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## Message from the President

Dear Alumni,

Warm greetings and best wishes!

I am pleased to inform you that the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) has made significant progress since the Alumni Meet in June 2024. In this second e-newsletter, I share updates on key achievements. We now have a website, new logo, QR code for our account and an updated directory with over 6,000 alumni contacts. Efforts are ongoing to gather details from the remaining members.



**Dr R. S. Paroda**  
President

To make IAA more active and effective, we need your support in kind and cash. Staying connected to share experiences and achievements is vital.

Recently, we approached alumni for donations in three categories: Gold (₹5 lakhs), Silver (₹3 lakhs), and Bronze (₹1 lakh). The response has been overwhelming, with commitments for 12 Gold, 2 Silver, and over 50 Bronze categories. Non-alumni well-wishers have also contributed generously. These donations will help us better serve the alumni community. The resource generation committee has also appealed to all alumni on the website for support.

We are planning a series of lectures, brainstorming sessions, and interactive meets to connect alumni, faculty, and students with distinguished professionals, science leaders, and entrepreneurs. To promote excellence, IAA proposes instituting Excellence Awards, establishing Distinguished Professor Chairs, and providing travel grants to alumni presenting papers at international conferences.

For the first time, IAA will have its own office on the Pusa Campus, ideally located near the Director's office. We deeply appreciate the support of former Director Dr. A.K. Singh and Dean Dr. Anupama Singh for making this possible.

Wishing you a happy, progressive, and prosperous New Year 2025!

Best regards,



**RS Paroda**

# IARI Alumni Meet

## IARI Alumni Meet and National Symposium 2024: A Grand Success



The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) hosted its Annual Alumni Meet and a National Symposium on "Transforming IARI into a Global Leader in Agricultural Research and Education: An Alumni Perspective" at Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, NASC, Pusa Campus, New Delhi, on 22 June 2024. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, as the Chief Guest. The session was presided over by Dr. R.S. Paroda, President of the IARI Alumni Association.

The inaugural session witnessed the presence of distinguished dignitaries including Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog; Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR; Dr. R.C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR and Dr. A.K. Singh, Director, ICAR-IARI.

### Inaugural Address by Hon'ble Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Hon'ble Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in his inaugural address, underscored the critical role of agricultural scientists in addressing the challenges faced by India's small and marginal farmers, who constitute nearly 86% of the sector. He highlighted IARI's invaluable contributions to green revolution,



sustainable farming practices and empowering farmers.

Shri Chouhan outlined a vision to position India as the "food basket of the world," urging the scientific community and IARI alumni to lead in transforming Indian agriculture. He called for self-reliance in pulses and oilseeds production, improved farm profitability, and leveraging technology to meet emerging challenges.

The Minister lauded IARI alumni for their contributions to agricultural innovation and reaffirmed the government's commitment to bridging the gap between science and the farming community. Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, Shri Chouhan emphasized the need for synergy between policy reforms and scientific advancements to ensure food security and agricultural sustainability.

This address highlighted the indispensable role of IARI and its alumni in shaping India's agricultural future.



### Insights from Eminent Alumnus

Dr. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, emphasized the importance of addressing real-world problems of farmers through effective policy-making. He stressed the need to prioritize the interests of small and marginal farmers while ensuring access to advanced technologies and resources.

He articulated the vision of transforming IARI into a world-class institution recognized in global university rankings. Highlighting attributes such as quality education, international collaborations, impactful research outputs, and institutional excellence, Dr. Chand called for a roadmap to achieve this transformation with active participation from the alumni network.



Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IARI Alumni Association and former Secretary, DARE, and DG, ICAR, and Padma Bhushan awardee, highlighted the pivotal role of IARI alumni in linking students, scientists, and private sectors to generate employment opportunities. He advocated for upgrading Indian agriculture through innovations and scientific research, with a focus on testing and implementing new technologies in collaboration with farmers to enhance productivity and income.



Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary, DARE, and DG, ICAR, emphasized collective efforts to advance the agricultural sector. Highlighting IARI's legacy in agricultural research, he stressed collaboration among government bodies, scientists, and farmers to ensure sustainable growth.

### Way Forward



The inaugural session concluded with a call for transforming IARI into a global agricultural research and education hub. The symposium set the stage for panel discussions aimed at developing strategies and mobilizing resources through the alumni network to realize this ambitious vision. The event reaffirmed the commitment of IARI and its alumni to lead agricultural transformation in India and across the globe.



### Panel Discussion: “Transforming IARI into a Global University”

Convener: Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Education) & Dean, ICAR-IARI  
 Panelists: Dr. R. C. Agrawal (DDG, Education, ICAR), Dr. P. L. Gautam (Chancellor, RPCAU), Dr. A. K. Singh (Director, IARI), Dr. B. S. Dhillon (Former VC, PAU), Dr. Kadambot Siddique (Hackett Professor, UWA, Australia).



The panel discussion focused on elevating IARI to global university standards, aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and NEP 2020. It emphasized inclusivity, quality education, and internationalization. Key goals included creating a roadmap for alumni contributions, mobilizing resources, and strengthening IARI's global reputation.

## Lead Presentation: Dr. R.C. Agrawal, DDG (AgEdn) ICAR



Dr. Agrawal highlighted IARI's strides toward global recognition. Already a center of excellence in genomics, IARI attracts international students and conducts faculty training programs. He

stressed the importance of global rankings, particularly QS rankings, for visibility, collaborations and funding opportunities.

### Key Insights:

- **Global Rankings:** A gap analysis placed IARI second in Asia in QS Rankings 2024.
- **Ranking Criteria:** More focused efforts should be placed on enhancing academic reputation, institutional reputation, alumni engagement, research collaborations, and private and government engagement.

### Alumni Engagement and Social Media:

Alumni were recognized as critical to boosting IARI's reputation through internships, global and national research networks, and structured engagement. Strengthening the social media presence on platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube was identified as a priority.

### Strategic Focus Areas:

Dr. Agrawal outlined strategies, including:

- Adopting National Education Policy, 2020.
- Strengthening industry-academia linkages.
- Improving research outputs and collaborations.
- Leveraging government support and continuous evaluation.

### Challenges and Opportunities:



Dr. A. K. Singh stressed the need for multidisciplinary programs to meet global standards. New UG and PG programs in engineering and social sciences aim to expand IARI's scope.

Partnerships with international universities and initiatives like "Study in India" are expected to attract global talent.

Other panelists also emphasised that the Alumni contributions are vital for:

- Networking and mentorship.
- Collaborative research and academic support.
- Promoting global visibility via social media.

### Roadmap for Implementation:

- Targets for rankings within 1-2 years.
- Strengthened academic-industry collaborations.
- Leveraging alumni networks for resources and outreach.

### Call to Action:

The session concluded with an appeal to alumni for support in achieving IARI's vision of becoming a global leader in agricultural education and research. Emphasis was placed on infrastructure, collaborative programs, and policy advocacy to secure global recognition.

## Open Session: Mobilizing Resources for IARI's Global Aspirations



An inspiring open session on "Mobilizing Resources for IARI to Become a Global University" was led by session participants. The session gathered distinguished alumni,

researchers, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for strengthening resources and partnerships to position IARI as a global leader in agricultural education and research.

Dr. Malavika Dadlani emphasized transforming IARI into a world-class institution, capable of competing with top universities like Stanford and Harvard. With 10,000 plus alumni and contact details readily available for 6,000 plus, there is a significant opportunity to further strengthen alumni connections and enhance engagement.



Dr. Viswanathan highlighted the importance of alumni contributions—one-time, annual, or need-based—to support IARI's growth. Building stronger alumni networks was identified

as a crucial step to foster a culture of giving.

### Key Resource Mobilization Strategies

- 1. Alumni Contributions:** Encouraging voluntary donations—one-time, annual, or project-specific—to support growth and development initiatives.
- 2. Corporate Funding & CSR:** Leveraging Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds and partnerships with industries and philanthropic organizations.
- 3. Project-Based Funding:** Collaborating with industries through public-private partnerships to secure funding for targeted projects.
- 4. Alumni Hubs:** Establishing networking hubs for meetings, workshops, and mentoring programs at IARI hub in different ICAR institutions.
- 5. Research Grants & Travel Support:** Offering small grants and travel funds to enhance academic growth and global exposure.
- 6. Distinguished Chairs & Visiting Faculty:** Creating multidisciplinary chairs and inviting renowned experts globally to mentor students and support research.

### Alumni Suggestions

**Dr. Subramanyam:** Strengthening alumni chapters at regional level and internationally for events and fundraising.

**Dr. Padhee:**

- **Government Grants:** Seeking funding from authorities, including the Prime Minister's Office.
- **Corporate Partnerships:** Building relationships with industries to raise resources and foster alumni camaraderie.

### Moving Forward

Dr. Dadlani and Dr. Viswanathan stressed the need for collaborative efforts and alumni support—financial, intellectual, and logistical—to make IARI a top global institution. Alumni were urged to:

- Promote IARI Alumni Association activities.
- Share fundraising ideas and participate actively in events.
- Contribute to mentorship and research programs.

Together, alumni can help shape IARI into a global leader in agricultural research and education.

### Alumni-Student Interface Meeting



**Convener:** Dr. Anuradha Agrawal (National Coordinator, ICAR-NAHEP)

### Panelists:

1. Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee (Principal Secretary, Government of Odisha)
2. Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra (Chairperson, PPV&FRA)
3. Dr. Sanjay Kumar (Chairman, ASRB)
4. Dr. Rattan Lal (Distinguished University Professor, Ohio State University)
5. Dr. Surinder Kumar Vasal (Former Distinguished Scientist, CIMMYT)
6. Sri Govinda Rajulu Chintala (Former Chairman, NABARD)

The Alumni-Student Interface during IARI Alumni meet brought together eminent alumni to share insights on their journeys and contributions to agriculture, science, and policy with an aim to sensitise students about future career path. Moderated by Dr. Anuradha Agrawal, the session highlighted the institute's role in shaping leaders and innovators.

### Key Highlights:

Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee credited IARI for providing a strong foundation and supportive peers who propelled him into the IAS. He emphasized the importance of integrating agricultural research with governance to benefit farmers.

Dr. Trilochan Mahapatra reflected on IARI's rigorous academic culture, noting how it prepared students to address real-world challenges. He highlighted that IARI alumni contributions to molecular breeding and agricultural policy.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar shared his journey from plant physiology research to biotechnology leadership. He emphasized linking science with societal needs and translating research into marketable technologies.

Dr. Rattan Lal underscored the importance of alumni-student mentorship, advocating structured platforms for engagement through seminars, workshops, and internships. He stressed leveraging technology for sustained connections.

Dr. Vasal emphasized the significance of international collaborations, while Dr. Chintala underscored the need to explore the rural sector as a potential source of employment opportunities.

### Key Take aways:

1. Aligning academic rigor with broader student aspirations.
2. Advancing science to develop impactful technologies at farmers fields.
3. Translating research, innovations, and technologies into societal benefits.

4. Cultivating resilience, originality and a commitment to excellence.

**Conclusion:**

The panelists reaffirmed their commitment to support IARI and its students, inspiring the next generation to drive agricultural innovation and policy reforms. Dr. Anuradha Agrawal thanked the speakers, emphasizing alumni engagement as vital to IARI's continued legacy of excellence.

**Honoured Distinguished Alumni and Former Directors of IARI**

The IARI Alumni Association honoured distinguished alumni and former/current directors for their exceptional contributions to the agricultural fraternity. Dr. A.K. Singh, Director of IARI, along with former Directors Dr. R.B. Singh, Dr. Panjab



Singh, Dr. S.A. Patil, and Dr. H.S. Gupta, were honoured for their invaluable service. Additionally, Dr. R.C. Agrawal, DDG (Education), ICAR, and Dr. Anil K. Singh, former DDG (NRM) and Secretary of IAA, were also recognized for their significant roles in advancing agricultural sciences.

**IARI Alumni Association General Body Meeting**



During the IARI Alumni Meet, a General Body Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. R.S. Paroda, President of the IAA. The meeting focused on several initiatives, including the revision of the Association's bye-laws, fundraising efforts, and student mentorship programs. The members actively took part in discussions regarding these activities, offered valuable insights and expressed their appreciation for the work being done by the IAA.

**Celebrating Dr. A.K. Singh's Distinguished Leadership**

Dr. A.K. Singh, Former Director of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and Former Chief Patron of the IARI Alumni Association (IAA), superannuated on June 30, 2024. During his distinguished tenure, Dr. Singh elevated IARI to new heights, establishing it as one of the world's leading agricultural institutions. He also played a key role in the institution's journey toward becoming a Global University. Additionally, his unwavering support was crucial in revitalizing the IARI Alumni Association, ensuring its growth and success.

A notable example of his dedication was the successful organization of the IARI Alumni Meet, which came to fruition thanks to his personal involvement and daily oversight.



The IARI Alumni Association expresses its sincere gratitude to Dr. Singh for his immense contributions. A luncheon in his honor was organized on July 13, 2024, where alumni came together to celebrate his remarkable leadership and support.

## Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao Assumes Charge as Director of ICAR-IARI

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, a distinguished agricultural scientist and esteemed IARI alumnus, has been appointed as the Director of the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. Former Director of ICAR-NAARM, Dr. Rao brings extensive expertise in sustainable farming, soil health, and climate-resilient systems and research management, positioning him to address key agricultural challenges facing India today.

### Transformational Leadership in Agricultural Research & Development

Dr. Rao's career spans several decades, marked by impactful contributions to agricultural research and development. Prior to joining IARI, he served as the Director of the ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad, and Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA). At these institutions, he led significant advancements in research, capacity building, and policy formulation, driving improvements in agricultural practices across the country.

Dr. Rao has played a pivotal role in promoting dryland farming, natural resource management, and climate-resilient agricultural systems and also research management and agricultural policy. His leadership has been widely recognized, earning him numerous prestigious awards for outstanding contributions to agricultural science and development.

The IARI alumni community extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao and looks forward to his visionary leadership in shaping the future of Indian agriculture.



## Awards & Accolades to Alumni

### Vigyan Ratna Award Presented to Dr. Padmanabhan

In its inaugural year, the prestigious Vigyan Ratna Award was conferred upon Dr. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, a distinguished biochemist renowned for his groundbreaking research on the malaria parasite. This recognition celebrates his lifetime achievements and invaluable contributions to the field of biological sciences.



Vigyan Ratna Award, introduced in 2023 and awarded in 2024, is the highest honor conferred by the Government of India for exceptional achievements in science, technology, and innovation. This award acknowledges individuals for excellence in science, their lifelong dedication and transformative impact on scientific progress.

### Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity awarded to Prof. Rattan Lal

IARI Alumnus and globally renowned soil scientist at The Ohio State University, Rattan Lal, has been



awarded the 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity for his significant contributions to global food security, climate resilience and ecosystem protection. The prestigious 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity was awarded to three pioneers in sustainable agriculture, recognizing their significant contributions to global food security, climate resilience, and ecosystem protection. Lal shares the 2024 prize with Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (India) and the SEKEM initiative (Egypt), who are all leading efforts to promote environmental sustainability and enhance global food systems.

### **Dr. Surinder Vasal Honored with Prestigious Dr. B.P. Pal Award**



Dr. Surinder Vasal has been conferred with the prestigious Dr. B.P. Pal Award by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) for the year 2024. This esteemed recognition highlights Dr. Vasal's outstanding contributions to agricultural sciences and his

relentless dedication to advancing agricultural research and development.

The Dr. B.P. Pal Award is one of the most distinguished honors in the field of agriculture, acknowledging exemplary achievements by individuals or institutions that have significantly contributed to agricultural research, plant breeding, and genetics. Instituted in memory of Dr. B.P. Pal, a pioneering agricultural scientist and the first Director-General of ICAR, the award reflects his legacy as an architect of India's Green Revolution.

Dr. Vasal's remarkable achievements have not only advanced agricultural science but also contributed to enhancing food security and promoting rural development, echoing the principles championed by Dr. Pal. His recognition serves as an inspiration for researchers and scientists committed to strengthening India's agricultural landscape.

### **Dr. Prasanna Boddupalli Honored with Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award 2024 and Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Leadership Award**

A distinguished alumnus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), has been recognized with two prestigious honors this year, showcasing his exemplary leadership and dedication to agricultural science.



He was awarded the Shanghai Magnolia Silver Award 2024 by the Shanghai Municipal Government for his exceptional contributions to the city's development and for fostering international collaboration. The Magnolia Award, named after Shanghai's official flower, celebrates foreign nationals who enhance the city's global standing in sectors like science, culture, and education. This award is a symbol of Dr. Boddupalli's impact in strengthening India-China partnerships through his scientific and cultural efforts.



Adding to this remarkable achievement, Dr. Boddupalli also received the esteemed Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture. The prestigious award was instituted in 2004 with the objective to recognize life time contributions of eminent persons who have made global impact in the field of agriculture, including food security and sustainability of agriculture in India. Presented by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan and Dr. R.S. Paroda, President of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), the award recognizes his significant contributions to advancing agricultural science and innovation. The ceremony took place at the NAAS Auditorium in New Delhi, India.

Dr. Boddupalli's accomplishments inspire the IARI community to aim higher and continue making strides in global agriculture. We take immense pride in his achievements and extend our heartfelt congratulations for these well-deserved honors.



## IARI Alumni Lecture Series: New Initiative to Foster Knowledge Sharing

As part of its ongoing efforts to engage and inspire, the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) launched its Alumni Lecture Series, featuring distinguished speakers who have made significant contributions to agriculture and related fields.

### IARI Alumni Association's First Foundation Day Lecture



#### Dr. G Padmanaban's Lecture

On December 2, 2024, the IAA organized its inaugural Foundation Day Lecture, marking a special occasion to honor the legacy of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and its alumnus. Prof. Govindarajan Padmanaban, Former Director and Emeritus Scientist at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, delivered a captivating lecture titled "60+ Years of Science at IISc," providing an insightful overview of the evolution of scientific research and its societal impact.

#### Dr. Glenn Denning's Lecture



On December 6, 2024, Dr. Glenn Denning, Former Director General of ICRAF and current Professor of Professional Practice and Founding Director of the Master of Public Administration in Development Practice at Columbia University, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on "*Universal Food Security: A Global Perspective with Implications for India.*" It was preceded by the launch of the Indian Edition of a book authored by him on "Universal Food Security". The hybrid session, held at ICAR Education Division, KAB II, Pusa, New Delhi, attracted a diverse audience, sparking a valuable discussion on global food security challenges and their relevance to India.

These lectures are part of a broader initiative by the IAA to foster knowledge exchange and promote cutting-edge discussions on issues related to agriculture, food security, and environmental sustainability.

#### Dr. Rattan Lal's Lecture



In collaboration with ICAR-IARI, the IAA hosted an engaging lecture and interactive session by internationally acclaimed soil scientist, Prof. Rattan Lal, World Food Prize and Padma Shri Awardee, on December 11, 2024. Prof. Lal's talk, titled "*The Soil-Centric Green Revolution for Environmental Restoration in India,*" was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda and held at the Auditorium, Division of Agricultural Engineering, IARI, New Delhi. The lecture video link is available for viewing.

## Student and Faculty Corner

### IARI Alumni Logo Competition Winners

The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) Logo Competition recognized two outstanding students for their creative designs:

- o **Mr. Harimadhav C, Roll No.:** IARIBAR20232006, **Department:** Plant Physiology
- o **Ms. Sampa Saha, Roll No.:** 21687, **Department:** Plant Genetic Resources

The total prize money of Rs. 10,000/- was equally divided between the two winners, with each receiving Rs. 5,000/- and a certificate of appreciation.

We congratulate Ms. Sampa Saha and Mr. Harimadhav C for their creative achievements and for making the IAA Logo Competition a success!



### Exciting News for IARI Faculty: Rattan Lal's Faculty Exchange Program with Ohio State University

We are excited to announce a remarkable opportunity for IARI faculty, made possible through Dr. Rattan Lal's generous initiative. Dr. Lal, the recent recipient of the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity (presented by former German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel), has donated his honorarium to support a faculty exchange program between IARI, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), and Ohio State University (OSU).

Starting in June 2025, this program will allow one junior soil science faculty member from IARI or PAU to spend three months at OSU during the summer, while one faculty member from OSU will visit IARI or PAU for a similar duration. These exciting plans are currently under discussion at OSU, and we look forward to fostering stronger academic collaboration and research exchange through this initiative.



## IARI Fundraising Campaign Gathers Momentum

The IAA is excited to announce that its fundraising campaign is in full swing, aiming to support new initiatives like Excellence Awards, Distinguished Professor Chairs, Research Funds, and Travel Grants for students and faculty.

While we have a limited financial base (approximately INR 10 Lakhs), these efforts require substantial resources to move forward. We encourage all alumni and supporters to come together and contribute generously to help us build a corpus fund for these impactful programs. Donations can also be earmarked for specific purposes, such as the

Endowment Fund, Travel Grants, or Distinguished Professor Chairs.

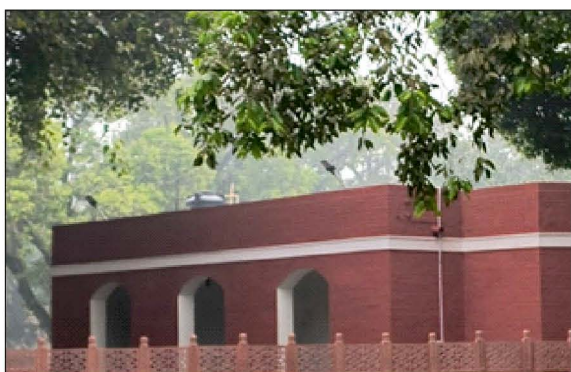
The Executive Committee has outlined the following donation categories:

- **Gold:** INR 5 lakhs
- **Silver:** INR 3 lakhs
- **Bronze:** INR 1 lakh

We are excited to report that, alongside our IAA members, several well-wishers of IARI have also contributed to kickstart this campaign.

\* For details on contributing to the IAA, please visit - <https://alumni.res.in/>

## IAA to Have Its Own Office Space Soon

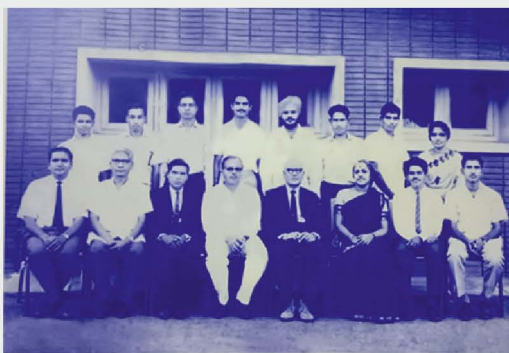


IAA is set to establish its own office on the Pusa Campus. Renovation work on an old building located in front of the Director's office is already going in full swing for the past 4-5 months. Once completed, this space will serve as the central hub for all IAA activities, including hosting alumni meetings, managing daily operations, and providing a place for IARI alumni visiting Delhi to meet and connect. The renovation is expected to be finished by January 2025. The support provided by the Director, IARI and Dean Dr. Anupama Singh and her team has been invaluable.

## Nostalgia

### From Dreams to Legacy: Dr. P.S. Deshmukh's 50-Year IARI Journey

Joining IARI in 1966 was a dream come true. That year marked the establishment of the Division of Plant Physiology, led by its visionary founder Dr. R.D. Asana. With a small team of scientists and technicians, I stood out as the lone student in my batch. Dr. Asana, celebrated for his work at the University of California and Dr. GS Sirohi known for the iconic "Sirohi Point" in Antarctica, inspired me to pursue excellence. His groundbreaking research on enhancing nitrogen metabolism in sorghum earned him the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, a proud milestone for him and our institution. During my final year, I was privileged to serve as Cultural Secretary of the Post Graduate School Students Union (PGSSU). After completing my master's, I joined the Rockefeller Foundation Program and gradually rose through the ranks to lead the Division. Post-retirement in 2008, I served as an Emeritus Scientist for eight more years, completing



a rewarding 50-years' journey with the Division.

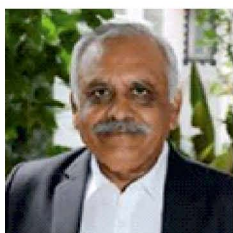
**PGSSU Executive Committee, 1967-68, IARI. Sitting (Left to Right):** Dr. P.N. Patel (Sports Advisor), P.B. Lal (Asst. Dean), V.P. Gupta (Vice-President), Dr. M.S. Swaminathan (Director & Chief Patron), Dr. B.P. Pal (Director-General I.C.A.R.,

Chief Guest), Mrs. M.S. Swaminathan, R.K. Chhibber (Cultural Advisor), B.K. Tyagi (General Secretary). **Standing (Left to Right):** B.M. Ingole (Sports Secretary), B.S. Parmar, Ranvir Singh, R.P. Sethi, A.S. Khurana (Finance Secretary), Ziauddin Ahmed, P.S. Deshmukh (Cultural Secretary), Miss A. Kuruvilla. (left photo)

**Dr. P.S. Deshmukh**

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### From Humble Beginnings to Academic Heights: Memories of Dr. P.G. Chengappa



Joining the Division of Agricultural Economics at IARI in 1976 for my PhD was a dream come true. Coming from a farming background, I felt immense pride to study at the prestigious Pusa Institute.

Traveling two days on the Grand Trunk Express to Delhi remains a cherished memory.

A memorable moment was meeting Dr. A.S. Sirohi, the Division Head, who impressed me with his humility and noble demeanor. His values, along with the guidance of Prof. Muralidharan, Dr. C.C. Manjhi, and Dr. P. Kumar, greatly influenced my academic journey.

At IARI, I was active in academics and extracurriculars, and served as the President of the

Post Graduate School Students' Union. During our tenure, we secured fellowship increases and initiated the first ICAR inter-Institute sports meet, a legacy that continues. The basketball court near Vasant Hostel, which we started, still brings fond memories during my campus visits.

After completing my PhD in 1980, I worked briefly with the Coffee Board before joining UAS Bangalore, eventually becoming its Vice Chancellor (2007-10). Later, I served as ICAR National Professor and held

leadership roles in reputed organizations like Tata Coffee Ltd and Tasty Bite Eatables Ltd.

I owe my achievements to the education and mentorship at IARI, which shaped my journey. I will always remain grateful to my *alma mater*.

**Dr. P.G. Chengappa**

Former Vice Chancellor, UAS Bangalore  
Mobile: +91 99804 18210

## Forthcoming alumni activities

### Invitation to the 63rd Convocation of ICAR-IARI

The 63rd Convocation of ICAR-IARI is scheduled to take place from **February 16 to 21, 2025**, with the Convocation Week commencing on **February 16, 2025**.

We warmly invite all alumni to actively participate in the various events and activities planned during this special week. Your presence and engagement will make the celebrations even more memorable.

Don't miss the chance to reconnect with your peers and faculty at the **Alumni Dinner**, a highlight of the week.

We look forward to celebrating this significant occasion together!



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