



14th Brainstorming Session

of
Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)

on

*Agriculture in India:
Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward*

October 27-28, 2023



Organised by

**Veer Chandra Singh Garhwal Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry
(VCSG UHF)**

Bharsar-246123, Uttarakhand

At College of Forestry, Ranichauri, Tehri Garhwal-249199, Uttarakhand
&

Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)

G-5, Office Block-A, NASC Complex,

Dayal Singh Bhawan Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012

About 14th Brainstorming Session of IAUA

The Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) in collaboration with Veer Chandra Singh Garhwal Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry (VCSG UHF), Bhansar, Uttarakhand, is pleased to invite you to the 14th Brainstorming Session of IAUA on the theme "Agri-ecosystems in India: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward" scheduled to be held during October 27-28, 2025, at the College of Forestry, Ranichauri, VCSG UHF, Uttarakhand. The national-level event aims to facilitate meaningful discussions on topics of key issues related to agri-ecosystems in India, including sustainable practices, policy frameworks, regulatory challenges, capacity building, skill development, community participation, integration with local agriculture, livestock, livelihood generation and the broader role of universities in rural agricultural development. Your active participation and valuable insights in this brainstorming session will play a vital role in shaping a more robust and sustainable framework for agri-ecosystems in the country. This initiative is critical to advancing an efficient and inclusive agri-ecosystems sector, which is an urgent need of the hour. We sincerely acknowledge to your esteemed presence and meaningful contribution to this significant discussion.

About IAUA

Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) was established on 12th November, 1967. Initially, there were nine founding member Agricultural Universities. The founder president was Dr. P. N. Thapar, Vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agricultural University, Chandigarh (now Ludhiana). The main objective of the Association is to promote agricultural research, education and extension in the universities and the states, and the physical development in the country. It acts also as a centre of information to facilitate communication, co-ordination and mutual collaboration among agricultural universities.

Presently, IAUA has 74 member universities, which include 66 State Agricultural Universities, 4 Deemed to be Universities (DAU, New Delhi), 4 IARI, 10 Regional, 2 NRI, 1 KARI and 1 CRI, 1 Mumbai, 2 Central Agricultural Universities (CAU, Imphal and RAICAU, Pusa and RAICAU, Jalandhar and one Central University with Agriculture Faculty (BAU, Varanasi). On specialization there are 40 Agricultural Universities, 17 Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and 4 Fisheries Science Universities. All the SAUs and institutions deemed-to-be universities and Central Agricultural Universities in India, provide an integrated programme of teaching, research and extension education in agricultural sciences, including veterinary, animal and fisheries sciences, are qualified to become regular members of the Association. The IAUA has organised 87 events since its establishment which includes 48 Annual Vice-Chancellor's Conferences, 18 National Symposia, 10 Brainstorming Sessions, 9 Regional Meetings and one International Conference.

About Veer Chandra Singh Garhwal Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry (VCSG UHF), Bhansar

Veer Chandra Singh Garhwal Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry (VCSG UHF), Bhansar, was established in 2011 by the Government of Uttarakhand with the objective of promoting education, research, and extension in the fields of horticulture, forestry, and agriculture. The university was created by carving out the campus of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GSPUAT), comprising the College of Horticulture at Bhansar and the College of Forestry at Ranichauri, along with a newly established College of All Agriculture at Garhwal, Rudrapur. The headquarters of the university is located at Bhansar, Pant Garhwal, Uttarakhand with the main campus spread over 175 hectares.

VCSG UHF has developed a robust network of research, extension, and training facilities across the state, in addition to its three colleges. It currently comprises two institutes, two Research and Extension Centres, two RWAs, and one ACRIIP projects. The university offers undergraduate degrees in Horticulture, Forestry, and Agriculture, master's programs in 10 disciplines, and doctoral programs in 11 disciplines. The vision of the university is to deliver quality education, foster research-based research, and provide extension services for sustainable development in agriculture, horticulture, and forestry.

About College of Forestry, Ranichauri (Venue of the 14th Brainstorming Session)

The College of Forestry (COF), Ranichauri in district Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand was initially set up as a hill campus of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, and started as a research centre in 1976.

It became fully operational in 1985 after the recruitment of scientific and academic staff with its spread across 208 hectares. Following Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1985-86, considerable faculty in the curriculum of B.Sc. Agriculture Universities. Planning at University level (First & 2nd), Faculty Chapter in 1986 at Ranchauri campus. In 2011, the College of Forestry at Ranchauri Campus became part of the newly established Vastu Chandra Singh Gadhwal (Vastu) University of Horticulture and Forestry, Meerut, which further enhanced its focus on education, research and extension.

Weather and Accommodation at College of Forestry, Ranchauri

The College of Forestry, Ranchauri is situated at an altitude ranging from 1000 to 2000 meters above mean sea level and is surrounded by pristine forests of Oak, Deodar, and Pine, offering a naturally serene and charming environment. During the month of October, the weather is cool and pleasant, with daytime temperatures ranging between 18°C to 32°C, while nights and early mornings can be slightly cool, dropping to around 8°C to 12°C. It is recommended to carry warm clothing, including jackets, sweaters, and full-sleeved garments. Despite the cool temperatures, the weather is generally stable and adds to the charm of the peaceful landscape, making for a comfortable and enriching experience amidst the lush Himalayan surroundings. Accommodation is available in nearby hotels, ensuring guests have access to this event where.

Places to visit

The nearest place to visit from Ranchauri is the Tehri Dam site, about 25 km away, where one can see the dam site with cascading footfalls and Dehra Church Lighting Bridge. The view can be enjoyed with a stay. The partygoers can also visit the Chandra Museum that built, which extends up to Mussoorie (65 km from Ranchauri), a place a good example of agricultural education and horticulture practices. On the same route there is the famous Harbans Devi Temple (Shiv of the Shikharaj), accessible by motorway, highlights local tourism development. Visiting this area takes a full day. Redoubt, a well-known religious site is located 200 km from Ranchauri, requires at least four days for a visit.



Tehri Dam



Harbans Devi Temple



Floating Dam



Tehri Lake Boating



Tehri Church Lighting Bridge



Boating

Theme and Sub-theme of Brainstorming Session

- 1. Inaugural Session with Keynote Address**
Theme-Agriculture-tourism in India: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward
- 2. Technical Session: Sub-Themes**
 - (i) Exploring the Potential of Agriculture-tourism for Rural Development and Overhead of Farmers
 - (ii) Addressing Policy, Infrastructure, and Capital Gaps in Agriculture-tourism
 - (iii) Strategies and Innovations for Sustainable Growth of Agriculture-tourism in India

How to Reach

The College of Forestry, Ranchhod is located about 80 km from nearest Airport, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The nearest railway station is Ranchhod located about 7.5 km away while Hoshiarpur Railway Station is around 183 km from Ranchhod. The Ranchhod is well connected by road and can be accessed via New Delhi, Hoshiarpur, Baramulla, Delhi and Ranchhod.



VCOS UHF, Ranchhod



College of Forestry, Ranchhod

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Organizing Committee

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