



National Seminar on **IARI Towards World-Class Higher Education Institution**

Proceedings and Recommendations

29-30 September, 2025

Venue: ICAR Lecture Hall, II Floor,
NASC, New Delhi-110012





IARI Alumni Association (IAA) : It was established in 1986 and formally registered in 1992. The objectives of IAA are to foster fellow-feeling and strengthen interaction among the alumni of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, focus attention on problems related to agricultural research, education, extension and development in India, build partnership with related national and international institutions having similar objectives, undertake suitable publications, organize seminars, symposia and other related activities for furtherance of its objectives and encourage the members for assisting The Graduate School in academic, cultural and social activities.



ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI): It was established in 1905 and is India's premier national institute for agricultural research, education, and extension, administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). With a legacy of over 120 years, it has been instrumental in advancing agricultural science, notably contributing to the Green Revolution that transformed India's food production and food security landscape. The institute's mandate encompasses scientific research, technology development, and human resource development to support productive, sustainable, and equitable agriculture. IARI's Graduate School, recognized as a Deemed-to-be University since 1958, offers postgraduate and doctoral programs across over 26 disciplines, attracting students nationally and internationally. It also initiated UG program in the year 2022-23. To date, it has awarded thousands of M.Sc., M. Tech., and Ph.D. degrees, including to international students, and its alumni include globally recognized agricultural scientists, including four World Food Prize winners and scores of Padma awardees, who have significantly influenced research and policy in India and abroad. The current student body has a strength of more than 3000 students and comprises both domestic and international scholars engaged in cutting-edge research and education that underpin IARI's ongoing global contribution to agricultural innovation.



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Organized by:

IARI Alumni Association

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New Delhi 110012, India

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Foreword

The National Seminar on “IARI Towards World-Class Higher Education Institution”, jointly organized by the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) and ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), on 29–30 September 2025 at the NASC Complex, New Delhi, provided a timely platform to reflect on IARI’s future in the rapidly evolving national and global higher education landscape. Eminent scientists, academic leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, alumni, and young researchers participated in focused and forward-looking deliberations.

With its distinguished legacy in education, research, and extension, IARI has been a cornerstone of India’s agricultural development. In alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the seminar examined pathways for transforming IARI into a globally benchmarked Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU), while remaining firmly committed to national priorities and farmers’ welfare.

The deliberations highlighted critical enablers for this transformation, including enhanced academic and functional autonomy, governance reforms, flexible and outcome-based curricula, strengthened interdisciplinary research, internationalization through global partnerships, and a strong innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. The Youth Forum underscored the aspirations and leadership potential of young scientists and students in shaping IARI’s global future.

The recommendations presented in these proceedings offer a clear and actionable roadmap for institutional transformation, emphasizing clearly on the implementation, accountability, and impact related to institutional growth.

On behalf of the IARI Alumni Association, I acknowledge with gratitude the support and contributions of ICAR, IARI leadership, distinguished speakers, participants, and organizing teams. I am confident that this publication will serve as a valuable reference for the management of the institute, policymakers in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the stakeholders especially the faculty and students of the institute and will contribute meaningfully to IARI’s journey towards global excellence.



Dr. R. S. Paroda

President, IARI Alumni Association
Former Secretary (DARE) & Director General, ICAR



Proceedings & Recommendations

of the National Seminar on

“IARI Towards World-Class Higher Education Institution”



The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) in collaboration with ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, organized a two-day National Seminar on “*IARI Towards World-Class Higher Education Institution*” on September 29–30, 2025, at the NASC Complex, New Delhi. The seminar witnessed the participation of around 100 distinguished scientists, policymakers, academicians, industry leaders, and young researchers, reflecting a rich diversity of expertise and perspectives. The event was designed to discuss strategies for positioning IARI as a globally recognized centre of higher education, research, and innovation.

The thematic focus of the seminar was on aligning IARI’s strategic growth with the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) and envisioning its transformation into a Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU). This transformation aims to foster interdisciplinary learning, enhance research capacity, and strengthen IARI’s role as a benchmark institution in higher agricultural education globally. The session-wise discussions and deliberations held in the seminar are summarized below:

1. Inaugural Session

The inaugural session was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA & Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR



and Dr. M. L. Jat, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), graced the session as the Chief Guest. The dais was adorned by the presence of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, and Chief Patron, IAA, Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, IAA & Former VC, RVSKVV, Gwalior and Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Edn.) & Dean, ICAR-IARI & Patron, IAA. The highlights of the session were as follows:

1.1 Setting the Context

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, and Chief Patron, IAA presented a comprehensive roadmap to elevate IARI's global standing. His vision encompassed modernization of infrastructure, enhancement of institutional capacity, promotion of interdisciplinary programs, and creation of an enabling environment for innovation and research. Dr Rao stressed the importance of leveraging IARI's research capabilities, faculty expertise, and alumni network to achieve global recognition.



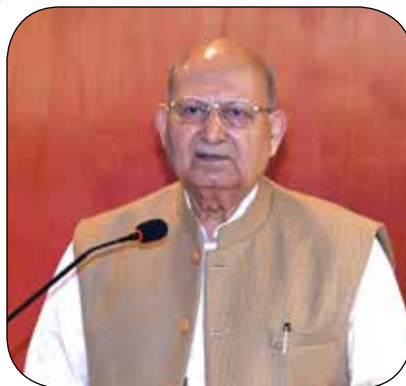
1.2 Chief Guest's Address

Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR emphasized the significance of holistic and multidisciplinary education in creating future-ready professionals capable of addressing complex agricultural challenges. He urged IARI to articulate a distinctive capability statement and value proposition, which would enable it to serve as a model for other universities in India and abroad. Dr Jat stressed that achieving global excellence would require innovation

in teaching, cross-disciplinary research, and nurturing young talent, while leveraging IARI's historical strengths in agricultural sciences.

1.3 Chairperson's Remarks

Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA, highlighted IARI's legacy as a pioneering land-grant institution, which has historically integrated research, education, and extension to address national agricultural challenges. He emphasized the need for strengthening composite courses, enhancing education quality,



implementing the Model Act, and deepening global partnerships. Dr. Paroda underscored that these steps are essential for placing IARI among the world's top 100 universities, reflecting both academic excellence and global impact.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, IAA, who expressed gratitude to all participants, distinguished guests, and the organizing team.



2. Technical Session 1: Panel Discussion on “Achieving Global Higher Education Institution (HEI) Ecosystem”

The session was co-chaired by Prof. R. B. Singh, Former Director, IARI & Former Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, and Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi, with Dr. Anil Dahuja, IQAC Coordinator, New Delhi, serving as convener and Dr G. Prakash as rapporteur. The session featured two offline, two online and one recorded presentation delivered by eminent academicians and higher education leaders from India and abroad.

2.1 Lead Lecture

Dr. Anupama Singh, Patron, IAA & JD Education, IARI, New Delhi delivered the lead lecture on “*IARI as a Global HEI - SWOT Analysis and Way Forward*”. She presented a comprehensive SWOT analysis of IARI, detailing its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints, and concluded by suggesting strategic interventions for positioning IARI among globally recognized higher education institutions. A detailed roadmap for transforming IARI into a globally competitive higher education institution was proposed by her.

Dr. Anupama Singh underscored the urgent need for functional autonomy to IARI, achievable through recognition as either an Institution of National Importance (INI) or an Institution of Eminence (IoE). Such autonomy, she



emphasized, would empower IARI to design joint degree and vocational programmes, forge global partnerships, and align its academic structure with international standards. She highlighted upon the need for administrative and governance reforms, including revised performance assessment systems for scientists of deemed universities, purely merit based admissions through IARI's own entrance examination, greater convergence among education, research, and extension verticals, curricular restructuring flexibility to NAREES HEIs through redefining the BSMA scope and ambits, etc. By leveraging national policy frameworks, mobilizing alumni and industry networks, and fostering a culture of innovation and inclusivity, IARI can transcend its current boundaries to become a globally benchmarked higher education institution. In addition to functional autonomy, the key strategic measures proposed are:

- Development of a time-bound Institute Development Plan (IDP) with measurable milestones.
- Structured global alumni engagement as mentors, visiting faculty, and funding partners.
- Strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems.
- Extensive internationalization efforts including recruitment of international faculty; faculty exchange with universities abroad; and industry-linked tripartite research collaborations; establishment of offshore study centres of IARI and regional partnerships to expand IARI's global reach.
- Restoring admission policy for Deemed universities of ICAR.
- Strengthening of digital infrastructure to support e-learning, global visibility, and ranking participation.

2.2 Invited Lectures

The lead lecture was followed by four invited lectures delivered by the experts from India and abroad, who reflected on the frameworks, policies, and institutional strategies crucial for transforming higher education institutions of India into world class centers of learning and innovation.

Dr. P.K. Khosla, Chancellor, Shoolini University, Solan dwelt up on the *Importance of University Rankings* and their implications for institutional reputation and competitiveness. He stressed upon the need to focus on publication quality, citation impact, and global visibility, underscoring that academic excellence and research influence are critical determinants in global ranking frameworks. Dr. Khosla encouraged faculty members to pursue high-quality, high-impact research contributing to international recognition and reflected on India's historic academic achievements, including the legacy of Nobel laureates, urging institutions to identify and nurture potential Nobel-class scholars for the future.

Dr. Ramesh Kanwar, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University, USA, delivered an insightful talk titled “*What It Takes to Make World-Class Universities.*” Drawing from global experiences, he identified the core attributes of world-class universities as visionary leadership; globally competitive faculty; cutting-edge research and teaching infrastructure; international collaborations; industrial research parks; and strong alumni networks. He also outlined key indicators of institutional reputation & quality, and recommended the following key actionable steps:

- Recruiting globally competent faculty.
- Expanding collaborative research.
- Adopting transparent performance evaluation systems based on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Dr. Karim Maredia, Director, International Programs, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University, USA elaborated upon the essential features that define world-class institutions through presenting the success story of Michigan State University (MSU) and its evolution from a regional college to a globally reputed international university. His presentation underscored that long-term global competitiveness depends not only on research productivity but also on the institution’s capacity to engage internationally and demonstrate measurable societal impact. He put forth an important observation that although IARI possesses the academic heritage, national reputation, and intellectual capital necessary to join the league of globally recognized universities, to achieve the same, institutional autonomy, strategic internationalization, entrepreneurial capacity, and a culture of accountability are vital.

Dr. Neena Mitter, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Research), Charles Sturt University, Australia delivered the final presentation. She highlighted the importance of up skilling the IARI students to become problem-solvers and innovators, fostering interdisciplinary research, and creating an innovation-driven institutional culture, borderless research collaboration, and providing international exposure to both students and faculty as key enablers for achieving global academic excellence.

2.3 Co-Chairpersons’ Remarks

Prof. R.B. Singh, Former President, NAAS and Former Chairman, ASRB and Director, IARI, emphasized that the humanistic dimension of agricultural science must remain central as IARI moves toward becoming a world-class university. To strengthen IARI’s global footprint, branding efforts and alumni engagement must now be institutionalized and integrated into the institute’s development strategy and IARI Alumni Association will have a pivotal role in projecting IARI’s achievements

globally. He stressed on the critical need to strengthen institute–industry linkages through Social and Corporate Social Responsibility (SSR and CSR) engagements and that high-quality teaching, mentorship, and learning outcomes must receive equal importance alongside research and infrastructure.

He noted that while IARI has created a strong foundation, the implementation, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms remain weak. Functional autonomy hand-in-hand with institutional responsibility and outcome-based accountability are essential to help IARI achieve world class goals. In his concluding remarks, Dr. Singh urged that IARI must strive to move from discovery to impact, widening its horizons beyond borders while never losing sight of fundamental science.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi highlighted the key challenges and opportunities in the field. He emphasized the importance of fostering active engagement between students and faculty from India and their counterparts in global universities. Such collaborations, he noted, would enhance cross-cultural learning, research excellence, and global exposure. He encouraged building long-term academic partnerships to strengthen India’s presence in the international education landscape.

Dr. Kumar also highlighted the significance of faculty and student exchange programs as vital channels for global learning and collaboration. He stressed upon the importance of effectively implementing the Institute of Eminence framework to elevate academic and research standards. He emphasized on focused execution and periodic evaluation; need to attract top global and national talents to join IARI; importance of developing an inclusive ecosystem integrating industry collaboration, entrepreneurship, and social impact to bridge research and real-world applications, fostering innovation-driven growth. He also endorsed the earlier voiced need to bring in functional autonomy, ensuring flexibility in decision-making and innovation. Emphasizing transparency in governance, he called for accountability and participatory leadership at all levels.

The first session underlined the institutional and strategic pathways necessary for IARI’s transformation into a globally ranked higher education institution. The main recommendations were:

- (i) **Strengthen Internationalization of Institute ecosystem:** Expand global collaborations in research, education, and extension through joint global grants, exchange programs, and dual/joint-degree initiatives; develop policies for international faculty recruitment and visiting professorships to enrich research diversity and mentorship.
- (ii) **Grant functional autonomy to IARI:** Either on CAU model or through direct administrative control with Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR; and on priority time bound efforts of Council towards recognition of IARI by Gol as IoE/ INI.

- (iii) **Integrate Industry and Entrepreneurship:** Foster inclusive ecosystem of industry academia collaboration through joint research, innovation parks, start-up incubation, technology transfer and CSR funding.
- (iv) **Institutionalize Ranking Metrics and Adopt MERU Framework:** Embed global ranking parameters (QS, THE, ARWU) into institutional planning and evaluation. Upgrading digital infrastructure with a modern, user-friendly “. edu.in” website for webometrics, Scopus id for the institute, social media visibility, alumni proactive engagement are few essential steps towards global rankings.
- (v) **Focus on outcome-based education:** Ensure that excellence in research is complemented by equal emphasis on teaching, learning outcomes, and faculty development.

3. Technical Session 2: “Expert Dialogue – Strategies to become MERU”

This session was co-chaired by **Dr. S. L. Mehta**, Former Vice-Chancellor, MPUAT, and **Dr. Anupam Varma**, Adjunct Professor, IARI, with Dr. Monika A. Joshi, Professor, Seed Science and Technology, IARI, as convener and Dr R.S. Bana as rapporteur. The session featured five presentations delivered by distinguished experts and policymakers from ICAR, AcSIR, BHU, UGC, Earnest & Young, who deliberated on the pathways for transforming IARI into Multidisciplinary Education and Research University (MERU) in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



The expert dialogue focused on key pillars of institutional transformation—curriculum flexibility, innovation and entrepreneurship, faculty capacity development, governance reform, inclusivity, and global engagement. The experts provided complementary perspectives on how research-intensive institutions like IARI can reimagine their structures and processes to integrate multidisciplinary education and foster innovation-led growth.

3.1 Lead Lecture

Dr. Ajit Singh Yadav, ADG (Agricultural Education), ICAR, delivered the lead talk on ‘ICAR initiatives towards implementation of NEP.’ He advised IARI to integrate

experiential learning, apprenticeship, and skill development as central components of its MERU oriented reforms. Emphasizing the importance of student-centric approaches, he advocated for flexibility in curriculum design to promote employability and entrepreneurship. He further suggested aligning academic programs with sectoral demands, ensuring that students graduate with competencies relevant to emerging industry needs.

3.2 Invited Lectures

The lead lecture was followed by four invited lectures delivered by experts from different domains, who reflected on the frameworks, policies, and institutional strategies crucial for transforming higher education institutions of India into world class centers of learning and innovation.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Dhar, Director, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), in his talk on '*Strategic landscape of innovation ecosystem in AcSIR vs. IARI*' shared the institutional innovations that propelled AcSIR's transformation into a globally networked research, innovation and capacity building platform. He stressed upon the importance of embedding innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry linkages into both teaching and research frameworks. Drawing from AcSIR's experience, he suggested that IARI students, faculty, and management should focus on cultivating a culture of perseverance in research, structured mentorship programs and strong leadership commitment to foster creativity and resilience.

Dr. Dhar elaborated on AcSIR's pioneering initiatives such as global collaborations, dual-degree programs, and the *i-PhD* model designed to cater to industry requirements. He suggested that similar frameworks could be effectively replicated at IARI to align education with innovation and entrepreneurship. He concluded by asserting that while innovation is essential, ethics and societal responsibility must remain integral to institutional functioning, ensuring that education and research contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.

Prof. U. P. Singh, Director, Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), delivered the lecture on '*Research Institute-cum-Deemed University's strategy to become MERU*' and underscored the transformative potential of multidisciplinary and student-friendly curricula in fostering creativity, problem-solving, and future-oriented skills. He advocated dismantling the rigid disciplinary boundaries to enable cross-disciplinary collaboration among faculties and research groups.

Prof. Singh emphasized the need to strengthen institutional infrastructure, faculty capacity, and academic credit systems to support flexible learning pathways. He further recommended the development of Academic Credit Banks, enabling students

to transfer credits across institutions and disciplines. A strong institutional quality assurance mechanism, he noted, would ensure that academic excellence is maintained as institutions diversify their offerings. He concluded that research at IARI and other agricultural universities must increasingly focus on real-world challenges, translating scientific innovation into practical solutions that enhance societal well-being.

Dr. Avichal Raj Kapur, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission (UGC), delivered the lecture on '*NEP in simple terms for IARI*' and provided a comprehensive overview of the NEP-2020 roadmap for transforming IARI and similar institutions into MERUs. He emphasized the principles of skilling, reskilling, inclusivity, and equitable access as foundational pillars of this transformation.

Dr. Kapur apprised the participants about several national initiatives as the key enablers of institutional excellence such as the PM-USHA scheme, digital platforms like SAMARTH for e-governance, and teachers' training and capacity-building programs. He also encouraged IARI to explore emerging course domains, including data science, AI in agriculture, climate-smart technologies, and agri-business management, which should align with global trends and national developmental priorities. His perspective reinforced that achieving MERU status requires seamless integration of technology, inclusivity, and governance reforms, backed by strategic institutional planning.

Mr. Ayush from Ernst & Young (E&Y) delivered the lecture on '*QS Ranking - Priority setting for IARI*' and provided an industry perspective and also outlined a strategic roadmap for IARI's inclusion in global university ranking systems, particularly the QS World University Rankings. He identified three key areas that need priority attention; *Research Visibility* through enhancing publication quality and international collaborations; *International Networking* through global academic and industry partnerships; and *Reputation Management* by leveraging alumni networks, strategic communication, and visibility enhancement. He underlined the importance of data-driven decision-making and institutional performance monitoring to be aligned with global ranking parameters.

3.3 Co-Chairpersons' Remarks

Dr S.L. Mehta, Former VC, MPUAT, New Delhi concluded the dialogue with the remarks that the transformation toward MERU is not a structural adjustment but a holistic institutional evolution. Participants emphasized that IARI must leverage its existing strengths, national leadership in research, rich academic heritage, and societal relevance, to build a globally competitive, innovation-driven education ecosystem.

Dr Anupam Varma, Former Joint Director (Edn.) & Dean, IARI and Adjunct Professor, IARI emphasized that achieving MERU status will require curriculum flexibility, academic autonomy, innovation culture, and international collaboration, complemented by governance reform and a strong ethical foundation. By synergizing

the vision of NEP-2020 with its institutional strengths, IARI can evolve into a multidisciplinary, globally recognized agricultural university that not only addresses national developmental priorities but also contributes meaningfully to the global knowledge economy.

The session's deliberations culminated in a series of practical and forward-looking recommendations for IARI to attain MERU status:

- (i) **Reforms towards Curricular Flexibility:** Introduce flexible, multidisciplinary, and student-centered curricula that integrate experiential learning, apprenticeship programs, and industry immersion. Establish Academic Credit Banks and promote cross-institutional learning to enhance mobility and interdisciplinarity.
- (ii) **Strengthening Ecosystem of Integrated Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Develop an embedded innovation ecosystem combining research, entrepreneurship, and industry collaboration. Encourage dual and joint degree programs, student exchanges with global universities, and problem-solving research addressing societal and sectoral challenges.
- (iii) **Capacity Building and Governance:** Strengthen faculty development programs in pedagogy, mentorship, and leadership to ensure academic excellence. Enhance digital governance systems and institutional quality assurance frameworks for transparency and accountability.
- (iv) **Investments in Infrastructure modernization:** Invest in modern research infrastructure, viz., advanced laboratories, digital classrooms, and create student innovation and research hubs that facilitate interdisciplinary research. Develop cutting-edge laboratories, innovation centres, and student facilities comparable to global universities.

4. Plenary lecture: Untapped Opportunities for IARI towards a Global University

The Plenary Lecture session was chaired by **Dr. R. S. Paroda**, President, IAA & Chairman, TAAS, and **Dr. Anil K. Singh**, Secretary, IAA, served as convenor and Dr. Vignesh Muthusamy as rapporteur. The session featured an inspiring lecture by Prof. Kadambot Siddique, Hackett Professor Chair, University of Western Australia (UWA) and distinguished IARI alumnus, on



“Untapped Opportunities for IARI towards a Global University.” The talk delivered through online mode set the tone for envisioning IARI’s transformation into a globally recognized, multidisciplinary agricultural university aligned with the goals of excellence, innovation, and international collaboration.

4.1 Plenary Lecture

At the outset, Prof. Siddique elaborated on the key characteristics of world-class universities, drawing parallels from UWA’s global trajectory and institutional philosophy. Using UWA’s example, he provided a comprehensive understanding of how leading universities achieve and sustain international recognition through continuous benchmarking, visionary leadership, and strategic resource management. He gave an insightful overview of global university ranking frameworks—including QS, *Times Higher Education (THE)*, and *Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)*—clarifying the major parameters that influence ranking performance. He emphasized that to elevate its global standing, IARI must align its internal systems and performance indicators with these ranking metrics, which focus on academic reputation, faculty-student ratio, research output and citations, internationalization, and industry linkages.

Prof. Siddique identified critical areas where IARI could focus its efforts to emerge as a globally benchmarked agricultural university including recruitment of High-Calibre talent; establishment of World-Class Infrastructure and Innovation Centres; diversification of Financial Resources; Commitment to Quality and Institutional Excellence through quality assurance and accountability; research culture of active students engagement; restructuring current division-based organization into broad interdisciplinary schools; promoting strategic partnerships with international universities, private companies, and funding agencies. Improving the quality of life on campus beyond academics and creation of an incentive driven innovation-centric operational environment.

4.2 Chairperson’s Remarks

Dr R. S. Paroda, moderated the engaging discussion and emphasized the urgency of taking concrete actions to achieve global benchmarks. He recommended that IARI should immediately identify and strengthen drivers of global ranking, including research excellence, publication impact, faculty internationalization, and alumni engagement. He further suggested leveraging IARI’s vast global alumni base to enhance international collaborations, fundraising, and institutional branding. He commended Prof. Siddique’s pragmatic and visionary recommendations and expressed confidence that, with concerted efforts, IARI could soon emerge as a world-class university embodying the MERU spirit envisioned under NEP-2020.

The key takeaways of Dr. Siddique's lecture were:

- (i) **Fostering Functional Autonomy within ICAR:** Secure greater operational independence to implement global partnerships effectively.
- (ii) **Recruiting High-Calibre Talent:** Attract world-class faculty and researchers through international hiring and performance-based incentives.
- (iii) **Rename, Rebrand and Restructure IARI:** Consider evolving into the “Indian National Agricultural University (INAU)” to strengthen international identity, and merge divisions into broader schools to facilitate interdisciplinarity and enhance institutional coherence.
- (iv) **Align with Global Governance and Enhance Global Visibility:** Transition to a university structure with a Vice-Chancellor system under UGC guidelines, and strengthen global outreach through alumni engagement, joint publications, and international communication strategies.
- (v) **External Benchmarking and Focus on Ranking Drivers:** Undertake independent reviews and benchmarking with globally ranked agricultural universities, and address key metrics such as faculty-student ratio, citation impact, and international collaborations to achieve global ranking.

5. Technical Session 3: IARI to be a Vibrant Entrepreneurial Hub

The session was co-chaired by Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, New Delhi and Dr. Anil K. Singh, Secretary, IAA with Dr. Akriti Sharma, In-Charge, ZTM-BPD Unit, ICAR-IARI serving as convener and Dr. Subhashree Sahu, Senior Scientist, IARI, New Delhi as rapporteur. The session featured one lead lecture and three invited presentations delivered by industry experts.



5.1 Lead Lecture

The lead lecture delivered by **Dr. R. C. Agrawal**, Former Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR, on the topic “*Lessons Learnt from the Incubators Established under NAHEP,*” provided an insight on the role played by National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), integrating entrepreneurship and innovation into the academic and institutional frameworks of agricultural HEIs.

Dr. Agrawal shared that NAHEP-supported incubators have showcased tangible impact through nurturing 91 entrepreneurs; collectively generating ₹39 crores in revenue; creating over 500 direct employment opportunities and achieving an average annual turnover of ₹92 lakhs per startup. He underscored that these outcomes exemplify the transformative potential of structured institutional support in fostering innovation-driven, sustainable agricultural enterprises across the country.

5.2 Invited Lectures

Following the lead lecture, the session featured expert deliberations by Dr. S. Baskar Reddy, Senior Advisor, Syngenta Foundation India, Dr. P. Malik, Agrinnovate Ltd. and Mr. Hemendra Mathur, Investor & Co-Founder, ThinkAg:

Bringing together perspectives from industry, policy, and investment, the speakers emphasized that a vibrant agricultural innovation ecosystem requires synergistic collaboration among academia, industry, and financial institutions. The speakers of the session emphasized upon following salient common points:

- (i) **Curriculum and Capacity Building:** The session strongly recommended introducing a foundational course on entrepreneurship at postgraduate and doctoral levels, integrating innovation management, agribusiness planning, and venture creation. The curriculum should emphasize experiential learning, industry immersion, and start-up internships. It was also suggested that motivational lectures and interactive sessions with successful entrepreneurs be institutionalized to inspire students, while awards and recognition mechanisms be created to incentivize innovation and successful project completion.
- (ii) **Financing and Incentive Structures:** To sustain entrepreneurship, the speakers advocated establishing dedicated seed funds mobilized from alumni entrepreneurs, corporate CSR contributions, and government innovation programs. They proposed micro-finance schemes and accelerator grants to support early-stage ventures, alongside recognizing scientists and professors as co-founders in start-ups to encourage translational research and idea commercialization. A high-velocity innovation fund and a structured mentorship and incubation network were recommended to provide high-risk capital, guidance, and handholding to young innovators.
- (iii) **Technology Transfer and Market Linkages:** The need to strengthen last-mile connectivity was emphasized through mechanisms that link IARI's innovations directly with farmers, industry, and markets. Participants proposed market scanning, needs assessment, and partnership models connecting Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science & Technology (CAAST) centres and incubators for validation and scale-up. Special focus was placed on expanding agri-tech innovations in processing,

post-harvest management, and export-oriented sectors to enhance India's global competitiveness.

- (iv) **Behavioural and Social Dimensions:** Speakers highlighted the importance of behavioural science in shaping entrepreneurial mindsets and influencing adoption behaviour among farmers. It was suggested that IARI foster attitude-building and motivational programs to attract youth into agri-entrepreneurship, ensuring that innovation is seen as both aspirational and attainable.
- (v) **Rural-Centric Entrepreneurial Development:** The panel advocated a rural-first strategy, emphasizing the creation of rural incubation hubs that nurture entrepreneurs at the grassroots level. They proposed transferring technologies from metropolitan centres to rural regions and actively involving farmers as partners in the value chain through cooperatives and producer enterprises. The establishment of Centres of Excellence in Rural Entrepreneurship was proposed to catalyse innovation and capacity building in local communities.
- (vi) **Artificial Intelligence and Digital Integration:** The speakers underscored the transformative role of AI and digital technologies in the future of agriculture. Recommendations included the development of AI-based models for region-specific advisory systems, digitization of research data and publications, and integration of real-time data from *Mandis*, weather stations, and soil laboratories to enable data-driven agricultural decision-making and policy planning.

5.3 Co-Chairpersons' Remarks

Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Chief Patron, IAA & Director, ICAR-IARI concluded the session on an optimistic note, reaffirming that IARI possesses the scientific strength, human capital, and institutional legacy to emerge as a national model for agricultural entrepreneurship and innovation-led growth—transforming Indian agriculture into a globally competitive, knowledge-driven, and economically empowered sector.

Dr. Anil K. Singh while endorsing the views expressed by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, stressed upon the importance of strong linkages between the institute and industry sector to carry out impactful and meaningful research which will speed up the transfer of technology to the farmers with a focus on modern tools and technologies.

The outcome this session is detailed below:

- (i) **Core Message:** The session concluded with the collective understanding that “*Viksit Bharat is possible only with Viksit Krishi*” IARI being premier HEI, will thus play a key role in *Viksit Bharat* through producing quality human resource for *Viksit Krishi*.
- (ii) **Economic Aspiration:** Realizing India's vision of a US\$ 5 trillion economy requires transforming agriculture into an innovation-driven and enterprise-oriented sector.

- (iii) **Need for Strategic Shift:** The agricultural research ecosystem of IARI must enable seamless transition of scientific innovations into market-ready solutions that deliver measurable societal and economic impact.
 - (a) IARI should evolve from a purely research-focused institute to a comprehensive entrepreneurial hub.
 - (b) The institute must nurture innovation, support agri-startups, and empower farmers through technology integration and enterprise development.
- (iv) **Institutional Reforms:** Embed entrepreneurship within IARI's academic and governance systems and establish Institute Innovation Council (IIC) as a central mechanism to promote innovation and startup culture.
- (v) **Collaborative Ecosystem:**
 - (a) Forge strategic partnerships with national and international incubators, investors, and technology accelerators.
 - (b) Facilitate cross-sectoral collaborations for scaling innovations and enhancing market linkages.

6. Technical Session 4: Youth Forum on “IARI International”

The session was co-chaired by **Dr. R. C. Agrawal**, Former Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR, and **Dr. A. K. Singh**, Former Director, IARI, and convened by Dr. K. K. Vinod, Associate Dean (International Affairs) with Dr. Ambika Rajendran as rapporteur.

The session aimed to capture the perspectives, aspirations, and innovative ideas of young scientists and students on transforming IARI into a globally recognized higher education and research institution. The forum reflected the enthusiasm, creativity, and determination of IARI's youth to contribute to the institute's journey towards global visibility and leadership.

6.1 Lead Lecture

Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research), ICAR-IARI emphasized the pivotal role of youth in driving IARI's internationalization. He proposed the establishment of an “IARI Global Campus” to promote international linkages, student and faculty exchanges, and partnerships with leading universities and research organizations worldwide. He urged young scientists to position themselves as global ambassadors of Indian agricultural science through impactful research, cross-border collaborations, and leadership in emerging areas.

6.2 Invited Presentations

The Youth Forum featured a series of insightful presentations by young scientists from various divisions of ICAR-IARI, each offering a unique perspective on strengthening the institute's global standing and advancing its internationalization agenda.

Ms. Sakshi Kumari Singh, a postgraduate student from the Division of Seed Science and Technology, opened the session by presenting her award-winning essay titled “*Envisioning IARI to be a World Class Research & Higher Education Institution.*” Her presentation eloquently captured the aspirations of young scholars to be part of a globally connected academic ecosystem. She emphasized the importance of fostering international exposure, collaborative research, and inclusive academic environments that empower students to contribute meaningfully to global agricultural challenges.

Dr. Vishal Singh Somvanshi, Principal Scientist from the Division of Nematology, underscored the need to create and sustain a robust scientific ecosystem that nurtures high-quality research, fosters innovation, and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. He advocated establishment of institutional mechanisms that empower young researchers to align their work with IARI's strategic research goals, thereby enhancing the institute's global research footprint.

Dr. Amalendu Ghosh, Senior Scientist from the Division of Plant Pathology, drew upon his extensive international experience to highlight the critical role of digital visibility in global engagement. He proposed the development of a dynamic and interactive institutional website, coupled with a strategic social media presence, to enhance IARI's global outreach. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of improving campus ambience and infrastructure to attract international students and foster a welcoming environment for global collaborations.

Dr. Vignesh Muthusamy, Senior Scientist from the Division of Genetics, introduced the ABC Model as a strategic framework for IARI's global engagement. The model comprises three pillars: **A – Autonomy**, which calls for greater academic and operational independence to foster innovation; **B – Building Linkages**, which emphasizes the importance of forging strong international partnerships; and **C – Capacity Building**, which focuses on enhancing institutional and individual competencies through global



exposure and training. His presentation highlighted the need for structural reforms and strategic planning to position IARI as a globally competitive institution.

Dr. Veda Krishnan, Senior Scientist from the Division of Biochemistry, presented the **DREAM** Model to guide IARI's transformation into a world-class institution. The model includes **D – Diversity**, promoting inclusivity and multiculturalism; **R – Research Excellence**, focusing on high-impact, globally relevant research; **E – Educational Excellence**, ensuring quality teaching and learning outcomes; **A – Academic and Alumni Excellence**, leveraging the strength of IARI's academic community and alumni network; and **M – Management**, advocating for efficient governance and strategic leadership. Her model reflected a comprehensive and forward-looking vision for institutional development.

Dr. R. S. Bana, Senior Scientist from the Division of Agronomy, concluded the youth presentations by emphasizing the importance of foreign investments and international collaborations in enhancing research infrastructure and promoting cross-border innovation. He highlighted the potential of global partnerships in mobilizing resources, advancing agricultural research, and positioning IARI as a hub for international scientific cooperation.

Together, these presentations showcased the intellectual foresight, leadership readiness, and global outlook of IARI's young scientists. Their contributions underscored the central role of youth in shaping the institute's international trajectory and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing IARI's mission on the global stage.

6.3 Co-Chairpersons' Remarks

Dr. A. K. Singh, Co-Chair of the session, commended the young scientists for their visionary contributions and articulation of the following foundational elements essential for IARI's global transformation:

- (i) **Investment in infrastructure and intellect:** He emphasized the need for strategic and sustained financial investment to build world-class research infrastructure on campus; nurturing intellectual capital through support to the innovation ecosystem, attracting global collaborations and empowering young scientists, encouraging academic excellence across all domains.
- (ii) **Internationalization:** Dr. Singh advocated expanding IARI's international footprint through student and faculty exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and partnerships with leading global institutions.
- (iii) **Interdisciplinary Integration:** He concluded by emphasizing the need for integrating diverse disciplines—such as genetics, agronomy, biochemistry, and data science—to address complex global agricultural challenges holistically.

To operationalize these elements, Dr. Singh proposed the establishment of a dedicated Communication and Coordination Centre at IARI. This Centre would oversee international collaborations, branding activities, and global outreach efforts, ensuring that IARI's achievements are effectively communicated to the world.

Dr. R. C. Agrawal, Co-Chair, echoed these sentiments and recommended the formulation of an actionable roadmap to implement the youth-led suggestions. He proposed the effective utilization of corpus and extramural funds to support strategic initiatives and called for the revival of Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) programmes to attract global talent and enhance research capacity. Furthermore, he emphasized the need to provide enhanced institutional support for youth-led innovation projects, ensuring that young scientists are not only contributors but also beneficiaries of IARI's global advancement strategy.

The young professionals were very forthcoming in their views and expressed that the institute must focus on the following:

- (i) **Attract and Retain Global Talent and Securing Global Grants:** Attract and retain global talent by formulating policies for international faculty recruitment and visiting professorships; leverage global grant opportunities to support cutting-edge, inclusive, and impactful projects.
- (ii) **Adopting Global Best Practices and External Benchmarking:** Internalization of global ranking metrics into its strategic planning, and steps to ensure that teaching excellence is accorded equal importance alongside research productivity. Undertake periodic reviews by international quality agencies to align with the world-class standards.
- (iii) **Establishment of off-shore campuses:** for enhancing academic reputation & economic growth and expanding reach.
- (iv) **Harnessing potential of IARI Alumni Network:** Use breadth, depth and reach of the IARI Alumni Association for extensive branding of IARI globally, forging linkages with industries & international institutes of repute and for fundraising.

7. Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA & Former Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR). The dais was adorned by the august presence of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI, and Chief Patron, IAA, Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, IAA & Former VC, RVSKVV, Gwalior and



Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Edn.) & Dean, ICAR-IARI & Patron, IAA. The highlights of the session are as follows:

Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, IAA & Former VC, RVSKVV, Gwalior presented the session-wise recommendations in detail. The deliberations over two days culminated in the recommendations for the way forward given in section 7.5 after the vote of thanks.



7.1 Felicitation of Best Essay Awardees

To elicit the thoughts and views of the students, an essay competition on the theme “**Envisioning IARI as a World-Class Research and Higher Education Institution**” was organized by The Graduate School, ICAR-IARI wherein entries were invited from UG and PG students from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and its off-campuses. The event was moderated by Dr. Monika A. Joshi, Professor, Seed Science & Technology. **A total of nine entries were received**, comprising five from undergraduate (UG) students and four from postgraduate (PG) students. Of these, six entries were from ICAR- IARI, New Delhi, and one each from NIBSM, Raipur; CRRI, Cuttack,



and Hyderabad hub. A committee constituted by the Joint Director (Edn.) & Dean, ICAR-IARI & Patron, IAA under the chairpersonship of Dr. Y.S. Shivay, Professor, Agronomy; evaluated the essays on the aforementioned theme. The evaluation was carried out based on the following criteria: quality of content, organization and logical structure, language and grammatical accuracy, and overall formatting and presentation.



Based on these criteria, the following students were felicitated in their respective categories:

Postgraduate (PG) Category:

- (i) Ms. Sakshi Singh, IARI, New Delhi – *First Position*
- (ii) Mr. Maga Vishnu, IARI, New Delhi – *Second Position*

Ms. Sakshi Singh had also presented her award-winning essay in Technical Session 4: “Youth Forum on “IARI International” wherein her presentation eloquently captured the aspirations of young scholars to be part of a globally connected academic ecosystem and was highly appreciated by the august gathering.

Undergraduate (UG) Category:

- (i) Ms. Shreya Mishra, Raipur – *First Position*
- (ii) Mr. Soham Bose, Cuttack – *Second Position*

As none of the UG awardees were able to attend the event in person, the certificates would be sent to them by mail. The organizers also recommended publishing the abstracts of all award-winning essays in the forthcoming issue of *The Graduate School Magazine, Pusa Krishiksha*.

7.2 Felicitation of the Convenors of Technical Sessions

The IAA organizers also acknowledged the efforts and seamless co-ordination of all the convenors of the various sessions; whose untiring efforts contributed to the success of the program.



7.3 Co-Chairpersons' Remarks

Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao, Chief Patron, IAA & Director, ICAR-IARI in his concluding remarks reaffirmed that efforts will be continued in a holistic manner to realize the recommendations emerging from the current seminar as to build a globally competitive, innovation-driven education ecosystem at ICAR-IARI.

Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA, appreciated the deliberations over the two days seminar and encouraged all the stakeholders to **“Walk the Talk”** by moving beyond discussion and actively implementing the seminar’s recommendations. He also encouraged IARI to foster an ecosystem that connects academia with industry; and emphasized upon capacity building of faculty, fostering innovation-driven culture, and an inclusive, forward-looking academic environment.

7.4 Vote of Thanks

The valedictory session concluded with a vote of thanks by **Dr. Anupama Singh**, Joint Director (Edn.) & Dean, ICAR-IARI & Patron, IAA who placed on record her sincere gratitude to the Director General, Dr. M. L. Jat for his constant guidance, encouragement, and valuable support, which played a crucial role in the successful organization of the seminar. She also expressed her deep appreciation to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for providing the necessary financial assistance and institutional backing. She expressed gratitude to Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA who was instrumental in meticulous planning of this seminar and under whose painstaking guidance from day one, the whole programme was executed. The unstinted support and guidance provided by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and Chief Patron, IAA was duly acknowledged. Special thanks were expressed to all the speakers for their excellent presentations which had provided a lot of implementable recommendations for the organizers as well as the participants of the seminar for their inputs through the lively pointed discussions. Dr. Anupama Singh also thanked all the IAA EC members and, last but not the least, all Co-Chairs, conveners & members of the various committees, as well as rapporteurs, who ensured that every aspect of the seminar was taken care of smoothly and efficiently and the seminar achieved its intended objectives and outcomes.

7.5 The Way Forward

Based on detailed discussion regarding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis, lead presentations by eminent speakers, the following key recommendations had emerged as the way forward.

1. Needed Institutional reforms from within

- (i) IARI by now has completed 120 years of glorious journey. Most of its buildings have become old. It now requires urgently a new State-of-Art world class infrastructure

that is efficient and impressive commensurate with its national status of fame. The new building plan for the entire institutional requirement be finalised at the earliest. All needed clearances and approvals for its construction be obtained on priority.

- (ii) IARI must apply for its recognition on priority as an Institute of Eminence by the Ministry of Education as per specified norms and conditions and get qualified to receive a grant of Rs.100 crores under the existing scheme.
- (iii) It is high time that its Academic Council and the institute management revisit the current academic structure and the programs, especially the divisional structure and the broad thematic interdisciplinary schools. The School system requires a critical relook as to how these could functionally be recognized, integrated, effective and inclusive. Such reorganization is urgently needed to ensure academic flexibility and inter-disciplinary interactions to address emerging challenges of national significance for which it has a niche.
- (iv) Faculty development should also be given high priority to build a global level ecosystem. For this, attention is required towards faculty and student exchanges with the best institutions of global ranking abroad. IARI alumni association be tasked to have a global IARI ambassadors' program for much needed industry linkages, international partnerships, fund raising and branding.
- (v) The proposed new infrastructure be such that it attracts international faculty, students (at least double the current number in next 5 years), postdoctoral researchers, and visiting professors. Towards this, a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem is to be created to attract the best talents both from public and private sectors. Therefore, it is critical now to strategically invest in modern laboratories, innovation centers of excellence, technology parks for collaborative research with private sector and digital learning platforms that help in building both advance teaching and research programs.
- (vi) It should develop an inclusive culture of research that integrates students at all levels into inquiry-based learning, encouraging curiosity-driven and mission-oriented research, avoiding duplication of what has already been addressed in the past. IARI must aim to establish the Centers of Excellence in emerging areas such as Artificial Intelligence; Digital Agriculture; Regenerative Agriculture; Nanotechnology; Post Harvest Management; to name a few.
- (vii) Institutional governance and administrative reforms are urgently need that are outcome, accountability and incentive based. Towards this, IARI must articulate a distinctive capability statement and value proposition. It needs to adopt a

transparent performance evaluation system around academic monitoring and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). It should internalize global ranking metrics into its strategic planning and re-channelize activities with emphasis on internationalization, inter-disciplinarity, flexibility and accountability. Organically embed innovation entrepreneurship, industry linkages, skilling and re-skilling of the faculty: aligning the performance indicators with global university ranking frameworks (ARWU/QS/THE), required ideal faculty-student ratio, research, output and citations, internationalization and industry linkage be the goals to be achieved.

- (viii) It would be highly desirable for have an external review of IARI by eminent experts to assess its academics activities and suggest needed reforms to align with the NEP-2020 and ensure greater academic flexibility and compliance with international standards and accreditation norms.
- (ix) Branding, visibility and alumni engagement be ensured by having a uniform and singular nomenclature of IARI in it's publications; digital infrastructure though redevelopment of unified ".edu.in" web domain of institute etc. It should also develop an institutional communication strategy to showcase achievements and success stories globally through digital platforms, social media and alumni networks.
- (x) There is a need for self-sustenance policy through diversification of financial resources; a MERU-model IARI must operate under a financially hybrid model balancing public support with self-generated resources. For this, IARI should establish a Global endowment fund to attract contributions from alumni, philanthropists and industries under CSR funding support.
- (xi) It is imperative that IARI introduces foundational course on entrepreneurship at postgraduate and doctoral levels as compulsory course, integrating innovation management, agribusiness planning, and venture creation, experiential learning, industry immersion, and start-up internships, institutionalize motivational lectures and interactive sessions with successful entrepreneurs to inspire students; create awards and recognitions to incentivize innovation and successful project completion.
- (xii) It is desirable for institute to apply for recognition through the International Accreditation Organization (IAO).

2. IARI Alumni engagement

- (i) One of the core attributes of world class universities, as also emphasized under the NEP 2020, is strong alumni networks and its engagement towards institute development and branding efforts.

- (ii) IARI must institutionalize and establish strong alumni engagement into the institute's academic and development strategy. Alumni Association hence be an integral wing to pro-actively contribute towards fostering international linkages through its network, mobilizing additional resources, and projecting IARI's achievements globally.
- (iii) Structured initiatives by the Alumni Association such as alumni awards, endowments, faculty exchanges, CSR funds mobilization seeking help of alumni entrepreneurs, regular interface with eminent alumni abroad be put in place soon and support can strengthen the institute's ongoing activities.
- (iv) The institute's image could be globally enhanced by leveraging global alumni network and facilitating global alumni engagement as mentors, visiting faculty and funding partners, being an important requirement for global ranking canvas.

3. Policy support needed from Council/DARE:

- (i) With its unparalleled legacy, exceptional faculty, and strong academic foundation, the institute possesses the intrinsic strengths to emerge as a world-class university in agricultural sciences provided the policy support from the Council in the following areas is catalyzed on priority:
- (ii) IARI's Rs. 4000 crores redevelopment plan, under consideration presently on no cost basis be given the highest priority for its approval by the ICAR, and the Government.
- (iii) Empower IARI to take independent academic, faculty development and partnership decisions within the overall ICAR framework. Also needed freedom to hire globally competent faculty and develop its own interdisciplinary course curricula would be critical to ensure academic excellence in future.
- (iv) Recruit no more than 50% alumni as faculty to avoid inbreeding and KPI based assessment of teachers/researchers/extension specialists. Also the students' admissions be purely based on merit though IARI's own national level entrance examination.
- (v) Scientists once posted in IARI as per its requirement be not transferred to ensure sustainability of education and innovation programs-so critical for global excellence.
- (vi) For scientists assigned with responsibilities such as Professors of disciplines, associate deans and similar others, there should be incentives created for their career progressions like those for Heads of Divisions selected through ASRB.
- (vii) Help IARI in fostering strategic partnerships for long term collaboration with leading agricultural universities abroad such as: University of Wageningen, UC

Davis, University of Cornell, UWA, etc. for joint research projects, dual-degree programs and need based faculty exchange.

- (viii) IARI to have the functional freedom to ink and implement joint work plans/MOAs with overseas institutions under agreed MoUs with ICAR.
- (ix) IARI and other deemed universities, state institutions of higher learning and research excellence be henceforth governed and linked directly for administrative control of Secretary, DARE through DARE for smooth and efficient functioning. DARE could also consider renaming all four DUs as Indian National Agricultural Universities - critical to become global institutions of higher ranking.

National Seminar on
**“IARI Towards World-Class
Higher Education Institution”**

Organized by

IARI Alumni Association & ICAR-Indian Agricultural
Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi

Date: September 29-30, 2025

Venue: ICAR Lecture Hall, II Floor, NASC, New Delhi 110012

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 29, 2025

08:30 AM – 09:30 AM **Registration**

09:30 AM – 10:45 AM **Inaugural Session**

Welcome and Setting the Context **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**
Chief Patron, IAA & Director, IARI, New Delhi

Address by Chief Guest **Dr. M.L. Jat**
Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, New Delhi

Address by Chairperson **Dr. R.S. Paroda**
President, IAA & Former Secretary, DARE & DG,
ICAR, New Delhi

Vote of Thanks **Dr. Anil Kumar Singh**
Secretary, IAA & Former VC, RVSKVV, Gwalior

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM **Group Photograph and Tea Break**

11:30 AM – 01:30 PM	Panel Discussion – Achieving Global HEI Ecosystem Co-Chairs: Prof. R.B. Singh , Former Director, IARI and Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi Dr. Sanjay Kumar , Chairman, ASRB, New Delhi Convener: Dr. Anil Dahuja , IQAC Coordinator, IARI Rapporteur: Dr. G. Prakash , IARI, New Delhi
Lead Lecture	Dr. Anupama Singh , Patron, IAA, & Dean, IARI, New Delhi
11:30 AM – 11:50 AM	<i>IARI as Global HEI-SWOT Analysis & Way Forward</i>
11:50 AM – 12:00 PM	Dr. P.K. Khosla , Chancellor, Shoolini University, Solan
12:00 PM – 12:10 PM	Dr. R.S. Kanwar , Former VC, LPU, Phagwara
12:10 PM – 12:20 PM	Dr. K. Maredia , Director, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources International Programs, Michigan State University
12:20 PM – 12:30 PM	Dr. Neena Mitter , Deputy Vice Chancellor Associate (Global Research), Charles Sturt University, Australia
12:30 PM – 01:30 PM	Discussion and Conclusion
01:30 PM – 02:30 PM	<i>Lunch Break</i>
02:30 PM – 05:00 PM	Expert Dialogue - Strategies to become MERU Co-Chairs: Dr. S.L. Mehta , Former VC, MPUAT, New Delhi Dr. Anupam Varma , Adjunct Professor, IARI Convener: Dr. Monika Joshi , IARI, New Delhi Rapporteur: Dr. R.S. Bana , IARI, New Delhi
Lead Lectures	Dr. Ajit Singh Yadav , ADG (Agril. Education)
02:30 PM – 02:50 PM	<i>ICAR -Initiatives towards implementation of NEP</i>
02:50 PM – 03:10 PM	Dr. Manoj Kumar Dhar , Director, Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), Ghaziabad <i>Strategic landscape of innovation ecosystem in AcSIR vs. IARI</i>
03:10 PM – 03:30 PM	Prof. U.P. Singh , Director, (IAS), BHU, Varanasi <i>Research Institute-cum-Deemed University's strategy to become MERU</i>
3:30 PM – 04:00 PM	Open discussion on the above presentations

4:00 PM – 04:20 PM	Dr. Avichal Raj Kapur , Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi <i>NEP in simple terms for IARI</i>
04:20 PM – 05:00 PM	Discussion and Conclusion
05:00 PM – 06:00 PM	Tea Break
06:00 PM – 07:00 PM	Plenary Lecture <i>Chair: Dr. R.S. Paroda</i> , President, IAA& Chairman, TAAS <i>Convener: Dr. Anil K. Singh</i> , Secretary, IAA <i>Rapporteur: Dr. Vignesh M</i> , IARI, New Delhi <i>Speaker: Prof. Kadambot Siddique</i> , Hackett Professor Chair, University of Western Australia, Perth <i>Untapped Opportunities for IARI Towards Global University</i>
07:00 PM – 08:30 PM	Networking Dinner

DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

09:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Technical Session - IARI to be a Vibrant Entrepreneurial Hub <i>Co-Chairs: Dr. Ch Srinivasa Rao</i> , Director, IARI, New Delhi <i>Dr. Anil K. Singh</i> , Secretary, IAA <i>Convener: Dr. Akriti Sharma</i> , IARI, New Delhi <i>Rapporteur: Dr. Subhashree Sahu</i> , IARI, New Delhi
	Lead Lecture Dr. R.C. Agrawal , Fmr. DDG (Edn.)
09:30 AM – 09:50 AM	<i>Lessons Learnt from the Incubators Established Under NAHEP</i>
09:50 AM – 10:30 AM	Lectures Dr. S. Baskar Reddy , Senior Advisor, Syngenta Foundation India Dr. P Malik , Agrinnovate Ltd., ICAR Mr. Hemendra Mathur , Investor & Co-Founder, ThinkAg
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Discussion and Conclusion
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Tea Break

11:30 AM – 01:30 PM **Panel Discussion – Youth Forum on ‘IARI International’**

Co-Chairs: **Dr. R.C. Agrawal**, Fmr. DDG (Edn.), ICAR
Dr. Ashok K. Singh, Fmr. Director, IARI

Convener: **Dr. K.K. Vinod**, IARI, New Delhi

Rapporteur: **Dr. Ambika Rajendran**, IARI, New Delhi

Lead Lecture **Dr. C. Viswanathan**, JD(R), ICAR-IARI

11:30 AM – 11:50 AM ***Role of youth towards IARI International***

11:50 AM – 01:00 PM **Mr. Ayush**, E&Y

QS Ranking-Priority setting for IARI

Presentation of Best Essay by **Ms. Sakshi Singh**

Dr. Veda Krishnan, Sr. Scientist, Biochemistry, IARI

Dr. Vishal Somvanshi, Pr. Scientist, Nematology, IARI

Dr. Amalendu Ghosh, Sr. Scientist, Plant Pathology, IARI

Dr. Vignesh M., Sr. Scientist, Genetics, ICAR-IARI

Dr. R.S. Bana, Senior Scientist, Agronomy

01:00 AM – 01:30 PM **Discussion and Conclusion**

01:30 PM – 02:30 PM ***Lunch***

02:30 PM– 04:00 PM **Valedictory Session**

Co-Chairs: **Dr. R.S. Paroda**, President, IAA

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Chief Patron, IAA &
Director, IARI

Presentation of Recommendations – Dr. Anil K. Singh,
Secretary, IAA

Award distribution to best essay awardees Concluding
Remarks by Co-Chairs

Felicitation of the Convenors of Technical sessions

***Vote of Thanks:* Dr. Anupama Singh**, Patron, IAA

04:00 PM ***Tea***

*An essay competition shall be organized by the Dean in advance for IARI UG & PG students. The topic will be “Envisioning IARI to be a World-class Research and Higher Education Institution”. The winner of the best essay (PG) will be asked to make a presentation of 10 minutes in the Panel Discussion. Awardees (1st & 2nd) will be given certificates in the Valedictory Session.

List of Participants

1. **Dr. A. Amarender Reddy**, IAA-EC, ICAR-NIBSM Raipur
2. **Dr. A. Kumar**, Division of Plant Pathology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
3. **Dr. Aditi Kundu**, Division of Agricultural Chemicals ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
4. **Dr. Ajit Singh Yadav**, ADG (Agri. Edu.), ICAR KAB II, New Delhi
5. **Dr. Akriti Sharma**, ZTM and BPD Unit ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
6. **Dr. Akshay Talukdar**, Controller of Examination ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
7. **Dr. Alka Singh**, Agricultural Economics ICAR- IARI, New Delhi
8. **Dr. Amalendu Ghosh**, Division of Plant Pathology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
9. **Dr. Ambika Rajendran**, Division of Genetics ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
10. **Dr. Anil Dahuja**, IQAC Coordinator, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
11. **Dr. Anil Gupta**, R L Agro Solution Pvt, Ltd., Shakti Nagar Delhi
12. **Dr. Anil Kumar Singh**, Secretary, IARI Alumni Association, New Delhi
13. **Dr. Anil Sirohi**, Division of Nematology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
14. **Dr. Anjali Anand**, Division of Plant Physiology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
15. **Dr. Anupam Varma**, Adjunct Professor, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
16. **Dr. Anupama Singh**, Dean, ICAR-IARI & Patron, IAA, New Delhi
17. **Dr. Anwasha Keshav**, ICAR, New Delhi
18. **Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh**, Fmr. Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
19. **Dr. Atul Kumar**, AD (PG), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
20. **Dr. Avichal Raj Kapur**, Joint Secretary, UGC, New Delhi
21. **Dr. C. Bharadwaj**, Division of Genetics ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
22. **Dr. C. Viswanathan**, JD(R), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
23. **Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**, Director, ICAR-IARI & Chief Patron, IAA, New Delhi
24. **Dr. Chirag Maheshwari**, Division of Biochemistry ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

25. **Dr. Dheer Singh**, Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal
26. **Dr. Dilip Kumar Kushwaha**, Division of Agricultural Engineering ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
27. **Dr. Dinesh Kumar**, Division of Food Science & Post Harvest Technology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
28. **Dr. D.S. Gurjar**, Water Technology Centre (WTC) ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
29. **Dr. G.K. Mahapatro**, Division of Entomology, New Delhi (IAA-EC)
30. **Dr. G. Prakash**, Division of Plant Pathology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
31. **Dr. Gograj Singh Jat**, Division of Vegetable Science IARI, New Delhi
32. **Dr. Gopala Krishnan S.**, Division of Genetics ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
33. **Dr. Gyan P. Mishra**, Division of Seed Science and Technology (SST) ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
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35. **Dr. Harshwardhan Choudhary**, Division of Vegetable Science IARI, New Delhi
36. **Dr. Jasdeep Chatrath Padaria**, Professor, MBB, NIPB, New Delhi
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38. **Dr. K.K. Vinod**, AD (IA), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
39. **Dr. K.K. Mondal**, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
40. **Prof. Kadambot Siddique**, Hackett Professor Chair, University of Western Australia, Perth (Online)
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43. **Dr. Lokesh Kumar**, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
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47. **Dr. M.S. Nain**, Division of Agricultural Extension ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
48. **Dr. M.S. Saharan**, Division of Plant Pathology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
49. **Dr. Malkhan Singh Gurjar**, Division of Plant Pathology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
50. **Dr. Manoj Kumar Dhar**, Director, Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research, New Delhi

51. **Dr. Markandey Singh**, Division of Floriculture & Landscaping ICAR-IARI
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53. **Dr. Mr. Hemendra Mathur**, Investor & Co-Founder, ThinkAg, New Delhi
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55. **Dr. Murtaza Hasan**, Division of Centre for Protected Cultivation Technology, ICAR-IARI
56. **Dr. Neena Mitter**, Deputy Vice Chancellor Charles Sturt University, Australia (Online)
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67. **Dr. R. Roy Burman**, ADG (Ext.), ICAR & Treasurer, IAA, New Delhi
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72. **Dr. R.S. Kanwar**, Former VC, LPU, Phagwara, Panjab (Online)
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74. **Dr. Radha Prasanna/Dr. Livleen Shukla**, Division of Microbiology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
75. **Dr. Rajeev Kaushik**, Division of Microbiology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

76. **Dr. Ram Asrey**, Division of Food Science & Post Harvest Technology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
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78. **Dr. Rashmi Singh**, Division of Agricultural Extension ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
79. **Dr. Ruchi Bansal**, Division of Plant Physiology ICAR, IARI, New Delhi
80. **Dr. S. Baskar Reddy**, Senior Advisor, Syngenta Foundation India, New Delhi
81. **Dr. S. L. Mehta**, Former VC, MPUAT, Udaipur
82. **Dr. S.S. Rathore**, Division of Agronomy ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
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99. **Dr. Vishal Somvanshi**, Division of Nematology ICAR-IARI, New Delhi
100. **Dr. Y.S. Shivay**, Division of Agronomy ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

Glimpses of the National Seminar

DAY 1



DAY 2





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