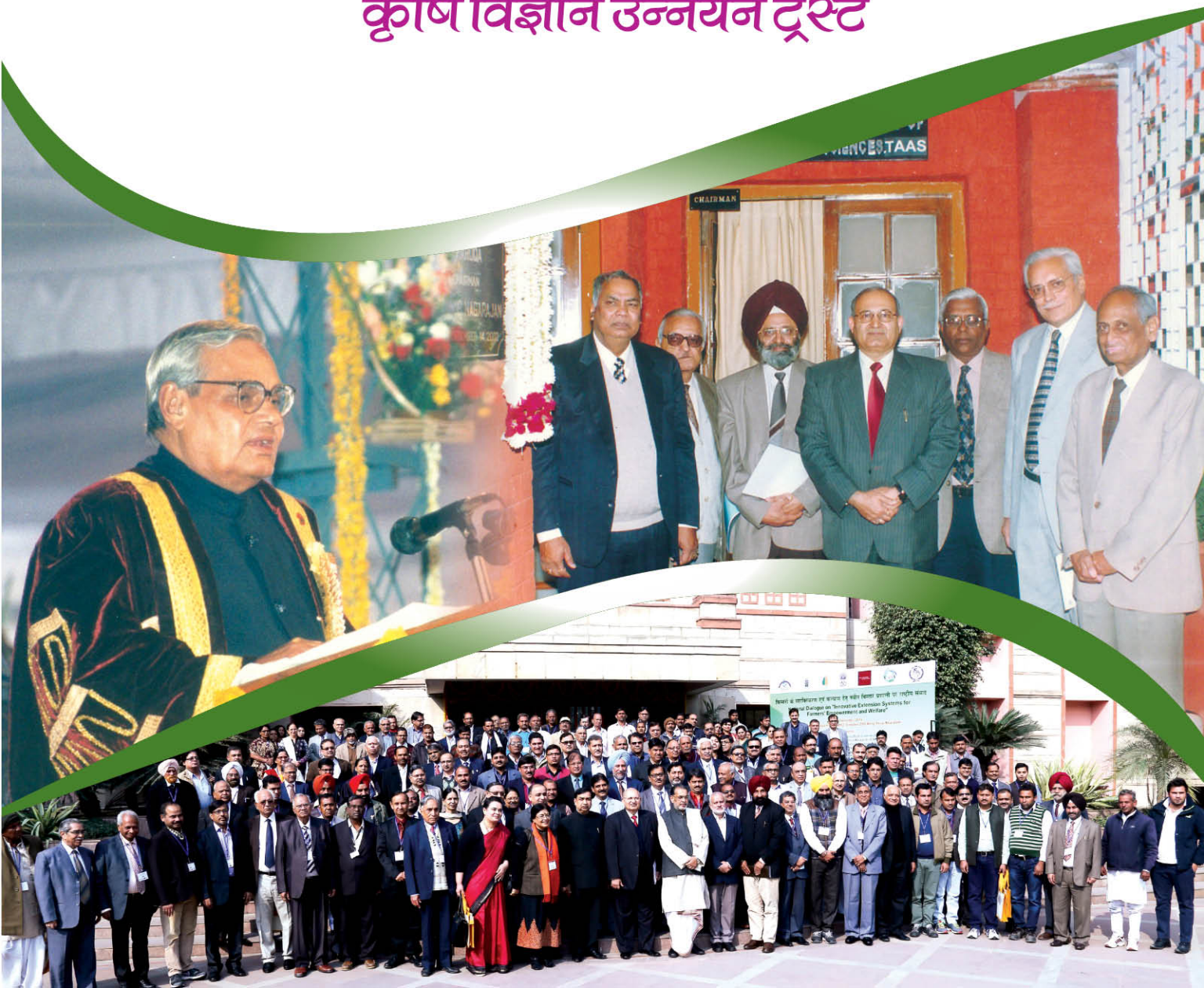




Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences

कृषि विज्ञान उन्नयन ट्रस्ट



Genesis, Vision, Mission & Goal

Genesis

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) is an outcome of the 88th Session of Indian Science Congress held under the General Presidentship of Dr RS Paroda at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi on 3-6 January, 2001. The theme of the Congress was "Food, Nutrition and Environmental Security". During the Congress, former Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee released the following Vision Statement:

"By 2020, India will be free of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, and become an environmentally safe country. This, we believe, will be possible to achieve through accelerated social and economic development by harnessing the advances in science, and blending them with our indigenous knowledge, wisdom and unique socio-cultural ethos. We believe India can banish poverty and emerge as a developed nation by promoting growth through efficient and sustainable use of our human, natural and other resources". The Vision Statement concluded stating: "Hunger free India is an idea whose time has come. Let us launch a science-based crusade for elimination of hidden hunger and malnutrition".

Also, the Prime Minister exhorted the scientists by stating "Our goal to make India a leading nation in the world in the new century hinges critically on how successfully we take science to the people and create a stronger scientific temper in our society".

In response to the above, and considering the fact that the Congress should not be seen as an end in itself and that there is need for a movement for harnessing, in particular, the agricultural science for the welfare of the people, the National Organizing Committee of the Congress decided to form a Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). Accordingly, the Trust was established on 17 October, 2002 with its Headquarters at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

Vision

India becomes prosperous nation through agricultural science based crusade for elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition

Goal

Harnessing the potential of agricultural science for the welfare of people of India

Mission

Promoting growth and advancement of agriculture through scientific partnerships, policy advocacy and public awareness

Strategy

The TAAS acts a neutral and vibrant 'Think Tank' for strengthening agricultural research and innovation for development (ARI4D). It executes its programs and activities through collaboration and innovative partnerships with other national, regional and international organizations and networks. Its major strategic thrusts are: policy advocacy, technology transfer, information dissemination/ knowledge sharing, human resource development/capacity building.

Objectives

- To act as a 'Think Tank' to deliberate on key issues relating to agricultural research and innovation for development (ARI4D) and influence policy decisions
- To organize workshops, conferences, brainstorming sessions, seminars, policy dialogues and special lectures on emerging issues and new developments in agricultural sciences
- To disseminate knowledge among stakeholders through publication of proceedings, policy papers and success stories
- To confer awards to the scientists of Indian and foreign origin for their outstanding contributions to Indian agriculture
- To facilitate the scientific interactions and partnership building of non-resident Indian agricultural scientists with Indian scientists

Current Activities

- Organizing Expert Consultations/Brainstorming Sessions/Symposia/Conferences/Workshops/Dialogues/Seminars on important themes
- Bringing out proceedings of the above events
- Publishing Strategy Papers/Policy Briefs/Success Stories
- Organizing Foundation Day Lectures/Special Lectures
- Conferring awards in Agriculture

Membership

TAAS has a provision of Institutional Membership, Corporate Membership, Life Membership and Reciprocal Membership of scientists, research institutes, universities and private sector organizations/ institutions engaged in agricultural activities. Currently, TAAS has 17 Corporate Members, 21 Institutional Members, 2 Reciprocal Member and 146 Life Members.

Conferring Awards

1. Dr MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture

The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) instituted “Dr MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture” in the honour of Bharat Ratna Awardee Dr MS Swaminathan, the Father of Green Revolution in India. This prestigious award was instituted in 2004 with an aim to recognize the life time contributions of eminent persons who have made global impact in the field of agriculture, especially towards food, nutrition and environmental sustainability. The award carries a citation and the plaque of honour.

TAAS has so far conferred this Award for Leadership in Agriculture on 14 global leaders in recognition of their outstanding lifetime contributions in the field of agriculture, with greater impact on Indian agriculture. These include: Nobel Laureate Dr Norman E Borlaug, Dr GS Khush, Dr Surinder K Vasal, Prof Rattan Lal, Dr Sanjay Rajaram, Dr Mohan C Saxena, Dr William D Dar, Dr Thomas Lumpkin, Dr Uma Lele, Dr John Dixon, Dr Shenggen Fan, Dr Adel El-Beltagy, Dr Surinder (Suri) M Sehgal and Dr Kamal Bawa. The details of all previous awardees, along with citation and names of chief guests who presented the awards are given in the award Compendium (www.taas.in)



2. Dr SK Vasal Award for Excellence in Crop Hybrid Research

Dr SK Vasal Award for Excellence in Crop Hybrid Research has been instituted by TAAS in 2024 to honor the enormous contributions of Dr Surinder K Vasal, a world renowned maize breeder and a World Food Prize Laureate for his outstanding work, especially the development of quality protein maize and other hybrids. The award is instituted through an endowment established at TAAS (www.taas.in) through a contribution by Dr Vasal. The objective of the award is to recognize the contributions of eminent scientists (both men and

women) who have made outstanding contributions in developing promising hybrids and designing new innovative strategies for hybrid development in crops. The Award carries a cash prize of INR one lakh, a citation and the plaque.



Important TAAS Publications

A large number of publications/reports have been brought out by TAAS based on various activities organized. The publication on Two Decades of TAAS Journey includes various activities and achievements by TAAS for the period of twenty years (2001-2021). Different activities of TAAS including publications are also posted on its website: www.taas.in. A list of recent TAAS publications is given below:

Proceedings of National and International Conferences/Symposia/ Consultations, etc.

- Consultative Meeting on “Agricultural Extension Platform for South Asia (AEPSA)”, 8 March, 2024.
- Stakeholders Dialogue on “Enhancing Fertilizer Use Efficiency for Sustainable Soil Health”, 28-29 September, 2023.
- National Workshop on "Enabling Technological and Policy Interventions to Increase Cotton Productivity and Stimulate Industrial Growth", 24 February 2023.
- National Dialogue on "Harnessing the Potential of Floriculture in India", 16-17 February 2023.
- National Dialogue on "Sustainable Growth and Development of Indian Dairy Sector", 16-17 December, 2022.
- National Symposium on "Food, Nutrition and Environmental Security - Towards achieving SDGs", 29 - 30 August, 2022.
- National Dialogue on Innovations in Agricultural Extension: A Way Forward, 8-9 April, 2022.

(Also see: www.taas.in)

Policy Briefs/Status Reports

- Enhancing Fertilizer Use Efficiency for Sustainable Soil Health, November, 2023.
- Strengthening National Agricultural Education System - A Road Map, 30 October 2023.

- Policy and R&D Interventions to Increase Cotton Production and Industrial Growth, March, 2023.
- Harnessing Genome Editing for Crop Improvement - An Urgency, May, 2021.
- Report on Policies and Action Plan for a Secure and Sustainable Agriculture in Hindi, October, 2021.
- A Road Map on Policy Framework for Increasing Private Sector Investments in Agriculture and Enhancing the Global Competitiveness of India Farmers, December, 2019.

Strategy Papers

- Rationalizing Fertilizer Use for Managing Ecological Sustainability and Subsidy - LC Katyal, December 2023.
- Towards Secure and Sustainable Agriculture - Dr RS Paroda, August, 2022.
- Crop Biotechnology for Ensuring Food and Nutritional Security – Dr JL Karihaloo and Dr RS Paroda, December, 2019.
- Horticulture for Food and Nutritional Security - Dr KL Chadha and Dr VB Patel, October, 2019.
- Urgency for Scaling Agricultural Innovations to Meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Dr RS Paroda, April, 2019.
- Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture - Dr RS Paroda, November, 2018.

- Women Empowerment for Agricultural Development - Dr RS Paroda, May, 2018.
- Strategy for Doubling Farmers' Income - Dr RS Paroda, February, 2018.
- Livestock Development in India - Dr AK Srivastava, Member, ASRB & Trustee, TAAS, February, 2018.

Success Stories

- Saguna Regenerative Technique and Agro-tourism - A Success Story, Chandrashekhar S. Bhadsavle, March 2024
- Navara Rice - A Success Story, P Narayanan Unny, July 2023
- Resilience in Dairy Farming – A Success Story, Nikki Paliana Chaudhary, November 2022.
- Fish Farming in North India – A Success Story, Sultan Singh, December 2020.
- Biofertilizers and Biopesticides for Enhancing Crop Production – A Success Story, Dr. Basavaraj Girenavar, June, 2020.

Other Publications

- Accelerating Science-Led Growth in Agriculture: Two Decades of TAAS, April, 2021.
- Dr MS Swaminathan Award for Leadership in Agriculture: A Compendium, April, 2024.

(Also see : www.taas.in)



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