

(4 – 6 March, 2024)

National Conference on "Quality Seed Production: Backbone to the National Food Security" held at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar



Padma Bhushan Dr R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), Former Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, was invited as Chief Guest to deliver Address on the occasion of three-day National Conference on "Quality Seed Production: Backbone to the National Food Security" from March 4-6,2024 at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), Pantnagar, jointly organized by GBPUAT, Pantnagar (U.K.) and ICAR-Indian Institute of Seed Science, Mau (U.P.).

During the conference, the importance of improved crop Varieties/Hybrids, their quality seeds and other aspects of seed production were discussed for attaining the self-reliance in food grain production and to further evolve strategies to produce more food grains to feed people of India. Besides, an industry-academia



meet was also organized during this conference for commercializing technologies developed by Pantnagar University.

Dr Paroda's inaugural address offered a fascinating glimpse into the history of the Green Revolution. He recounted his personal experience sowing the first wheat seeds in a Delhi village along with Dr M.S. Swaminathan. He also acknowledged the pivotal contributions of institutions like Pantnagar University, IARI, and PAU in ushering in this agricultural transformation through Green Revolution. Dr Paroda emphasized the urgent need to revise the Seed Act of 1966. He commended the private sector's role in providing high-quality seeds, with over 500 seed companies currently operating in India. However, he stressed the importance of building trust through respect for Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).

To further enhance research and development for increased agricultural production and productivity, Dr Paroda proposed the establishment of public sector "Technology Parks." These parks would foster collaboration with the private sector, moving beyond traditional research towards disruptive innovations and advancements. He highlighted the crucial role of farmers not just in production but also in participatory research. Dr Paroda expressed strong confidence in young researchers, believing they possess the potential to address agricultural challenges and significantly contribute to India's development, potentially even achieving the vision of a developed nation before 2047.
