

AERA Regional Conference 2026

“Digital Agriculture for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems”

**Jointly organised by: UAS, Bangalore, Agricultural Economics Research Association, New Delhi and
International Food Policy Research Institute New Delhi**

Programme: DAY 1 - 17th June, 2026 (Wednesday)

Inaugural Session (Venue: North Block Auditorium)

Time	Programme	Details
09:30 – 11:00 AM	Inaugural Session	Inauguration: Dr. S.V. Suresha, Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, UAS-B Chief Guest Dr. P.K. Joshi, President, AERA Guests of Honour: Shri. Surendra Babu , CGM, NABARD, Prof. D.C. Rai , Vice Chancellor, B.R. Ambedkar University, Muzaffarpur Dr. S. Senthil Vinayagam , Director, IIPM, Bangalore, Dr. Shahidur Rashid , Director, IFPRI Dr. Anjani Kumar , Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI and officers of UAS-B Presided by: Dr. N.B. Prakash, Dean(Agri.), GKVK, Bengaluru
11:00 – 11:15 AM		Tea Break
Technical Session I: Digital Technologies and Agricultural Productivity (North Block Auditorium)		
CHAIR: Dr.Mruthyunjaya		CO-CHAIR: Dr.Gajananan, T.M.
Time	Activity	Name/Title

11:15 – 11:35 AM	Lead Speaker	Dr. Shaik N Meera , Director, ATARI, Hyderabad
11:35 – 11:50 AM	Invited Speaker	Dr. Y.S. Prabhakara : Director, Q-Line BiotechLtd and Start-up Mentor <i>Digital Agriculture: A start-up Mentor's Perspective</i>
11:50 – 12:00 PM	Chairman/Co Chairman Remarks	
Paper Presentations (Venue: North Block Auditorium)		
Chair/Co Chair : Dr. M.R. Girish / Dr. R. Raju		
12:10 – 12:20 PM	Paper Presentation 1	Dr. A. Pouchepparadjou : Enhancing Agricultural Productivity through Digital Technologies: Constraints and Inclusive Policy Approaches.
12:20 – 12:30 PM	Paper Presentation 2	Dr. Vanitha S.M. : Assessment of Socio-Economic and Agricultural Impact of Data driven watersheds
12:30 – 12:40 PM	Paper Presentation 3	Dr. Ravi, K.N. : Bio-economic and spatial impact assessment of site-specific land resource inventory-based watershed interventions under Sujala-III project in Karnataka
12:40– 12:50 PM	Paper Presentation 4	Channaviragouda : Dynamics of Crop Production in Karnataka: Implications for Digital Agriculture and Sustainable Food Systems
12:50 -01:00 PM	Paper Presentation 5	Ajayakumar : Digital Automation in canal Irrigation and its Impact on farmers' Livelihood: A Study from Upper Krishna Project Command Area of Karnataka State
01:00 -01:10 PM	Paper Presentation 6	Vaishnavi, V. : Agri- Voltaics: A Practical Guide to Integrate Solar and Agriculture
Paper Presentations (Venue: Conference Hall, IABM)		
Chair/Co Chair : Prof. N. Nagaraj / Dr. Mamatha Girish		
12:10 – 12:20 PM	Paper Presentation 1	Sanjana G.P. : 3D Printing in Agriculture: Current Trends and Future Strategies
12:20 – 12:30 PM	Paper Presentation 2	Rakesh Naik : Smart Farming in the Era of Agriculture 4.0: Technologies, Opportunities and Challenges
12:30 – 12:40 PM	Paper Presentation 3	Vittal : Economic Feasibility and Sustainability Impacts of AI-Based SAPER Technology for Coconut Neera Production in India
12:40– 12:50 PM	Paper Presentation 4	Shashibhushan M : Physical and Economic Productivity of Digitally monitored Hydroponics vis-à-vis Conventional Production Systems for Green Leafy Vegetables (GLV)
12:50 -01:00 PM	Paper Presentation 5	Divakara, B.P. : Digital Empowerment of Sericulture: Assessing Information Technology Initiatives Under Silk Samagra Scheme For Enhanced Productivity

01:00 -01:10 PM	Paper Presentation 6	Pavan Krishna: Connecting Agriculture Labours to Farmers: The role of digital labour platform in Agriculture
01:10 – 01:20 PM	Paper Presentation 7	Teja S. K.: Agri-Robotics: The Autonomous Engines Driving Digital Agriculture.
Chairman/Co Chairman Remarks		

Session Co-ordinators	Dr.Raveesh, S (IABM Session)./Dr. Manjunath (North Block Session)	
Rapporteurs	Dr. Sagar (IABM Session)/ Dr. Srikanth, H.S. (North Block Session)	
LUNCH BREAK (1:30 -2:30 PM)		

02:00 – 03:30 PM	Panel Discussion organised by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Title: Digital Agriculture and Food Systems Transformation: AI, Evidence and Partnerships for Sustainability, Resilience and Inclusion (Venue: North Block Auditorium)	
Chairs:		
Prof. Ramesh Chand , <i>Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER) and Former Member, NITI Aayog</i>		
Dr. P.K. Joshi , <i>President, Agricultural Economics Research Association, and Vice President, Social Sciences, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)</i>		
Time	Activity	Name of Speaker
02:00-02:07	Welcome and Framing: Why digital agriculture needs evidence, climate intelligence, and inclusive scale	Dr. Mamata Pradhan , <i>Senior Research Coordinator, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)</i> Dr. Shalander Kumar , <i>Deputy Global Research Program Director of the Enabling Systems Transformation Program and Cluster Leader, Markets, Institutions and Policies, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)</i>
02:07-02:20	India's Digital Agriculture Transition: Policy Architecture and Digital Public Infrastructure	Shri Vikas Kanungo , <i>Senior Advisor Digital Strategy, AI Governance and Policy, World Bank Group</i>
02:20-03:00	Moderated Panel Discussion: From Pilots to Scale: What will make Digital Agriculture Actionable, Inclusive, and Accountable?	
	Panellists	Mr. Abhishek Upperwal , <i>Founder- Somet AI Labs</i>

		<p>Dr. Kishore Kumar, Associate Scientist, Digital Innovations, ICRISAT</p> <p>Mr. Jagadish Babu, Chief Operating Officer, Ekstep</p> <p>Dr. C P Gracy, Former Senior Professor & Head (IABM), University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru</p> <p>Dr. Dinesh Balam, Head - Food Systems, AI and Regenerative Agriculture, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, Indian School of Business (ISB)</p> <p>Dr. Anil Rai, Former Assistant Director General-ICT, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</p>
03:00-03:15	Open Discussion/Q&A	
03:15-03:27	Remarks by Chairs	<p>Dr. PK Joshi, President, AERA and Vice President, Social Sciences, NAAS</p> <p>Prof. Ramesh Chand, Distinguished Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relation (ICRIER) and Former Member, NITI Aayog</p>
03:27-03:30	Vote of Thanks	Dr. Anjani Kumar , Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI
Rapporteurs		Dr.Ranganath, G./ Dr.Sree Lakshmi, A.

Technical Session II: Digital Markets and Supply/Value Chains Transformation (Venue: North Block Auditorium)		
CHAIR: Mr. Ashok Kumar, K.S.		CO-CHAIR: Dr. A.V. Manjunath
Time	Activity	Name/Title
04:00-04:20 PM	Lead Speaker	Dr. N. Ravishankar , Founder Director Gram Pathasala and Bharath Mandi and Mentor for AI start-ups. <i>Responsible/Explainable AI (XAI) in Indian Agriculture</i>
04:20-04:35 PM	Invited Speaker	Dr. K.B. Ramappa , Professor & Head, ADRTC, ISEC <i>From Farm to Market: Digitally Enabled Supply and Value Chains in Agriculture</i>
04:50-04:55 PM	Chairman/Co chairman Remarks	

Technical Session II: Paper Presentations (Venue: North Block Auditorium)		
Chair/Co Chair: Dr. M.S. Ganapathy and Dr. C.P. Gracy		
05:00-05:10 PM	Paper Presentation 1	Dr. Paul S.R. Kambhampati: Digital Platforms and Price Efficiency in Paddy Markets: A Panel Data Analysis of e-NAM in Andhra Pradesh
05:10-05:20 PM	Paper Presentation 2	Dr. Mamatha Girish: Optimizing Value Chain for Black Pepper in Wayanad District of Kerala
05:20-05:30 PM	Paper Presentation 3	Dr.K. Nirmal Ravi Kumar, C. Sri Lakshmi: Retail Mall Purchase Decisions of Consumers in Andhra Pradesh, India - A Sparse Multivariate Logit Modelling Approach
05:30-05:40 PM	Paper Presentation 4	Dr.Raveesha, S.: An Economic analysis of Value Chain and Marketing Efficiency of Tomato in Davanagere District of Karnataka
05:40-05:50 PM	Paper Presentation 5	Dr.Akshata Nayak: GIS-Based Analysis of Price Transmission and Market Causality in Indian Onion Markets
05:50-06:00 PM	Paper Presentation 6	Neeta Rose: Transaction costs in accessing improved rice variety (IRV) seed by smallholder farmers of Kerala, India
Session Co-ordinators	Dr.Anjan Kumar, M.J.	
Rapporteurs	Dr. Chaitra Harkude/Dr. Vimala	
Technical Session II: Digital Markets and Supply/Value Chains Transformation (Venue: Conference Hall, IABM)		
Chair/Co Chair: Dr. M.N. Venkataramana / Dr. K.B. Murthy		
05:00-05:10 PM	Paper Presentation 1	Dr. Kiran Kotyal: Value Chain Analysis of Kappaphycusalvarezii in India
05:10-05:20 PM	Paper Presentation 2	Dr.Joycy Rani, D.: Digital Transformation in Sericulture Markets: A Study of Ramanagara E-Auction System
05:20-05:30 PM	Paper Presentation 3	Sri Lekha, S.: e-NAM and Agricultural Market Efficiency: Impact on Price Realisation and Farmer Welfare in Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu
05:30-05:40 PM	Paper Presentation 4	Dr.Nethravathi Ashok Patil: Indian Chilli in the Global Spice Market: Export Trends and Trade Direction Analysis
05:40 -05:50 PM	Paper Presentation 5	Amogh, C.N.: Dynamics of the Makhana industry: Karnataka's perspective
Session Co-ordinators	Dr.S. Ganesamoorthi	
Rapporteurs	Dr. K.B. Vedamurthy/ Dr.Anitha, S	

DAY 2 – 18th JUNE, 2026 (Thursday)

Technical Session III: Digital Agriculture: Policy, Institutions and Governance (Venue: North Block Auditorium)		
CHAIR: Dr. Lalith Achoth		CO-CHAIR: Prof. T.N. Venkatareddy
Time	Activity	Name/Title
9:30-09:50 AM	Lead Speaker	Dr. Rajesh, M.L. Director, KSRSAC, Bangalore
09:50-10:05 AM	Invited Speaker 1	Mr. Chandrakanth Patil, General Manager, KSAMB, Bangalore
10:05-10:20 AM	Invited Speaker 2	Mr. Nipun Mehrothra, CEO, The Agri Collaboratory <i>DPI Sutras - Key governance principles to accelerate digitalisation in agriculture</i>
10:20-10:30 AM	Chairman's Remarks	
Technical Session III – Paper Presentations (Venue: North Block Auditorium)		
Chair/Co-Chair: Dr.A.G. Adeeth Cariappa/Dr. Lokesh, H.		
10:30-10:40 AM	Paper Presentation 1	Mr. Pruthviraj, K. M.: Policy Initiatives for Digital Transformation in Indian Agriculture: eRecords, eServices, eMarkets.
10:40-10:50 AM	Paper Presentation 2	Dr. Manjula, N.: Policy, Institutions and Governance of Digital Agriculture for Sustainable and Inclusive Food Systems
10:50-11:00 AM	Paper Presentation 3	Dr. Radhika C Linking GIS-Based Land Resource Inventory to Farm Income Gains: Evidence from Sujala-III Watersheds in Karnataka
11:00 -11:10 AM	Paper Presentation 4	Dr. Vilas Jadhav: A study on Financial Literacy Inclusion and Digital Finance on Savings Behavior of Rural Households in Karnataka
11:10 -11:20 AM	Paper Presentation 5	G.V. Rohith: Financial Inclusion, Infrastructure, and Agricultural Development in India: A Regional Analysis with Special Reference to the North-Eastern Region
11:20 -11:40 AM	Paper Presentation 6	Deepa Parappa Sunagad: Making the Invisible Visible: Water-Footprint Analytics and Digital Agriculture for Sustainable Virtual Water Governance in India
11:40 -11:50 AM	Paper Presentation 7	Vaishnavi, V.: Digital Agriculture Mission: Tech for Transforming Farmer's Lives
Chairman/Co chairman Remarks		

Session Co-ordinators	Dr.Mamatha Girish/ Dr. Arun, M.
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Rapporteurs	Dr.Nethrayini, K.R./Dr.Srikanth, H.S./Dr. Sagar, S. Pujar
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Technical Session IV: Paper Presentations (Venue: IABM)		
Chair/Co-chair for paper presentation: Dr.Govinda Gowda/Dr. G. M. Gaddi		
10:30-10:40 AM	Paper Presentation 1	Dr.Anandkumar S: Capacity Building of Farmers in Digital Agricultural Applications through the RAWE Programme: A Case Study of PAJANCOA & RI
10:40-10:50 AM	Paper Presentation 2	Geetikirti Sahoo: Digitalization Journey of Indian Agriculture: Evolution from First-Generation Technologies to AI-driven Technologies
10:50-11:00 AM	Paper Presentation 3	Ms. Keerathana, V. : Changing Dynamics of Farmer Producer Organizations: An Assessment of Enterprise Readiness and Institutional Maturity
11:00 -11:10 AM	Paper Presentation 4	AsthaSood, Vinita Kanwal Does Digital Divide Influence Sustainable Development in Punjab and Haryana? Evidence from the Large Sample Survey
11:10 -11:20 AM	Paper Presentation 5	Arathy Ashok: Digital technology applications in dairy sector: Farmers' preferences and willingness to pay towards commercial service provision
11:20-11:30 AM	Paper Presentation 6	Mr. Linu, C.: Digital Knowledge Platforms for Improving Smallholder Farmer Capacity in Vegetable Production
11:30 -11:40 AM	Paper Presentation 7	Ms. Pooja, V.S.: Digital Engagement and ICT Utilization among Postgraduate Agriculture Students: Trends, Gaps, and Implications
11:40 -11:50 AM	Paper Presentation 8	Likhitha, S.: Digital Direct Benefit Transfers and Rural Economic Linkages in Karnataka: Evidence from a Village-Level Social Accounting Matrix
11:450 -12:00 PM	Paper Presentation 9	Ms. Rashmitha, M.: Digital India: Role and Impact on Agriculture
12:00 – 12:10 PM	Paper Presentation 10	Dr. N. Manjula: Agricultural Extension and Digital Empowerment: Bridging the Gap Towards Inclusive Food Systems
12:10 -12:20 PM	Paper Presentation 11	Sahla Salam: Constraints Faced by Farmers in Adopting Digital Agricultural Marketing Platforms
Session Co-ordinators	Dr.Savitha/ Dr. Manjula	
Rapporteurs	Dr.Pankaja, H.K./Dr. Mohan Kumar, T.L.	

Technical Session IV: Digital Inclusiveness, Capacity Building and Empowerment of Farmers (Venue: North Block Auditorium)		
CHAIR: Dr. Y. N. Shivalingiah	CO-CHAIR: Dr.PradeepaBabu, B.N.	

Time	Activity	Name/Title
12:15-12:35 PM	Lead Speaker	Dr.Monnappa Nalyanda , Indian Administrative Fellow,The/Nudge Institute <i>Evolution of Digital Advisory services</i>
12:35-12:50 PM	Invited Speaker 1	Mr. Sachin , Roots Goods Pvt.Ltd. <i>Agentic AI Platform for Farming, Trading and Storage of Maize Based on AI Quality Infrastructure</i>
12:50-01:10 PM	Invited Speaker 2	Mr. Vikas Dongre Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd, Bangalore <i>Digital Empowerment in Agriculture: Integrating FRUITS ID, MSP Procurement, and DBT Payments.</i>
1:10-1:15 PM	Chairman/Co-chairman Remarks	

VALEDICTORY SESSION (Venue: North Block Auditorium)

Time	Programme	Details
1:15 PM – 02:15 PM	Valedictory Session & Policy Roundtable	Chair: Dr. P.Venkataravana, Dean (PGS), UAS, Bangalore Co-Chair: Dr. Anjani Kumar Presided By: Dr.Mudalagiriappa, Director of Research, UAS-B
LUNCH BREAK		