

Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's
Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara
(Constituent College Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil University, Satara)
Department of Microbiology and Dream Foundation, Satara
Jointly organizes Two Days International Conference

on

**“MICROBIOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE-DEVELOPMENTAL
PERSPECTIVES -2026”**



(Hybrid Mode)
(ICMSFDP-2026)
(23rd – 24th January, 2026)



Conference Report

The Department of Microbiology, Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara, a constituent college of Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil University, Satara, in collaboration with Dream Foundation, Satara, successfully organized a two-day International Conference on **“Microbiology for Sustainable Future Development: Perspectives 2026 (ICMSFDP–2026)” on 23rd and 24th January 2026**. The conference commenced with a well-structured and inspiring inaugural programme, setting the tone for two days of meaningful scientific deliberations and knowledge exchange centered on sustainability and microbiological advancements. The conference witnessed active participation of 370 delegates, research scholars, and students, reflecting the wide interest and relevance of the conference theme.

The inaugural function was graced by the Chief Guest, Hon. Padmashri Dr. Sharad Kale, Special Advisor to the Hon. Chief Minister of Goa, whose presence enriched the programme with valuable insights and inspiration. The function was further dignified by the gracious presence of Dr. Arvind Deshmukh, President, MBSI, and Dr. Hanmantrao Deshmukh, Founder, Dream Foundation, eminent personalities who have made significant contributions to the scientific and social sectors.

The Welcome and Introduction were delivered by Prof. Dr. Geetanjali Utekar, Chairman, ICMSFDP–2026. She warmly welcomed all dignitaries, delegates, research scholars, and participants, and elaborated on the aims and objectives of the conference, underlining the importance of global collaboration and sustainable scientific approaches. She also formally introduced the Chief Guest and other dignitaries, acknowledging their distinguished contributions.

The Chief Guest, Hon. Padmashri Dr. Sharad Kale, in his inaugural address, highlighted the importance of sustainability in today's global context. He emphasized that microbiology plays a crucial role in providing eco-friendly and innovative solutions for environmental protection and public welfare. He encouraged researchers to align scientific advancements with long-term sustainable development goals.

The programme was presided over by Hon. Dr. Suresh Salunkhe, Principal of Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara, who delivered the Presidential Address. In his address, Dr. Salunkhe highlighted the relevance of the conference theme in the present global scenario and emphasized the vital role of microbiology in achieving sustainable development. He stressed the need for innovative research, ethical scientific practices, and interdisciplinary collaboration to address challenges related to environmental protection, public health, food security, and industrial sustainability. His address inspired faculty members, researchers, and students to align their research efforts with societal and environmental needs.

The inaugural programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Prof. Dr. Vidya Patil Madam, Treasurer of the conference. She expressed sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, participants, organizing committee members, sponsors, and supporting staff whose collective efforts ensured the successful conduct of the inaugural function.

The inaugural session successfully laid a strong academic foundation for ICMSFDP–2026, fostering an atmosphere of knowledge sharing, collaboration, and thoughtful scientific discourse over the two days of the conference.

The keynote speaker was formally introduced by Ms. M. M. Raut, who highlighted his academic achievements, research contributions, and professional experience, setting the context for the session. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Sharad Kale on the topic "*Microbes as Torch Bearers.*" In his insightful talk, he explained the pivotal role of microbes in promoting sustainability and emphasized the importance of practical implementation of sustainable practices rather than limiting them to theoretical discussions. He also spoke about the complete utilization of available resources and highlighted recycling and reuse as key strategies for achieving long-term environmental sustainability. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. A. R. Jagtap, who expressed sincere gratitude to the keynote speaker, dignitaries, organizers, participants, and all those who contributed to the successful conduct of the session.

The first session of the program was delivered by Dr. S. Nagaraj under the chairmanship of Dr. R. D. Joshi. The session began with a brief introduction of the speaker by Mr. A. S. Jadhav. Dr. Nagaraj spoke on the topic "Epiplastic Microalgae and Sustainable Bioremediation." He explained the concept of epiplastic microalgae—microorganisms that

colonize plastic surfaces in aquatic environments—and highlighted their ecological significance. The speaker elaborated on how these microalgae can play an important role in sustainable bioremediation by contributing to pollutant degradation and supporting eco-friendly waste management strategies. His talk provided valuable insights into innovative and environmentally sustainable approaches for addressing plastic pollution. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Mrs. A. R. Jagtap, expressing gratitude to the speaker and chairperson for their enlightening and informative session.

Session II featured an expert lecture by Dr. Trupti Gokhale, Professor at BITS Pilani, Dubai Campus, Dubai, on the topic “*Sustainable Biofuel Generation from Microalgal Biomass: A Biorefinery Perspective.*” She elaborated on the role of microalgae as efficient biorefineries and highlighted their immense potential in sustainable biofuel production to address global energy and environmental challenges. The session was chaired by Dr. Milind Gajbhiye, Professor, Department of Microbiology, T. C. College, who effectively guided the proceedings and encouraged meaningful academic interaction. The speaker was warmly introduced and welcomed by Ms. P. V. Mali, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Y. C. I. S., and the session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. S. S. Desai, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Y.C.I.S., Satara.

Technical Session III comprised poster presentations evaluated by Dr. S. T. Pawar, BOS Chairman, Savitribai Phule Pune University, and Head, Department of Microbiology, T. C. College, along with Mrs. Dhanashree Deshmukh, Head, Department of Microbiology, Aamdar Shashikant Shinde College. The examiners critically assessed the research work and appreciated the scientific approach and presentation skills of the participants.

Technical Session IV featured oral presentations evaluated by Dr. V. S. Patil, BOS Member, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil University, and Head, Department of Microbiology, L. B. S. College, along with Dr. G. B. Pendharkar, DIVAS Member, Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil University, Satara. The session showcased innovative research findings and encouraged scholarly discussion among participants.

As part of the second day’s first scientific session, an expert lecture was delivered by Dr. Apurba Kumar Sarkar, Director – Technical Operations, Paradise Scientific Company Ltd. Dr. Sarkar presented an insightful talk on the isolation and characterization of multidrug-resistant (MDR) non-fermenting Gram-negative bacteria from various clinical specimens. His lecture highlighted the growing concern of antimicrobial resistance and emphasized the importance of accurate identification and characterization in clinical microbiology. The speaker was formally introduced by Dr. A. A. Survase. The session was chaired by Mrs. Sarita Wadmare, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. A. S. Dike.

Session VI was delivered by Resource Person Dr. Aliyu Ibrahim Dabai, Higher Scientific Officer at the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast, UK. He presented an enlightening lecture on “*The Evolving Role of Microbiology in Building a Sustainable Future.*” Dr. Dabai highlighted the significant contributions of microbiology in sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, food safety, and biotechnological innovations. His talk inspired participants to adopt sustainable and responsible research approaches for the future. The session was chaired by Dr. Vishwas S. Patil, Head, Department of Microbiology, Lal Bahadur Shastri College. The speaker was introduced by Ms. S. R. Inje, and the programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks proposed by Ms. P. R. Salunkhe.

The session VII featured an expert lecture by Dr. Amrita Ranjan, Researcher at AMHBI, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, South Africa. She delivered an insightful talk on the topic “*Microbial Co-culture as a Driving Force of Circular Economy in Industrial Effluent Treatment.*” Her lecture emphasized the importance of microbial co-culture systems in sustainable industrial wastewater management and highlighted their role in promoting circular economy principles through resource recovery and environmental protection. The session was chaired by Ms. M. S. Shinde from Mahatma Phule College. The speaker was introduced by Ms. S. R. Inje, and the programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. P. R. Salunkhe.

The valedictory function of ICMSFDP 2026 was held on 24th January 2026 at 3:00 PM in a dignified and cordial atmosphere. The programme marked the successful conclusion of the two-day international conference and reflected the collective efforts of the organizing committee. The function was graced by Dr. Shilpa Ruikar as the Chief Guest. The programme was further honoured by the gracious presence of Dr. H. V. Deshmukh Sir, President, Dream Foundation, Satara, Dr. J. J. Chavan, Vice Principal, Yashavantrao Chavan Institute of Science, Satara, Prof. Dr. G. V. Utekar, Chairman, ICMSFDP 2026, Ms. M. M. Raut, Convenor, Ms. Dhanashree Pachhade, Co-Convenor, and Dr. B. S. Pawar, Organizing Secretary.

The programme commenced with a warm introduction and welcome address by Ms. Dhanashree Pachhade, who highlighted the objectives of the conference and acknowledged the collective support received from the dignitaries, speakers, and participants. During the session, participants shared their opinions and experiences, expressing highly positive feedback regarding the choice of the conference theme, the inspiring keynote address by Padmashree Dr. Sharad Kale, and the insightful sessions delivered by other renowned speakers. Participants also appreciated the excellent hospitality, well-organized food arrangements, and continuous cooperation extended by the organizing committee throughout the conference.

Dr. H. V. Deshmukh, in his address, appreciated the efforts of the organizing team and

emphasized the importance of such academic platforms in nurturing research culture and interdisciplinary collaboration among young researchers and faculty members. The Chief Guest, Dr. Shilpa Ruikar, expressed her delight and stated that she felt overwhelmed to visit Yashwantrao Chavan Institute of Science. She spoke about the relevance and significance of the conference theme, appreciated the systematic planning, and congratulated the organizers for the grand success of ICMSFDP 2026. This was followed by the Presidential Address by Dr. J. J. Chavan, who congratulated the organizing committee for conducting the conference smoothly and encouraged the department to continue organizing such meaningful academic events in the future. Following the Presidential Address, the prize distribution ceremony for the Oral and Poster Competitions was conducted. Winners were felicitated with certificates and prizes in recognition of their outstanding research presentations, scientific clarity, and innovative approach. The session motivated young researchers and participants, adding a celebratory note to the valedictory programme.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. B. S. Pawar, Organizing Secretary, who expressed sincere gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, participants, sponsors, and the entire organizing team for their invaluable contributions and support, leading to the successful completion of the conference.



Inaugural Function- Dr Sharad Kale addressing the delegates



Conference delegates taking the Sustainability Pledge



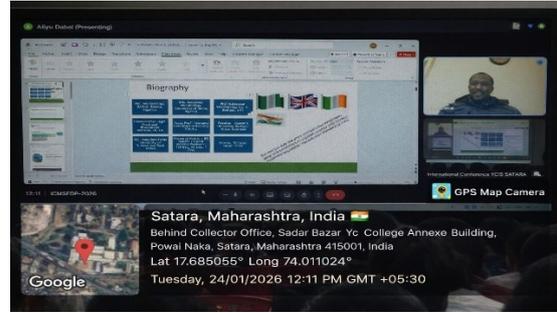
Resource person Dr. Trupti Gokhale addressing the participants



Oral presentation examination with examiner



**Resource person Dr. Apurba Kumar Sarkar,
Director addressing participants**



**Resource Person Dr. Aliyu Ibrahim Dabai
addressing participants**



**Introduction of Resource person Dr. Amrita
Ranjan by Ms S. R. Inje**



**Valedictory function-Welcome address by
Ms. D. P. Pachhade**



ICMSFDP-2026 Organizing Committee



Delegates at the Conference

G. V. Utekar

**Chairperson
ICMSFDP-2026
Prof. Dr. G. V. Utekar**