

Sixth International Conference on Bioscience and Biotechnology (ICBB-2026)

Theme: Cultivating a Research Ecosystem in the Global South

February 6–9, 2026 • Atithi Resort and Spa • Pokhara, Nepal

The primary objective of ICBB-2026 is to strengthen and cultivate a sustainable research ecosystem in the Global South by fostering meaningful collaboration among researchers, educators, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and communities. Celebrating a decade of the International Conference on Bioscience and Biotechnology (ICBB), this sixth edition marks an important milestone in ICBB’s journey since its inception in 2016 as a platform for knowledge exchange and scientific cooperation. Hosted in Pokhara, Nepal: the Gateway to the Himalayas; ICBB-2026 underscores the growing role of regional research hubs in addressing local and global challenges across human, plant, animal, and environmental health. By connecting local expertise with international perspectives, the conference highlights the importance of inclusive research ecosystems, long-term capacity building, and collective action in advancing bioscience and biotechnology in resource-constrained settings. The theme “Cultivating a Research Ecosystem in the Global South” reflects ICBB’s continued commitment to empowering scientific communities, strengthening institutional sustainability, and translating research into societal impact.

Day 1: Friday, February 6, 2026

Welcome Reception Venue: Sabha Hall Registration Coordination: Kriti Rajbhandri, Monika Chaudhary & Rashika Ghulu IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari Master of Ceremony: Dr. Prativa Pandey, Herveda Botanicals, Lalitpur, Nepal Dress Code: Formal		
17:45 – 18:15	Registration / Tea & Coffee	
18:15 – 18:25	Ms. Suvechhya Bastola, Secretary, ICBB-2026	Welcome Remark
18:25 – 18:40	Prof. Bhupal Govinda Shrestha, Department of Biotechnology, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Nepal	KU & Biotech Program: An Introduction
	RIBB Support Seminar Series: Episode 5 (Presentation - 15 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)	
18:40 – 20:00	Speaker 1: Mr. Prajwal Rajbhandari, President, Research Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology (RIBB), Kathmandu, Nepal	RIBB Story: The highs and lows of doing science on the roof of the world
	Speaker 2: Rojlina Manandhar, Department Chair, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal	RIBB-Extra: Advancing research and innovation for a sustainable future
	Speaker 3: Suvechhya Bastola, Department Chair, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal	RIBB Visiting Scientist Program: Building shared resources to enhance

		research capacity in resource-limited settings
	Speaker 4: Ravi Bhandari Member, RIBB-EIC, Kathmandu, Nepal	RIBB Endowment Fund: An incubator for growth
20:00 Onwards	Outdoor Social activity, Photo Gallery (RIBB-ICBB Classics) & Welcome Reception	

Day 2: Saturday, February 7, 2026

08:15 – 09:00	Registration / Tea & Coffee
Registration Coordination: Kriti Rajbhandri, Monika Chaudhary & Rashika Ghulu	
Food Coupon Coordination: Rojlina Manandhar	

Inauguration Ceremony

Venue: Sabha Hall

IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari

Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Sabita Sedhai

Master of Ceremony: Dr. Pratiba Pandey, Herveda Botanicals, Lalitpur, Nepal

09:00 – 9:20	Inaugural Welcome Remark: Prof. Dr. Dhurva Prasad Gauchan Co-Chair, ICBB-2026 (5 min)	Head, Department of Biotechnology, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Nepal
	Special Remark I: Dr. Niraj Dhital, Director, Research & Scholarship Division (7 min)	University Grant Commission (UGC), Bhaktapur, Nepal
	Special Remark II: TBD (8 min)	

9:20 – 09:30	Guest of Honor I: Er. Ganesh Shah, Former Minister, Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, Nepal
9:30 – 10:00	Keynote I: Prof. Richard Burchmore, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK Title: The extended phenotype of intracellular <i>Leishmania</i> parasites (Presentation - 25 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)
ICBB-2026 Group Picture (Resort Garden)	

SESSION I: Science, Research, Innovation, Economy, and Higher Education

(10:10 – 12:00)

Venue: Sabha Hall

IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari

Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Sabita Sedhai

(Presentation - 20 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Sunil Pokhrel & Dr. Pratiba Pandey

Session Overview (10:10 - 10:20): Dr. Sunil Pokhrel, Principal, Kathford International College, Kathmandu, Nepal

10:20 – 10:45	Speaker 5: Dr. Krishna Raj Adhikari	Vice Chancellor, Gandaki University (GU), Pokhara, Nepal
10:45 – 11:10	Speaker 6: Prof. Thomas F. Krauss	University of York, York, UK

11:10 – 11:35	Speaker 7: Dr. Rajendra Pokharel	Member, Curriculum Development Committee, University of Nepal (UNepal), Kathmandu, Nepal
11:35 – 12:00	Speaker 8: Dr. Dhaka Ram Bhandari	Center for Environmental and Sustainable Agricultural Research (CESAR), Pokhara, Nepal
12:00 – 13:30	<p align="center">Lunch, Poster Session, RIBB Endowment Stall for Charity & Photo Gallery (RIBB-ICBB Classics)</p> <p align="center">Poster Coordinator: Daisy Awale, Rashika Ghulu, Monima Karmacharya, Monika Chaudhary & Kriti Rajbhandari</p> <p align="center">Stall Coordination: Sabita Sedhai & Ravi Bhandari</p>	

SESSION II: Human Health (13:30 – 15:20)		
Venue: Sabha Hall		
IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari		
Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Sabita Sedhai (Presentation - 15 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)		
Co-Chairs: Prof. Arjan Narbad & Prof. Sangita Shakya		
Session Overview (13:30 - 13:40): Prof. Arjan Narbad, Quadram Institute, Norwich, UK		
13:40 – 14:00	Speaker 9: Dr. Anurag Adhikari, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia	Title: Integrated antibody and T-cell profiling to identify cross-reactive immune signatures
14:00 – 14:20	Speaker 10: Dr. Martina Vidmar, Quadram Institute, Norwich, UK	Title: Fermented coconut: a tasty remedy for gut health
14:20 – 14:40	Speaker 11: Dr. Sakhila Ghimire, University Hospital Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany	Title: Interplay between gut microbiome and immune cells in health and disease
14:40 – 15:00	Speaker 12: Stephan Harper, Quadram Institute, Norwich, UK	Title: The impact of wheat arabinoxylan fermentation in the gut microbiota
15:00 – 15:20	Speaker 13: Gopiram Syangtan, Kathmandu Research Institute for Biological Sciences, Lalitpur, Nepal	Title: Development of Data Transfer Ethics Framework (daTEF): a participatory approach to delivering evidence-based guidelines for healthcare data transfer
15:20 – 15:50	Coffee Break	

Panel Discussion (Parallel): Research Ecosystem in Global South (16:00 – 17:30)		
Venue: Sabha Hall		
IT: Coordinated by PRI		
Gifts Coordination: Sabita Sedhai & Kriti Rajbhandari		
Chair: Dr. Ashim Dhakal, Phutung Research Institute (PRI), Kathmandu, Nepal		
Panelist 1 – Prof. Neil Mabbott	University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK	
Panelist 2 – Dr. Niraj Dhital	University Grant Commission, Bhaktapur, Nepal	
Panelist 3 – Dr. Ravindra Mohan Sapkota	Shikhar Biotech, Lalitpur, Nepal	
Panelist 4 – Dr. Santosh Koirala	Center for Environmental and Sustainable Agricultural Research (CESAR), Pokhara, Nepal	

<p>Focus Group Discussion (Parallel) (16:00 – 17:30) High School Science Curriculum - Grade 11 & 12 Venue: Bhela Hall IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal & Nisha Thapa Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Monika Chaudhary Round Table Overview: Dr. Sunil Pokhrel (Presentation 10 mins)</p>
<p>Participants: 12 - 15 (Schools Teachers & Educators from Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Zoology)</p>

Day 3: Sunday, February 8, 2026

08:15 – 8:45	Registration Tea & Coffee
<p>Registration Coordination: Kriti Rajbhandri, Monika Chaudhary & Rashika Ghulu Food Coupon Coordination: Rojlina Manandhar</p>	
<p>Venue: Sabha Hall IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Sabita Sedhai Master of Ceremony: Suvechhya Bastola, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal</p>	

8:45 – 9:00	Guest of Honor II: Prof. Achyut Prasad Wagle, Vice Chancellor, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Nepal
9:00 – 9:30	Keynote II: Prof. Arjan Narbad, Quadram Institute, Norwich, UK Title: Modification of human gut microbiome for combating disease and improving human health (Presentation - 25 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)

<p>Policy Seminar I (Parallel): National Biotechnology Policy, Nagoya Protocol and ICGEB Membership (09:30 – 11:00) Venue: Sabha Hall IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Monika Chaudhary Co-Chairs: Suvechhya Bastola & Prajwal Rajbhandari</p>	
Session Overview (09:30 - 09:40): Suvechhya Bastola, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal	
Case Presentation I: Prof. Tribikram Bhattarai,	Nepal Biotechnology Association (NBA) (Presentation 10 mins)
Case Presentation II: Prof. Krishna Das Manandhar	Tribhuvan University (Presentation 10 mins)
Commenter I: Prof. Dhurva Ghauchan	Kathmandu University (KU), Dhulikhel, Nepal
Commenter II: Nabin Munakarmi	Biotechnology Society of Nepal (BSN), Kathmandu, Nepal
Discussion/Q&A: 30 mins	

SESSION III (Parallel): Environmental Health (09:30 – 11:20)		
Venue: Bhela Hall		
IT: Coordinated by PRI		
Gifts Coordination: Sabita Sedhai & Kriti Rajbhandari (Presentation - 15 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)		
Co-Chairs: Prof. Thomas F. Krauss & Dr. Amol Dahal		
Session Overview (09:30 - 09:40): Prof. Thomas F. Krauss, University of York, York, UK		
09:40 – 10:00	Speaker 14: Hari Krishna GC, SNV, Kathmandu, Nepal	Title: Area-wide approach to improving environmental health
10:00 – 10:20	Speaker 15: Lokesh Sapkota, SWAT Lab, Kathmandu, Nepal	Title: Environmental monitoring and environmental health: a private laboratory perspective
10:20 – 10:40	Speaker 16: Dr. Rijan Maharjan & Sadikshya Dahal, Phutung Research Institute (PRI), Kathmandu, Nepal	Title: Real-time fluorometric quantification of residual chlorine at sub-PPM levels using the WAS device
10:40 – 11:00	Speaker 17: Dr. Nabin Aryal, University of South-Eastern Norway, Notodden, Norway	Title: Biofilm based technologies for chemical synthesis and environmental remediation
11:00 – 11:20	Speaker 18: Prof. Thomas F. Krauss, University of York, York, UK	Title: Technologies for detecting bacterial contamination in water: a critical review

SESSION IV: Plant Health (11:00 – 12:30)		
Venue: Sabha Hall		
IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari		
Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya & Sabita Sedhai (Presentation - 15 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)		
Co-Chairs: Dr. Namraj Dhami & Rojlina Manandhar		
Session Overview (11:00 - 11:10): Dr. Namraj Dhami, PU, Pokhara, Nepal		
11:10 – 11:30	Speaker 19: Dr. Pablo D. Cardenas, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark	Title: From wild to tamed: Reimagining novel crops through Omics and local plant diversity
11:30 – 11:50	Speaker 20: Mr. Ashok Limbu, Temperate Horticulture Development Center, Mustang, Nepal	Title: Enhancing high-density apple plantations in Mustang through tissue culture production of M9 dwarf rootstock
11:50 – 12:10	Speaker 21: Mr. Prasodhan Niraula, Apex Biotech, Jhapa, Nepal	Title: Plant Tissue Culture, quality seed, and yield: A strategic imperative for Nepal's potato sector
12:10 – 12:30	Speaker 22: Prof. Bhupal Govinda Shrestha, Kathmandu University, Dhulikhel, Nepal	Title: Merger of ayurveda and biotechnology for study of anti cancer activity of medicinal plants of Nepal

12:30 – 14:00	Lunch, Poster Session, RIBB Endowment Stall for Charity, Photo Gallery (RIBB-ICBB Classics) & Modern Mithila Art Exhibition Poster Coordinator: Daisy Awale, Rashika Ghulu, Monima Karmacharya, Monika Chaudhary & Kriti Rajbhandari Stall Coordination: Sabita Sedhai & Ravi Bhandari
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Lightning Talks (14:00 – 14:15)

Venue: Sabha Hall

IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari

Gifts Coordination: Sabita Sedhai & Monika Chaudhary
(Presentation - 3 mins each, Q&A during Poster Session)

Co-Chairs: Dr. Neha Shrestha & Dr. Prayan Pokharel

14:00 – 14:03	Speaker 23: Dipak Paudel, Prithivi Narayan Campus, Pokhara, Nepal	Title: Time and altitude variation of cinnamaldehyde and anticancer potential of <i>Cinnamomum tamala</i> from different locations of Nepal
14:03 – 14:06	Speaker 24: Asim Maharjan, Phutung Research Institute, Kathmandu, Nepal	Title: A multiparameter, low cost and portable fluorometer for drinking water monitoring
14:06 – 14:09	Speaker 25: Monima Karmacharya, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal	Title: <i>Enterococcus</i> detection and microbial safety assessment of vegetable- and legume-based fermented foods from Nepal
14:09 – 14:12	Speaker 26: Jamie Tuibeo, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia	Title: Investigating the mechanism of viral control in HIV-infected individuals
14:12 – 14:15	Speaker 27: Kriti Rajbhandari, KU, Dhulikhel, Nepal	Title: Circulating miR-1246 as a diagnostic and prognostic biomarker in dengue infection: A Case-Control study

Policy Seminar II (Parallel): Snakebite treatment challenges and future perspectives in Nepal (14:30 – 16:00)

Venue: Sabha Hall

IT Coordination: Nisha Thapa & Rashika Ghulu

Gifts Coordination: Sabita Sedhai

Co-Chairs: Dr. Ravindra Mohan Sapkota & Dr. Sunita Gautam Ghimire

Session Overview (14:30 - 14:40): Sunita Gautam Ghimire, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal

Case Presentation I: Dr. Chhabilal Thapa Magar, Chairman, Nepal Toxinology Association, Nepal (Presentation 15 mins)

Case Presentation II: Kamal Devkota, President, Save the Lives Society, Nepal (Presentation 15 mins)

Case Presentation III: Dr. Ashim Subedi, Manipal Teaching Hospital, Pokhara, Nepal (Presentation 15 mins)

Discussion/Q&A: 30 mins

Poster Competition (Parallel): Meet the Herbs - Young Scientists, Young Changemakers (14:30 - 16:00)

Poster Coordinator: Daisy Awale, Kriti Rajbhandari, Rashika Ghulu, Monika Chaudhary & Monima Karmacharya

Venue: Resort Garden

Coordinator: Suvechhya Bastola, Amol Dahal & Rashmi Adhikari

Hands-On Activity: Optics in Our Daily Life

Participants: 30 - 40 (Schools Teachers & Students)

SESSION V: Animal Health (16:15 - 17:25)

Venue: Sabha Hall

IT Coordination: Utsav Dahal, Nisha Thapa & Rashmi Adhikari

Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya/Sabita Sedhai

(Presentation - 15 mins each + 5 mins Q&A)

Co-Chairs: Prof. Neil Mabbott & Dr. Hitesh Kumar Bhattarai

Session Overview (16:15 - 16:25): Prof. Neil Mabbott, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

16:25 - 16:45	Speaker 28: Wen-Chi Hsu, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Pingtung, Taiwan	Title: Fecal RNA-Based profiling as a Non-Invasive alternative for characterizing active gut microbiota in cattle
16:45 - 17:05	Speaker 29: Zi-Chen Hsu, National Pingtung University of Science and Technology, Pingtung, Taiwan	Title: Effects of dietary tannic acid supplementation on the active gut microbiota of pigs
17:05 - 17:25	Speaker 30: Prof. Neil Mabbott, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK	Title: The impact of gastrointestinal helminths on susceptibility to co-infection with other parasite infections
17:30 - 18:00	Closing Ceremony	

Day 4: Monday, February 9, 2026

ICBB Retreat: KORA (Cycling 22 Km around Fewa Lake)		
Route: Atithi Resort & SPA - Lakeside - Pame - Lairak - Siddha Baba - Ghatichinna - Pallo Bhatta - Pame - Lakeside - Atithi Resort & SPA		
09:00 - 11:00		
10:00 - 16:00 (Phutung Research Institute Group Meeting)		
Venue: Sabha Hall		
Celebrating 10 years of ICBB		
Photo Gallery: RIBB-ICBB Classics		
Venue: Sabha Hall & Resort Garden		
18:00 Onwards		
Dress Code: Formal		
Master of Ceremony: Ravi Bhandari, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal		
18: 00 - 18:35	Introduction to Mithila Arts by Manisha Shah (10 mins)	
	A decade of advocating (Celebrating Glorious 10 Years of ICBB) by Prajwal Rajbhandari, RIBB, Kathmandu, Nepal (20 mins)	
	Closing Remark: Prof. Bed Mani Dahal, Dean, School of Science, KU, Dhulikhel, Nepal	
18: 45 - 19:15	Cultural Show I (Dance)	
	Cultural Show II (Songs)	
	Cultural Show III (Songs)	
	Cultural Show IV (Dance)	
Gifts Coordination: Monima Karmacharya / Sabita Sedhai		
19: 30 - 20:00	RIBB-SAB Members	Felicitation
	Friends of RIBB (Endowment Donors)	Felicitation
	Token of Love (Sponsors)	Felicitation
	Token of Love (Organizers & Volunteers)	Felicitation
20:00 Onwards	<p style="text-align: center;">RIBB Endowment Stall for Charity Photo Gallery (RIBB-ICBB Classics) Modern Mithila Art Exhibition Closing Banquet</p>	