guideline-to-author>). Full length research papers after double blind peer review will be published in the society journal. All the abstracts/full length paper must be sent as an e-mail attachment to **ismfmap7@gmail.com** addressing the Organizing Secretary on or before 20th January, 2027.

Abstracts will be published in the symposium as ‘Book of Abstracts’ 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 poster presentation and for oral 15 minutes time will be given for each speaker depending on the total number of presentations in the session.

Registration, Fees and Accommodation

Application for registration in the given format along with the stipulated registration fees can be directly transfer to the society (Acc. Name: **Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants** at account No. **37992861230**, bank name: **State Bank of India**, address: **B-9/139 Civic centre, Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India, PIN-741235** IFS Code: **SBIN0001082**) and send the electronic receipt copy will have to attached with the registration form. Registration fees include conference kit, breakfast and lunch. Accompanying person (one only) will not get conference kit.

Limited accommodation is available in the guest houses inside the university campus. Request for accommodation of participant must be indicated in the registration form (e- mail, if abstracts are already sent) well in advance to arrange for the same on “first-come- first serve” basis. Accommodation in the nearby Hotels will be arranged only after receipt of requisite hotel charges, details of the Hotels are attached. The organizers will not be responsible for accommodation of participants registered after 1st February 2027 or on the spot.

Dates to remember

Closing date for receipt of abstract/full length paper	20 th January, 2027
Notification of acceptance	25 th January, 2027
Closing date of early bird registration	10 th February, 2027
Closing date of late registration	20 th February, 2027

Registration Fees

Participants/delegates	Early bird	Late	On the spot
Society members (Indians)	INR 3000.00	INR 3500.00	INR 4000.00
Society members (SAARC)	US \$ 100	US \$ 150	US \$ 200
Society members (non-SAARC)	US \$ 200	US \$ 250	US \$ 300
Faculty members/Scientists	INR 3500.00	INR 4000.00	INR 4500.00
SAARC	US \$ 200	US \$ 250	US \$ 300
Non-SAARC	US \$ 300	US \$ 350	US \$ 400
Indian students (Bonafide Certificate required)	INR 1500.00	INR 2000.00	INR 2000.00
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 500.00	INR 500.00
Accompanying person (Indian)	-	-	INR 1500.00
Accompanying person (Foreign)	-	-	US \$ 50



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Places of Interest



Kamakhya Temple, Guwahati Shri



Umananda Temple, Guwahati



Guwahati Zoo, Guwahati



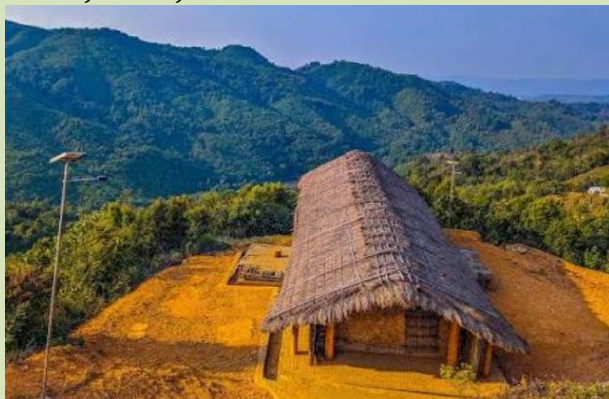
Bashistha Ashram Temple, Guwahati



Manas National Park, Baksa, Assam



Kaziranga National Park, Golaghat, Assam



Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Assam



Umiam Lake, Meghalaya



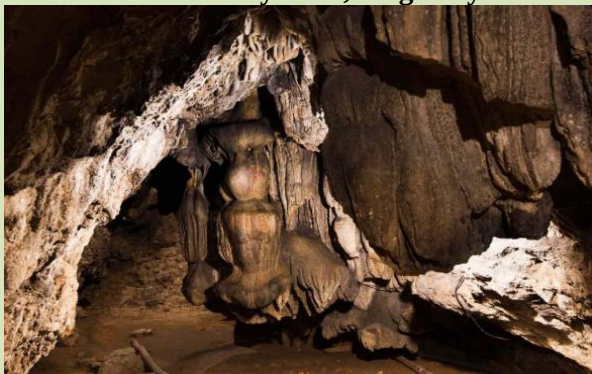
Seven Sisters Falls, Meghalaya



Mawsynram, Meghalaya



Living Root Bridge, Meghalaya



Mawsmai Cave, Meghalaya



Mawlynnong Village, Meghalaya



Dawki, Meghalaya



Fellow and Award of the Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants will confer the following fellow and award

i. Fellow of the Society (one)

ii. Young Scientist award (one)

- Each awardee will be honored with a certificate and a memento.
- For each award, the applicant must be a life member of the *Society for Minor Fruits, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants*. The 'application forms' for the awards are available in the website of the society.
- The intended applicants will have to submit their application within March/June of the concerned year of awards

Modalities of Selection of Fellow of the society:

1. The applicants must be a life member for at least five years of the society.
2. Minimum age limit is 40 years.
3. He/she should have published at least 10-research papers on minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants, of which at least three should have been published in the journal of the society. The papers should have been published in NAAS scored journals / UGC approved journals /Scopus or Web of Sciences indexed journal. Soft copies of published papers must be attached with the application, failing which the application will be treated as invalid.

Modalities of Selection of Young Scientist Award:

1. The applicants must be a life member of the society.
2. Maximum age limit is 35 years.
3. He/she should have at least 05-research papers on minor fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants. The papers should have been published in NAAS scored journals / UGC approved journals /Scopus or Web of Sciences indexed journals, of which one should have been published in the journal of the society. Soft copies of published papers must be attached with the application form, failing which the application will be treated as invalid.
4. Every applicant will have to present his/her academic activities made so far before a team of experts, whose decision will be final with regard to selection of the awardee.

Application for fellow and the award to be downloaded from the society website (<https://www.ijmfmap.in/page/awards>)

Award of the Symposium

The nomination for the following awards are invited with dully filled in nomination form and full Bio-Data:

1. Life Time Achievement Award
2. Best Teacher Award (Senior category, above 50 yrs age)
3. Best Teacher Award (Junior category, below 50 yrs age)
4. Best Scientist Award (Horticulture)
5. Best Scientist Award (Minor Fruits)
6. Best Scientist Award (Medicinal and Aromatic Plants)
7. Best Scientist Award (Hill Farming)
8. Best Scientist Award (Sustainable Agriculture)
9. Best Scientist Award (Natural Farming)
10. Best Presentation Award (2 Oral and 2 Poster from each theme)

Nomination form (for Sl. No. 2 to 9) to be asked from the Organizing Committee of 8th ISMFM&AP Symposium committee may declare more award in due course of time.

REGISTRATION FORM

February, 26-27, 2027

**8th International Symposium
on
Minor Fruits, Medicinal & Aromatic Plants**

(Venue : Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, 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

Booking of Accommodation required: Yes/No (if yes, please mention the range of tariff)

Online registration fees transfer details with amount:

Signature with date