

Final Circular

AFB-CON 2024

**International Conference on Role of
Fungi in Sustainable Development -
From Exploration to Application**
&
**2nd Annual Meet of
Association of Fungal Biologists (AFB)**

October 23-25, 2024



Organized by

Department of Botany
Savitribai Phule Pune University,
Pune 411007, India

Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts
Commerce and Science College,
Akurdi, Pune 411044, India

Venue

Department of Botany
Savitribai Phule Pune University,
Pune 411007, India

About the Conference

The Association of Fungal Biologists, India is pleased to announce its 2nd Annual meet along with an International Conference on *"Role of Fungi in Sustainable Development: From Exploration to Application"* to be held at Department of Botany, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra, India from October 23rd to 25th, 2024. This conference aims to offer a forum for researchers, educators, industry professionals, and students to collaborate, gain insights, and discuss advances, opportunities, and challenges in fundamental and applied mycology. This event will include keynote addresses, lecture sessions, panel discussions, and poster presentations covering a wide range of topics, including recent breakthroughs in fungal biodiversity studies, biology, biotechnology, and conservation. For centuries, fungi have been known, but recent developments in evolutionary comprehension have distinguished them as distinct life forms, offering significant opportunities for deeper investigation into their biology, diversity, and evolutionary histories, ranging from yeasts and filamentous fungi to mushrooms. Renowned for their crucial ecological roles in decomposition, symbiotic and endophytic relationships with higher plants, and parasitic interactions with plants and animals, fungi are well known. However, they often remained mysterious, underexplored, and insufficiently documented. Progress in sequencing technologies holds the potential for substantial advancements in comprehending the diversity, functions, and evolutionary relationships within the fungal realm. However, many aspects of this knowledge are still unresolved.

While fungi have garnered recognition as a valuable resource for many basic and applied research endeavors, only a fraction have been extensively studied across various sectors, including agriculture, food, health, and industry. The landscape of fungal biology is evolving rapidly, with fungi assuming a crucial role in mainstream biology as model organisms. However, the emergence of new diseases, the development of resistance to existing antifungal agents, and growing environmental concerns present pressing challenges, necessitating effective strategies for mitigation. Besides, the ongoing destruction of natural habitats and the depletion of the diverse fungal gene pool pose significant obstacles, underscoring the need for a strategic plan for the conservation of fungal resources for future generations in alignment with the framework outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Indian Biodiversity Act and Rules. In recent years, advancements in modern technologies have narrowed the disparities between traditional and contemporary methods, strengthening interdisciplinary approaches and increasing the significance of the frontiers of mycology. With the backgrounds mentioned above, this International Conference is envisaged to facilitate discussions on bridging the gap between conventional and modern approaches in mycology. We cordially invite you to

participate in this International Conference, where you can update your knowledge alongside experts from academia, research institutions, and industries. This interaction will facilitate the acquisition and dissemination of innovative ideas on fungal biology and its role in sustainable development.

About The Association of Fungal Biologists

The Association of Fungal Biologists is a scientific body constituted with a broad interest in the advancement of mycology and caters to the needs of mycologists worldwide. The association was formed with the aim



of bringing together mycologists with broad objectives, promoting and disseminating knowledge on various facets of mycology from a wide perspective. The major emphasis has been laid on the application of mycology to harness the biotechnological potential of microfungi and macrofungi for human welfare. There are over 180 life members, including professionals, budding mycologists and students with varied interests and capabilities in fungal taxonomy, phylogeny, ecology, pathology, physiology, genetics, molecular biology, forestry, biotechnology, and other allied fields. The Association extends invitation to the national and international mycologists to join it for betterment of mycological research.

Objectives

- To bring together researchers, experts, and enthusiasts from various disciplines
- To provide a platform to gather and share knowledge, insights, and advancements in the field of fungal biology, biodiversity, and biotechnology
- To facilitate networking opportunities, disseminate cutting-edge research, and inspire participants to further contribute to the field of mycology
- To foster collaboration, exchange ideas, and explore innovative approaches for studying and harnessing the potential of fungi
- To advance the understanding of fungi and their significance in addressing global challenges, fostering sustainable practices, and promoting overall well-being

About the Department of Botany, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

The Department of Botany, established in 1952, is one of the leading centre of India in the field of teaching and research in plant sciences. For about four decades after its establishment, the Department was recognized for teaching and research in the areas of Paleobotany, Algology, Mycology and Experimental Botany. After that, in keeping pace with the advances in various aspects of Plant Sciences, the department faculty started research in molecular biology, development of transgenics, pathway dissection & engineering through transcriptome analysis, next generation sequencing & whole genome sequencing approaches. The Department faculty has received funding from various funding agencies under the programs like DST-FIST, UGC- ASIST, UGC-DSA. The faculty has received several prestigious awards, fellowships & published their research in high impact journals like Nature Genetics, Nature Plants, PNAS, etc. & has collaborations with various reputed national and international institutes.



About Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce and Science College Akurdi, Pune (under P.D.E.A.)

The College was established in 1992 by Pune District Education Association (P. D. E. A.) under the visionary leadership late Prof. Ramakrishna More, Former Education Minister of Maharashtra. The college is presently led by Principal Dr.



Bejamee Lobo and offering graduate programs in Arts (Marathi, English, Hindi, Psychology, Geography, Economics and Political Science), Commerce (B Com, BBA, BBA-CA), Science (Chemistry, Physics, Botany Zoology, Math), Computer (BSc CS, BCA), Vocational Courses

(Food Science, Interior Design, Automotive Electronics, Software Design). The College is also offering Masters and Ph. D. programs in Arts (English, Hindi, Geography, Economics and Political Science) Commerce, Science (Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Physics, Math), and Master's program in Marathi, Psychology, Computer science, Computer application, software design. Student strength of the college is around 6000.

Our Patrons

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Themes of the Conference

The conference will address the following themes, and participants are encouraged to present within these areas:

- Mycodiversity, Taxonomy, Systematics and Myco-tourism
- Prospects of Fungal Conservation and Regulatory Framework
- Clinical and Medical Mycology
- Host-parasite Interaction and Biology of Fungal Endophytes
- Fungal Molecules and Enzymes for Diverse Applications
- Prospects of Cultivation of Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms
- Fungal Biomass, Bioenergy and Sustainable Uses
- Bioinformatics and Molecular Approaches in Mycology
- Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Fungal Biology
- Prospects of Fungal 'Omics'
- Fungi in Agriculture
- Fungi in Industry
- Fungi in Nanotechnology

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Dr. Yogesh Dalvi, Thiruvalla

All other teaching and non-teaching staff of Dept. of Botany, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune

Awards

1. Prof. M.S. Patil Merit Awards for Young Researchers
2. Prof. Kamal Merit Awards for Young Researchers
3. Prof. J.G. Vaidya Merit Awards for Young Woman Researchers
4. Prof. P.S. Gharse Memorial Special Prize for Poster Competition

Terms and conditions for awards

- All awards (oral & posters) will be given during the annual meet of AFB and associated conference
- Eligibility for awards extends to young professionals/ PDF/ PhD students (not exceeding 40 years of age) actively engaged in mycological research
- Separate awards will be given for oral and poster presentations
- Each Young Scientist Award will include a citation and memento
- For more details for criteria of the individual awards, Please visit website: www.afbindia.co.in

Registration Fee for Participants from SAARC Countries (including India)

Category	Until 10 th September 2024 (INR)	Till 31 st September 2024 (INR)	Spot registration (23 rd Oct. 2024) (INR)
Delegate/ Faculty	2500	3500	5000
AFB member	2000	3000	4000
Research Scholar	1500	2000	3500
PG student	500	1000	NA
Accompanying person	2000	2500	NA

Registration Fee for Foreign Participants (other than SAARC Countries)

Category	Until 10 th September 2024 (INR)	Till 31 st September 2024 (INR)	Spot registration (23 rd Oct. 2024) (INR)
Delegate/ Faculty	8000	10000	15000
Research Scholar	6000	7500	NA
Accompanying person	5000	6000	NA

Registration Fee for International Conference (23-25 October 2024) includes:

- Access to all sessions
- Conference kit
- Refreshments including high tea, lunch, dinner, and coffee/tea during the Conference
- Presentation/ participation certificates

Note: Please note that accompanying individuals will not receive conference kit and presentation/ participation certificates

- Registration fee does not include accommodation.

Abstract Submission

Abstracts must be submitted by email to afbcon.india@gmail.com. Include the title, authors' name, affiliation, complete address, and email address of the corresponding author. It should be typed in Microsoft word using Arial font, size 12, single-spaced, and should not exceed 350 words. The content of the abstract should be concise, self-explanatory, and should not contain any references.

The title should be in capital letters, with the name of the presenting author underlined. Abstract submission is open to registered participants only. The organizers will notify participants of the acceptance of their abstracts for lead/ oral/ poster sessions. If opted for any awards, please mention on the body of the abstract about the time of submission, kindly note that one participation can apply for one award only. A souvenir containing the abstracts will be published during the conference. The last date of abstract submission is 31st September 2024.

Accommodation

Registered delegates will be provided accommodation at SPPU guest house and nearby comfortable hotels. In Pune, the tariffs range from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000/- per person per

day for delegates. For students, affordable dormitory-type accommodation will be arranged, with tariffs ranging from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1500/- per person per day on a shared basis. Organizers will facilitate accommodation for delegates and accompanying non-delegates upon request, submitted along with the registration form well in advance.

Advertisement

The **AFB-CON 2024** offers an invaluable platform for maximizing time and marketing strategies while promptly receiving feedback on new products and services. This international gathering presents an exciting opportunity to showcase your company's latest technology, products, and services to a scientific audience. With an anticipated attendance of over 300 participants, sponsors stand to gain significant exposure to leaders in various scientific disciplines such as Mycology, Microbiology, Plant Pathology, Industrial Mycology, Biotechnology, Food Technology, Nanotechnology, and more. The organizing committee plans to release a souvenir containing abstracts on October 23rd, 2024. Companies interested in advertising their profiles or products in this souvenir for widespread circulation among delegates from SAARC countries are encouraged to contact the organizing secretary.

About Pune

Pune, located in the state of Maharashtra, India, is a vibrant city known for its rich history, cultural heritage, and modern development. Often referred to as the "Oxford of the East" due to its numerous educational institutions, Pune is a hub of learning and research, for example:

- MACS-Agharkar Research Institute- <https://aripune.org/>
- CSIR- National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) <https://www.ncl-india.org/>
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) <https://www.iiserpune.ac.in/>
- Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), Pune- <http://www.unipune.ac.in/>
- Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune- <https://www.tropmet.res.in/>

Historically, Pune was the capital of the Maratha Empire and served as the seat of the Peshwas, prime ministers of the Maratha rulers. The city played a significant role in India's independence movement, with landmarks like the Aga Khan Palace serving as memorials to this struggle. Today, Pune is a bustling metropolis with a diverse population and a blend of traditional and contemporary lifestyles. It boasts a thriving IT and automotive industry,

earning it the nickname "Detroit of India." Pune's pleasant climate, green spaces, and proximity to scenic hill stations make it a popular destination for tourists and nature lovers alike.

Culturally, Pune offers a vibrant arts and music scene, with numerous theaters, galleries, and cultural events throughout the year. The city is also famous for its delectable cuisine, including street food delights and traditional Maharashtrian dishes. Overall, it is a dynamic city that seamlessly blends its rich heritage with modernity, offering visitors a unique blend of culture, history, and opportunity.

Places to visit in Pune

- Dagadusheth Halwai Ganapati Temple
- Phoenix Market City
- Shree Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum
- Shaniwar Wada
- Aga Khan Palace
- Sinhagad Fort

Places to visit around Pune

Lavasa, Lonavala, Mahabaleshwar, Matheron, Shirdi, Alandi, Pandharpur, Kas Pathar, etc.

Souvenirs

Paithani sarees, Shrewsbury biscuits from Kayani bakery, Local art and crafts, Maharashtrian jewellery.

Note: The organizer will assist desirous participants in visiting tourist attractions around Pune by affordable transport. Delegates must confirm by 15th October 2024.

Registration

To ensure your participation, please follow the registration process detailed below:

1. Registration Fee Payment: Kindly remit the registration fee to the designated account mentioned below.
2. Submission of Registration form: After making the payment, please furnish the details in the format given below and send it via email to afbcon.india@gmail.com
3. Confirmation: Upon receiving your email with the necessary details and proof of payment, our team will verify the information and send you a confirmation email.

Note: Please note that your registration will only be considered complete after the receipt and verification of the above information. We advise you to complete your registration at the earliest to secure your spot at the conference.

International Conference on Role of Fungi in Sustainable Development - From Exploration to Application and 2nd Annual Meet of Association of Fungal Biologists (AFB)

Dr/Mr/Ms _____

Designation _____

Complete Postal Address _____

Contact Details _____ Phone _____ Mobile _____

Nationality _____

Passport Details _____ No _____ Issuing Date _____

VISA Validity _____ From _____ to _____

Title of the presentation _____

Dates of Accommodation _____

Total Amounts Paid Online (in INR.) _____

Transaction Reference No. _____ Date _____

Travel Plan

Arrival at Pune/Mumbai

Train/Flight: Name _____ No. _____ Time _____ Date _____

Departure from Pune/Mumbai:

Flight / Train: Name _____ No. _____ Time _____ Date _____

Bank Details

Account Number: 087104000023889

Name of the Bank: IDBI Bank

Address: Bhel Chowk, Nigdi Pradhikaran,
Nigdi Pune

IFSC Code: IBKL0000087

Acc. Holder Name: Prof. Ramkrishna More
Arts, Commerce and Science College, Akurdi,
Pune

Contact

All communications pertaining to the
International Conference must be directed to:

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Dr. Mahesh Borde, Convenor
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E-mail: afbcon.india@gmail.com

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