

Brief Resume of Dr Raj S. Paroda

Dr Raj S. Paroda has made valuable contributions in the field of agriculture both as a researcher and an able administrator. He contributions in the field of plant breeding and genetic resource management are globally recognized. During the period 1994-2001, Dr.Paroda spearheaded and modernized the national agricultural research system (NARS) as Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Government of India. Under his dynamic leadership, more than 30 new national institutions were created in crops, horticulture, livestock, natural resource management, fishery, agricultural engineering and social science sectors. The prestigious National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) to reorient agricultural research, education and extension system of India was designed and negotiated with World Bank for US \$ 250 million in 1998 under his dynamic leadership.



Dr.Paroda is the main architect of one of the world's largest and most modern National Gene Bank in New Delhi, housing now more than 250,000 valuable germ plasm accessions of different crops. The impressive National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, built on Pusa Campus, was mainly his initiative and vision. International Crop Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru and the Agriculture Research Institute of Kazakhstan have named their Gene Banks after Dr Raj Paroda in recognition of his notable contributions in the field of genetic resource management.

Dr Paroda received several national/international awards and recognitions, including the most prestigious PADMA BHUSHAN award presented by the President of India in 1998. Other awards conferred on him are: Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prize (1982-83), ICAR Team Research Award (1983-84), FICCI Award (1988), Om Prakash Bhasin Award (1992), Asia-Pacific Seed Association Special Award (1995), CGIAR Award for Outstanding Partnership (2000), Life Time Award by Association of Agricultural Scientists in America (2001), Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award (2001), Dr B.P. Pal Memorial Award (2003), Borlaug Award (2006), ISCA Gold Medal for Excellence in Science (2006), Gold Medals from Ministry of Agriculture of Armenia (2006) and Ministry of Agriculture, Vietnam (2012), Life Time Achievement Award - 'Agriculture Today' (2008), Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial Award (2012), Prof. Kannian Memorial Award (2012), Krishi Shiromani Samman by Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. (2013) and the First "U.S. Awasthi IFFCO Award" for Life Time Achievement in the Field of Agriculture Development and Agriculture Research (2017).

Dr Paroda has been conferred Fellowship of most National Science Academies like, INSA, NAAS, NASI. He was elected as General President of the prestigious Indian Science Congress in 2000-2001. Among international recognitions, he was elected as Fellow of Agricultural Academies of Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Tajikistan and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). He also served as

President of more than a dozen Agricultural Scientific Societies in India. Both American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America awarded him the prestigious Honorary Membership in 2001.

Dr Paroda had also been conferred honorary D.Sc. by 17 academic institutions/universities including Ohio State University, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Scientific Council of Agricultural Academy, Republic of Azerbaijan and State Agricultural Universities of Pantnagar, Kanpur, Jorhat, Coimbatore, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Udaipur, Varanasi, Srinagar, Meerut, Bhubneshwar, Ludhiana, Dharwad, Jabalpur and Hyderabad (Telangana).

Dr Paroda was instrumental in establishing Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) in FAO, Rome and served it as Founder President from 1988-2001. He was instrumental in establishing Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), at FAO, Bangkok and served and served with great distinction as Executive Secretary for more than two decades. Today, APAARI is a very vibrant regional organization. He is the first Indian to have served as Chairman of ICRISAT Board of Trustees. He also served as member of Board of Trustees of IRRI, member of WMO High Level Task Force on Climate Services, member of Advisory Council of Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), member of the Finance Committee of CGIAR and a member of the Governing Board of the Commonwealth Agriculture Bureau International (CABI). Dr.Paroda also successfully organized several international conferences like 2nd International Crop Science Congress (1996), most prestigious Indian Science Congress (2001), Global Conference on Women in Agriculture (2012), Agricultural Science Congress (1997, 1999), Global Conference for Agricultural Research and Development (2012) and the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress (2016),

For the overall benefit of farmers, lately Dr Paroda served as Chairman, Farmers Commission of Haryana, Chairman of Working Group on Agriculture and Member of Rajasthan Planning Board. Under his direction, the State Agriculture Policies both in Haryana and Rajasthan were approved. Currently, he is a member of Strategic Impact, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (SIMEC) of CGIAR and also serving on the Board of International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), Muscle Shoals, Alabama, USA. As Chairmen of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), his goal during last two decades is to link science to society through policy advocacy and public awareness.

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