

The International Symposium on Fungal Endophytes of Grasses started in New Orleans, USA in 1990 with subsequent meetings held every 3–4 years attracting around 100 to 160 participants from around the world with a common interest in *Epichloë* and other fungal endophytes of grasses.

The last meeting was held in Salamanca, Spain in 2018 where a commitment was made to hold the next meeting in Aotearoa New Zealand, however, the global pandemic caused significant delays.

We are excited to announce that the next symposium in this series will take place in Kirikiriroa Hamilton, Aotearoa New Zealand, 11-13 November 2025, jointly with the annual conference of the New Zealand Grassland Association. While the importance of *Epichloë* fungi of cool season grasses is well established and will continue to be a major focus of the symposia, the 2025 meeting will be broadened to include research on all microbial endophytes of grasses. The 2025 meeting will be hence titled the **11th International Symposium of Grass Microbial Endophytes (ISGME2025)**.

ISGME2025 will attract researchers from around the world who are focused on the basic and applied aspects of using endophytic microorganisms, including but not exclusively *Epichloë* fungi, as promising solutions for sustainable agricultural production. With a focus on both temperate (C3) and tropical (C4) grasses, including pastures and cereals, scientific sessions will broadly address:

- Occurrence, diversity and ecology of grass microbial (fungal and bacterial) endophytes
- Mechanistic understanding of host-endophyte interactions
- Involvement of multitrophic and microbiome interactions
- Practical application of endophytes for plant protection and production

## We appreciate your consideration of sponsorship for ISGME2025

This will enable:

- Attendance of a wide range of international and national keynote speakers to present their latest research.
- Publication of symposium research papers in a special Research and Practice Series of the Journal of New Zealand Grasslands.

ISGME will celebrate the success of using microbial endophytes with grasses and highlight new opportunities for future advances which will underpin sustainable pastoral agricultural economies and global food production systems.

Overleaf is an outline of the sponsorship opportunities available.

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**International Keynote Speaker**

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|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Number of sponsorships available | 4—6  | <b>\$6,000</b> <sup>1</sup><br>per speaker |
| Sponsorship will include         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Naming rights to the sponsored keynote's session</li><li>• Acknowledgement as a sponsor in the symposium handbook</li><li>• Acknowledgment in all plenary sessions on sponsors slide</li><li>• Logo on symposium website with a link to your homepage</li><li>• Opportunity to place one item of marketing material or a promotional item on the Sponsors Giveaway Table – marketing material will also be uploaded online</li></ul> |  |

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**Publication Costs**

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|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Number of sponsorships available | 1  | <b>\$18,000</b> <sup>1, 2</sup> |
| Sponsorship will include         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Three complimentary tickets to the symposium dinner</li><li>• Acknowledgement as a sponsor in the symposium handbook</li><li>• Logo on symposium website with a link to your homepage</li><li>• Opportunity to place one item of marketing material or a promotional item on the Sponsors Giveaway Table – marketing material will also be uploaded online</li></ul> |                                 |

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<sup>1</sup> All prices quoted are in New Zealand dollars and exclude GST of 15%

<sup>2</sup> Partial contributions accepted, minimum NZD \$5,000 (or by negotiation) and benefits distributed accordingly

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All prices quoted are in New Zealand dollars and are GST exclusive.

Sponsors will be informed of all deadlines for the provision of information or materials through regular email updates and the symposium website.

The acceptance of the application shall be at the discretion of the organisers, and upon acceptance, becomes a contract. By completing and signing the application, the undersigned agrees to comply with, and be subject to, the terms and conditions plus cancellation policy contained in this document. The organisers reserve the right to refuse or deny any application.

#### **Terms and conditions**

All sponsorships are non-exclusive. Sponsorship will be allocated on receipt of the signed application form and deposit.

Application for sponsorship must be made in writing using the designated application form. Confirmation will be provided to confirm the booking, together with a tax invoice for the full amount.

All payments are in New Zealand dollars. All monies must be received prior to the event. No company will be listed as a sponsor or exhibitor in any symposium material until full payment and completed application form have been received by the organisers.

The organiser, at their discretion, shall have the right to postpone or cancel the symposium and shall be liable in no way for losses resulting from such delay or cancellation.

The organiser reserves the right to rearrange the floor plan and/or relocate any exhibit without notice. The organiser will not discount or refund for any facilities not used or required.

#### **Cancellation policy**

In the event of cancellation of the 11th International Symposium of Grass Microbial Endophytes 2025, sponsors will be notified, and any unspent sponsorship will be refunded in a pro-rated manner to the sponsors.

#### **Liability**

Sponsors assume entire responsibility and hereby agree to protect, indemnify, defend and hold the New Zealand Grassland Association and the 11th International Symposium of Grass Microbial Endophytes 2025 Committee and its employees and agents harmless against all claims, losses and damages to persons or property, government charges or fines and attorney fees arising from or caused by the sponsor's installation, removal, maintenance, occupancy or use of symposium premises or a part thereof, excluding any such liability caused by the sole negligence of the venue, its employees and agents. The organiser will not be accountable for the level of commercial activity generated.

#### **Compliance**

The sponsor agrees to abide by, and comply, with the rules and regulations including any amendments that the organisers may make from time to time. The sponsor further assumes all responsibility for compliance with all pertinent laws, ordinances, regulations and codes of duly authorised local, state and federal governing bodies concerning fire, safety and health, as well as the rules and regulations of the venue.

**Company Details**

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Company Name

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Contact Name

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Postal Address

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Email Address

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Telephone Number

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Mobile Number

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**Sponsorship Details**

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Please select the sponsorship level by ticking the box provided

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|  |              |  |          |
|--|--------------|--|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> International keynote speaker | \$6,000 each | <input type="checkbox"/> Publication costs | \$18,000 |
|--|--------------|--|----------|

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Number of speakers

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☐ Other (please state)

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**Agreement**

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☐ I have read, understood and agree to the terms and conditions and cancellation policy as stated in the Sponsorship Prospectus. *(Please tick.)*

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Signed

Date

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Signed NZGA Secretariat

Date

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*Please return completed form to [ISGME2025@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:ISGME2025@agresearch.co.nz)*

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