

(1 August 2026)

Dr R.S. Paroda Unveils 'Saptarishi' Vision for Global Leadership in Plant Genetic Resources

Marking a momentous milestone, the ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) celebrated its Golden Jubilee and 51st Foundation Day on August 1, 2026, commemorating 50 years of distinguished service in conserving, characterizing, and utilizing India's plant genetic heritage.



The event was graced by Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and Former DG, ICAR, as the Chief Guest. The celebration witnessed the presence of Dr M.L. Jat (Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR), Shri G.D. Tripathi (Additional Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR), and Dr N.K. Singh (J.C. Bose Fellow, ICAR-NIPB).

In his keynote address, Dr R.S. Paroda unveiled the visionary "**Saptarishi**" concept—a strategic seven-pillar roadmap designed to propel India toward global leadership in Plant Genetic Resource (PGR) management over the next decade.

The 13th Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. N.K. Singh on harnessing Quantitative Trait Loci (QTLs) and genome sequencing (rice, wheat, pigeon pea, tomato, mango) to bolster food and nutritional security.

Dr M.L. Jat praised ICAR-NBPGR's five-decade legacy, stressing the importance of expanding pre-breeding networks and positioning India as a champion of global PGR governance.

Dr Paroda concluded by calling upon the scientific community to leverage modern genomic tools and inter-institutional collaboration to turn the *Saptarishi* vision into actionable outcomes,



ensuring climate resilience, nutritional security, and agricultural sustainability for generations to come. Full speech of Dr Paroda can be accessed through following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPyrrnFp_k-s



