

(1 September 2026)

Dr R S Paroda Addresses ICAR-NAARM's 51st Foundation Day as Chief Guest, Calling for a Paradigm Shift Toward Agricultural Leadership



The ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (ICAR-NAARM) celebrated its 51st Foundation Day and marked its Golden Jubilee year of establishment, centered on the theme *"Agricultural Entrepreneurship for Viksit Bharat@2047."* The event was graced by Padma Bhushan Dr RS Paroda, Former Director General of ICAR and Secretary, DARE, who attended as the Chief Guest. The function was presided over by Dr ML Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR), alongside other eminent leaders, scientists, and agricultural stakeholders.

Delivering the inaugural Dr KV Raman Memorial Lecture, Dr RS Paroda commended NAARM for its five decades of relentless commitment to capacity building within the National Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension System (NAREES). Emphasizing the evolving needs of Indian agriculture, Dr Paroda highlighted that institutional partnerships and a strategic transition from purely research-focused roles to holistic leadership are critical imperatives today.

"The present agricultural management scenario demands that we transition from training researchers to systematically nurturing and developing agricultural leaders. Sustainable, meaningful

change must be driven from within through discipline, teamwork, systems thinking, and continuous internal transformation."

— Dr RS Paroda

Key Priorities Outlined by Dr Paroda were:

1. **Developing Agricultural Leaders:** Re-orienting capacity building toward leadership development, cadre review, and the induction of strategic management professionals.
2. **Establishing an ICAR Foresight Centre:** Utilizing existing resources to build long-term agricultural foresight, risk assessment, and policy guidance models.
3. **Scaling Disruptive Innovations:** Fostering innovation systems to translate ideas into proof-of-concepts, intellectual property rights (IPR), and practical technologies.
4. **Promoting Responsible Digital Agriculture:** Leveraging modern digital tools while maintaining ethical and inclusive growth across rural landscapes.
5. **Impact Assessment of Agricultural Science:** Strengthening robust evaluation mechanisms to measure the real-world societal impact of agricultural research.

Dr Paroda also advocated for expanding international collaborations—particularly through South–South cooperation, strengthening NAARM's vibrant alumni network, and broadening strategic MoUs with global academies and agricultural universities.

During the Golden Jubilee celebrations, several major publications, policy briefs on resilient agriculture and 5G-powered farming, and strategic technical reports were also released

The landmark event witnessed participation from leading agricultural scientists, university Vice-Chancellors, project teams, and management students:


