4. **Dr. V.S. Korikanthimath,** Former Director, ICAR Institute. Goa, Member
5. **Dr. A.S. Prabhakar,** Former Registrar, UAS, Dharwad, Member
6. **Dr. C.S. Hunshal,** Former Dean (PGS), UAS, Dharwad, Member
7. **Dr. S. L. Madiwalar,** Former Director of Research, UAS, Dharwad, Member
8. **Dr. L. H. Malligawad,** Former Dean (PGS) UAS, Dharwad, Member
9. **Dr. B. M. Chittapur,** Former DE, UAS, Raichur, Member
10. **Dr. B. N. Patil,** Former ADR (HQ), UAS, Dharwad, Member
11. **Dr. V. V. Angadi,** Former Professor of Agronomy, UAS, Dharwad, Member
12. **Dr. H.B. Babalad,** Former Dean (Agri.), UAS, Dharwad, Member
13. **Dr. U.K. Hulihalli,** Former HoD, Dept. of Agril. Meteorology, UAS, Dharwad, Member

Dr. S.V. Patil Chair for Research and Training for Farmers Welfare

Dr. S.V. Patil, a remarkable agricultural scientist, teacher, academician, visionary, and institution builder, played a pivotal role in the development of the College of Agriculture, Dharwad. His efforts were instrumental in the establishment of the second Agricultural University in 1986, aimed at meeting the agricultural education and research needs of Northern Karnataka. Revered as the "Krishi Rushi" or "Bhishma Pitamaha" of Agriculture in the state, Dr. Patil's far-reaching vision and intellectual prowess led to the founding of the College of Veterinary Science at Bidar and the College of Agriculture at Raichur, both of which later evolved into independent universities. His legacy includes the establishment of Forestry Colleges at Sirsi and Ponnampet and the Rural Home Science College, Dharwad, the elevation of the Diploma in Agricultural Engineering to a degree program, and significant contributions to agro-forestry research at Dharwad. In his 45 years of distinguished service, Dr. Patil held several key positions, including Director of Instructions (Agriculture and Post Graduate) and Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious UAS, Bangalore. He set high standards of conduct and dedication among teachers, scientists, and students in agricultural education, research, and farmers' welfare activities. To honour his enduring legacy, a chair in his memory was established at UAS, Dharwad, during the centenary celebrations in 2022. This tribute aims to further agricultural development and support farmers' welfare in the state, inspired by Dr. S.V. Patil's extraordinary contributions and lasting impact.

About University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, established on 1st October 1986, has earned a reputation as the "Farmers' University." It has consistently strived to keep pace with frontier science to address contemporary social, economic, and technological challenges. The University comprises 5 Colleges, 27 Research Stations, 6 Agricultural Extension Education Centers, 6 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and an Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC). Its jurisdiction spans 7 districts in Northern Karnataka, a region marked by diverse soil types, climates, topographies, cropping patterns, and farming situations. This includes dry-farming areas, high-rainfall coastal and hilly regions, and irrigated command areas of the Upper Krishna, Ghataprabha, and Malaprabha. Key crops of the region include sorghum, cotton, rice, pulses, chilli, sugarcane, groundnut, sunflower, wheat, and safflower, along with a wide variety of horticultural crops. Over the years, the University has made considerable progress in education, research, and extension activities. It also hosts several pioneering initiatives, such as: Institute of Organic Farming, Dharwad Seed Model, Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Agribusiness Knowledge Centre, RKVY, RAFTAR (ABI), World Bank funded NAHEP, IDP and Centre of Excellence in smart farming.

About Dharwad

The University head quarter is located in Northern Transitional Zone of Karnataka, known for its cool and pleasant climate and is highly rich in vegetation with different flora and fauna which creates an ideal atmosphere for academic and agricultural research activities. It is on the Pune - Bengaluru National Highway 4 having very good road connectivity. Hubballi- Dharwad, a Head Quarter of South Western Railway Zone, is having very good train connectivity to major cities of the country. The nearest airport is Hubballi which is 20 km away from University head quarters and other airports are Belagavi (80 km) and Goa (165 km). The Weather during May will be pleasant and comfortable with 30 to 35°C during day and 18 to 21°C at night. Hubballi-Dharwad twin cities are known as education hub of Karnataka. The twin cities host five Universities i.e., UAS Dharwad, Karnatak University, Law University, IIT Dharwad and IIIT Dharwad. The city is well known for Dharwad Pedha a sweet delicacy which attained GI tag.

Contact details of Organizing Secretaries

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Official website of conference for registration, submission of extended summaries and for other details will be launched soon
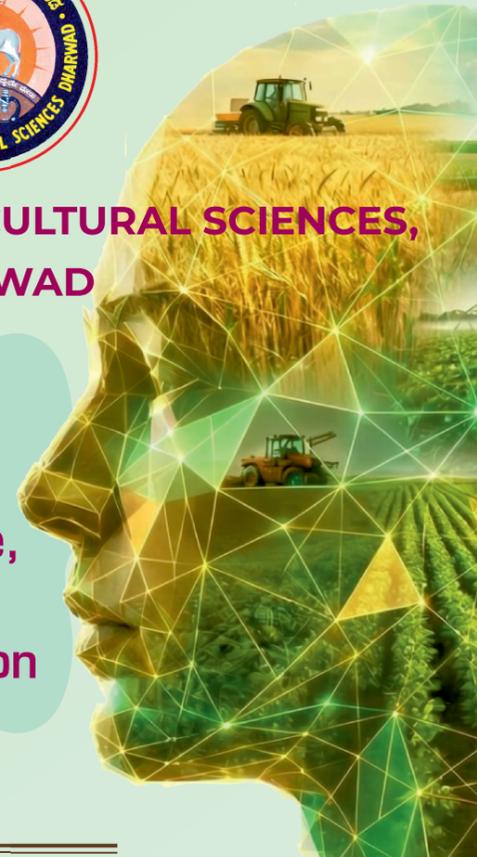

Dr. S. V. PATIL FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH, TRAINING AND FARMERS WELFARE

INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (INSAIT)

and

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Jointly Organizing National Conference on

Next-Gen Farming : Artificial Intelligence, Automation and Digital Transformation

Conference Date :
7-9, May, 2026
Conference Venue :
Farmers Knowledge Centre, UAS, Dharwad

Blending AIML in Agriculture

Agriculture, as a bio-economy for many nations—particularly in developing countries—thrives on the principle of "more crop per drop of inputs," achieved through the right genetics, tools, techniques, and platforms. These systems are generating complex data that is not possible to analyse with conventional data analytics/statistics and require integration of modern AIML assistive tools that promises a more data-driven, precise, and 'adaptive' approach to farming. As AI technologies evolve, they will become more accessible to farmers of all scales, democratizing advanced agricultural practices. ML approaches offer robust analytical capabilities for classification, prediction, and pattern recognition, while DL models have demonstrated superior performance in processing complex data, in particular image data, and learning. Advanced DL techniques are excelling in agriculture by capturing complex, high-dimensional data and long-range dependencies.

The future of agriculture will likely see a blend of AI-powered tools that provide real-time, customized recommendations, and automate various tasks, from planting to harvesting. This shift will not only enhance food security and sustainability but also create new opportunities for innovation and collaboration within the agricultural sector, ultimately leading to a more resilient and efficient global food system.

The world is revolutionizing this new thinking towards "Automation", like Industry 4.0 or even 5.0. This way, one can possibly make the system more intelligent and dream of reverse migration of bringing particularly the Young Minds to provide open solutions in rural systems; and also helping to bring better Informatics culture among the farming community. However, a lot need to be done in this dynamic field. One of the important points globally have been dwelling on integrated infrastructure, data availability, analytical skills, reaching the unreached, scale-independent systems, new farm-policies, overcoming the threats/vagaries, etc. to name a few.

Objectives :
1. Exploring the role of artificial intelligence and automation in advancing sustainable and efficient agriculture.
2. Promoting innovations in robotics, IoT and AI enabled farm management
3. Overcoming challenges in scaling agricultural technologies for smallholder adoption.
4. Providing platform for researchers and startups/industry to collaborate on digital farming solutions
5. Discussing policy frameworks for the responsible and inclusive application of AI in agricultural research and education.

Themes :
1. Artificial Intelligence for Precision Agriculture
   Sub themes :
   a. AI in Soil Health and Nutrient Management
   b. Optimization of Sensor based Monitoring and Decision Support
   c. AI/ML for Water use Optimization- Smart Irrigation Systems
   d. Computer Vision for Weed/Disease/ Pest Detection
   e. Yield Prediction and Crop Modeling
2. Climate Modeling and Resource Management
   Sub themes :
   a. AI based Weather Predictions
   b. Climate Risk Forecasting
3. AI driven Genomic selection for Predictive Breeding
   Sub themes :
   a. AI in High-Throughput phenotyping
   b. AI applications in gene editing and functional genomics
   c. Computer vision for plant trait analysis

4. Automation and Robotics in Agriculture
   Sub themes :
   a. Autonomous Tractors, Drones and Field Robots
   b. Edge AI for Real Time Field Operations
   c. Swarm Robotics in Farm Management
5. Data Analytics, IoT and Digital Agricultural Platforms
   Sub themes :
   a. IoT Enabled Smart Farms
   b. Digital Twins for Farming Systems
   c. Cloud/Edge Computing in Agriculture
   d. Inter-operability and Data Standards
6. AI for Supply Chain, Post Harvest and Agri-business
   Sub themes :
   a. Demand Forecasting and Value Chain Optimization
   b. Quality Grading Using Machine Fission
   c. Post Harvest Loss Prediction
   d. AI Enabled Logistics and Cloud Chain Automation
7. AI in Livestock, Dairy and Fisheries
   Sub themes :
   a. Precision Feeding and Monitoring
   b. Disease Prediction in Livestock
   c. Smart Aquaculture Systems
   d. Behavioral Analytics
8. Policy, Ethics and Socio-economic Impacts
   Sub themes :
   a. Responsible and Explainable AI in Agriculture
   b. Data Privacy for Farmers
   c. Adoption Challenges in Rural Areas
   d. AI for Small Holder Empowerment
9. AI /Robotic /Digital based Agri-Tech Startups
   Sub themes :
   a. Solutions for Nutrient delivery/management
   b. Solutions for Smart irrigations systems
   c. Solutions for Precision pesticides application
   d. AI powered agri-biotech startups
10. Emerging Technologies
   Sub themes :
   a. AI in Course Curriculum - Agricultural Education
   b. GenAI, Agentic AI for Extension Advisories
   c. AR/VR for Agricultural Training
   d. Metaverse for Collaborative Agri-learning

Call for Papers :
The National Conference on Next-Gen Farming: Artificial Intelligence, Automation and Digital Transformation invites researchers, academicians, industry experts, startups and practitioners to submit original and high quality research contributions. The conference aims to showcase cutting edge technologies and foster national collaborations for the digital transformation of agriculture. We welcome extended summaries (2 to 3 pages) on the themes/sub themes as mentioned above. Accepted papers will be called for poster/oral presentations during conference.

Registration Fees :

Participants	Within due date	After due date
Academicians/Scientists, SAU/ICAR/CSIR/IIT/IIIT/Indian Universities/ Autonomous Institutions/Universities/Colleges	Rs.10,000/-	Rs.12,000/-
Startups/Industries/Private Universities/Private Companies/Any other firms	Rs.15,000/-	Rs.20,000/-
Research Scholars/Students /SRF/RA/Young Professionals	Rs.5,000/-	Rs.6,000/-

Important dates :
Extended Summary Submission : **31st March , 2026**
Notification of Acceptance : **7th April , 2026**
Full Paper Submission : **14th April, 2026**
Last date of registration : **15th April, 2026**

Organizing Team :
Organizing Secretaries : **Dr. M. P. Potdar**
Dr. S. Rajkumara
Co-Organizing Secretaries : **Dr.B.N. Aravinda Kumar**
Dr.C.P. Chandrashekara

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3. **Dr. P.L. Patil,** Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
4. **Dr. Ashok Dalwai,** IAS, Chairman, Karnataka Agricultural Price Commission, Bengaluru

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13. **Dr.Sanjay Choudhary,** Assoc.Dean, University of Ahmedabad
14. **Dr.Rajani Jain,** NAAS, New Delhi
15. **Dr.ObiReddy,** Principal Scientist and Head, NBSSLUP, Nagpur
16. **Dr.M.Mouni,** Former DG, NIC, NewDelhi

Advisory Committee :
1. **Dr. M.N. Sheelavantar,** Former Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore, Chairman
2. **Dr. V. C. Patil,** Former Dean (Agri.), UAS, Raichur, Co-Chairman
3. **Dr. A.B. Patil,** Former Registrar, GKVK, UAS, Bangalore and Officer on Special Duty to Minister of Agriculture, GoK, Bangalore, Member