



## About SKUAST-K

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), located in Srinagar, is a premier institution dedicated to advancing agricultural research, education, and extension. Situated within the diverse and fragile agro-climatic zone of the Indian Himalayan Region, SKUAST-K plays a pivotal role in shaping the agrarian economy. The university is committed to developing sustainable, climate-resilient farming practices, promoting high-value horticulture, and empowering rural mountain communities through cutting-edge technological innovation, rigorous policy research, and market-driven solutions.

## About The Conference

The Regional Conference on "Building Resilient Himalayan Agriculture: Climate, Markets, and Inclusive Livelihoods" is a strategic academic and policy platform designed to address the overlapping stressors affecting mountain farming systems. Organized by the Institute of Business & Policy Research (IBPR) at SKUAST-K, in partnership with AERA and IFPRI, the event will delve into the economic implications of climate change, market vulnerabilities, and value chain disruptions. The conference aims to identify robust policy frameworks, technological interventions, and gender-responsive strategies to enhance adaptive capacity, livelihood security, and overall agricultural competitiveness in the Himalayan region.

## Welcome Note

We are delighted to welcome you to the Regional Conference on Building Resilient Himalayan Agriculture, hosted at the picturesque campus of SKUAST-K in Srinagar. As we gather against the magnificent backdrop of the Himalayas, we invite scholars, policymakers, industry leaders, and development practitioners to engage in critical and thought-provoking dialogues. Your expertise and insights are vital as we collaboratively chart a path toward a more adaptive, competitive, and inclusive agrarian future for our mountain communities. We look forward to your active participation and a highly productive exchange of ideas.



# AERA Regional Conference on Building Resilient Himalayan Agriculture

## Climate, Markets, and Inclusive Livelihoods



**SKUAST-Kashmir**



**07-08 May 2026**



## Background

**Economic Backbone:** Agriculture and high-value horticulture (apples, saffron, etc.) are central to rural livelihoods in Jammu & Kashmir and the broader Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

**Climate & Market Stressors:** These fragile ecosystems face severe threats from climate change (erratic weather, warming temperatures, changing pest dynamics) combined with market volatility and supply chain constraints.

**Demographic Shifts:** Male outmigration has led to the feminization of agriculture. While women are the primary drivers of crop and livestock management, they lack equitable access to machinery, finance, and markets.

**The Role of Livestock:** Dairy and poultry serve as vital, women-managed safety nets that provide consistent income and nutritional security amidst crop and climate instability.

## Conference Objectives

**Assess Climate Impacts:** Examine the economic effects of climate change on mountain agricultural systems and rural livelihoods.

**Analyze Market Vulnerabilities:** Identify emerging supply chain stresses, price volatility, and logistical constraints.

**Identify Strategic Interventions:** Propose policy, institutional, and technological solutions to boost competitiveness and adaptive capacity.

**Promote Inclusive Transformation:** Champion gender-responsive strategies that support women farmers, enhance livestock livelihoods, and improve access to mechanization and markets.

**Foster Stakeholder Dialogue:** Connect researchers, policymakers, and industry leaders to build coordinated strategies for resilient agricultural growth.

### Conference Rationale

Addressing these overlapping crises requires integrated technological, policy, and institutional responses. The proposed conference will bring together cross-sector stakeholders to align research, policy, and technology toward building a resilient, competitive, and inclusive agricultural framework for the Himalayan region.



## Conference Structure

The conference will feature an inaugural session followed by four technical sessions, each structured around a lead presentation, an expert panel, and open dialogue.

### **Technical Session I:** Climate Change & Agrarian Resilience

- Focus: Economic implications of climate risks on mountain agriculture.
- Key Topics: Agro-climatic shifts, water stress, crop phenology, climate risk modeling, and the economics of climate-smart adaptation.

### **Technical Session II:** Agricultural Markets, Value Chains & Competitiveness

- Focus: Impact of market volatility, logistics, and global competition on livelihoods.
- Key Topics: Cold chain bottlenecks, price transmission, GI branding for J&K niche products, digital market intelligence, and livestock value chains.

### **Technical Session III:** Policy & Technological Interventions

- Focus: Frameworks for long-term agricultural resilience and economic security.
- Key Topics: AI and precision agriculture, early warning systems, risk-sharing mechanisms (e.g., crop insurance), institutional convergence, and youth entrepreneurship.

### **Technical Session IV:** Gender Inclusiveness & Women's Empowerment

- Focus: Enhancing women's participation, productivity, and leadership in agriculture.
- Key Topics: The feminization of agriculture, overcoming resource barriers (credit/tech), empowering women-led FPOs/cooperatives, and developing gender-sensitive policies.



## Expected Outcomes

- **Strategic Frameworks:** A new integrated approach for agricultural planning combining climate resilience, market development, technology, and livestock systems.
- **Actionable Policy:** Tailored, gender-responsive recommendations to improve women farmers' access to resources and strengthen Himalayan agriculture.
- **Research & Collaboration:** Priority collaborative research agendas and strengthened partnerships among AERA, SKUAST-K, IFPRI, government, and industry.
- **Knowledge Products:** Published conference proceedings and targeted policy briefs for wider dissemination.

## Policy Relevance and Expected Impact

- **Evidence-Based Dialogue:** Fosters critical, cross-sector discussions on climate adaptation, market development, and gender-responsive policies.
- **Regional & National Impact:** Directly informs state-level agricultural strategies in Jammu & Kashmir and contributes to broader national frameworks for rural transformation.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** Translates expert deliberations into targeted policy briefs and dissemination materials to guide governments and development partners.

## Target Participants

- **Academics & Researchers:** Agricultural economists, climate scientists, scholars, and postgraduate students.
- **Government & Institutions:** State/national policymakers, and representatives from relevant departments, APEDA, and NABARD.
- **Industry & Innovators:** Exporters, FPO leaders, agri-tech providers, and startup founders.



# Tentative Programme Schedule

## Day 1: 07 May 2026 (Thursday)

- **Technical Session I:** Climate Change and Agrarian Resilience in the Himalayas
- **Technical Session II:** Agricultural Markets, Value Chains and Competitiveness

## Day 2: 08 May 2026 (Friday)

- **Technical Session III:** Policy and Technological Interventions for Adaptive Transformation
- **Technical Session IV:** Gender Inclusiveness and Women's Empowerment in Himalayan Agriculture
- Valedictory Session and Policy Roundtable

# Registration Fee Structure

Delegate Category	Early Bird Registration (20 Apr, 2026)	Standard / On-Spot Registration (07 May)
Students / Research Scholars	1000₹	1500₹
Faculty / Scientists (AERA / SKUAST-K Members)	2500₹	3500₹
Faculty / Scientists (Non-Members)	3000₹	4000₹
Industry / Corporate/ International Delegates	5000₹	7000₹

\*Registration fee covers the conference kit and working lunches during the Conference days  
\*Participants shall have to pay for their accommodation which will be arranged in University guest houses/nearby hotels on first come first serve bases



# Registration

Participants are requested to submit their completed registration form along with the proof of payment to the Organizing Secretary via email at **regaerakashmir2026@gmail.com**.

# Important Dates

**Last date for abstract/paper submission:** 20 April, 2026

**Registration Opening:** 05 April, 2026

**Acceptance of Paper:** 30 April, 2026



## Chief patron

**Prof. N. A. Ganai**  
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SKUAST-Kashmir

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For enquiries please contact **Dr. Abid Sultan (Assistant Professor, IBPR, SKUAST-K)**



## Organized by

Institute of Business & Policy Research (IBPR),  
Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences &  
Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar

## In Partnership with

Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA),  
New Delhi

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI),  
South Asia Regional Office, New Delhi

