

# CODE PARODA



A MEMOIR  
SANJAY KUMAR AND ARUN TIWARI

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## IMPRESSIONS

*Code Paroda* is more than a memoir—it is a powerful reflection on the evolution of Indian agriculture. It captures the vision, perseverance, and nation-first commitment of Dr. R. S. Paroda. The book offers deep insights into institution-building and leadership in agricultural science. It highlights the importance of aligning research with the needs of farmers. Through personal experiences, it brings alive decades of transformative change in the sector. It underscores the value of continuity, while embracing innovation for the future. The narrative connects agriculture with sustainability, livelihoods, and environmental stewardship. It serves as both a historical record and a guide for future policymakers and scientists. The wisdom embedded in its pages inspires purposeful and value-driven leadership. Overall, it is a compelling and inspiring read for young scientists, policymakers, and practitioners alike to pursue agriculture not merely as a profession, but as a national call for nation-building through agriculture.

***Dr ML Jat***

*Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and  
Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi*

Dr. Raj Paroda's life is a testament to how science, when guided by purpose and zeal, can impact a sector. His journey, marked by humility and resilience, reflects an unwavering commitment to farmers and farming. Building on the pioneering vision of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, he carried the torch of agricultural innovation across borders, institutions, and generations. *Code Paroda* will inspire us to reimagine agriculture as a force for dignity, sustainability, and

global resilience. For young minds, scientists, policy makers and practitioners, this book is an invitation to serve humanity through science rooted in values.

**Dr. PK Mishra**

*Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India  
Former Secretary, Agriculture, Government of India*

I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Paroda for over 30 years, and I am delighted that his amazing dedication, talent and vision are being brought to the wide public in this excellent book. *Code Paroda* is the inspiring chronicle of Dr. Paroda's life's journey, which mirrors India's transformation from hunger to harvest. From his roots as a world-renowned geneticist to his leadership in shaping institutions that secured food for over a billion people, Paroda's story blends science, service, and vision. More than a memoir, this volume sets out a powerful path for the future of humanity, a future where agriculture is not merely the growing of crops but the safeguarding of livelihoods, the healing of our environment, and the building of resilience against climate change. With urgency and hope, *Code Paroda* invites farmers, scientists, and citizens alike to see agriculture as humanity's frontline defense—and its greatest promise for sustaining the planet.

**Dr Ismail Serageldin**

*Co-Chair of the Board of Nizami Ganjavi International  
Center (NGIC), Emeritus Librarian of Alexandria,  
Former Vice President of the World Bank and Chairman, CGIAR Council*

Knowing Dr. RS Paroda since 1963 as students at IARI, I am proud of his professional journey as a unique example of dedication for improving varieties and sustaining agronomic productivity, commitment to transforming agriculture from a subsistence living

to a rewarding and respectable profession, visionary leadership for building scientific institutions and research infrastructure, interaction with agroindustry for innovation and modernization, cooperation with CGIAR and international institutions for addressing challenges of agriculture in the Global South, and a lifestyle that is role model of sincerity and simplicity. *Code Paroda* is an inspiration and motivation for present and future generations of agriculturists.

***Professor Rattan Lal***

*(Padma Shri Awardee)*

*Distinguished Professor of Soil Science*

*Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio, USA and*

*World Food Laureate (2020)*

Dr. RS Paroda is a visionary, outstanding scientist serving not only Indian Agriculture but humanity at large, thus inspiring the young generation to carry the spirit of science-led service for the betterment of society. Dr. Paroda's contributions to science, technology, biodiversity conservation, and use will greatly strengthen the Evergreen Revolution championed by his mentor, Bharat Ratna Dr. MS Swaminathan. I must congratulate the authors of *Code Paroda*, which is an all-time inspiration to the youth and the farmer to build and nurture Viksit Bharat, recalling "if agriculture fails, nothing else will succeed".

***Professor RB Singh***

*(Padma Bhushan Awardee)*

*Former Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal*

*Former Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board,*

*India Former Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, FAO, Bangkok*

Dr. Paroda is among India's most eminent and visionary agricultural scientists, as well as an accomplished educator of global repute. He played a pivotal role in transforming Indian agriculture from an era of scarcity to one of self-sufficiency and surplus, thereby ensuring

national food security. His leadership and foresight were highly critical in shaping forward-looking and sustainable agricultural policies for the country. Widely regarded as a pioneer, Dr. Paroda remains a genuine hero and a lasting source of inspiration for past, present, and future generations of agricultural scientists.

**Dr. Gurdev S Khush, FRS**

*(Padma Shri Awardee)*

*Member US National Academy of Sciences*

*Adjunct Professor Emeritus University of California, Davis, CA*

*Former Head, Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology, IRRI, Philippines*

*World Food Laureate (1996)*

Raj Paroda is a truly outstanding scientist whose lifelong contributions have really helped to change our World for the better. He is totally dedicated and diligent in everything that he does, but what sets him apart is his vision, and as a result Indian, Asian, and international agriculture have all benefited immensely. This vision and his outstanding achievements have seen India become a global agricultural powerhouse not just for food production, but also for the tailoring of some of the World's greatest agricultural scientists. More importantly Dr. Paroda has also been a strong voice and champion for the Global South and for smallholder farmers and their communities everywhere.

**Professor Timothy Reeves, AM FTSE**

*Former Director General of CIMMYT, Mexico*

*Professorial Fellow (Honorary)*

*School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences,*

*University of Melbourne, Australia Recipient of William Farrer Medal and*

*a Member of the Order of Australia*

Dr. Raj Paroda's journey has been extraordinary, embodying the finest values of scientific excellence, visionary leadership, and selfless service to humanity. He always stood as a beacon of agricultural innovation and his leadership in advancing agricultural research

and innovation in Asia and beyond has left an indelible mark on global food security. He has championed the adoption of modern technologies, strengthened institutions, and promoted collaborative partnerships that continue to uplift millions of smallholder farmers. For countless colleagues, students, and farmers, he is a role model of humility, dedication, and perseverance. He is a role model of humility, dedication, and perseverance. His relentless pursuit of knowledge, bold vision and enduring belief that innovation and human dignity must go hand in hand will continue to inspire present and future generations to pursue science not only as a career, but as a mission to serve humanity.

***Dr. Ismahane Elouafi***

*Executive Managing Director, One CGIAR, Montpellier, France*

*Former Chief Scientist FAO,*

*Rome Former Director General, International Center for*

*Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) , Dubai*

Dr. Raj Paroda is a distinguished leader in agricultural research for development, whose vision and dedication left an enduring mark in India and globally on food security. His invaluable contributions to CGIAR, APAARI, ICRISAT, and the strengthening of National Agricultural Research Systems across Asia and the Pacific advanced science with purpose and impact. As a colleague and friend, I witnessed his intellectual rigor, humility, and commitment to farmers' welfare, qualities that defined his leadership. His legacy of excellence, integrity, and service will continue to guide and inspire all those who dedicate their lives to the advancement of agriculture and the betterment of humanity.

***Dr. William D Dar***

*Former Director General*

*International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), India,*

*Former Secretary of Agriculture, Philippines*