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Message from the President, IARI Alumni Association

Dear Esteemed Alumni,

It is with immense pride that we present to you this latest edition of our *Newsletter*, reflecting the remarkable six months of achievements by IAA that we all are working hard to serve its aims and objectives effectively.

The last six months have been truly historic for our alumni community. We are extremely delighted that three of our distinguished alumni - **Dr. M. L. Jat**, **Dr. Himanshu Pathak**, and **Dr. B. M. Prasanna** - have been appointed to assume leading roles in the national and global agricultural research institutions. Their success reflects the strength of IARI in providing visionary leaders with global standing.

This edition also brings the joyous news about inauguration of the **IARI Alumni Association Office**, a long-awaited milestone achieved by the Executive Committee. Our office, located opposite to the Director's Office, is now functional and you all are welcome to visit as and when you happen to visit your Alma Mater. It shall serve now as a vibrant hub for alumni engagement and future activities.

We are equally pleased that two of our Alumni have received prestigious national and international honours: **Padma Shri** by **Dr. Surinder Kumar Vasal** and **Global Ambassador of Regenagri** by **Prof. Rattan Lal**. Their lifelong contributions continue to inspire our young Alumni towards excellence in science-led agricultural transformation.

In solemn remembrance, we also pay tribute to two towering figures, **Dr. S. Ayyappan** and **Dr. K. L. Chadha**, whose legacies will forever be etched in the annals of Indian agricultural research.

This newsletter also reflects emerging close engagement with our alumni and young students through expert lectures and panel discussions. We now continue to bridge generations, foster innovation, and reinforce our commitment to Viksit Bharat.

As we celebrate the 120th Foundation Day of ICAR-IARI, let us dedicate ourselves to the ideals that unite us towards scientific excellence, societal relevance, and a spirit of giving back.

On behalf of the IAA Executive Committee, I invite you all to stay connected, participate actively, and support IAA efforts in strengthening IARI for shaping a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous future of our farmers.

With best regards,



(Dr.) R.S. Paroda

President, IARI Alumni Association



IARI Alumni in Leadership

Three Distinguished Appointments in Global and National Agricultural Research Systems

The IARI Alumni community takes immense pride in the recent high-level appointments of three eminent alumni who have taken up prestigious leadership roles in national and international agricultural research systems. Their achievements reflect not only individual excellence but also the strength of IARI in nurturing globally impactful scientists and leaders.

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat Appointed Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR



Renowned agricultural scientist and proud IARI alumnus **Dr. Mangi Lal Jat** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of ICAR by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). He had assumed charge on April 21st, 2025 for a three-year term.

Dr. Jat earned his Ph.D. from IARI and brings to the position over two decades of distinguished scientific leadership in natural resource management, conservation agriculture, and climate-resilient farming. His illustrious career includes impactful roles at ICAR, CIMMYT, and most recently at ICRISAT as Deputy Director General (Research), where he led the Global



Research Program. Dr. Jat is globally recognized for his pioneering contributions in zero tillage, soil health enhancement, and carbon sequestration, technologies that are central to sustainable intensification in dryland agriculture.

In recognition of this momentous achievement, the **IARI Alumni Association proudly felicitated Dr. Jat at a special event**, celebrating his elevation to the highest leadership position in Indian agricultural research. His appointment ushers in a new era for ICAR, with high expectations that his visionary and farmer-centric leadership will further strengthen the national research system and accelerate agricultural transformation.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak Takes Charge as Director General, ICRISAT

Another distinguished IARI alumnus, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, has taken over as DG, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, the first Indian to be appointed as DG of this prestigious CGIAR institute with headquarters in India on March 5th, 2025.



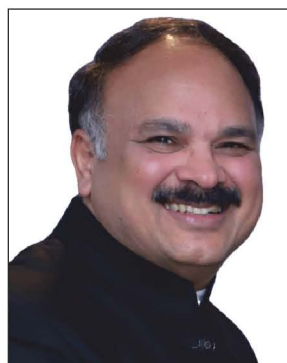
Dr. Pathak completed his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry from IARI in 1988 and 1992, respectively. He had previously served as Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR), demonstrating his leadership across India's agricultural research institutions. His earlier roles also include Director of ICAR-NRRI, Cuttack and ICAR-NIASM, Baramati.

ICRISAT, with a legacy of over five decades in improving dryland agriculture, will benefit immensely from Dr. Pathak's expertise in climate-resilient agriculture, sustainability and institutional innovation. His leadership is expected to accelerate ICRISAT's mission of improving the livelihoods of smallholder farmers across Asia and Africa.

Dr. B.M. Prasanna Appointed CIMMYT Regional Director for Asia and Managing Director, BISA

Dr. B.M. Prasanna, another illustrious IARI alumnus, has been appointed as the CIMMYT Regional Director for Asia, India Representative for CIMMYT in January 2025, and Managing Director of the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA). He has assumed charge at BISA on June 1st, 2025.

Dr. Prasanna earlier served as Director of the Global Maize Program at CIMMYT (2010–2024) and is



recognized as a CIMMYT Distinguished Scientist. His career has focused on maize improvement for stress-prone environments, benefiting millions of smallholder farmers through enhanced productivity, nutrition,

and resilience. He also led the CGIAR Research Program on Maize and the One CGIAR Plant Health Initiative.

His appointment signals a renewed focus on strengthening South Asia's maize and wheat systems through science-driven partnerships and innovation platforms.

Celebrating IARI's Legacy

These remarkable appointments reaffirm IARI's pivotal role in developing world-class scientists who continue to lead globally in advancing food and nutritional security. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Dr. M. L. Jat**, **Dr. Himanshu Pathak** and **Dr. B. M. Prasanna** for their achievements and wish them continued success in shaping the future of agricultural research and innovation.

From Lab to Land: IARI's 63rd Convocation Highlights

At the 63rd Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) on March 22nd, 2025, Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasized the need to accelerate the transfer of technologies from lab to land to

ensure sustainable growth, enhance productivity, and build climate resilience.

In his address, the Minister urged researchers to align innovations with farmers' needs, stressing that timely adoption of technologies is crucial for conserving resources and improving incomes. "India can lead in sustainable agriculture if we accelerate the transition of technologies to the field," he noted.

Focusing on climate-smart farming, he advocated for drought-resistant crops, efficient irrigation, and resilient agronomic practices. He also encouraged organic and natural farming to promote soil health and meet rising demand for chemical-free food.



Shri Chouhan outlined a vision of digitally empowered agriculture, driven by AI, drones, and smart sensors. He urged graduates to become agri-entrepreneurs, assuring government support for startups through funding and incubation. “Research must fuel innovation, and innovation must lead to enterprise,” he said.

Praising IARI as the “cradle of the Green Revolution,” he acknowledged its key role in food security and sustained agricultural growth. He

called on the youth to lead with innovation and empathy, collaborating with farmers to build impactful ventures.

The event was graced by Ministers of State, Shri Bhagirath Chaudhary and Shri Ramnath Thakur; DARE Secretary, Dr. Devesh Chaturvedi and IARI Director, Dr. Srinivas Rao. The IARI Alumni community congratulates the graduates and reaffirms its dedication to agricultural excellence.

Alumni Spotlight

Padma Shri Conferred on IARI Alumnus and Renowned Geneticist Dr. Surinder Kumar Vasal

Dr. Surinder Kumar Vasal, a renowned geneticist, plant breeder, and distinguished alumnus of IARI, was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri by the Government of India on January 26th, 2025 for his outstanding contributions to agriculture in science and engineering.

Born in Amritsar in 1938, Dr. Vasal earned his Ph.D. from IARI in 1966 and spent much of his career at CIMMYT, Mexico. He is internationally celebrated for co-developing Quality Protein Maize (QPM) with Dr. Evangelina Villegas—a breakthrough innovation that significantly helped combat malnutrition in developing nations.



At CIMMYT, he held key leadership roles, including Germplasm Coordinator and head of the Lowland Tropical Maize Program. His work has earned numerous global accolades, including the World Food Prize (2000), International Agronomy Award (1999), and the Premio Cesar Garza Award (1993).

The IAA congratulates Dr. Vasal on this national honour and salutes his lifelong dedication to science-driven agricultural progress and global food security.

Dr. R.S. Paroda Conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award



We are delighted to announce that Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda, Padma Bhushan awardee and distinguished IARI alumnus, has been honoured with the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial NABS – Lifetime Achievement Award – 2022.

The award was conferred during the 14th National Conference of the National Academy of Biological Sciences (NABS), held on January 28th, 2025 at the Agricultural College and Research Institute, Kudumiyamalai (TNAU), Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu.

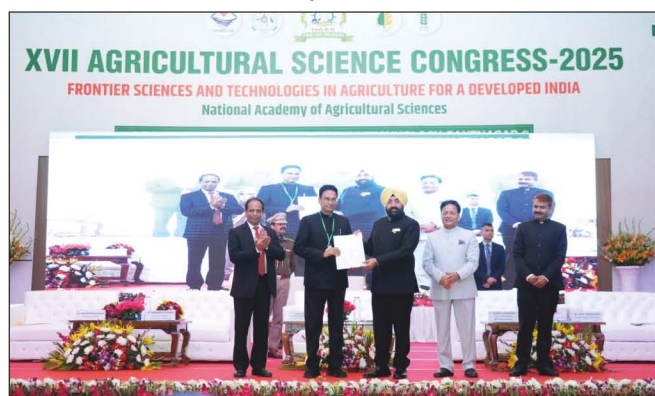
Dr. Paroda, Chairman of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and former Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), has been a towering figure in Indian and global agricultural research. His leadership in shaping

national agricultural policies, strengthening research systems, and promoting science-led growth in agriculture continues to inspire generations of scientists.

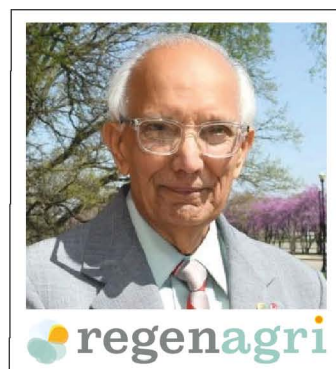
The IARI Alumni community extends warm congratulations to Dr. Paroda for this well-deserved recognition of his lifelong service to agricultural science and innovation.

Honour for IARI Director

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, was conferred the prestigious Dr. N.S. Randhawa Memorial Award by NAAS during the XVII Agricultural Science Congress held at Pantnagar, Uttarakhand on February 22nd, 2025.



Prof. Rattan Lal Appointed Global Ambassador of Regenagri



We are proud to share that Prof. Rattan Lal, an eminent soil scientist and celebrated IARI alumnus, has been appointed as the Global Ambassador of Regenagri, the world's foremost

initiative advancing regenerative agriculture on June 2nd, 2025.

This prestigious role honours Prof. Lal's groundbreaking work in soil carbon sequestration, soil health and sustainable land management. As Global Ambassador, he will play a pivotal role in shaping Regenagri's global standards, advocating regenerative practices and promoting ecosystem restoration through science-based solutions.

Prof. Lal is currently the Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science and Director of the Lal Carbon Center at The Ohio State University, United States. A former President of the International Union of Soil Sciences, he is also the recipient of several international honours, including the Padma Shri Award (2021), World Food Prize (2020) and the Borlaug Award (2005).

Commenting on his new role, Prof. Lal noted:

"Regenagri stands for innovative farming systems that restore degraded soils, mitigate climate change, strengthen biodiversity, and support the UN Sustainable Development Goals while producing safe, nutritious food for all."

The IARI alumni community congratulates Prof. Lal on yet another milestone in his distinguished global career.

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat Conferred Honoris Causa by Hon'ble President of India

Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, conferred the prestigious Honoris Causa (D.Sc.) on Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, during the 11th Convocation of ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar, held on June 30th, 2025. A distinguished alumnus of IARI, Dr. Jat was honoured for his outstanding contributions to agricultural research and policy in India.



Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Honoris Causa (D.Sc.) on Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR) during the 11th Convocation of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, today.

Inauguration of IARI Alumni Association Office

The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) marked a proud milestone with the inauguration of its dedicated office on April 15th, 2025, at the IARI campus. The ceremony was graced by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, world-renowned agricultural scientist and President of IAA, who inaugurated the office in the presence of the Director, IARI, Executive Committee members and distinguished alumni.



Strategically located opposite to the Office of the Director, IARI, the new facility adds value by ensuring closer institutional integration and enhanced visibility. Dr. Paroda emphasized the vital role of the alumni network in strengthening IARI's legacy and mentoring the next generation of agricultural professionals.

The office will serve as a vibrant hub for alumni activities, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and deeper engagement with the institute's ongoing mission. The occasion was truly memorable, celebrating the unity, pride, and enduring commitment of IARI alumni to national and global agricultural development.

Alumni Voices

Alumni Reflections: A Moment of Pride and Connection

By Dr. Kushal Pal Singh, PhD Plant Physiology, 1986, IARI, New Delhi



During my recent visit to the **IARI Alumni Association Office** on the occasion of **IARI Convocation-2025**, I felt a deep sense of pride and nostalgia. The new IARI Alumni office, located opposite to the Director's Office, stands as a vibrant symbol of unity, legacy, and continued commitment among IARI alumni.

As we gathered to celebrate the achievements of our alma mater and its graduates, I was reminded of the pivotal role IARI has played in shaping not only individual careers but also the future of Indian agriculture. It is now our shared responsibility to give back to strengthen our association and ensure that IARI remains a beacon of excellence, innovation, and relevance for generations to come.

Let us come together, stay connected, and support our beloved institution in every possible way. My heartfelt gratitude to IARI for everything it has given us and immense pride in being part of this distinguished family.

Life of a non-mainstream researcher

by Dr. Satya Sai, PhD Agricultural Economics, 1993, IARI, New Delhi

At 62, I can proudly say that I have not wasted my life. Despite being a non-mainstream researcher, I have made notable contributions to agricultural

economics. Reflecting on my journey, my rendezvous with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) stands out as a major influence. Other key moments include my formative years at the Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi, and my three-decade-long career with NABARD.

Studying at IARI was a dream come true, even though I had to wait six long years to join the Ph.D. program in agricultural economics in 1989 after my first attempt to enter it. I fell in love with the campus from the very first moment—its greenery, serene learning environment, and rich legacy of 120 years appealing the most. The Vasant and Hemant hostels, the older buildings, always made me think of the visionaries who built this institution, which has played a crucial role in India's fight against hunger.



Release of NAFIS results in New Delhi

I never imagined a school could make such a difference until I graduated from IARI. The quality of instruction, supportive faculty, talented peers, and excellent research infrastructure all played a role. Graduating from IARI also connected me with an alumni network that provided cooperation and



Sharing stage with Ph.D. Guide-memorable moment

special support. This network gave me an edge throughout my 30-year career at NABARD, helping me perform at a higher level.

I began in 1993 as an agricultural economist in NABARD's Department of Economic Analysis and Research (DEAR), eventually heading the department after 28 years. During my tenure, I worked to establish DEAR's identity in agricultural economics research, supported by academicians at IARI, ICAR institutes like NIAP, and associations like the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA).

My research has focused on agricultural growth, rural credit, microfinance, financial inclusion, and farmers' welfare. I've published around 100 monographs, books, chapters, and papers, and developed composite indices including the NABARD Financial Inclusion Index (NAFINDEX) and the Farmers' Welfare Index.

Though not in mainstream academia, I've been fortunate to pursue my passion with the support of fellow professionals. I'm honoured that AERA has

recognized my work with the AERA Fellowship for 2025. Delighted to connect with you all through this Alumni forum and share my gratitude, along with two photos capturing special career moments.

Flashback Moments

Students' Union of IARI, 1979. Seated at the center in a suit is the esteemed Dr. H.K. Jain, then Director of IARI. To his right is the respected Dr. A.R. Seshadri, who served as the Dean of IARI at the time.



Alumni Activities

Distinguished Lecture on AI and the Future of Education by Prof. Dharmendra Saraswat

The IARI Alumni Association, in collaboration with ICAR-IARI, organized a lecture titled "Large Language Models (LLMs) and the Future of Education and Extension" on January 31st, 2025. Delivered by Prof. Dharmendra Saraswat from Purdue University, USA, the session highlighted the transformative potential of generative AI and LLMs like ChatGPT in agricultural education, research, and extension.



Held in the Director's Office Board Room at IARI, New Delhi, the hybrid event drew enthusiastic participation from students, researchers, faculty, and alumni attending both in person and via Zoom, underscoring IARI's commitment to cutting-edge technologies in agriculture.

Expert Lecture on Food Systems Transformation by Prof. Prabhu Pingali

On March 12th, 2025, the IARI Alumni Association and ICAR-IARI hosted a high-level lecture on



“Managing India's Food Systems Transformation: Top Policy Priorities.” Prof. Prabhu Pingali, Director of the Tata-Cornell Institute at Cornell University, delivered the lecture, which was chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog.

Held at the Auditorium, Division of Agricultural Engineering, IARI, New Delhi, the event brought together policy thinkers, scientists, and scholars to discuss nutrition, sustainability, and market access. Prof. Pingali emphasized cohesive policy frameworks for equitable, resilient food systems. The session featured an engaging discussion and was also livestreamed for wider participation.

Round Table Discussion on Industry-Academia Partnership

The Roundtable Consultation on “Industry-Academia Partnership in Making ICAR-IARI a Global Hub” was held on March 22nd, 2025, after the 63rd Convocation of the ICAR-IARI Graduate School. A selected group of industry representatives, academicians, and experts participated. The purpose was to share IAA's recent activities and goals, and to seek suggestions on making ICAR-IARI a global hub for agricultural education and research.



The Consultation was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA, Chairman, TAAS & Former Secretary (DARE) and DG, ICAR. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Chief Patron of IAA & Director & Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-IARI, served as Co-Chair. It was facilitated by Dr. Baskar Reddy and Dr. Anil Gupta. The main aim was to explore *how IAA can help build meaningful collaborations* to make students industry-ready, ensure IARI research addresses real agricultural problems, and foster an entrepreneurial mindset in graduates.

Highlights:

- Faster MoUs needed for smoother partnerships.
- IARI innovations should be promoted post joint validation.
- Faculty encouraged to pursue industry-linked research and co-guide students.
- Priority areas: precision machinery, genome editing, post-harvest value addition, biofuels, AI in agriculture, and biopesticides.

The event underscored the need for stronger, faster collaboration to elevate IARI's global role.

Round Table Discussion on Leadership



A round table discussion on “*Changing Contours of Leadership in Agri Domain towards Innovative Entrepreneurship*” was organized jointly by the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) and ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, on May 5th, 2025, at the IARI campus. The event was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, President of IAA and Chairman of TAAS, and co-chaired by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, and Chief Patron of IAA. Dr. Nagendra P. Singh, Founder

President of ASEED and Chairperson of the AIDMAT Leadership Academy, also serving as Dean, IARI, acted as the Convener of the event. The round table brought together thought leaders, innovators, and experts to deliberate on emerging leadership paradigms in agriculture, with a focus on fostering innovative entrepreneurship for future-ready agri-ecosystems.



Dr. Bram Govaerts Highlights Science for Security and Peace at IARI Alumni Event

Dr. Bram Govaerts, Director General of CIMMYT, delivered a compelling lecture at the IARI Alumni event on June 24th, 2025, held in association with IARI, New Delhi, on the theme *"Science &*



Innovation for Security & Peace." He highlighted CIMMYT's enduring partnership with India, its efforts to combat Wheat Blast, and the global reach of its wheat research—sharing that over 308 CIMMYT-derived wheat varieties were released across more than 27 countries between 2015 and 2023.

The session was chaired by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA and was graced by Dr. C.H. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI; Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean & Joint Director (Education) and Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, IAA were also present on the dais.

Students' Corner

Students' Corner: in FOCUS/ IARI Hub, Raipur (ICAR-NIBSM, Raipur)

Campus Life at NIBSM-IARI Hub: Where Minds Grow and Nature Nurtures

By Sanskriti Tiwari, 2nd year B.Sc. (Agriculture)

Set amid Chhattisgarh's serene greenery, ICAR-NIBSM (ICAR-National Institute for Biotic Stress Management), Raipur, offers a unique student experience where nature, learning, and personal growth meet. The calm, fresh air and peaceful surroundings create an ideal setting for focused study and well-being.

Academics here are immersive and practical, with a curriculum tackling real-world agricultural challenges. Hands-on learning in class, lab, and field fosters innovation. Dedicated, approachable faculty inspire students beyond textbooks,



encouraging creativity and purposeful thinking.

Life beyond studies is fulfilling too. Community spirit, cultural events, and shared projects build lasting friendships, while quiet evenings under open skies add charm missing from city campuses. At NIBSM-IARI Hub, students gain more than



degrees, they grow as individuals in a setting that balances natural beauty and academic rigor.

IARI-NIBSM: Where Innovation Meets Purpose

By Rohit Kumar Dhaker, 2nd year B.Sc. (Agriculture)

NIBSM is a leading center for agricultural sciences, offering more than academics in its green, peaceful setting. A highlight is the Smart Library with digital journals and research databases, fostering strong research habits.

Practical demonstration models like the Integrated Farming System (IFS) turn theory into practice, while Smart Classrooms with interactive tech make learning more engaging. Mentorship from experienced scientists adds real-world depth, motivating students.

Comfortable, secure hostels support well-being and collaboration, creating a home-like space for study. NIBSM's advanced infrastructure and visionary mentorship shape future-ready agricultural professionals, making learning a purposeful mission.



Why I Joined IARI: A Personal Account

By Manas Mohanty, 2nd year B.Sc. (Agriculture)

Since childhood, I've been drawn to the soil and its life. That curiosity turned into a purpose—to uplift Indian agriculture through research and innovation, leading me to IARI Hub, Raipur.

IARI is more than an institute—it's a legacy of scientific excellence and national service. I wanted hands-on farming knowledge combined with advanced research to develop climate-resilient crops, improve soil health, and promote sustainable farming.

Learning from dedicated scientists in modern labs and fields offers exactly what I sought. For me, this journey is more than earning a degree—it's a mission to support farmers and shape agricultural policy. At IARI Hub Raipur, I'm preparing to grow as a changemaker.

ICAR-IARI New Delhi Student Council: Working for YOU!

The student council of IARI, 'Pusa Graduate School Students' Union' actively contributes towards the IARI goal of holistic development of students. The student council proactively coordinates with the IARI Alumni Association to bring on campus diverse opportunities for students ranging from expert lectures, industry exposure, etc.

PGSSU organised SpectraNova'25—the cultural fest through May 16th-17th, 2025. The vibrant cultural fest displayed PAN India diversity of artistic brilliance in IARI students and provided an open stage for students to showcase their talents in front of audience comprising the faculty and students. The two days festival was inaugurated by the



veteran alumnus and IAA president, **Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda** in the presence of **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, Director, IARI and **Dr. Anupama Singh**, Joint Director (Education), **Shri Sudhir Binchar**, President, PGSSU; and **Shri Kirubhakaran S**, Social & Cultural Secretary, PGSSU, on stage.

Eight **off-stage competitions** including clay modelling, story writing, vegetable & fruit carving, rangoli making, poetry writing, treasure hunt, and face painting and **16 on-stage events**, such as solo dance, dual synchronization, group dance, short film screening, photography, ad-act, skit, singing,



and instrumental music were meticulously conducted by the PGSSU and witnessed large participation of UG, PG and PhD students.

Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda Calls for a Second Green Revolution from Eastern India

ICAR-IARI, Jharkhand marked its 11th Foundation Day on **June 28th, 2025**, with **Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda**, Former Secretary (DARE), DG (ICAR), and President of the IARI Alumni Association, as Chief Guest. He inaugurated the event by planting trees and distributing fruit and eco-friendly plants to farmers, promoting sustainability.

Dr. Paroda visited research labs and technology demos, commending the campus's progress and advising scientists on regional research priorities. In his Foundation Day Lecture, he called for a **Second Green Revolution led by Eastern India**, emphasizing IARI Jharkhand's pivotal role.

Guest of Honour Dr. Dinesh Kumar Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Nilamber-Pitamber University, lauded the institute's impact on regional agriculture. **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, in his presidential address, highlighted IARI's transformative role and called for greater collaboration with the state government.

Dr. Vishal Nath welcomed guests and presented an overview of the institute's decade-long journey. **Dr. Viswanathan Chinnuswamy**, Joint Director (Research), assured continued support to the Jharkhand campus.

The celebration included participation from students, faculty, farmers, and stakeholders. Awards



were given to scientists, farmer groups, and journalists for exemplary contributions.



ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Jharkhand

ICAR-IARI, Assam Celebrates 9th Foundation Day

The ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Assam celebrated its 9th Foundation Day on May, 26th 2025 with great enthusiasm, highlighting nearly a decade of impactful contributions to agricultural research, education, and rural development in the Northeast region.

The event was attended by dignitaries, scientists, farmers, and students. **Dr. Ranoj Pegu**, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Assam, delivered the keynote address as Chief Guest, applauding the institute's role in advancing agriculture in remote regions and expressing strong government support for its future initiatives.

Shri Rahul Suresh Javir, District Commissioner, Dhemaji, emphasized the institute's potential to uplift farmer livelihoods through cluster-based development. **Shri Tapan Kr. Gohain**, Registrar, Assam Agricultural University, highlighted opportunities for enhanced research and academic collaboration.



Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director and Vice-Chancellor, ICAR-IARI, outlined the institute's mission to lead a second Green Revolution in the NEH region through integrated research, education, extension, training, and public-private partnerships.

Two Memoranda of Understanding were signed—one with Assam Agricultural University and another with the District Commissioner's Office, Dhemaji—reflecting a commitment to collaborative growth. The event also included the release of publications and presentation of awards recognizing contributions from scientists, staff, farmers, students, and media.



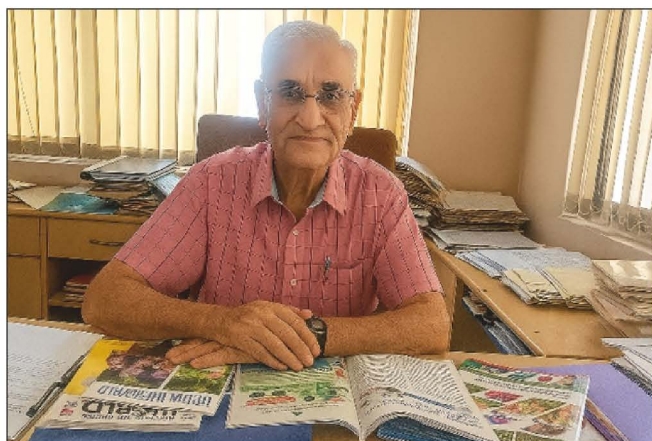
In Memoriam

Padma Shri Dr. K.L. Chadha (1936–2025)

The IARI community deeply mourns the passing of Padma Shri Dr. K.L. Chadha, an eminent horticulturist, visionary leader, and one of IARI's most distinguished alumni. Fondly regarded as the

Father of the Golden Revolution in Horticulture, Dr. Chadha devoted his life to the transformation of Indian horticulture. He passed away on March 23rd, 2025.

As India's first Horticulture Commissioner and later



as Deputy Director General (Horticulture), ICAR, he was instrumental in shaping national policies and advancing research that modernized the sector and improved millions of farming livelihoods.

A mentor and institution-builder, Dr. Chadha exemplified scientific excellence and inspired generations of professionals.

The IARI Alumni Association extends heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones. Om Shanti.

Padma Shri S. Ayyappan (1955–2025) Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR

By Dr. Sridhar Gutam, Joint Secretary, IAA and Principal Scientist, ICAR-IIHR, Bangalore

With deep sorrow, I share the news of Dr. S. Ayyappan's passing on May 7th, 2025. A pioneering fisheries scientist and visionary leader, he served as Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, leaving a lasting impact on Indian agricultural research and education.



I had the honour of welcoming him when he assumed office on 1st January 2010 during a special ARSSF function at IARI. His leadership advanced Open Access across ICAR—making key journals freely available and supporting initiatives like Eprints@IARI and CIARD, which elevated India's role in global knowledge sharing.

Dr. Ayyappan inspired many with his openness to innovation and engagement with young scientists. His support for ICT, data accessibility, and interdisciplinary research reflected his progressive vision.

India has lost a towering figure in science and public service. My heartfelt condolences to his family and colleagues. May we honour his legacy by continuing the work he championed.

Announcements & Opportunities

Invitation for Alumni Events to Strengthen Alumni–Student Engagement

The IARI Alumni Association invites all esteemed alumni to participate in upcoming webinars, workshops, and events aimed at enhancing interaction with current students. These platforms promote mentorship, knowledge sharing, and career guidance, fostering a strong and supportive IARI community. Join us in inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders!

Alumni Registration & Update Requests

The IARI Alumni Association requests all alumni to register or update their contact details to stay

connected with the IARI community. Stay informed about events, opportunities, and newsletters by updating your information. Kindly send us your details at iari.iaa.1992@gmail.com or visit the IARI Alumni Portal.

Support Your Alma Mater: Alumni Fundraising Appeal

The IARI Alumni Association invites alumni to contribute towards student support, research, and engagement initiatives. Every contribution helps strengthen IARI's future. To contribute or know more, write to iari.iaa.1992@gmail.com. Let's give back to the institution that shaped us!

Photo Gallery



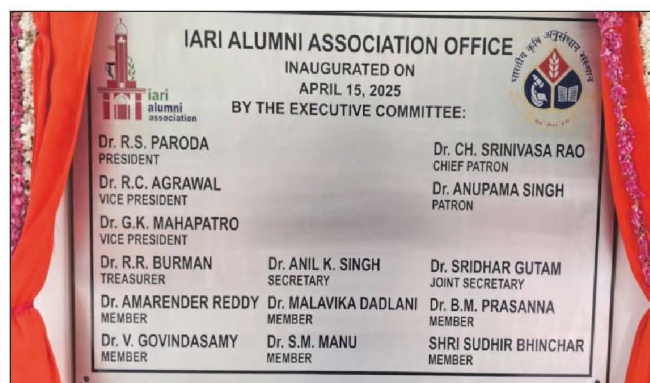
ICAR-IARI celebrates 120 Years of Agricultural Excellence on Foundation Day, April 1st, 2025



Visit of distinguished alumni to IARI Alumni Association Office



Warm welcome extended to the newly appointed DG, ICAR at the IAA Office



Opening ceremony of IARI Alumni Association Office



Group photo with the newly appointed ICAR DG in front of IAA Office



Honouring Dr. R.C. Agarwal, DDG (Education), on his distinguished service and superannuation



ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute

IARI students shine !

Congratulations



Central Silk Board

Scientist-B

Success: 34/120



CONGRATULATIONS



22 IARI Students & Alumni recently selected as Assistant Professors

— 20 at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar & 02 at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore