



14th Brainstorming Session

of
Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)
on

Agri-eco-tourism in India:
Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward



October 27-28, 2025



Organised by

**Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry
(VCSG UUHF)**

Bharsar-246123, Uttarakhand

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

Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)

G-5, Office Block-A, NASC Complex,
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012

About 14th Brainstorming Session of IAUA

The Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA), in collaboration with Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry (VCSG UUHF), Bharsar, Uttarakhand, is pleased to invite you to the 14th Brainstorming Session of IAUA on the theme "Agri-eco-tourism in India: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Way Forward" scheduled to be held during October 27–28, 2025, at the College of Forestry, Ranichauri, VCSG UUHF, Uttarakhand. This national-level event aims to facilitate meaningful discussions on a range of key issues related to agri-eco-tourism in India, including sustainable models, policy frameworks, regulatory challenges, capacity building, skill development, community participation, integration with local agricultural practices, livelihood generation and the broader role of eco-tourism 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-eco-tourism in the country. This initiative is critical to advancing an efficient and inclusive agri-eco-tourism sector, which is an urgent need of the hour. We sincerely look forward to your esteemed presence and meaningful contribution to this significant discussion.

About IAUA

Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) was established on 10th November, 1967. Initially, there were nine founder-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 thereby rural development in the country. It also acts as a bureau of information to facilitate communication, co-ordination and mutual consultation among agricultural universities.

Presently, IAUA has 74 member universities, which include 66 State Agricultural Universities; 4 Deemed to be Universities (IARI, New Delhi; IVRI, Izatnagar; NDRI, Karnal and CIFE, Mumbai), 3 Central Agricultural Universities (CAU, Imphal; Dr. RPCAU, Pusa and RLBCAU, Jhansi) and one Central University with Agriculture Faculty (BHU, Varanasi). On specialization there are 46 Agricultural, 7 Horticultural, 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 organized 87 events since its establishment which includes 48 Annual Vice Chancellors' Convention, 16 National Symposium, 13 Brainstorming Sessions, 9 Regional Meetings and one International Conference.

About Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry (VCSG UUHF), Bharsar

Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry (VCSG UUHF), Bharsar, 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 hill agriculture. The university was created by carving out the hill campuses of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), comprising the College of Horticulture at Bharsar and the College of Forestry at Ranichauri, along with a newly established College of Hill Agriculture at Chirbatiya, Rudrapur. The headquarter of the university is located at Bharsar, Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand with the main campus spread over 175 hectares.

VCSG UUHF has developed a robust network of research, extension, and training facilities across the state. In addition to its three colleges, university comprises two institutes, five Research and Extension Centres, two KVKs, and six AICRP projects. The university offers undergraduate degrees in Horticulture, Forestry, and Agriculture; master's programs in 16 disciplines; and doctoral programs in 11 disciplines. The vision of the university is to deliver quality education, foster need-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 setup 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 1983 after the recruitment of scientific and academic staff with its spread across 203 hectares. Following Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1985–86 to include forestry in the curriculum of State Agricultural Universities, Pantnagar University launched a B.Sc. Forestry program in 1986 at Ranichauri campus. In 2011, the College of Forestry at Ranichauri Campus became part of the newly established Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry, Bharsar, which further enhanced its focus on education, research and extension.

Weather and Accommodation at College of Forestry, Ranichauri

The College of Forestry, Ranichauri, is situated at an altitude ranging from 1600 to 2200 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 22°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-sleeve 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 convenient access to the event venue.

Places to visit

The nearest place to visit from Ranichauri is the Tehri Dam site; about 25 km away, where one can see the dam site with boating facilities and Dobra Chanti Lighting Bridge. This visit can be completed within a day. The participants can also visit the Chamba–Mussoorie fruit belt, which extends up to Mussoorie (65 km from Ranichauri), offers a good example of agri-eco-tourism and horticulture practices. On the same route there is the famous Surkanda Devi Temple (One of the Shaktipeeth), accessible by ropeway, highlights local tourism development. Visiting this area takes a full day. Badrinath, a well-known religious site is located 200 km from Ranichauri, requires at least two days for a visit.



Tehri Dam



Surkanda Devi Temple



Floating Huts



Tehri Lake Boating



Dobra Chanti Lighting Bridge



Ropeway

Theme and Sub-theme of Brainstorming Session

1. Inaugural Session with Keynote Address

Theme- Agri-eco-tourism in India: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward

2. Technical Session: Sub-Themes

- (i) Exploring the Potential of Agri-eco-tourism for Rural Development and Livelihoods of Farmers
- (ii) Addressing Policy, Infrastructure, and Capacity Gaps in Agri-eco-tourism
- (iii) Strategies and Innovations for Sustainable Growth of Agri-eco-tourism in India

How to Reach

The College of Forestry, Ranichauri is located about 85 km from nearest Airport Jolly Grant, Dehradun. The nearest railway station is Rishikesh located about 70 km away, while Haridwar Railway Station is around 100 km from Ranichauri. The Ranichauri is well connected by road and can be accessed via New Delhi, Haridwar, Saharanpur, Dehradun and Rishikesh.



VCSG UUHF, Bharsar



College of Forestry, Ranichauri

Organizing Committee

Organizing Committee

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