



CROP SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA (CROSAT)

Science for the Advancement of Agriculture

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CALL FOR PAPERS · CONCEPT NOTE

The 2nd CROSAT Biennial Scientific Conference

Advancing Crop Science and Financing Systems for a Changing Climate

24 – 25 November 2026 Tanga Beach Resort, Tanga, Tanzania

01 Background

The Crop Science Association of Tanzania (CROSAT), established in 2023, aims to bring together crop scientists and other professionals in related fields by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and ideas concerning the science and practices of crop value chains. As a means of sharing scientific developments, innovations, and technologies useful across different aspects of crop science, CROSAT is organizing its second scientific conference to facilitate interaction and knowledge sharing within crop science and related fields.

The Conference Organizing Committee is pleased to inform you that the 2nd CROSAT Biennial Scientific Conference will be held at Tanga Beach Resort, Tanga, Tanzania, from 24 to 25 November 2026. The conference will comprise oral and poster paper presentations. Kindly save the dates and note the key information summarized below.

KEY DATES AT A GLANCE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPENS

20 June 2026

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

07 October 2026

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE

15 October 2026

FULL MANUSCRIPT DEADLINE

30 October 2026

EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION

20 June – 25 October 2026

CONFERENCE DATES

24 – 25 November 2026

VENUE

Tanga Beach Resort, Tanga, Tanzania

02 Objectives

General Objective

The 2nd Biennial Scientific Conference 2026 aims to create a dynamic platform that strengthens the crop scientist community by connecting scholars, institutions, and industry leaders to advance knowledge exchange and practical solutions.

Specific Objectives

- i. To create opportunities for scholars and practitioners to share insights, enhance their careers, and engage in knowledge exchange that advances sustainable crop production practices.
- ii. To build meaningful connections among universities, research institutions, industry partners, and scholars within the country and beyond.
- iii. To provide platforms for collaboration and long-term professional relationships that strengthen the crop scientific community.

03 Conference Theme

Theme: Advancing Crop Science and Financing Systems for a Changing Climate

Slogan: *‘Science for Crops, Crops for Life’ — Sayansi kwa Mazao, Mazao kwa Maisha*

— Sub-themes

i Crop improvement and seed system resilience

This sub-theme addresses the twin imperatives of developing superior crop varieties and building dependable seed delivery pathways that together underpin food and nutrition security. Contributions are invited on advances in conventional and molecular breeding directed at climate resilience, enhanced yield potential, improved nutritional quality, and durable resistance to key pests and diseases. Equally welcome are strategies for conserving and mobilising crop genetic resources adapted to accelerating environmental change and tolerant of the emergence of new pest and pathogen biotypes that erode existing resistance sources. Papers examining innovations in seed production, quality assurance, certification protocols, and last-mile distribution are encouraged, particularly those presenting models that bridge the formal and informal seed sectors, leverage public–private partnerships, and employ enabling policies to accelerate varietal turnover and inclusive farmer adoption across gender and socio-economic lines.

ii Climate-smart agricultural systems and integrated crop protection

This sub-theme explores how Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) supports sustainable food systems, particularly in vulnerable contexts such as Tanzania and other developing economies. It invites research on conservation agriculture, integrated soil fertility management, precision nutrient stewardship, and water-use-efficiency interventions — including deficit irrigation scheduling, rainwater harvesting, and soil-moisture monitoring technologies — that restore productive capacity while reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Broader climate-adaptive agronomic strategies are also within scope, ranging from adjusted planting calendars and drought- and flood-tolerant cropping systems to climate-information services and landscape-level watershed management. A critical pillar of climate-smart crop production is integrated pest and disease management. The sub-theme

therefore welcomes research on the ecology and population dynamics of economically important pests and pathogens, biological and conservation biocontrol, biopesticide development, semiochemical-based technologies, early-warning surveillance systems, rapid molecular and digital diagnostics, predictive modelling under changing climatic scenarios, and phytosanitary and quarantine measures that safeguard national and regional biosecurity against invasive species and transboundary threats. Contributions should illustrate how sustainable protection approaches can be scaled through participatory research, digital extension platforms, and supportive regulatory and institutional frameworks, and are especially valued where they present robust biophysical and socio-economic evidence of resilience outcomes, document gender-differentiated adoption pathways, and connect field-level practices to ecosystem-service provision.

iii Digital innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven agriculture

This sub-theme explores how digital and mechanical innovations are reshaping decision-making and operational efficiency across crop production systems. Contributions may address remote sensing, IoT sensor networks, unmanned aerial vehicles, mobile advisory platforms, and the expanding role of artificial intelligence and machine learning in tasks ranging from automated pest and disease identification to yield forecasting and supply-chain optimisation. Papers engaging emerging questions around agricultural data governance, algorithmic transparency, and the ethical deployment of AI tools in smallholder contexts are particularly encouraged. Appropriate mechanisation remains an equally vital dimension, especially scalable, cost-effective solutions designed to alleviate labour bottlenecks, reduce drudgery, and improve the timeliness of field operations in resource-constrained farming systems. Papers examining hire-service models, gender-responsive equipment design, strengthened extension services, and institutional arrangements that facilitate technology uptake and sustained use at scale are welcome.

iv Crop value addition, postharvest innovation, and food safety in market systems

Maximizing the economic and nutritional potential of crop production requires efficient value chains that reduce losses and increase returns for all stakeholders. This sub-theme invites research on innovations in postharvest handling, drying, storage, cold-chain logistics, processing technologies, and quality-assurance systems — including compliance with food-safety standards and sanitary and phytosanitary requirements — that enhance market competitiveness and open new product pathways for domestic and export markets. Beyond the technical dimension, contributions may explore market-linkage models, contract-farming arrangements, digital trading platforms, agribusiness development, and access to finance. Papers examining inclusive business models that engage youth, promote entrepreneurship, and stimulate private-sector investment along crop value chains — while ensuring that smallholder producers capture a fair share of the value created — are particularly encouraged.

v Agricultural financing models, risk management, policy, and partnerships

Technological and agronomic advances alone cannot transform the crop sector without enabling policies, functional institutions, and broad-based stakeholder engagement. This sub-theme explores the design, accessibility, effectiveness, and sustainability of financing mechanisms that support agricultural development in Tanzania, focusing on innovative and transformative financial models that enhance productivity, resilience, and commercialization within the crop sub-sector. It further

examines the risks affecting crop production systems and the strategies, tools, and policies used to manage them, with attention to building resilient systems capable of withstanding climatic, biological, and market-related uncertainties. The sub-theme also considers local-to-regional policy frameworks (pesticide regulation, biopesticide reform, EAC harmonization) that drive innovation, alongside multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaborative governance models that translate research into impact, and emerging climate-finance mechanisms and green-investment frameworks. A cross-cutting concern is the promotion of equity and social inclusion: papers addressing gender-responsive agricultural strategies, meaningful youth participation, the empowerment of marginalised communities, and the inclusion of people with disabilities within crop systems are strongly encouraged.

04 Abstract Submission

The Call for Abstracts opened on **20 June 2026**, and the deadline for abstract submission is 30 September 2026. Abstracts should be limited to a maximum of 300 words for both oral and poster presentations. Each abstract should be concise and include the elements below:

- A clear title, the name(s) of the author(s), and their affiliations/addresses, with the corresponding author clearly indicated for easy communication.
- A brief background and the objectives of the study.
- The methodology, results, and conclusion.
- No more than five keywords, arranged in alphabetical order.

Authors of accepted abstracts for oral or poster presentation will be notified by **15 October 2026**.

Important: Kindly submit your abstract through the conference email: conference@crosat.or.tz

05 Symposia, Side Meetings, and Round-Table Discussions

Time will also be set aside for Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Government Institutions, Local Government Authorities, business entities, farmer groups, individual researchers, and all others who may wish to organize special symposia, side meetings, agricultural exhibitions, and round-table discussions.

Important: Symposia, exhibitions, workshops, and seminars will be held during the main conference dates in the late afternoon, while short round-table discussions will be arranged in the evening, after conference hours.

Kindly book early. For symposia, organizers should indicate the title of the symposium, workshop, or seminar. Abstracts should be submitted before **30 September 2026** to allow smooth arrangement and event planning. Any submission that does not comply with the set criteria will not be accepted. Do not hesitate to contact the Organizing Committee should you need any clarification.

06 Contact Email

All conference emails, enquiries, and correspondence — including the submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations as well as symposia, workshops, and seminars — should be sent to conference@crosat.or.tz.

Important: For easy follow-up of your submissions, please use the conference email; submissions sent to individual emails will not be considered.

07 Presentations and Submission of Full Papers

Oral presentations at the conference are subject to the submission of full manuscripts. The deadline for submission of full manuscripts is **30 October 2026**. Each full manuscript should not exceed 12 pages, including references (single-spaced). For poster presentations, the poster size should not exceed 90 cm (length) x 75 cm (width). Instructions to authors for the preparation of full papers will be provided in the conference timetable.

Note: Conference proceedings serve as a written record of the research presented during the event. They are compiled and published to help researchers disseminate their findings, establish collaborations, and accelerate innovation within their field and beyond.

08 Virtual Video Presentation

A virtual video-presentation option will be available for those who are unable to travel to Tanzania. The allocated time will be 15 minutes for the video presentation and 5 minutes for discussion.

All virtual presenters must send their recorded videos before the conference dates to conference@crosat.or.tz, and must include the title, the name of the author/presenter, and the institutional affiliation.

09 Registration

Registration is now open. A dedicated webpage for the 2nd CROSAT Biennial Scientific Conference is available; kindly register at: <https://www.conference.crosat.or.tz/>.

10 Registration Fees

The conference registration fee covers the cost of meals and conference facilities for the two days of the conference. The following fees apply per person:

Participant Category	Currency	Fee (per person)
A. Early-Bird Registration (20 June – 25 October 2026)		
EAC or SADC members	TZS	150,000.00
Non-EAC or Non-SADC members	USD	100.00
Tanzanian students	TZS	50,000.00
Non-Tanzanian students	TZS	100,000.00
Farmers	TZS	100,000.00

Participant Category	Currency	Fee (per person)
B. Late or On-Site Registration		
EAC or SADC members	TZS	200,000.00

Participant Category	Currency	Fee (per person)
Non-EAC or Non-SADC members	USD	150.00
Tanzanian students	TZS	75,000.00
Non-Tanzanian students	TZS	150,000.00
Farmers	TZS	150,000.00

Important Notice on Registration

- i. Early-bird registration is open from 20 June to 25 October 2026.
- ii. Tanzanian students must send CROSAT a supporting letter from their institute, university, or college, together with a copy of their student ID.
- iii. EAC and/or SADC members should provide evidence of identity (i.e., a copy of the passport cover and information pages).

Important: The above registration fees also apply to virtual/online presenters, to cover the cost of the associated technology.

Payment of Registration Fee: Mode of Payment

In line with the current government payment guidelines, before making any payment please request a control number from the CROSAT accounts office by sending an email to conference@crosat.or.tz.

11 Language

The conference language will be mainly English. When deemed necessary, Kiswahili will be used, with translation provided.

12 Venue

The conference will be held at the **Tanga Beach Resort, in Tanga City, Tanzania**.

13 Accommodation

We recommend that participants make their own hotel bookings early. We look forward to welcoming you to the conference in Tanga.

THE 2ND BIENNIAL CROSAT SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
Organizing Committee