



वस्त्र मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES



NATIONAL CONCLAVE ON

Weaving India Together

NATURAL FIBRES, INNOVATION, AND LIVELIHOODS
FROM THE NORTH EAST AND BEYOND



Organized by
College of Community Science, Central Agricultural University (Imphal)

In Collaboration with
Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
Ministry of Textiles, GoI
Government of Meghalaya



Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium
NASC Complex, New Delhi 110 001



6-8 October
2025

Textile in India

Natural fibres and traditional textiles have long been woven into the cultural, economic, and social fabric of India. The country boasts a rich legacy in handloom weaving, natural dyeing, and fibre-based crafts, which continue to thrive in rural and semi-urban areas. The textile and apparel sector stands as one of the largest contributors to the Indian economy, contributing approximately 2.3% to the national GDP, 13% to industrial production and over 12% to export earnings. This sector is the second-largest employer in the country after agriculture, directly employing more than 45 million people and indirectly supporting another 100 million, including artisans, home-based workers and those in ancillary industries. Beyond its economic weight, this sector weaves together India's cultural heritage and ensures livelihood security of rural weavers and artisans.

Natural fibres such as cotton, jute, silk, wool, coir and ramie form the backbone of India's traditional textile sector. Among these, cotton is the most widely produced and used, while jute and coir have immense industrial and export value. India is the largest producer of cotton and jute and the second-largest producer of silk globally. The North-Eastern region of India in particular, has emerged as a significant contributor with its exclusive and indigenous natural fibres like Eri and Muga silk, as well as rich handloom traditions. The region is home to diverse ethnic communities whose livelihoods are intricately linked to weaving and fibre craft, offering unique products with a distinct cultural identity.

Traditional textiles are not only an expression of creativity but also a means of livelihood for millions of families. Women, especially play a central role in weaving, spinning, and dyeing, often working from home or in small cooperatives. These cottage industries support household incomes, empower women economically and preserve community traditions. In areas where formal employment is limited, these activities provide a reliable and culturally meaningful source of income.

Moreover, the global movement towards sustainable and eco-conscious living has brought renewed attention to India's natural fibre and textile traditions. Natural fibres are biodegradable, renewable, and require significantly less chemical processing compared to synthetic alternatives. The traditional processes of hand spinning, weaving and dyeing are largely eco-friendly and promote sustainable resource use. As consumers across the world seek ethical, artisanal and sustainable products, there is immense potential to expand the market for Indian handlooms and natural fibre products.

Commercializing these sectors can contribute to rural development, generate employment, and position India as a global leader in eco-textiles and artisanal craftsmanship. By connecting traditional producers with modern markets, India can not only preserve its rich heritage but also build a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable economy.



About the National Conclave

The National Conclave is envisioned as a collaborative platform to explore, preserve, and promote India's vast wealth of traditional textile practices, natural fibres and eco-friendly dyeing techniques. As the global textile industry shifts towards sustainability and ethical production, there is a growing recognition of the importance of indigenous knowledge systems and heritage crafts. India, with its diverse agro-climatic zones and cultural richness, has a unique advantage in the production and processing of natural fibres like cotton, jute, ramie, banana and nettle. This workshop seeks to bring together a diverse group of participants—including students, scholars, artisans, entrepreneurs, researchers and policy experts—to deliberate on how these resources and skills can be leveraged for innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

The North-Eastern Region (NER) of India holds immense untapped potential in this domain, with its rich biodiversity, indigenous fibre crops, vibrant handloom traditions and exquisite handicrafts. States like Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh are known for cultivating fibres such as muga and eri silk, ramie, banana fibre and wild nettle, which are processed using age-old techniques passed down through generations. The region's tribal and rural communities have perfected intricate weaving practices, natural dyeing and bamboo-based crafts that not only reflect cultural identity but also represent models of sustainable living. However, limited market exposure, lack of technological support and poor access to mainstream value chains have kept much of this potential underutilized. The workshop aims to draw national attention to these resources and facilitate connections between artisans and industries, designers and researchers across India.

By fostering innovation, value addition and strategic commercialization of North-East India's traditional products, this workshop hopes to catalyze inclusive growth. Rest of India can benefit immensely by collaborating with the region's artisans, sourcing eco-friendly raw materials and co-developing heritage-inspired products suited for domestic and international markets. Such initiatives can not only bring economic benefits and improve the standard of living in the rural and tribal communities of the North-East but also contribute to national goals of sustainability, cultural preservation and equitable development. Through this workshop, participants will explore viable pathways to transform the region's cultural assets into engines of entrepreneurship, livelihood generation and national pride.



Key Events

Industry-Producer meet

This session brings together industrial stakeholders and local producers in natural fibres, textiles, and crafts. It offers a platform to explore market linkages, value addition, and enterprise development. The interaction will foster opportunities for scalable production, ethical sourcing, and greater market access for grassroots producers.

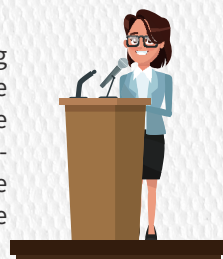


Panel Discussion

The panel discussion will bring together experts from academia, industry, policy, and the artisan community to deliberate on the challenges and opportunities in the traditional textile and natural fibre sectors. This interactive session will offer diverse perspectives on how heritage-based industries can adapt to modern demands while preserving their cultural and ecological essence.

Lead Talks

This session will feature eminent speakers from diverse fields sharing their insights on innovation, sustainability, entrepreneurship, and the future of natural fibres and traditional textiles. These talks aim to inspire participants with real-world experiences, success stories, and thought-provoking ideas that can spark action and collaboration. It sets the tone for informed dialogue and forward-thinking approaches throughout the workshop.



Ideathon

The Ideathon invites students and young innovators to present creative ideas, designs, and models focused on natural fibres, traditional textiles, natural dyes, and sustainable value chains. It aims to spark fresh thinking and explore new possibilities for commercialization, product development, and community empowerment. This platform encourages interdisciplinary solutions that blend heritage with innovation to shape the future of the textile and fibre sector.

Experience sharing and Felicitation

This session will feature inspiring stories from weavers, artisans, and entrepreneurs who have made notable contributions to the field of natural fibres and traditional textiles. Their experiences will offer valuable insights into grassroots innovation, resilience, and the evolution of heritage crafts. The session will also include the felicitation of individuals who have significantly impacted the sector. It aims to celebrate their journey and motivate emerging talents in the community.



Market Place



Live Demonstrations

Live demonstrations will showcase traditional spinning, natural dyeing, handloom weaving, fibre extraction, and craft-making by artisans, offering participants a hands-on glimpse into India's rich textile heritage and sustainable practices.

Natural Dye extraction

Live sessions on natural dye extraction will demonstrate the use of locally available plants, roots, leaves, and bark to produce eco-friendly dyes. Participants will gain insights into traditional methods of preparing and applying these dyes, promoting sustainable and chemical-free textile practices.



Talent Recognition

Smt. Hemoprova Chutia, a Padma Shri awardee from Assam, is renowned for weaving sacred texts and intricate motifs into traditional fabrics. Her work reflects deep cultural heritage and artistic excellence in handloom weaving. She has created woven versions of the Gunamala, Naam Ghosa, and Bhagavad Gita using traditional Assamese techniques.

Traditional Food Counters

A live food counter featuring traditional cuisines will be set up at the workshop venue, offering participants an authentic taste of regional delicacies. This initiative aims to celebrate local culinary heritage, promote indigenous ingredients, and highlight the deep connection between food, culture, and sustainability. It will also provide a platform for exploring value addition and enterprise opportunities in traditional food practices.



Themes

Theme I: Rich Textile Heritage, Fiber crafts and Sustainable Livelihoods

Sub-themes

- Revival of Heritage Fibres & Crafts to empower Artisans/ weavers
- Fiber craft enterprises and Micro-entrepreneurship Models in spinning/ waving/ natural dyeing
- Cultural Continuity through documentation & digitization of design/motifs/ techniques
- Heritage Crafts integration into contemporary Markets

Theme II: Natural Fibre Crops Cultivation, Processing & Value Chain

Sub-themes

- Sustainable cultivation practices of natural fibres - Cotton, Jute, Ramie, Banana, Pineapple, Eri, Muga, Nettle, Lotus
- Innovations in fibre extraction and processing techniques
- Strengthening value chain integration: challenges and opportunities
- Improving fibre quality through research and Development

Theme III: Traditional Textiles and Modern Markets

Sub-themes

- Revival and Preservation of weaving traditions and heritage crafts
- Contemporary Design Interventions and Product Diversification
- Market Linkages through Digital Platforms and E-commerce
- Branding and Public-private partnerships to scale sustainable crafts and textiles

Theme IV: Circular and Sustainable Fibre Value Chains

Sub-themes

- Eco-friendly cultivation practices: organic farming, crop rotation, low-input practices
- Innovative Fibre Processing, finishes, Natural Dyeing and value addition
- Functional and zero-waste textiles: medical, Ayurveda, and circular product models
- Agri crop-residue Utilization for Fibre-based innovations

Theme V: Policy, Research, and Collaborative Networks

Sub-themes

- Government policies and initiatives to support natural fibres and handlooms
- Role of R&D, Academia and Incubation Centres in Fibre Innovation
- Strengthening cooperatives, SHGs, and FPOs for inclusive growth
- Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Collaboration Ecosystem



IDEATHON

Your Ideas Today, Our Future Tomorrow

This national-level ideation competition invites young challenge the status quo, solve problems, and shape the future

Unlock your creativity

Present your innovative ideas

Bring solutions to real-world problems

Why Participate?

- National Recognition
- Mentorship from Experts
- Cash Prizes & Certification
- Networking Opportunities



Who Can Participate?

Open to all students across disciplines who have a vision for the future and a passion for problem-solving.

Cash Prize



₹20,000/-



₹15,000/-



₹10,000/-

Themes



Nature Woven Innovation

Designing new-age products using traditional natural fibres and sustainable materials.

Threads of Tradition, Touch of Tomorrow

Reimagining heritage textiles with modern designs for contemporary lifestyles.

Coloring the Future Naturally

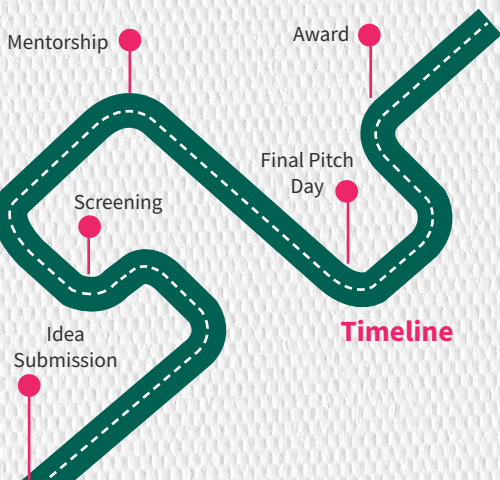
Innovative uses of natural dyes in fashion, art, and utility products.

Weaving Wealth: Fibre to Market

Ideas and models for linking natural fibre producers to value chains and industries.

Smart Crafts, Sustainable Lives

Technology-driven solutions to preserve, promote, and scale traditional crafts and textiles.



Timeline



Dr. Jyoti V. Vastrad

Dean, CCS, CAU (I), Tura, Meghalaya



jyotivastrad@gmail.com



9448777421

Who Will Be the Participants?

The National Conclave will unite leaders, innovators, policymakers, investors, and artisans from across the textile ecosystem to drive the natural fibre revolution. This dynamic gathering promises inspiring exchanges, impactful partnerships, and a shared vision to strengthen the North East and India's position in the global natural fibre and tariff-free textile value chain.

- **Government & Policy Makers** – Senior officials and policymakers from the Ministry of Textiles and allied ministries such as Finance, Commerce, Agriculture, and Labour, along with trade experts, will steer discussions on policy, regulations, and global standards.
- **Industry & Business Leaders**– Influential figures from Spinning, Weaving, Apparel Manufacturing, and Technical Textiles will join investment promotion agencies, industry associations viz., Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), and Indian Technical Textile Association (ITTA), Textile Machinery Companies.
- **Knowledge & Creativity Catalysts** – Researchers, Scientists, Academicians, Students, and Fashion Designers.
- **Entrepreneurs/Business related**- Officers/ Representatives from MSMEs, financial institutions, multilateral agencies, and artisan entrepreneurs

Registration Details

Category	Registration Fee (on or before 15.09.2025)	Registration Fee (after 15.09.2025)	Spot Registration Fee
Delegates/ Exhibitors	4000/-	4500/-	5000/-
Accompanying Person	2500/-	-	-
Student	2000/-	2500/-	4000/-

Payment Details

Name : EVENTS BY CCS TURA
 Account No. : 42231295908
 IFSC : SBIN0000198
 Bank : State Bank of India
 Branch : Tura Branch



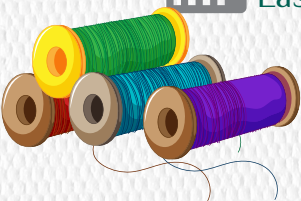
Important dates

<https://forms.gle/hwTwaBuhE986iDqk6>



Abstract Submission- **10.09.2025**
 Last date to Register-**15.09.2025**

Any Queries
ttnfcau@gmail.com



Know about our Recent Event!

The National Symposium on “Threads of Heritage: Exploring Traditional Textiles and Natural Fibres” was organized from January 27 to 29, 2025, at the College of Post-Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences (CPGSAS), Central Agricultural University (Imphal), Umiam, Meghalaya. This unique event brought together a diverse assembly of researchers, academicians, industry experts, artisans, and students to explore the rich legacy, scientific relevance, and contemporary prospects of traditional textiles and natural fibres in India.



Jointly organized by CPGSAS, ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (ICAR-NINFET), Kolkata, and ICAR- Central Institute for Cotton Research (ICAR- CICR), Nagpur, the symposium aimed to bridge the gap between indigenous knowledge and modern innovations. With a strong interdisciplinary focus, it addressed various themes including fibre resource management, sustainable technologies, climate resilience, value addition, entrepreneurship, and policy interventions.

The event featured keynote addresses, plenary talks, technical sessions, and exhibitions that highlighted the socio-cultural, economic, and ecological significance of India's textile and fibre heritage. A notable aspect of the symposium was its emphasis on empowering rural communities, especially women and youth, through sustainable enterprise development and skill enhancement in the natural fibre sector.

This symposium provided an enriching platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and forging collaborations for future research, innovation, and value chain development in the natural fibres and traditional textiles ecosystem.



National Steering Committee

CHIEF PATRON

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat

Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, New Delhi

CO-CHIEF PATRON

Dr. P. K Joshi

Chancellor, CAU, Imphal

Dr. Anupam Mishra

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal

PATRON

Dr. Mridula Thakur Pradhan

Chairperson, Vikas Foundation Trust

CO-PATRON

Ms. Rina Rijju

Senior Indian Handloom entrepreneur, Arunachal Pradesh

Ms. Anu Sood

Business Development Manager at Textiles Sourcing Ltd, New Delhi

CHAIRMAN

Dr. S. N. Jha, DDG, (Agri. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi

Dr. Rajbir Singh, DDG (Extension), ICAR, New Delhi

Dr. Manoj Kumar, Chairman, KVIC, Mumbai

Dr. T. R. Sharma, Registrar, CAU (I), Manipur

Dr. Indira Sairangthem, DI, CAU (I), Manipur

Dr. Ph. Ranjit Sharma, DEE, CAU (I), Manipur

Dr. M. Garnayak, Director of Research, CAU (I), Manipur

Dr. I. Shakuntala, Dean, CoVSc, Jalukie, Nagaland

Dr. L. Hmar, Dean, CoVSc, Aizwal, Mizoram

ADVISORY BOARD

Smt Archana Chitnis, MLA, Madhya Pradesh

Dr. Varnali Deka, IAS, District Commissioner, Nalbari, Assam

Dr. S. K. Shukla, Director, CIRCOT, Mumbai

Dr. D. B. Sakhyawar, Director, NINFET, Kolkata

Dr. V. N. Waghmare, Director, CICR, Nagpur

Dr. Gouranga Kar, Director, ICAR-CRIJAF, Barrackpore

Dr. Devendra Jaliwal, Director, IIT, Guwahati

Dr. Ashok Mondal, Director, NID, Ahmedabad

Dr. Arun Tomar, Director, CSWRI, Avikanagar

Dr. M. S. Parmar, Director, NITRA, Gaziabad

Dr. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, ICFRE-RFRI, Jorhat

Dr. Anupam Jain, Director, NIFT, New Delhi

Dr. Kamala Kanta Kalita, Chairman, KVIC, Guwahati

Dr. G. Kadirvel, DI, Director, ATARI, Guwahati

Dr. A. K. Mohanty, Director, ATARI, Umaid

Shri. Sunil Sethi, Chairman, FDCL, New Delhi

Dr. Jyoti V. Vastrad, Dean, CCS, CAU (I), Tura

Dr. Mamoni Das, Dean, CCS, AAU, Jorhat, Assam

Dr. Kiran Bains, Dean, CCS, PAU, Ludhiana

Dr. Beena Yadav, Dean, CCS, HAU, Hissar

Dr. V. Vijaya Lakshmi, Dean-CS, PJTSAU, Hyderabad

Dr. Meera Singh, Dean, CCS, RPCAU, Samastipur

Dr. Alka Goel, Dean, CCS, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar

Dr. S. Kanchana, Dean, CCS, TNAU, Madurai

Dr. Lata Pujar, Dean, CCS, UAS, Dharwad

Dr. Manisha Mathur, JD, SASMIRA, Mumbai

Mr. Shankar Kumar Jha, Director, NIFT, Shillong

Dr. Ketan Kumar, Assoc. Sr. Faculty, NID, Ahmedabad

Prof C. P. Suresh, Professor, Department of Horticulture, NEHU, Tura

Dr. Sapna Gautam, Professor & Head, TAD, CCS, CSKHPKV, Palampur

Dr. Neelam Rose, Professor & Head, TAD, CCS, HAU, Hissar

CONVENOR

Dr. Jyoti V. Vastrad, Dean, CCS, CAU (I), Tura, Meghalaya

Dr. Anupama Mishra, Prof. & Head, TAD, CCS, Tura, Meghalaya

Co-Convenor

Dr. Niranjana S., Asst. Prof, CCS, Tura

Dr. Narmada H., Asst. Prof., CCS, Tura

Organizing Committee

- Dr. Puspita Das**, Professor and Head, EECM, CCS, Tura
Dr. Namita Singh, Professor and Head, FSN, CCS, Tura
Dr. Kh. Ringsuachong Aimol, Assoc. Prof. & Head, HDFS, CCS, Tura
Dr. Ranima Saikia, Assoc. Prof., & Head, RMCS, CCS, Tura
Dr. Shipra Nagar, Assoc. Prof., HDFS, CCS, Tura
Dr. Natasha R. Marak, Assoc. Prof., FSN, CCS, Tura
Dr. Saswati Pattanaik, Assoc. Prof., HDFS, CCS Tura
Dr. Mamoni P. Borah, Asst. Prof. TAD, CCS, Tura
Dr. Chingakhom Basanti Devi, Asst. Prof., FSN, CCS, Tura
Dr. Pavana Kumar S.T., Asst. Prof., Statistics, CCS, Tura
Dr. Rajkumari Padamini, Asst. Prof., Plant Protection. Path, CCS, Tura
Dr. Sabyasachi Majumdar, Asst. Prof., Soil Sc. & Agril. Chemistry, CCS, Tura
Dr. H G Kencharaddi, Asst. Prof., GPB, CCS, Tura
Dr. Priyadarshani P Mohapatra, Asst. Prof., Horticulture, CCS, Tura
Dr. Punyakishore Maibam, Asst. Prof., Food Biotechnology, CCS, Tura
Dr. Rocky Thokchom, Asst. Prof., Floriculture & Landscaping, CCS, Tura
Dr Toko Jumi, Asst. Prof., EECM, CCS, Tura
Dr. Phuritshabam Vivekanandini Devi, Asst. Prof., FSN, CCS, Tura
Dr. Yoya Luithui, Asst. Prof., FSN, CCS, Tura
Dr. Urvashi Sharma, Asst. Prof., FSN, CCS, Tura
Dr. Laimayum Jogeeta Devi, Asst. Prof., TAD, CCS, Tura
Dr. Bijaya Laxmi Sahu, Senior Scientist, Human Development, AICRP, CCS, Tura
Dr. Deepak Nath, Deputy Director Extension, CAU, Imphal, Manipur
Dr. K P Chaudhary, Principal Scientist & Head KVK, Aizawl, Mizoram
Dr. Brijendra Singh, Principal Scientist & Head, KVK, East Siang, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh
Dr. Athokpam Haribhushan, Principal Scientist & Head, KVK, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya
Dr. Y. Prabhabati Devi, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Imphal East, Andro CAU, Imphal, Manipur
Dr. Shah M. Hussain, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK, East Garo Hills, Meghalaya
Dr. Shatabhisa Sarkar, Senior Scientist and Head KVK, Sepahijala, Tripura
Dr. S. Molibala Devi, SMS (Home Science), KVK, Imphal East
Dr. Th. Eloni Vida, SMS (Home Science), KVK, East Siang, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh



NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

on

THREADS OF HERITAGE : EXPLORING TRADITIONAL TEXTILES AND NATURAL FIBRES

27th - 29th January 2025

College of Community Science
Central Agricultural University (Imphal), Tura, Meghalaya

Venue:
College of Post Graduate Studies In Agricultural Sciences
Uniam, Ri-Bhadi District, Meghalaya-793103



In Collaboration with

ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton, Research, Bargarh
ICAR National Institute of Natural Fiber and Engineering Technology, Kolkata
Dr. Jyoti Research Institute
ICAR Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Barrackpore

Our Collaborators and Sponsors

