

(17 October 2024)

## CSIR-IHBT Celebrates 83<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day

Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr RS 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 during celebration of 83<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day of CSIR-IHBT, Palampur, on 17 October 2024.

Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr Anil Joshi, Founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Dehradun was the Guest of Honour at this occasion.

Dr Paroda delivered the inaugural address, emphasizing the critical importance of the Northern Himalayan region's rich agrobiodiversity, encompassing plants, animals, and fish genetic resources. He also highlighted the significant role of institutions in the region in conserving and utilizing this agrobiodiversity with enabling policy support.



To ensure long-term conservation, Dr Paroda advocated for the establishment of a 'Safety Duplicate' facility in Stingiri, near Keylong in Himachal Pradesh. This recommendation was made by a committee chaired by him which was constituted by the ICAR.

Referring to the "Delhi Declaration" adopted at the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC) which was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Dr Paroda outlined a roadmap for the effective management of agrobiodiversity in the Northern Himalayas.

His inaugural address can be accessed through links below:

Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18rfBq1KTOntfjKApitZKsKDGc7aGBbBH/view>

