

Second Circular  
ISC-2024

International Salinity Conference on

# REJUVENATING SALT AFFECTED ECOLOGIES FOR LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY UNDER CHANGING CLIMATE

14-16 FEBRUARY 2024

## Venue

ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research  
Institute, Karnal



Organized by  
Indian Society of Soil Salinity and Water Quality, Karnal, India  
In Collaboration with  
ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, India  
Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi



## **PREAMBLE**

Salt-affected soils (SAS) are spread over more than 100 countries in the world. Globally, SAS covers over ~835 Mha, comprising sodic (438 Mha) and saline (397 Mha) soils. Of which ~76 Mha area is affected by human-induced salinization and sodification. Livelihoods of more than 2.6 billion (about 74%) of resource-poor peasants is facing a threat due to moderate to severe degradation of nearly 52% of the world's agrarian land. This results in an annual economic loss to the extent of ~US\$ 6.3 billion. To contain the process of further soil deterioration, sustainable land management is vital for ecological sustainability and to meet the national targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Presently, soil salinization is a major environmental challenge affecting the production and low of essential ecosystem services (loss of biodiversity, nutrient and water recycling, carbon sequestration etc.) eventually resulting in the reduced productive capacity of soils.

At present, India has 6.73 Mha salt-affected area, of which 2.95 million ha is saline distributed over 16 states. Moreover, the situation may worsen in the near future as the projected area under SAS might increase to the extent of 16.2 M ha by 2050. For this, the major causes are inefficient drainage systems and associated waterlogging conditions; increasing use of unsustainable management practices and incessantly expensing areas under poor-quality groundwater irrigation. The use of poor-quality groundwater irrigation ranges 32-84% in different arid and semiarid regions of India. This poses a serious threat to the sustainability of the crop production system. Further, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and Punjab states account for ~ 80% of the total sodic lands of India. The problem of saline soils is present in 12 states among them Gujarat has the highest area (1.68 Mha). The estimates show that the annual crop production loss due to salinity and sodicity is as high as 16.84 million tonnes, resulting in a loss of ₹ 23,00 million (2015 base price). This necessitates the need for sustainable management of the degraded lands to avoid their further expansion and associated ramifications for food security under the looming effects of climate change.

In this context, the United Nations convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has devised a comprehensive global strategic framework (2018-2030) to overcome the international and national challenges of different processes of land degradation including soil salinization, soil erosion, desertification and droughts having serious economic and social repercussions. The UNCCD member countries are committed to achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030 to restore land productivity and thereby improve the livelihood security of resource-poor farmers. In 2019, India set its target of restoring 26 Mha of degraded land including salinized and waterlogged lands by 2030.

## PREAMBLE (Cont...)

To meet India's LND targets, particularly in salinity and sodicity areas within the stipulated period requires a host of holistic strategies including the development of cost-effective, efficient, scalable technological solutions, institutional collaborations, financial support, enabling policy environment and dedicated programmes and schemes aligned with national priorities. With this background, the Indian Society of Soil Salinity and Water Quality in collaboration with ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal and the Indian Council of Agriculture Research is planning to organize International Salinity Conference on '**Rejuvenating Salt Affected Ecologies for Land Degradation Neutrality under Changing Climate**' at Karnal (HR) during 14-16 February 2024. The Conference will provide an opportunity to discuss and deliberate on innovative ideas, insights and solutions for devising workable strategies under different sub-themes of the Conference. It is our pleasure to cordially invite researchers, development officials, progressive farmers, industries, NGOs/FPOs, planners and policymakers to participate and share their valuable experiences on sustainable management of soil salinity and use of poor-quality water during the upcoming International Salinity Conference (ISC-2024).



**MAJOR THEME:**

Sustainable management of salt affected ecologies for land degradation neutrality under changing climate.

**SUBTHEMES:**

- Assessment, monitoring and mapping of salinity and degraded lands using advanced GIS and remote sensing tools, drivers and indicators.
- Processes of salinization/land degradation and their effects on soil, water, crops, and amelioration strategies to achieve LND and SDGs.
- Efficient and sustainable strategies for productive use of groundwater and low-quality water in agriculture.
- Approaches to develop multi-stress tolerance in crops for sustainable management of saline ecologies.
- Alternate land use, agro-forestry, horticultural, integrated farming systems and crop diversification for improving productivity of degraded and saline agro-ecosystems.
- Adaptation and mitigation options and climate resilient practices for nutrition, food and livelihood security in salt affected ecosystems.
- Impact of salinity/NRM technologies, socio-economic issues, policies/institutions, and crop-livestock linkages for sustainable production in salt-affected eco-systems.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

Papers based on recent trends in the domains of sub-themes with a focus on novel methods, cost effective and innovative technologies that could be replicated in different saline agro-ecosystems of the country will be most appreciated. Papers for oral or poster presentation will be accepted from intending participants under various sub-themes.

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:**

Authors are requested to submit abstract(s) of their research/ extension work, of not more than 500 words, clearly stating the background and objective/s of the research, brief methodology, preliminary results and highlights. The authors will be informed about the acceptance of the abstract after review by the scientific programme committee.

**PAPER SUBMISSION:**

The abstract can be submitted only online by uploading the files on conference website [isc2024.eventsdashboard.in](http://isc2024.eventsdashboard.in)

Steps for Abstract Submission:

1. Register / Sign up
2. Participants Dashboard click in Abstract Submission
3. Fill details required for abstract submission and attach the abstract file in Word format prepared as per guidelines

The submission details and guidelines to the authors for abstract and full paper preparation (in agreement with guidelines of Journal of Soil Salinity and Water Quality) are available on the website. The submitted papers will be reviewed by a committee comprising of subject relevant experts. The accepted papers will be included in the seminar proceedings.

### **PRESENTATIONS & LANGUAGE:**

Presentations include lead lectures, invited papers, contributory oral papers and poster presentation.

English will be the official language of the conference and presentations.

### **REGISTRATION**

All participants are required to register as per the schedule and pay registration fee using the following link:

<https://isc2024.eventsdashboard.in>



### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Abstract Submission Deadline	15 January 2023
Abstract Acceptance Notification	31 January 2023
Early Bird Registration Deadline	15 January 2023
Conference Registration Final Deadline	14 February 2024
Conference Dates	14-16 February 2024
Post Conference Tour	16 February 2024

**PARTICIPATION FEES:**

Participants	Physical Mode		Virtual Mode	
	On/before deadline	After deadline	On/before deadline	After deadline
Indian delegates	₹ 6,000.00	₹ 6,500.00	₹ 2,000.00	₹ 2,500.00
Research Scholar / Students	₹ 2,500.00	₹ 3,000.00	₹ 1,000.00	₹ 1,200.00
Industry/Private representatives	₹ 10,000.00	₹ 12,000.00	₹ 2,500.00	₹ 3,000.00
Accompanying persons *	₹ 3,000.00	₹ 35,000.00	N/A	N/A

\*No registration kit will be provided

### International Participants

Participation Category	Physical mode		Virtual Mode	
	On/before deadline	After deadline	On/before deadline	After deadline
Scientists (other than SAARC/AARDO countries)	\$ 400	\$ 450	\$ 200	\$ 250
Students (other than SAARC/AARDO countries)	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 100	\$ 125
Scientists (SAARC/AARDO countries)	\$ 200	\$ 250	\$ 100	\$ 125
Students (SAARC/AARDO countries)	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 75	\$ 100
Industry/Private Representatives	\$ 700	\$ 750	\$ 350	\$ 400
Accompanying members*	\$ 200	\$ 250	-	-

\*No registration kit will be provided

## SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for the Conference is invited from different organizations, professionals, manufacturers and suppliers as per following. The Platinum sponsor will get free advertisement in banners, posters and souvenir (Full page colour). Gold sponsor will get free advertisement in banners, posters and souvenir (Full page B&W). Silver sponsor will get free advertisement in banners, posters and souvenir (Half page B&W). In addition to above, sponsorship for Conference Lunch and Dinner are also invited separately.

Sponsorship Category	Sponsorship Amount (₹)	Free Delegates
Platinum	₹ 2,00,000.00	5
Gold	₹ 1,00,000.00	3
Silver	₹ 50,000.00	2
Bronze	₹ 25,000.00	1

## VENUE & WEATHER:

The Conference will be held at ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal. The Karnal, a pre-historical epic city in state of Haryana, is located 132 km north of Delhi on National Highway No. 1 (i.e. Grant Trunk Road). It is well connected by road and railway. Karnal is situated at 29° 41' N latitude and 76° 59' E longitude and 252 meters above mean sea level with tropical climate. However, the maximum day temperature ranges between 20-22°C during December while nights are cool with minimum temperature range of 8.3-10.8°C.

## ACCOMMODATION:

Registration fee does not include accommodation charges. Accommodation will be arranged in guest houses/hostels and hotels as per the choice on first come first serve basis with tariffs available on the website.

## POST CONFERENCE TOUR & TOURIST PLACES

Karnal, Kurukshetra and Amritsar, Punjab





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