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ICAR-IARI Hosts Rose Stakeholder Meet in New Delhi to Modernize Floriculture

On May 22, 2026, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) organized a Rose Stakeholder Meet in New Delhi. Designed as a dynamic forum to bridge the gap between scientific innovation, passionate growers, and commercial industry leaders, the event outlined a transformative roadmap to strengthen rose cultivation and accelerate floriculture entrepreneurship across India.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Dr R.S. Paroda, Chairman of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), whose address anchored the strategic vision of the meet. Dr Paroda emphasized that the future of sustainable rose production relies heavily on robust, multi-tier stakeholder collaboration. A major highlight of his address was an urgent, passionate call to action for the conservation and preservation of historic rose varieties—particularly those legacy germplasms meticulously developed by legendary geneticist Dr BP Pal and the scientists at ICAR-IARI.

"We must safeguard these invaluable genetic resources. Scaling up these historic varieties through advanced tissue culture techniques is not just about preserving our agricultural heritage; it is a critical step toward securing high-quality, resilient planting material for today's commercial growers." – Dr R.S. Paroda

Reinforcing this economic vision, Guest of Honour Shri Kuldeep Saddy (President, The Rose Society of India) highlighted that floriculture has transitioned from a hobby into a highly lucrative commercial enterprise capable of generating sustainable income across rural, urban, and peri-urban India. To support this growth, Dr Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and leading experts outlined a strategic vision focused on promoting climate-resilient varieties, driving value addition through products like essential oils, improving post-harvest management, and strengthening market linkages.

The meet featured vital technical discussions addressing real-world challenges. Scientists offered precision agrochemical and irrigation solutions to counter the pest and disease concerns raised by growers, while presenting modern post-harvest protocols to address industry demands for extended flower shelf-life. To assist entrepreneurs facing market volatility, institutional leaders committed to streamlining knowledge transfer and capacity building. The high-profile event drew wide participation from progressive farmers across Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi-NCR, alongside representatives from Rashtrapati Bhavan, NDMC, CPWD, the Ministry of Agriculture, ITC Maurya, and The Rose Society of India. Concluding the meet, Dr RN Padaria, Joint Director of Extension, ICAR-IARI, assured participants that these grassroots technical challenges would be integrated into the ICAR-IARI's upcoming research priorities.
