



International Society for Tropical Roots, Tubers and Bananas

ISTR TB (formerly ISTR C) is created to foster, stimulate and support any type of activity leading to the general improvement of world tropical root, tubers and banana production and utilization.

President: Maruthi M. N. Gowda **Secretary/Treasurer:** Godwin Atser **Website:** www.istr c.net

25 September 2026

Invitation to join the 21st ISTR TB symposium - Join Us in Trinidad & Tobago for ISTR TB 2028!

Dear Colleagues, Researchers, Development Partners, Industry Leaders, Producers, Extension Specialists, Students and Friends of the tropical Roots, Tubers and Banana Sector,

On behalf of the International Society for Tropical Roots, Tubers and Bananas (ISTR TB), we would like to invite you to participate in the **21st ISTR TB Symposium**, to be held from **5-12 November 2028** at **The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago**.

We will specifically invite the global bananas and plantains community as it will be their first official participation in the ISTR TB. These crops continue to play a vital role in food security, nutrition, livelihoods, international trade, and sustainable agricultural development across the tropics. The 2028 ISTR TB Symposium will provide a unique international platform for the banana community to come together and exchange knowledge, showcase innovations, discuss emerging challenges, and develop collaborative solutions that will shape the future of banana production and utilization worldwide.

Why Attend?

By joining us in Trinidad & Tobago, you will have the opportunity to:

- Present and discuss your latest research findings.
- Learn about cutting-edge advances in banana breeding, genetics, genomics, agronomy, crop protection, sustainability, postharvest biology, processing and value chains.
- Engage with leading scientists, industry experts, policymakers and development organizations.
- Explore opportunities for international collaboration and partnership development.
- Experience the rich culture, biodiversity and hospitality of the Caribbean.

Whether you are working in research, extension, commercial production, policy, value chain development, or education, this symposium will provide valuable opportunities to expand your networks and contribute to the advancement of the global banana sector.

Why Become a Member of ISTR TB?

By participating in the ISTR TB symposium, you will automatically become the member of the ISTR TB. Membership provides numerous benefits, including:

Global Networking

Connect with an international network of experts working across tropical roots, tubers, bananas and related crops.

Officers: **President:** Prof. Maruthi M. N. Gowda [M.N.Maruthi@greenwich.ac.uk]; **First Vice-President:** Dr. Angela T. Alleyne; **Vice-President (Fund Raising):** Dr. Ranjana Bhattacharjee [R.Bhattacharjee@cgiar.org]; **Secretary/treasurer:** Dr. Godwin Atser [g-atser@saa-safe.org]; **Councillor Publications:** Dr. Paterne Agre [P.Agre@cgiar.org].

Councillors: **Past-President:** Prof. Lateef O. Sanni [sannilateef5@gmail.com]; **Eastern and Southern Africa** Dr. Kwame Ogero [k.ogero@cgiar.org]; **West Africa** Dr. Chidiozie Egesi [cegesi@yahoo.com]; **South Asia** Dr. Makesh Kumar [makeshtcri@gmail.com]; **South and South East Asia** Prof. Songbi Chen [songbichen@hotmail.com]; **Pacific** Dr. Rup Singh [rup.singh@usp.ac.fj]; **Caribbean:** Dr. Angela T. Alleyne [angela.alleyne@cavehill.uwi.edu]; **South America** Dr. Wilmer Cuellar [w.cuellar@cgiar.org]; **Europe and North America** Dr. Samar Sheat [samar.sheat@dsmz.de]

Scientific Exchange

Stay informed about the latest advances in research, technology and innovation through society activities, conferences and communications.

Professional Development

Gain opportunities to develop collaborations, mentor young scientists and build professional relationships across continents.

Conference Participation

Receive timely information on symposia, workshops, publications and other society activities. Members are part of a vibrant community shaping future research agendas.

Support for Early-Career Scientists

Help foster the next generation of researchers through training, networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities.

Contributing to Global Impact

Be part of a society dedicated to advancing sustainable production, food security, nutrition and livelihoods through tropical crop research and innovation.

We therefore warmly invite you to:

- ✓ Attend the ISTRTB 2028 Symposium in Trinidad & Tobago
- ✓ Share your research, experiences and innovations
- ✓ Engage with colleagues from around the world
- ✓ Become a member of ISTRTB and help strengthen our global community

We look forward to welcoming you to Trinidad & Tobago in November 2028.

With best wishes,

21st ISTRTB 2028 Organising Committee

International Society for Tropical Roots, Tubers and Bananas (ISTRTB)

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Trinidad & Tobago

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