First Circular for

iSOVECON2023

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

of The Society for Vector Ecology (SOVE), India

13th to 16th March 2023

at

ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry, India

Theme:

Vector Borne Diseases:

Galvanizing & harmonizing old and new tools & technologies for containment of vectors and sustained control/ elimination of VBDs

Pre-conference Workshops:

Trainings on Ticks, Mites and Xenomonitoring of Vector-borne diseases

SOCIETY FOR VECTOR ECOLOGY

(INDIAN SOVE)

(Registered No. 250/GOA/2017 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

First Circular for iSOVECON2023

Season's Greetings from Indian SOVE and ICMR-VCRC

Society for Vector Ecology

The Society for Vector Ecology is a professional organization formed in 1968 by a group of individuals involved in vector biology and control programs in California, USA. The membership has since grown to represent an amalgamation of diverse research, operational and extension personnel from all over the world. The Society is committed to solving many complex problems encountered in the field of vector biology and control. Among these are the suppression of nuisance organisms and disease vectors through integration of control elements, such as environmental management, biological control, public education and appropriate chemical control technology.

The Society publishes the biannual Journal of Vector Ecology that contains research and operational papers covering many phases of vector biology, ecology and control. The Society also distributes a quarterly newsletter and holds annual conferences and International Congresses. The Society with its Hqs. in USA, has Latin American, European and Asian Regions. A new SOVE Indian Region has been established with Dr. Ashwani Kumar as Director and Headquarter at ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, Field Unit at Goa, India. For more information please visit: www.sove.org.

Genesis of Indian SOVE

The parent SOVE board at their 47th annual SOVE conference in Anchorage, Alaska USA resolved to establish SOVE Indian Region and entrusted Dr. Ashwani Kumar with the responsibility. Society for Vector Ecology, Indian Region' was registered on July 27, 2017, under Indian Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Central Act 21 of 1860). The membership of Indian SOVE is currently 115. iSOVE successfully organized 1st International conference from 13-16th Feb. 2019 followed by a National Workshop for Training of Entomologists in collaboration with ICMR-VCRC and NCVBDC from 9th-13th of March 2020. This was followed by SOVE*lect* series wherein lectures on various aspects of VBDs were recorded by eminent researchers and these were released on YouTube, WA, Twitter, Facebook, etc. in 2021. For more details, please visit www.soveindia.org

Aims and Objectives

The Overall objectives of the SOVE are to promote-

- Science of vector ecology and vector-borne diseases on a global basis, especially in the countries in Indian subcontinent region
- Research and management of disease vectors and nuisance organisms emphasizing ecological principles and integrated vector management strategies
- Development of technical and administrative skills in the implementation of vector management programs
- Dissemination of technical, organizational and administrative information to Society members and others concerned
- To promote involvement of students and research scholars in the field of vector ecology and management of vector borne diseases

The Specific objectives are to-

- Encourage and promote research on vectors and vector-borne diseases emphasizing vector / disease ecology, epidemiology and management on a local, regional and national basis
- Convene annual meetings, conduct workshops, special meetings and international congresses for the purpose of exchanging information relevant to vectors, vector-borne diseases and vector / disease management
- Highlight the results of the scientific publications in the newsletters and provide information on the potential risks of vector-borne diseases to the public
- Promote the use of scientific information in conjunction with inter-agency cooperation in the development of vector management programs at the local, state, regional, national and international levels
- Provide a forum for continuing education in vector ecology, vector-borne diseases and vector / disease management using principles of applied ecology
- Promote collaboration with other related organizations

The iSOVE 2023 International Conference

The Society for Vector Ecology **(SOVE)**, India in collaboration with ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry will organize its **SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (iSOVECON2023)** from 13th to 16th March, 2023 at ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry, India. Regrettably though understandably, this conference had to be deferred from 2021 to 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this International Conference is to bring together students, researchers, programme managers, industry, NGOs and policy makers from across the globe on one platform who have interest in the control/elimination of vectors and vector-borne diseases, which continue to pose threats to the global health.

As in the first conference, delegates from India and abroad are expected to enrich the conference experience. It is expected that public health experts, academicians, scientists, researchers, research scholars, programme implementers and policy makers will exchange views and share their respective experiences in the field of Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs). Besides focus on vector ecology, a gamut of issues surrounding Malaria, Filariasis, Visceral Leishmaniasis, Scrub typhus and emerging vector borne viral infections viz., KFD, dengue, chikungunya and zika will be addressed. The conference will provide an interdisciplinary platform for different streams of researchers, vector ecologists, biologists, microbiologists, molecular biologists, immunologists, environmentalists, public health experts and medical entomologists to discuss concerns and showcase their most recent findings and innovations and discuss the practical challenges faced and solutions adopted in the domain of VBDs that would pave the way for their sustained control/elimination. This would set tone for the scientific deliberations on the current status of VBDs and modification in the approaches necessary to solve the key/persisting problems of VBDs.

The meeting will also provide opportunities to debate and deliberate on contemporary advancements in artificial intelligence, digital and drone technologies for vector surveillance and control of VBDs. The deliberations during the conference will focus on broad thematic areas to address a range of significant issues in an effort to finding sustainable solutions in the management of VBDs. Some of the key areas addressed would be COVID and impact on VBDs, biosecurity, impact of climate change on VBDs, One Health approaches, and cutting-edge science and technological solutions related to the VBDs.

The recent emergence and spurt of dengue, chikungunya, Zika, KFD, scrub typhus etc. are worrisome and sound alarm bells and also call for preparedness and mounting rapid response to such outbreaks and epidemics which threaten public health and economic

progress of the nation. While addressing these issues succinctly, there is also a need to keep a watch on invasive vector species at our points of entry such as ports, airports and ground crossings, both road and rail between neighbouring countries.

Indian subcontinent and many countries in the India's neighbourhood have made significant progress in the control/elimination of malaria, filariasis and Kala Azar (Leishmaniasis) in the recent decades. While learning from their rich experiences, this international conference will be devoted to finding tangible solutions to the above listed VBDs and will try to explore the usefulness of "new tools and technologies in the context of emerging pathogens, elimination campaigns, challenges faced and discuss the way forward".

iSOVECON2023 Main Theme:

Vector Borne Diseases: Galvanizing & Harmonizing old and new tools & technologies for containment of vectors and sustained control/elimination of VBDs

Subthemes:

1) COVID and Vector Borne Diseases (VBDs)

- Global Neglect of surveillance and control of VBDs
- Tweaking the management of VBDs
- Impact on Elimination of VL, LF and Malaria

2) Biosecurity: Vector Surveillance and Control at Points of Entry (PoE) is a must

- Contemporary and future: Recognizing emerging threats of VBDs: Strengthening surveillance in the era of invasive vectors at PoEs
- Biosecurity *vis a vis* One Health: Threat perception, detection and rapid response for mitigation of VBDs transmission risk; How prepared are we?
- Enhanced investment for a robust biosecurity ecosystem

3) Cutting edge approaches to address VBDs threats- now and the future

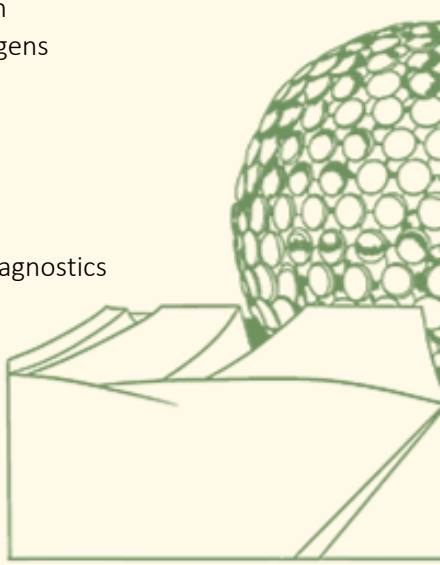
- Spatial Epidemiology of VBDs: Space for drone based surveillance
- Contemporary research challenges in VBDs needing high-tech solutions
- Climate change and VBDs: Insights for the current and future directions
- AI and Digital technology: VBD surveillance and control
- Big Data platforms and opportunities (Big Data analytics and solutions)
- Real time apps for VBD surveillance and trend analysis
- Mapping the VBDs' risk at local, regional, national and global level

4) Arboviral diseases: Fastest emerging and re-emerging threats to Public Health

- Need for a short-, medium- and long-term holistic management approach
- Consequences of human actions on the increasing risk of arboviral pathogens
- Harmonizing research priorities with public health programmes
- Need for Module/SOPs on outbreak investigation and follow up action

5) Scrub and Tick typhus: A stitch in time will save nine

- Recognizing the real burden and risk
- Prioritizing research and investment for developing point of care (PoC) diagnostics
- Continued Medical Education on typhus recognition in clinical practice



6) Capacity strengthening and Vector Control: A GVCR Approach

- National capacity building and strengthening Vector Surveillance and Control
- Strengthening Vector Control at programmatic level
- Demand supply gap-bridging measures in Public Health Entomology

7) LF, VL and Malaria elimination: Thinking right, fast and beyond

- Towards a sustainable Vector-Control Strategy
- Integrating malaria, LF, and VL elimination: Reality or a myth-exploring the possibilities
- Citizen science as we approach LF, VL and malaria elimination goals

8) Socioeconomics of VBDs-Financing and Equity issues

- Social impact, economics, and sustainability of IVM to combat VBDs
- Impact of VBD interventions on socio-economic transformation

Pre-Conference Workshops: Three training workshops will be conducted a week prior to the iSOVECON2023 on Ticks, Mites and the Xenomonitoring of Vector Borne Diseases at the VCRC Puducherry. The dates and details will be announced in the final circular in Dec. 2022.

ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre (Co-organizer)

ICMR- Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC), established at Pondicherry (now Puducherry) in July 1975, is one of the permanent institutes of the Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Research, Government of India. VCRC has been engaged in basic and applied research with the primary objective of finding newer methods and developing strategies of vector control for the control of vector borne diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the VCRC as a collaborating Centre for Research and Training in Lymphatic filariasis and Integrated Vector Management. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in 2000 recognized the Centre as one of the Institutes of Excellence in India for Courses in Health Training. It will be a great opportunity to co-organize the iSOVECON2023 at Pondicherry with Indian SOVE at Puducherry.

Pondicherry

Pondicherry now known as Puducherry, is the capital and the most populous city of the Union Territory of Puducherry in India. The city is in the Puducherry district on the southeast coast of India and is surrounded by Bay of Bengal to the east and the state of Tamil Nadu, with which it shares most of its culture, heritage, and language.

Puducherry, formerly known as Pondicherry, gained its significance as “The French Riviera of the East” after the advent of the French colonialization in India. Puducherry is the Tamil interpretation of “new town” and mainly arrived from “Poduke”, the name of the marketplace as the “Port town” for Roman trading, way back in 1st century as mentioned in the ‘The Periplus of the Erythraean Sea’. The settlement was once an abode of many learned scholars as evidently versed in the Vedas, hence also known as Vedapuri.

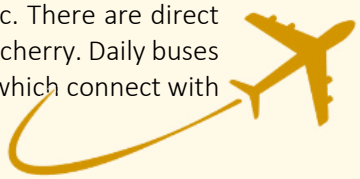
The history of Puducherry can broadly be classified in two periods—Pre-Colonial period and Colonial Period. The Pre-Colonial period started with the reign of the Pallavas who continued to rule the empire from 325 to 900 CE, then came the Chola dynasty for the time period from 900 to 1279 CE, continued by Pandya Dynasty from 1279 to 1370 CE. During the 14th century, it was under the rule of the Naikship of Gingee denoting the Vijayanagar Empire from 1370 to 1614 CE, which was conquered by the Sultan of Bijapur, and he continued for the phase from 1614 to 1638 CE. It was during the period of the Sultan when the Portuguese and Danish merchants used the place as the trading Center.

The colonial period started with Portuguese as they were the first Europeans to trade in textile in 1521 and subsequently with the Dutch and the Danes in the 17th century.

The prospering trade of Puducherry attracted the French, and the predominant feature of the town was laid by the French pioneer Francois Martin in the form of a French settlement in 1674 CE. In 1693, Puducherry was captured by the Dutch but restored in 1699 CE subsequently with the Treaty of Ryswick. The French acquired Mahe in 1720, Yanam in 1731, and Karaikal in 1738. The British captured the city from the French but returned it following the Treaty of Paris in 1763. This Anglo-French war continued until 1814 CE, when finally, France had the control over the settlements of Puducherry, Mahe, Yanam, Karaikal and Chandernagar even during the British period until 1954. It was a reign of one hundred and thirty-eight years under French and finally on 31st October, 1954, they left the Indian shores following de facto transfer of power. The treaty effecting the de jure transfer was signed in 1956. However, due to opposition in France, the ratification of this treaty by the French National Assembly only took place on 16 August 1962.

How to Reach Pondicherry

Pondicherry is connected by air, rail and road with rest of the country. Pondicherry has a small city Airport with two daily to-and-fro flights from Bangalore and Hyderabad. The nearest major Airport is Chennai which is 160 km and 3-hour drive to Pondicherry. The Chennai International Airport is connected by direct flights to New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Goa, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune, Chandigarh, etc. and with international destinations like Colombo, Dubai, Doha, etc. There are direct train services from many railway stations of the country to Chennai and less to Pondicherry. Daily buses are available from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala which connect with Pondicherry.



The Venue and the attractions

The venue of the iSOVECON2023 is VCRC and JIPMER Pondicherry which has a large campus with serene environment with ample conferencing facilities. Pondicherry has several iconic touristic attractions in the vicinity particularly city beach, French town, Temples, Sri Aurobindo Ashram and UN International city Auroville. Historical Mahabalipuram is 60 km away on the east coast. There are many beaches connected by road and mangroves to visit by boats. There are several restaurants and hotels serving authentic South Indian Cuisine.

Guidelines for Abstract (iSOVECON2023)

1. Abstract should be written in English in no more than 500 words
2. Font Type: Times New Roman; Font size-12 pt.
3. Title Font Type: Times New Roman Font size-12 pt. Bold,
4. Author's name: surname followed by initials with space and without points between surname and initials; if authors are more than one their names should be separated by comma.
5. Affiliation: Author should be followed by institutional affiliation. If more than one institute are involved, they should be indicated with superscript Roman numerals.
6. Presenting author's name should be underlined.
7. Please indicate (on the top right-hand corner in 10 font size) the subtheme in which your abstract falls.
8. Abstract should be in Microsoft Word document.
9. Abstract should contain a brief introduction/background to the study.
10. A statement of the research problem/research question/research hypothesis.
11. Research methodology employed in your study.
12. Summary of results obtained.
13. Discussion and conclusion/summary of the results/preliminary results/anticipated results.
14. Please name the file after first author. If more than one abstract is being submitted by the same first author- use different suffixes.
15. Abstracts of delegates whose registration is confirmed by (1st Feb. 2023) will be processed further. Confirmation is subject to payment of the registration fees.
16. Email your abstracts as MS word document to The Organizing Secretary on isovecon2023@gmail.com

AWARDS (iSOVECON2023)

1. 'Padmabhushan' Dr. V. P. Sharma Oration Award for Outstanding Research in Vector Bio-ecology and Control (To be awarded to an Indian Scientist)

2. Prof. Mir Mulla Award for Excellence in Vector Biology and Control (To be awarded to an International Scientist)

3. Dr. T. R. Ramachandra Rao Award for Outstanding Research in Medical Entomology

4. Shri P. B. Deobhankar Award for Distinguished Work in Public Health especially in Municipal bodies and State Government programmes

5. Dr. A. R. Rajavel Memorial SOVE (Indian Region) Award for a renowned researcher working on Taxonomy of Vectors in India or Overseas

6. SOVE (Indian Region) Young Scientist Award (Woman) below 35 years of age for outstanding research and innovation in the field of vector bioecology/vector borne diseases

7. SOVE (Indian Region) Young Scientist Award (Man) below 35 years of age for outstanding research and innovation in the field of vector bio-ecology/vector borne diseases Awards 1-4 are by nomination while 5 & 6 are by application. Form can be requested by sending an e-mail to isovecon2023@gmail.com

Nominations/Applications for the Awards with full CV may be sent in a sealed envelope on or before 31st Jan. 2023 addressed to

Dr. Ashwani Kumar
President SOVE Indian Region
Vector Control Research Centre, Indira Nagar,
Puducherry 605006, India; E-mail: ashwani07@gmail.com and isovecon2023@gmail.com

Accommodation

Accommodation charges (single occupancy) for different categories will be as follows

No.	Category	Price (in INR + TAX)
1.	Students	500.00 – 700.00
2.	Guest House	500.00 –1000.00
3.	Budget Hotel	1000.00 –2000.00
4.	Category B	2000.00 –3000.00
5.	Category A	3000.00 – 5000.00
6.	Luxury/Star Hotel	6000.00 + and above

Different hotels have been tied up for conference in Pondicherry. Details shall be available on SOVE website by the end of November 2022. Participants may directly book the accommodation mentioning iSOVECON2023 through the link provided.

Contact for Assistance

Dr. A. N. Shriram
Organizing Secretary iSOVE-2
ICMR-Vector Control Research Centre
Indira Nagar, Puducherry, India
Phone No – 9434289644 / 9933231415 E-mail: isovecon2023@gmail.com

REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION FEE*

TYPE	Till the 15th of January 2023						Spot Registration					
	Indian Delegates		Overseas Delegates		SOVE Members Indian/Overseas		Indian Delegates		Overseas Delegates		SOVE Members Indian/Overseas	
	Physical	Virtual	Physical	Virtual	Physical	Virtual	Physical	Virtual	Physical	Virtual	Physical	Virtual
Student	INR 3000	INR 1500	$200	$100	INR 2500/$150	INR 1250/$75	INR 3500	INR 2000	$250	$150	INR 3000/$200	$150
Delegate	INR 5000	INR 2500	$250	$125	INR 4500/$200	INR 2250/$100	INR5500	INR 3000	$300	$175	INR 5000/$250	$175

SOVE GST No. 30AATAS8416Q1ZP

*Registration will open on November 20, 2022. Registration fees will be accepted online for which please see below NEFT details and also please visit www.soveindia.org page activated by November 15, for membership and further details.

The registration fees include access to all scientific sessions, refreshments during session breaks, lunch, an official dinner and a conference kit. However, accompanying persons are not entitled for a conference kit. All Registration fees will be payable in INR (Indian Rupees) or US $.
Note: Student delegates should carry their student identification Card (ID) with photograph on it.

Note: Above fee is inclusive of Govt. taxes but exclusive of bank transaction charges if levied any

NEFT Details:
Name of the Account: Society for Vector Ecology
Name of the Bank: State Bank of India
Branch Name: Opp. Hotel Mandovi, Panaji
Branch Code: 00509
IFSC No.: SBIN0000509
Account No.: 37075499496

Please block your dates to meet in Puducherry, India: 13-16, March 2023