

Assam Agricultural University Celebrated 57th Foundation Day

On April 1, 2025, Assam Agricultural University (AAU), celebrated its 57th Foundation Day in New Delhi. Dr RS Paroda, Padma Bhushan Awardee, Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), Former Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India, was the Chief Guest of the function. He highlighted India's remarkable transition to a food surplus



nation, with significant contributions from diverse agricultural sectors now constituting 16% of the GDP. He emphasized the importance of maintaining stable buffer stocks and leveraging export opportunities. Dr Paroda acknowledged challenges like climate change, low productivity, and market access, stressing the need for economic and ecological access to food. He advocated for sustainable practices, aligning with SDGs, and fulfilling climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. Value addition, reducing post-harvest losses, and addressing complex trade dynamics were presented as key areas for improvement. The speech underscored the critical role of youth engagement, technological innovation, and scaling successful agricultural practices. Furthermore, Dr Paroda called for vocational training, incentive-based support for farmers, and the integration of technology within agricultural education under the New Education Policy, positioning State Agricultural Universities as pivotal in shaping a sustainable and prosperous agricultural future. He

urged a collaborative approach involving academia, industry, and the private sector to drive innovation and improve farmer livelihoods.

Other dignitaries as Guests of Honour who were present during the function were - Dr AN Mukhopadhyay, Dr GL Kaul, Dr SS Baghel and Dr KM Bujarbaruah.



Dr Paroda's full address can be accessed through following link:

https://youtu.be/J_ENILX_Jwk