



ICAR Sponsored Winter School

on

Innovations in Plant Microbiome Bio-inputs Culturing Techniques for Sustainable Agriculture

25th February to 17th March, 2026

• Organized by •

**Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth
Parbhani, Maharashtra - 431402**

(ICAR Accredited 'A' Grade University)



Course Director

Dr. G.P. Jagtap

Deputy Director Research & Professor (Plant Pathology)

Course Coordinators

Dr. P.H. Ghante

Head, Department of Plant Pathology

Dr. C.V. Ambadkar

Professor (Plant Pathology)

• Sponsored by •

Agricultural Education Division (HRD)

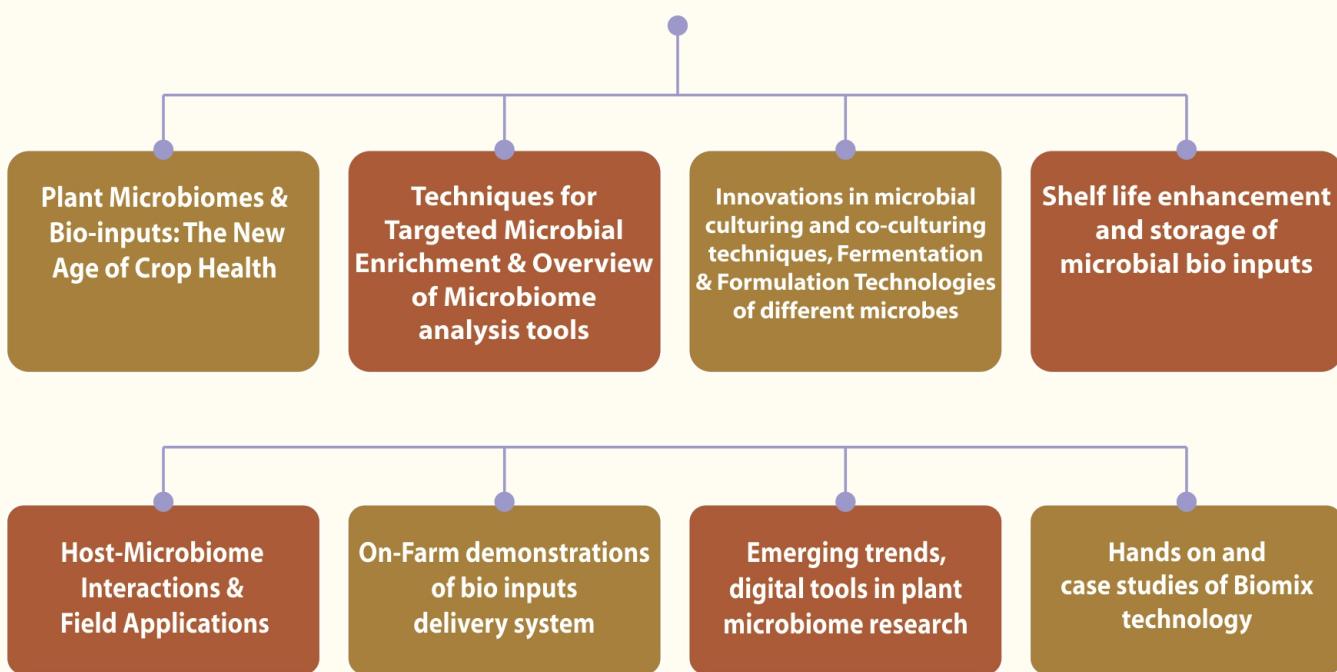
Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi-110001



About Winter School

The proposed winter school aims to provide comprehensive insights into the role, importance, and techniques of beneficial plant microbiome in sustainable agriculture. The microbial communities in plants enhance plant growth, nutrient uptake, stress tolerance, and disease resistance. This well-structured winter school aims to disseminate up-to-date knowledge on beneficial plant microbiome. This will also provide opportunities to experience state-of-the-art facilities of VNMKV through hands-on training to enable the participants to leverage plant microbiome sustainable agricultural practices. The beneficial plant microbiome mediated plant health care which would address the isolation, identification, multi omics-based characterization of plant beneficial microbes and application of their different formulations to facilitate sustainable agriculture. This winter school will also inspire the young researchers for the development activities to unlock the potential of plant microbiome in sustainable agriculture.

Course Content



Eligibility and participation

Applicant should be postgraduate in Plant Pathology/ Microbiology/ Soil science/ Agricultural Entomology/ Plant Protection working not below the rank of Assistant Professor/ SMS or equivalent from ICAR institute, SAUs, CAUs, KVKS, Agriculture Faculty of AMU, BHU, Vishwa - Bharati and Nagaland University.



VNMKV, Parbhani

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth was established on 18th May 1972 by the State of Maharashtra. VNMKV, Parbhani has a glorious legacy of agricultural research of more than 105 years as the Cotton Research Centre, Mahboob Bag, Parbhani was established in the year 1918. The mandate of the University is to impart education in agriculture and technology; conduct research and innovations as per the regional needs and transfer of technology to the farmers, industries and other end users. The University is also mandated with development of appropriate technologies for conservation of natural resources for sustainable use under the climate change situation. Since inception, the University released 156 varieties of food and horticultural crops, 56 implements and 1089 production technologies to cater to the needs of farmers leading to comprehensive agricultural development in Marathwada region.

The degree programs of UG, PG and Ph.D. in various agriculture and allied faculties of VNMKV are accredited by Peer Review Team of ICAR, New Delhi. The VNMKV imparts degrees under the faculties of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Food Technology, Community Science, Agricultural Business Management, Horticulture and Agricultural Bio-Technology. The University has initiated steps towards the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. More than 55 % of students got placement during 2023 in various organizations and industries through Student Placement Cell whereas other students joined higher education and entrepreneurship activities. The university has bagged the International Green University Award during 2023-24.

The Centre of Excellence for Digital Farming Solutions for Enhancing Productivity by Robots, Drones and AGV's under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) was established in VNMKV with World Bank funding under aegis of ICAR. The center has been focusing on Mechatronics, CAD/CAM/CAE, 3-D printing and instrumentation laboratories for Agri-bots, Agri-Drones and Agri-AGVs. The centre facilitated national and international training to students and faculties on advanced digital technologies. During 2023-24, 55 students and 25 faculty members completed their foreign training programme in leading International Universities.

Recently, the University acquired research funding worth of Rs. 65 crores from DST, NASF, RKVY, RGSTC, GIZ and Maharashtra Chief Minister's funds to conduct research on digital agriculture, sustainable agriculture, biotechnology, organic and natural farming, use of drones in agriculture, nano fertilizer and agri-photovoltaic. The University has also developed strong collaboration with industries and National & International research organizations. Under CSR funding, Maharashtra Mechanization Centre at Parbhani, Centre for skill development of the farmers and rural youth at KVKS, and Marathwada Farmers Training Centreat Ch. Sambhajinagar (Aurangabad) are being established. Recently, the Common Incubation Centre on jaggery, spices and sugarcane juice processing under Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme has started functioning in the University.



Accommodation

Selected participants will receive free boarding and lodging at the university guest house. Food expenses will be covered by the organizers as per ICAR norms. Local participants will not receive boarding and lodging, but will be provided with working lunch and intersession tea. Participants should not bring family members due to limited hostel facilities. No dearness allowances will be paid.

Travelling allowance

Travelling allowances (TA) will be provided by the organizers as per the ICAR norms. Participants are expected to make their own arrangement to reach the venue in advance. The travel expenses will be restricted to a maximum of AC-II tier of train or any other means of transport, as the case may be, upon production of actual ticket by the participants. TA will be paid for onward and return journey between the place of duty of the participants and the venue the Winter school by the shortest possible route. TA will be paid for onward and return journey between the place of duty of the participants and the venue the Winter school by the shortest possible route.

How to Apply

Interested participants who meet the eligibility criteria are required to apply by submitting a duly filled application form, approved by the competent authority, to the Course Director not later than February 10, 2026, accompanied by a non-refundable postal order or demand draft (DD) of Rs. 50, drawn in favor of Comptroller, VNMKV, Parbhani, payable at SBI, MKV, Parbhani. Duly Filled in Application form may kindly be sent on mail drgpjagtap@gmail.com or cvambadkar@gmail.com. A total of 25 participants will be selected for the 21-days winter school based on their eligibility.

Last date of applications: 10.02.2026

Intimation to selected candidates: 12.02.2026

Confirmation from participant: 15.02.2026

How to reach ?

Parbhani is well-connected by road, rail and air. By road Parbhani is accessible via National and State Highways, with bus services, taxis, and private vehicles. Parbhani Junction offers rail connectivity to major cities like Mumbai, Pune, Hyderabad, and Nagpur. The nearest airports are Nanded Airport (70 km) with limited domestic flights, and Aurangabad Airport (190 km), well-connected to cities like Mumbai, Delhi, and Hyderabad. Local transport within Parbhani includes auto-rickshaws and taxis.

📍 https://maps.app.goo.gl/tanEXfJbZ6wAb6Fu6?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy



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Application format for participation in training

1. Name (in block letters) :
2. Designation :
3. Present employer address :
4. Address to which reply should be sent :
5. Permanent address :
6. Date of birth:
7. Sex:
8. Teaching/research/professional experience (mention post held) :
during last 5 years and Number of publications
9. Marital status :
10. Mention if you have participated in any research seminar. :
Summer/Winter/Short Courses etc. during last five (5) year under I.C.A.R./Other Organizations
11. Draft/Postal order for Rs. 50/- (in favour of Comptroller, VNMKV, Parbhani to Training Institute) towards registration (non-refundable), if applicable.:
Bank:
Postal order/DD no.:
Dated:
12. Academic record

Degree	Discipline	Year	Class

13 Recommendations of forwarding Institute:

Recommended

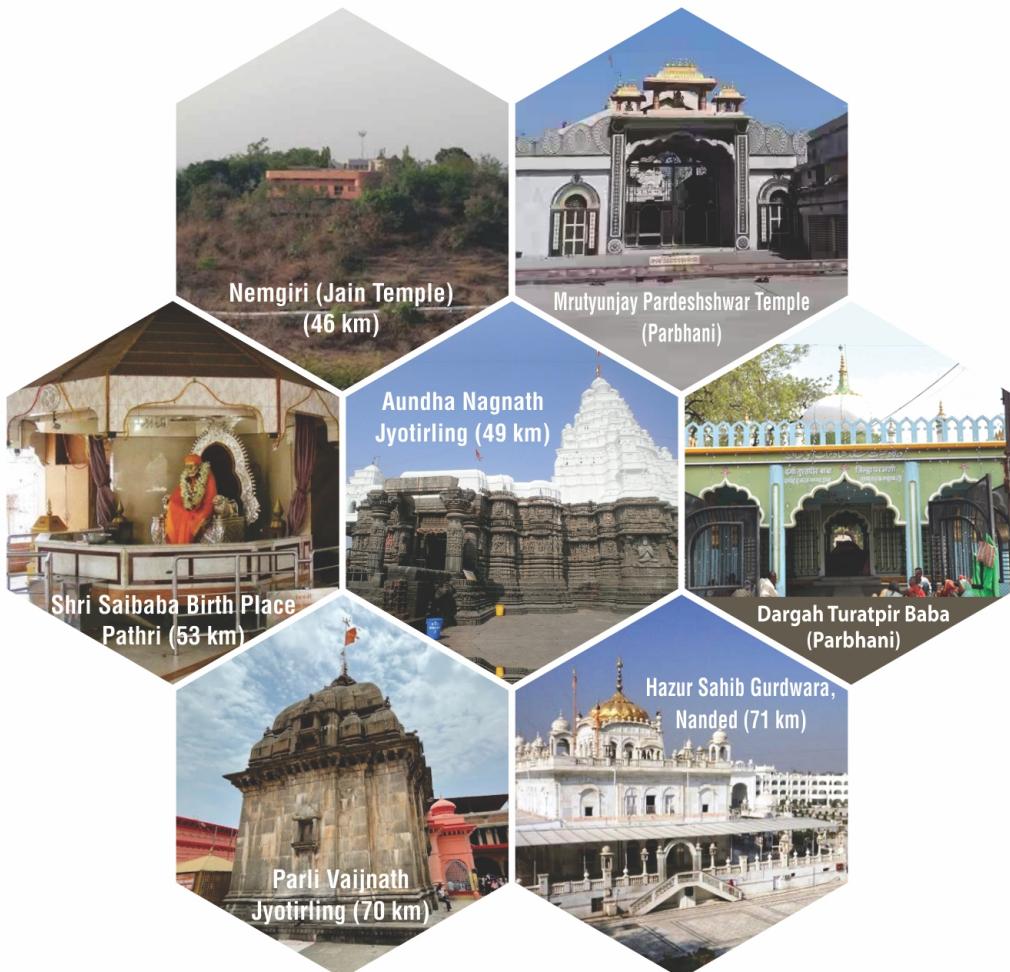
Signature:

Date:

It is certified that the information was furnished by the office record and was found corrected



Tourist Attractions nearby



For more information & correspondence contact

Course Director

Dr. Gajendra Jagtap

Deputy Director Research & Professor (Plant Pathology)

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**Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth
Parbhani - 431 402 Maharashtra, India**



Year of Establishment : 1972

Mandates : Education, Research and Extension Education

Significant achievements (2025-26) under the Leadership of Hon.Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Indra Mani

- Imparted education to 5070 UG, 470 PG/PhD students across 7 faculties and 3780 diploma skill students. 29.9 % UG and 60.7 % PG/PhD students employed, 145 entrepreneurs and many self-employed professionals.
- Established Drone RPTO, Drone Professional Certification Course (6 Months) and Drone Custom Hiring Centre in collaborations with 3 industries and 1 startup.
- Established 6 advanced referral laboratories related to soil and plant health and 2 commercial bio products manufacturing units.
- Established Common Incubation Centre for sugarcane juice, jaggery and spices processing also; Maharashtra mechanization centre for skilling students and entrepreneurs, Generated Rs.20.5 crore funding under CSR.
- Developed three straight Bt cotton Varieties viz., NH 1901Bt, NH 1902 Bt & NH 1904 Bt for central zone which will help to bring sustainability in cotton production.
- Developed First CMS-based pigeon pea hybrid from the public sector BDNPH 2018-5. Pigeon pea variety BDN-711 spreads over 3.0 lakh ha area accruing estimated additional benefit of 2500 cr.to farmers.
- Climate-resilient varieties of soybean released have helped boost the average productivity of farmers by 10 to 20 percent, resulting in an estimated additional benefit of Rs.4500 crores to farmers.
- Conversion of 2,500 acres of barren land into breeder seed production farm powered by seed to seed mechanization in major crops helped to double breeder seed production.
- Biomix, a liquid consortium benefited 1,08,285 farmers in last five years and generated a revenue of Rs. 6 crore in the year 2025.
- Strong linkage developed under 'Mera Gaon Mera Gourav' (*Maza Ek Diwas Mazyा Baliraja sobat*) Campaign in 495 Villages.
- Farmers benefitted through different extension programme 8.26 lakh; linked through social Media 13.72 lakh