



WORLD APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

A Biennial AAFH Anthropology for Humankind Event

24th – 26th July 2026 | ICRISAT, Hyderabad

THEME:

**INTERWOVEN WORLDS: ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GLOBAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES
OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION**

Organized by
**Anthropological
Association for Humankind**



Hosted by
ICRISAT Hyderabad



Knowledge Partners



WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the World Applied Anthropology Congress 2026 (WAAC-2026), it is with great pleasure and deep appreciation that we welcome you to this distinguished global gathering.

WAAC-2026 marks the Second Biennial Flagship Event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH)—a growing movement dedicated to advancing applied anthropology as a force for human flourishing and social transformation.

This year's theme, "Interwoven Worlds – Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration," invites us to confront two of the most defining challenges of our time. As the world faces mounting environmental disruptions and intensifying patterns of migration, anthropology offers an essential, human-centered lens—rooted in culture, ethics, and lived experience—to shape sustainable, just, and inclusive responses.

WAAC-2026 is not merely a conference—it is a space for co-learning, co-creation, and collective action. We are honored to host a rich and diverse community of ethnographers, Indigenous leaders, applied anthropologists, researchers, scientists, environmentalists, materiologists, ecologists, climate activists, policymakers, NGOs, engineers, technologists, and social scientists. Together, we aim to share insights, elevate underrepresented voices, and shape solutions that transcend disciplines and borders.

This Congress is committed to generating tangible, lasting outcomes: from community toolkits and policy briefs, to collaborative research projects and shared declarations. More than that, WAAC-2026 aspires to build a global, enduring network of engaged scholars and practitioners, united in their pursuit of ethical, impactful responses to the interwoven crises of our age.

We warmly invite you to participate with purpose—through presentations, workshops, dialogues, and informal exchanges—and to help shape the future of applied anthropology as a vital tool for change.

May WAAC-2026 be intellectually rich, socially engaging, and personally inspiring.

Welcome to the interwoven worlds of WAAC-2026.

With warmest regards,



Prof. N. K. Ambasht
Honorary Convenor



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy
Convenor



Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde
Convenor



Dr. Ananda Gandikota
Co-Convenor



Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
Co-Convenor



Prof. Barnabas Danborn
Co-Convenor

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President, AAFH
Professor of Anthropology at
Sri Venkateswara University,
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Chairperson
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Health and Behavioral Sciences,
College of Arts and Sciences,
Texas A&M University - San Antonio, USA



Prof. Bartholomew C. Dean
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Vice-President, AAFH
Department of Anthropology,
University of Kansas, USA



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Co-founder, Dharmavana
Nature Ark; Former Chairman, CII
(Andhra Pradesh)



Prof. K. Anil Kumar
Head, Janapada Sampada,
Indira Gandhi National Centre
for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi



Dr. Padmaja Ravula
Principal Scientist,
ICRISAT, Hyderabad



Prof. S. B. Roy
Founder & Chairman, IBRAD
(Indian Institute of Bio-Social
Research and Development), Kolkata



Dr. S Ananda Babu
Founder & President
Disaster Management
Initiatives Convergence
Society



Prof. P. D. Satya Pal Kumar
Department of Anthropology,
Andhra University,
Visakhapatnam



Dr. Pedarattaiiah Gadde
General Secretary & CEO,
Anthropological Association
for Humankind (AAfH),
Hyderabad



Prof. Barnabas Danborn
Vice-President, AAFH
Department of Human Anatomy,
Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria



Prof. Ajaya Kumar Sahoo
Head, Centre for the
Study of Indian Diaspora (CSID),
University of Hyderabad



Prof. Anil Kishore Sinha
Joint Secretary AAFH
Department of Anthropology,
University of Panjab



Dr. Ananda Gandikota
Vice-President, AAFH
Anthropological Association
for Humankind (AAfH),
Hyderabad



Prof. A. Gangagni Rao
Department of Environmental
Engineering, IICT, Hyderabad



**Assoc. Prof. Gopala
Krishna Darbha**
Centre for Climate and
Environmental Studies,
IISER Kolkata



Dr. Hari Charan Behera
Associate Professor,
Sociological Unit,
Indian Statistical Institute (ISI),
Giridih Branch



Prof. Rama Krishna Nemani

Senior Earth Scientist & Advisor,
NASA Earth eXchange (NEX);
Ames Associate Fellow;
Founder, Niruthi Climate &
Ecosystem Services, USA



Dr. Raj Kumar Kattula

Project Fellow,
Council for Social Development,
Hyderabad.



Prof. Kata Venkata Reddy

Founder & Chairman,
Institute of Tribal Development
Studies, Visakhapatnam



Dr. B. N. Rao

Assistant Professor,
School of Economics,
University of Hyderabad



Prof. Sumathi

Department of
Anthropology,
University of Madras



Prof. V. R. Rao

Former Director-in-Charge,
Anthropological Survey
of India



Dr. Vijay Varadi

Lead Data Scientist,
DSM-Firmenich, Bangalore



Ms. Sarada Kalavapudi

CEO, Dharmavana Nature
Ark, Hyderabad

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Prof. Arjun Appadurai



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Prof. John Blangero



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Prof. Mike O'Brien



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Prof. P. Sudhakara Reddy



Prof. Pradip Kumar Bhowmick



Dr. S. M. Sirajuddin



Prof. V. Gangadharam



Prof. V. R. Rao

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



Prof. Edward Liebow
Former Executive Director,
American Anthropological Association;
Department of Anthropology,
Washington University, USA



Prof. Jim Skea
Chair, Intergovernmental Panel
on Climate Change (IPCC),
Zenewa, Switzerland



Prof. Vijoy S. Sahay
Former Head,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Allahabad,
Uttar Pradesh, India



Prof. Amitabh Pande
Director, Indira Gandhi
Rastriya Manav Sangrahalay,
Bhopal, M.P, India



Mr. C. S. Reddy
Founder & Chairman,
APMAS, Hyderabad



Prof. Abhijit Guha
Former Head,
Department of Anthropology,
Vidyasagar University,
West Bengal, India



Dr. Ram Krishna Nemani
Senior Earth Scientist & Advisor,
NASA Earth eXchange (NEX);
Ames Associate Fellow;
Founder, Niruthi Climate &
Ecosystem Services, USA



Mr. Harish Chandra Prasad Yarlagadda
Founder & Chairman,
Malaxmi Group Co-founder,
Dharmavana Nature ArkFormer Chairman,
Confederation of Indian Industry
(CII), Andhra Pradesh



Mr. Aditya Pundir
Director,
The Climate Reality
Foundation,
India & South Asia



Prof. K. K. Misra
Former Professor of Anthropology,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Hyderabad,
Ex Vice- Chancellor,
Utkal University, Odisha



Prof. Monica Schoch-Spana
Professor of Community Health
Director, Community Health
Degree Program Department of Health
and Behavioral Sciences
College of Arts & Sciences
Texas A&M University - San Antonio
One University Way
San Antonio, TX 78224



Dr. David C. Robbins
Emeritus Bud and Sally Cray Professor of
Diabetes, University of Kansas Medical Center;
Former Director, KU Diabetes Institute &
Cray Diabetes Management Center;
Research Associate, Institute for Policy &
Social Research (IPSR), University of Kansas



C. Achalender Reddy, IFS (Retd.)
- Advisor (Biodiversity), Arunachal Pradesh
-Former Chairman,
National Biodiversity Authority, Govt. of India
-Former Chair, Subsidiary Body on Implementation,
Convention on Biological Diversity
-Ex-Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Arunachal Pradesh.



Ritu Bharadwaj
Director, Climate Resilience,
Finance and Loss and
Damage at the International
Institute for Environment
and Development (IIED)



Dr. Sonali Ghosh, IFS
Field Director of
Kaziranga National Park &
Tiger Reserve in Assam, Additional Principal
Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF)



Prof. Rector Arya
Associate Professor
Department of Health and
Behavioral Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas 78224, USA



K. Babu Rao I.P.S.(Rtd)
Former Additional DGP,
Madhya Pradesh Cader,
Founder & National President,
Civil Rights Initiative International,
Hyderabad, India.



Prof. Marcio Augusto Afonso de Almeida, PhD
Associate Professor
Department of Human Genetics
College of Sciences
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Brownsville, Texas 78521, USA



Prof. Hemant Kulkarni, MBBS, MD
Department of Health and
Behavioral Sciences
College of Arts and Sciences
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas 78224, USA



Prof. Srinivas Mummidi, DVM, PhD
Department of Health and
Behavioral Sciences
Texas A&M University-San Antonio
San Antonio, TX78224

Committees and Respective Co-Chairs

Steering Committee



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy



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Prof. Rabindranath Duggirala

Finance Committee



Prof. V. Narayana Reddy



Prof. Bartholomew C Dean



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D Rajeswar Rao



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Program Proceedings and Publication Committee



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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Theme: *Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration*

A Biennial AAfH Anthropology for Humankind Event

The World Applied Anthropology Congress (WAAC) is the biennial flagship event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH), serving as a premier platform for interdisciplinary engagement on pressing global challenges. WAAC-2026, hosted by ICRISAT, will focus on the intersection of climate change and migration—two defining issues of our time—through the lens of applied anthropology and allied sciences.

The World Applied Anthropology Congress (WAAC-2026), the biennial flagship event of the Anthropological Association for Humankind (AAfH), is dedicated to advancing applied anthropological research and practice in response to the critical global challenges of our time. Under the unifying theme *Interwoven Worlds*, WAAC-2026 will emphasize anthropology's unique capacity to integrate the global and the local challenges, theory and practice, past, present, and future—through focused engagement to address the issues of climate change and migration.

Scheduled for 24th – 26th July 2026 at ICRISAT in Hyderabad, India, this Congress will bring together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and activists from around the world. WAAC-2026 is designed to foster transdisciplinary collaboration, generate actionable solutions, and showcase anthropology's potential in understanding and addressing human and environmental transformations.

WAAC-2026 will bring together anthropologists, policymakers, environmental scientists, economists, migration experts, and community leaders to foster a transdisciplinary dialogue on these critical issues. Through research presentations, policy discussions, and collaborative workshops, the congress will explore how anthropological insights can inform climate resilience strategies, sustainable adaptation models, and equitable migration policies. WAAC-2026 aims to be a transformative platform that goes beyond academic discourse to drive action-oriented solutions. By bridging global expertise with local realities, the congress will facilitate knowledge exchange, build policy recommendations, and foster collaborative networks to tackle climate change and migration challenges holistically.

Tracks & Sub-Themes:

Each track will be accompanied by a Plenary Session Speaker, fostering deep dives into interdisciplinary and applied conversations.

Climate Change-Related Tracks (1-7)

1. Climate Adaptation: Strategies, Policies, and Implementation

- Advancing inclusive and multi-sectoral strategies for climate adaptation
- Integrating diverse and equitable knowledge systems for climate adaptation

2. Climate Resilience: Strengthening Systems for a Changing Climate

- Systems-based approaches to climate resilience across sectors and scales
- Innovations, governance, and community strategies for strengthening climate resilience

3. Climate Mitigation: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Enhancing Carbon Sinks

- Decarbonizing systems through renewable energy, sustainable practices, and circular economy models
- Innovative technologies and nature-based solutions for carbon sequestration and climate mitigation

4. **Climate Action: Practical Implementation of Climate Solutions**

- Multilevel governance, corporate strategies, and community engagement for climate action
- Technological innovation, energy transition, and impact evaluation of climate solutions

5. **Climate Justice: Ethical, Social, and Human Rights Aspects**

- Equity, rights, and representation in climate governance
- Integrating indigenous knowledge, gender, and justice in climate response

6. **Climate Finance: Financial Mechanisms and Investments**

- Innovative climate finance mechanisms and investment strategies
- Equity, accountability, and access in global and local climate finance

7. **Climate Narratives & Visual Storytelling**

- Narratives and media representations of climate change and migration
- Artistic, cultural, and community-based storytelling for climate engagement

Migration-Related Tracks (8–14)

8. **Interwoven Histories: Archaeology of Migration and Climate Change**

- Archaeological responses to environmental and societal stress
- Migration routes and cultural hybridity in material culture

9. **Biocultural Transformations and Climate Stress**

- Biological Anthropology, adaptation, migration, population genetics, and genetic epidemiology
- Biocultural health impacts of displacement

10. **Cultural Dimensions of Climate and Migration – Diaspora and Identity**

- Diaspora and identity
- Indigenous ecological knowledge and climate adaptation

11. **Language, Communication, and Integration**

- Linguistic anthropology in contexts of displacement
- Language revitalization, communication, and environmental storytelling

12. **Technologies of Witnessing: Visual and Digital Anthropology**

- Media, digital methods, and storytelling in climate/migration research
- Documentation, ethics, and new narrative forms

13. **Anthropology of Policy and Governance**

- Climate and migration governance through anthropological critique
- Participatory policy design and intersectionality

14. **AI and Anthropological Futures**

- Artificial intelligence in ethnographic research
- Algorithmic governance and the anthropology of prediction

We are calling for submissions of full panels, round tables, individual (or co-authored) papers, posters, and sessions of "rapid-fire talks" focused on a theme. All presentations and papers must be given in English.

To increase participation from around the world, presentations may be given virtually or in-person. Questions can be directed to waac2026@aaafh.org

CLICK HERE

to make your Submission

CLICK HERE

to Register Online

WAAC-2026 OBJECTIVES

Theme: “Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagement with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration”

1. Foster Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Collaboration

Objective: To convene experts from diverse domains—anthropology, climate science, disaster studies, migration studies, ecology, economics, development practice, policy research, technology, and humanities—into a common platform that enables dialogue, co-creation of knowledge, and integrated action plans.

2. Promote Culturally Sensitive Climate Action

Objective: To identify how local cultures, rituals, environmental worldviews, and community institutions shape adaptation and mitigation strategies across diverse ecosystems and geographies.

3. Mainstream Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems

Objective: To validate and integrate indigenous ecological knowledge, oral histories, farming practices, and conservation methods into climate governance, academic discourse, and public education.

4. Address Climate-Induced Displacement and Migration

Objective: To investigate the root causes, patterns, experiences, and socio-cultural consequences of migration triggered by climate variability, resource stress, and extreme weather events.

5. Strengthen Evidence-Based, Culturally Informed Policy Frameworks

Objective: To shape national and international policies on climate and migration using anthropological evidence about meaning-making, belief systems, governance structures, and social trust.

6. Cultivate Youth Engagement and Future Anthropological Leadership

Objective: To involve students, emerging scholars, grassroots innovators, and youth leaders through fellowships, research grants, internships, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

7. Develop Technological Tools for Community-Centered Research

Objective: To advance digital anthropology, participatory GIS, storytelling platforms, and meaning-mapping tools like Human Meaning Orientation Theory (HMOT) for co-producing knowledge.

8. Advocate for Equity, Gender Sensitivity, and Climate Justice

Objective: To foreground intersectional analyses of vulnerability—examining how gender, caste, race, class, disability, age, and indigeneity intersect with environmental challenges.

9. Generate Actionable Research, Toolkits, and Policy Briefs

Objective: To translate high-quality anthropological research into usable formats such as guidelines, briefs, training manuals, community toolkits, and media products.

10. Strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation Networks

Objective: To build transregional partnerships among institutions and scholars from Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific, and connect them with institutions in Europe and North America.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF WAAC-2026

Theme: Interwoven Worlds: Anthropological Engagements with the Global and Local Challenges of Climate Change and Migration

Dates: March 24th – 26th, 2026 | **Venue:** ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India

Global Knowledge Convergence

WAAC-2026 will convene leading anthropologists, policymakers, scientists, and civil society actors to co-produce transformative knowledge on climate change, migration, adaptation, and resilience.

Alignment: SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 17 (Partnerships), UNFCCC Paris Agreement (Art. 7 on adaptation).

Policy-Informed Action Frameworks

The Congress will deliver actionable policy recommendations and frameworks grounded in applied anthropological insights, supporting just transitions and localized responses to global threats.

Alignment: SDG 16 (Peace, Justice), CSR focus on governance, UNFCCC Global Stocktake mechanism.

Community-Centered Innovations

Showcasing grassroots and indigenous strategies of climate resilience and cultural adaptation, the Congress emphasizes community wisdom in future-oriented sustainability planning.

Alignment: SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 15 (Life on Land), CSR on local community development.

South-South and South-North Collaborations

WAAC-2026 aims to strengthen networks between institutions and researchers across the Global South and Global North, enhancing mutual learning and joint research.

Alignment: SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 9 (Innovation & Infrastructure), CSR on global equity.

Youth & Indigenous Leadership Forums

Special sessions will nurture next-generation scholars and indigenous voices through fellowships, platforms for visibility, and mentorship.

Alignment: SDG 4 (Quality Education), UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment, CSR on inclusive education.

Launch of the Hyderabad Declaration on Climate and Culture

A formal declaration articulating commitments to cultural, ecological, and ethical stewardship in the Anthropocene will be released and endorsed.

Alignment: SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption), UNFCCC COP-level cultural side events, CSR ethical mandates.

Strategic Collaborations and Institutional Alliances

New partnerships will be forged with global organizations, research councils, and multilateral institutions to scale the anthropological contributions to global agendas.

Alignment: SDG 17 (Partnerships), CSR on strategic alliances and science diplomacy.

Publication of Congress Proceedings

Peer-reviewed publication of presented papers and insights will contribute to global scholarship and policymaking on climate change, migration, and cultural transitions.

Alignment: SDG 9 (Research & Innovation), CSR on thought leadership and public access to science.

Digital Archives and Learning Platforms

A legacy digital archive of the Congress will be created, enabling open access to presentations, interviews, indigenous testimonies, and working group reports.

Alignment: SDG 4 (Lifelong Learning), CSR on knowledge sharing and transparency.

Blueprint for Future Anthropological Congresses

WAAC-2026 will set a replicable model for integrating anthropological insights into global and local policy design, including Congresses focused on climate-affected regions.

Alignment: SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 1 (No Poverty), UNFCCC Loss & Damage agenda, CSR on climate-resilient planning.

IMPORTANT DATES

**EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION
CLOSES ON
1st May 2026**

**ABSTRACT
SUBMISSION
DEADLINE
30th April 2026**

**NOTIFICATION OF
ACCEPTANCE
21st May 2026**

**NOTIFICATION
OF THE PROGRAM
DETAILS
01st June 2026**

**CLOSING DATE FOR
REGISTRATIONS
24th July 2026**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

On-Site Early Bird Congress Fee						
Country Categories	In-person attendees			Virtual Attendees		
	Faculty/ Practitioner	Ph.D Scholar/ Postdoctoral Scholar	Student	Faculty/ Practitioner	Ph.D Scholar/ Postdoctoral Scholar	Student
High Income Countries	\$210	\$160	\$80	\$130	\$80	\$30
Upper Middle Income Countries	\$160	\$110	\$50	\$80	\$50	\$20
Lower Middle Income Countries	\$50	\$25	\$15	\$30	\$15	\$05
Low Income Countries	\$20	\$10	\$05	\$10	\$05	\$01

On Site Regular Congress Fee						
Country Categories	In-person attendees			Virtual Attendees		
	Faculty/ Practitioner	Ph.D Scholar/ Postdoctoral Scholar	Student	Faculty/ Practitioner	Ph.D Scholar/ Postdoctoral Scholar	Student
High Income Countries	\$250	\$200	\$100	\$150	\$100	\$50
Upper Middle Income Countries	\$200	\$150	\$80	\$100	\$80	\$30
Lower Middle Income Countries	\$60	\$35	\$25	\$35	\$25	\$10
Low Income Countries	\$35	\$25	\$10	\$15	\$10	\$05

The WAAC 2026 Congress follows the following country classification:

*** High Income Countries:

American Samoa, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, The, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Chile, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Guyana, Hong Kong SAR, China, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Rep., Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, China, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin (French part), Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, China, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, and the Virgin Islands (U.S.).

***Upper Middle-Income Countries:

Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Islamic Rep., Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Serbia, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, and Ukraine.

***Lower Middle-Income Countries:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Rep., Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Arab Rep., Eswatini, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mauritania, Micronesia, Fed. Sts., Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, West Bank and Gaza, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

***Low Income Countries:

Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dem. Rep., Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, The, Guinea-Bissau, Korea, Dem. People's Rep., Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Uganda, and Yemen, Rep.

Online Registration Opens
01st July 2025

Online Registration Ending
24th July 2026

**SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER**



WAAC-2026 VENUE



ICRISAT as the Venue for WAAC-2026

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), headquartered in Patancheru, Hyderabad, India, is a globally renowned institution dedicated to agricultural research and development in dryland regions. Established in 1972, ICRISAT focuses on improving agricultural productivity, enhancing food and nutritional security, and promoting sustainable farming practices in the semi-arid tropics.

ICRISAT's Hyderabad campus offers state-of-the-art facilities suitable for hosting international conferences like the World Applied Anthropology Congress 2026 (WAAC-2026). The campus includes well-equipped conference halls, meeting rooms, and accommodation facilities, all set within a serene and green environment conducive to academic and professional gatherings.

Hosting Institution and Knowledge Partner

As the hosting institution and knowledge partner for WAAC-2026, ICRISAT brings extensive experience in organizing international conferences and workshops. The institute has previously hosted events such as the Inter Drought-V conference, which brought together over 900 delegates from 56 countries. ICRISAT's expertise in facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering collaborations makes it an ideal partner for WAAC-2026.

Conference Facilities

ICRISAT's main conference hall is designed to accommodate large gatherings and is equipped with modern audiovisual technology. The facility has hosted numerous high-profile events, providing a professional setting for keynote speeches, panel discussions, and workshops.





Congress Secretariat

Prof. Narayana Reddy

Convenor

Mob: +91 9000868636

Dr. Pedarattaiah Gadde

Convenor

Mob: +91 9392702523

Dr. Ananda Gandikota

Co-Convenor

Mob: +91 9731427457

Anthropological Association for Humankind

Regus - 8th Floor, SLN Terminus, Survey No: 133,
Beside Botanical Gardens, Gachibowli,
Hyderabad - 500032, Telangana, India,

Office Landline No: +914067933411

Email: waac2026@aaafh.org

Website: www.waac2026.com | Website: aaafh.org

Professional Conference Organizer & Travel Manager

Mr. Thirupathi Atkapuram

Founder & Director - Operations & BD

Mr. Venkatesh G

+91 8919819391

venkat.guntoju@meetyevents.com

Mr. Vinod Kumar

+91 8106632585

vinod.arala@meetyevents.com



Meety Events Private Limited

Office No. 207, 2nd Floor,
HITEX Trade Fair Office Building, Izzathnagar,
Hyderabad - 500084. meetyevents.com