



Training Programme

On

**“Capacity Building on Mainstreaming of Opportunity Vegetable crops :
Production Technologies, Seed Systems and Market Linkages”**

21 – 30 September, 2026



ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research

PB01, P.O. Jakhini (Shahanshahpur) Varanasi- 221305, Uttar Pradesh

[https:// icariivr.org.in/](https://icariivr.org.in/)

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute

Background

Vegetables constitute an important component of Indian food and nutritional security, agricultural diversification and rural livelihoods. However, vegetable production and consumption remain largely concentrated around a limited number of major crops, while a wide range of opportunity vegetables, including underutilized, minor, indigenous, potential, traditional, regionally important and emerging crops such as winged bean, cluster bean, velvet bean, vegetable soybean, lotus, water spinach, water chestnut, chenopods, mustard greens, faba bean and *Basella* etc. remain insufficiently mainstreamed into organized production systems and value chains. These crops possess considerable potential for enhancing dietary diversity, nutritional security, farm income, employment generation and resilience of farming systems. Many opportunity vegetables are rich sources of vitamins, minerals, dietary fibre, antioxidants and other bioactive compounds and are well adapted to diverse agro-ecological conditions. Several are short-duration, relatively low-input crops that can be effectively integrated into smallholder farming, kitchen gardens, peri-urban agriculture, protected cultivation and diversified cropping systems. Their wider cultivation can therefore contribute to nutrition-sensitive agriculture, conservation of vegetable biodiversity, climate resilience and sustainable intensification of vegetable production.

Despite their potential, the adoption and commercialization of opportunity vegetables are constrained by inadequate awareness, limited availability of improved varieties and quality planting material, weak seed systems, insufficiently standardized production technologies, poor post-harvest management and inadequate market linkages. Farmers and extension personnel often lack systematic information on suitable varieties, seed and nursery management, optimum sowing time, plant geometry, nutrient and water management, integrated pest and disease management, harvesting, grading, storage and value addition. For several minor and emerging crops, formal seed production and distribution systems are still at an early stage, resulting in dependence on traditional practices and locally available planting material and consequent variation in productivity and quality. Strengthening linkages among farmers, FPOs, seed producers, processors, entrepreneurs, retailers, institutional buyers and digital marketing platforms is therefore essential for creating sustainable demand and improving farmers' returns.

The ICAR–Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (ICAR-IIVR), Varanasi, has significant expertise and resources for promoting opportunity vegetable crops and has developed and released improved varieties of several such crops. The Institute also maintains a large and diverse germplasm collection of opportunity vegetables and is involved in seed production, technology development, dissemination and popularization among different stakeholders. In this context, the proposed training is highly relevant for bridging the gap between available genetic resources and technologies and their effective utilization at the field and market levels. The training will strengthen the capacity of scientists, extension personnel, seed producers, progressive farmers, FPOs and entrepreneurs in improved production technologies, quality seed and planting-material production, crop management, integrated pest and disease management, harvesting and post-harvest handling, processing, value addition, entrepreneurship and market-oriented production. Practical demonstrations, field exposure, interaction with experts and participatory learning will facilitate effective transfer and adoption of technologies. The training will thus contribute to mainstreaming opportunity vegetables into organized production and value chains, promoting crop diversification, improving farmers' income and employment opportunities, enhancing nutritional security, conserving indigenous vegetable diversity and developing climate-resilient, sustainable and market-oriented vegetable production systems across different regions of India.

Objectives of the Training

- To create awareness among stakeholders about the importance, potential and nutritional, economic and ecological benefits and improved varieties, genetic resources of opportunity vegetable crops.
- To strengthen skills in quality seed and planting-material production, multiplication, maintenance and dissemination of promising opportunity vegetable crops.
- To provide hands on training on crop-specific production technologies, including nursery management, sowing, spacing, nutrient and water management, and integrated pest and disease management.
- To enhance capacity in harvesting, grading, post-harvest handling, storage, processing and value addition of opportunity vegetables.
- To develop skills for market-oriented production, aggregation, branding, entrepreneurship and value-chain development through FPOs, cooperatives and other stakeholders.

About the Training

The training course is formulated to be more towards interactive lectures, demonstrations/ practicals and surveys on various aspects of opportunity vegetable crops to be conducted by faculty from the Institute, BHU and other University as well as experts from outside agencies. The information would be immensely beneficial for the participants to identify and augment the diversity of opportunity crops, acquaintance with their management practices/ identifying the wild taxa, examine cultivars/ local landraces of a variety of crop species to provide a basis on which any future selections may be made and recommended for the growers of country in general and of the region, in particular. The module would emphasize the various researchable issues of opportunity vegetable crops. So, that they may get proper attention of the researchers academicians, policy makers and other stakeholders and may be brought for service to the mankind.

Date and Venue

The training programme will be organised for 10 days from 21st to 30th September, 2026 at ICAR-Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi-221305, Uttar Pradesh

Eligibility

Participants are invited from ICAR Institutes/State Agriculture Universities/CAU/ Agricultural faculty of AMU, BHU, Vishwa Bharti and Nagaland University in the cadre of Assistant Professors or equivalent and above. The total number of participants will be restricted to **25 (twenty five)**. Eligible and interested participants are requested to send their application in the prescribed format duly nominated by their Competent Authority to the Course Director on or before the last date by e-mail.

Registration Fee

There will be registration fee of ₹ 1000/- (One thousand) only for the participants from ICAR Institutes, however the participants from SAUs, CAUs and KVKs will have to pay an amount of ₹ 5000/- (Five thousand) only as registration fee to Institute's account through RTGS/NEFT at '**ICAR Unit IIVR, Varanasi**' Current Account No. – **30156620659**; IFS Code - **SBIN0014905**, State Bank of India, IIVR, Varanasi.

Travel allowances and accommodation

The TA/DA and boarding and lodging expenses of the participants will be borne by their respective parent institutes/organizations. The host institute will provide session tea and working lunch during the training programme. Breakfast and dinner will be available on a payment basis. Accommodation may be provided in the Institute Guest House on a twin-sharing basis, subject to availability, on a payment basis. As the accommodation facilities at the Institute Guest House are limited, participants are requested not to bring family members or accompanying persons during the training programme.

How to reach Varanasi

Varanasi is well connected through flights and trains both. There are many flights daily reaching to Varanasi from different parts of the country. Guest House is well connected with railway station and airport.

About the City

Varanasi, also known as Kashi and Benares, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and a renowned cultural and spiritual centre of India. Situated on the banks of the sacred River Ganga, the city is widely regarded as a symbol of India's rich cultural heritage, spirituality, philosophy, art and traditions. Varanasi represents a unique confluence of life, faith and spirituality and attracts pilgrims, tourists, scholars and visitors from across India and around the world. The city is particularly renowned for its association with spiritualism, mysticism, music, literature and Indian philosophy. Its rich cultural heritage is reflected in its numerous temples, ashrams, monasteries and historic ghats along the Ganga. Ghats, are important centres of religious rituals, cultural activities and traditional practices. The evening Ganga Aarti performed along the ghats is a memorable and spiritually enriching experience for visitors. Nearby Sarnath is one of the most significant Buddhist sites in the world.

Weather in Varanasi

Varanasi, located in eastern Uttar Pradesh, lies approximately at 25.28°N latitude and 82.96°E longitude. The city experiences a humid subtropical climate characterized by hot summers, a monsoon season and relatively cool winters. September generally marks the later phase of the southwest monsoon, with warm and humid conditions and intermittent rainfall and an average maximum temperature of about 30.6°C and a minimum temperature of about 21.1°C during September. Participants visiting Varanasi during this period are advised to carry light cotton clothing, rain protection and comfortable footwear suitable for occasional wet conditions.

Location and accessibility

The ICAR–Indian Institute of Vegetable Research (ICAR-IIVR) is located at Shahanshahpur, approximately 25 km from Varanasi Railway Station, on the outskirts of the historic city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The Institute is situated near Adalpura, along the Varanasi–BLW–Chunar Road. Participants can reach the Institute from Varanasi Railway Station by auto-rickshaw, taxi/cab, or other road transport. The journey from the railway station generally takes about 45–60 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. For participants arriving by air, the Institute is approximately 35–40 km from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi, and can be reached by taxi/cab via the major connecting roads.

Important Dates

- Last Date to Apply: **10th September, 2026**
- Commencement of Training Programme: **21st September, 2026**

Contact Persons and Address for Correspondence

Dr. Rajesh Kumar, Director, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi & Course Director

Course Coordinator:

Dr. Rakesh K Dubey, Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIVR, Varanasi-221305

email: rksdubey@gmail.com, Mob: 9436631121.

Course Co Coordinators:

Dr. Vikas Singh (9436839273), Dr. Jyoti Devi (8219575859) & Dr. Keshav Kant Gautam (9136658306).

All communications related to training programme may be made to rksdubey@gmail.com.

Application for Participation in Training

on

“Capacity Building on Mainstreaming of Opportunity Vegetable crops : Production Technologies, Seed Systems and Market Linkages”

21st September 2026 to 30th September 2026

1. Full Name (*In block letters*) :
2. Designation:
3. Present Employer and Address:.....
4. Address for communication (*including Tel no./ Mob no.& email address*).....
5. Permanent Address:
6. Date of Birth.....
7. Gender:
8. Teaching/ Research/ Professional Experience (*mention posts in last 5 years*):
9. Area of research presently in and No. of Publications:
10. Mention if you have participated in any training/summer/ winter school/ short courses etc. during previous year under ICAR/ any other organisation (*Give details of Course, Organisers, duration, days, years etc.*).....
11. Payment details (Mode of payment, Transaction number, Date of transaction, etc.)
12. Academic Record:

Examination Passes	Subject	Year	Class, Ranks / Distinction etc.	University / Institute	Other Information
Bachelor Degree					
Master Degree					
Ph.D.					

Date:

(*Signature of Applicant*)

Place:

13. Recommendation of forwarding authority :

(Signature with date, designation with official seal)

