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Message from the President

Dear Esteemed Alumni,

It gives me immense pleasure to present the January–June 2026 edition of the IARI Alumni Association Newsletter. More than a chronicle of events, this newsletter reflects the growing strength, diversity, and global reach of our alumni community, as well as the collective efforts to advance the legacy of our alma mater.



During the past six months, the Association has made significant strides in strengthening alumni engagement and creating new opportunities for collaboration. I am particularly delighted by the enthusiastic response to the formation of the IARI USA Alumni Network, setting up five Regional Chapters across the country at Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar (already existing but now formally set up), Hyderabad, Jorhat and Pune; active participation of alumni in lectures, workshops, and strategic discussions aimed at transforming IARI into a global ranking institution.

This edition also celebrates the remarkable accomplishments of our fellow PUSAites. We warmly congratulate our alumni, who have been honoured with the Padma Shri by the Govt. of India, received prestigious national and international recognitions, and assumed leadership roles in the universities, research institutions, government, and international organisations. Their achievements continue to enhance IARI's reputation as a centre of scientific excellence, innovation, and public service.

A landmark achievement during this period has been the establishment of Five IARI Alumni Association Awards, made possible through the generous support of our alumni and well-wishers. These awards reflect our shared commitment of recognising the excellence, celebrating distinguished contributions, and inspiring future generations of agricultural scientists. I encourage all eligible alumni to compete for these awards.

As our alumni network continues to expand, now with credentials available of almost 7000 members, our efforts are aimed towards: strengthening lifelong engagement, mentoring young scientists and students, promoting national and international scientific collaboration, fostering innovation, and contributing to IARI's continued growth as an institution of global standing.

I sincerely thank all alumni whose valuable time, ideas, and generous support have strengthened our Association's activities. I also compliment the Editorial Committee for capturing various important achievements and initiatives to strengthen our alumni family.

I also invite every PUSAite to remain closely connected with the Association, participate actively in its activities, strengthen the regional/international chapters, and continue upholding the values of excellence and integrity, while contributing towards faster national agricultural growth.

With best regards.



(Dr. R. S. Paroda)
President
IARI Alumni Association

Alumni Connect

Follow-up Workshop on "IARI Towards a World-Class Higher Education Institution"



A follow-up workshop on "IARI Towards a World-Class Higher Education Institution" was held on 16th April 2026 at the Conference Hall, Prof. M. S.

Swaminathan Library, ICAR–IARI, under the chairmanship of Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA and Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–IARI, and Chief Patron of the IARI Alumni Association (IAA). The workshop reviewed the recommendations of the IARI–IAA National Seminar and deliberated on strategies to strengthen academic excellence, research, innovation, governance, international collaborations, and student support. Participants discussed implementation priorities and developed a phased roadmap for transforming IARI into a globally recognized, world-class higher education institution, reaffirming their commitment to collaborative action and periodic review of progress.

IAA Regional Chapters

To strengthen alumni engagement and facilitate regional networking, the IAA has established the following regional chapters. Alumni may contact the respective Conveners or Executive Committee (EC) Members for information on chapter activities and local events as listed in the table below.

S. No.	Location	Convener	EC Member
1.	Bhubaneswar	Dr. Srinivas Petikam ☎ 9040624745 ✉ sripost@gmail.com	Dr. Gagan Mahapatro ☎ 9968443944 ✉ gagan_gk@rediffmail.com
2.	Pune	Dr. Vijay Mahajan ☎ 9421005607 ✉ vijbmaha@yahoo.com	Dr. (Mrs.) Malavika Dadlani ☎ 9899366565 ✉ malavikadadlani@rediffmail.com
3.	Hyderabad	Dr. W. R. Reddy ☎ 8886991234 ✉ wrreddy@gmail.com	Dr. B. M. Prasanna ☎ 9717496805 ✉ b.m.prasanna@cgiar.org
4.	Bengaluru	Dr. S. Siddayya ☎ 9640689311 ✉ ssiddayya@gmail.com	Dr. S. Gutam ☎ 9005760036 ✉ gutam2000@gmail.com
5.	Jorhat	Dr. B. C. Deka ☎ 9435050050 ✉ bidyutdeka@yahoo.com	Dr. R. R. Burman ☎ 9999592555 ✉ burman_extn@hotmail.com

Meeting on Formation of the ICAR–IARI USA Alumni Chapter

By Dr. Prakash Kumar Jha, Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University, USA

The IARI USA Alumni Virtual Meeting, held on 19th April 2026, brought together 34 alumni from academia, research institutions, government, and industry across the United States to initiate the

formation of the IARI USA Alumni Network. Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA and Dr. Anil K. Singh, Secretary, IAA also attended the meeting virtually. The meeting focused on strengthening alumni engagement, fostering scientific collaboration, mentoring IARI students, and enhancing Indo–US



partnerships in agricultural research and education. Key discussions included establishing the network as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, creating an executive committee and communication platforms, and launching initiatives such as a distinguished lecture series, student mentorship and fellowship programs, alumni recognition awards, fundraising activities, and the first annual in-person alumni meeting.

Meeting on Formation of the IAA Pune Chapter

Contributed by Dr. (Mrs.) Malavika Dadlani, EC Member, IAA.



A meeting of the IAA Pune Regional Chapter, was held at the AV Hall, Heritage Building, College of Agriculture, Pune (Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth) on 17th May 2026 to plan its formal launch. The meeting was attended by several distinguished alumni, including Dr. Y. S. Nerkar, Dr. A. S. Dhawan, Dr. (Mrs.) Malavika Dadlani, Dr. Vijay Mahajan, Dr. Somkumar, and Dr. U. T. Desai, along with several senior office bearers.

A Steering Committee was constituted to facilitate the expedited establishment of the Pune Chapter. Dr. Pritam Shinde, Technical Officer to ADAC, Pune, welcomed the dignitaries and participants. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Dr. Vilas Kharche, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, for supporting the initiative and permitting the event to be held on the college campus.

International Scholar Exchange Programme with The Ohio State University

The Lal Carbon Center at The Ohio State University, led by Dr. Rattan Lal, has launched an International Scholar Exchange Programme with ICAR-IARI to strengthen collaboration in agricultural research, soil health, carbon management, and sustainable agriculture.

The programme enables IARI scientists to undertake advanced research at The Ohio State University under Dr. Lal's mentorship. Dr. Ram Swaroop Bana, the first IARI scholar, joined the programme in March 2026 and is benefiting from the Center's world-class research facilities and interdisciplinary research environment.



The initiative reflects Dr. Lal's enduring commitment to his alma mater and is expected to further strengthen the long-standing partnership between ICAR-IARI and The Ohio State University through collaborative research, innovation, and knowledge exchange.

IAA Plans Cafeteria at Its Premises

The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) is planning to establish a cafeteria within the IAA premises to provide a welcoming space for alumni, faculty, students, and visitors. In a generous philanthropic gesture, Dr. Ajai Rana, Founder and Managing Director of Savannah Seeds, has offered to support the construction of a pre-fabricated cafeteria structure. The proposed facility will enhance the amenities at the IAA premises and foster greater interaction and engagement among the IARI alumni community.



IAA Executive Committee Meeting



The Executive Committee of the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) met on 17th February 2026, 6th April

2026, and 19th June 2026 in hybrid mode, with the majority of Executive Committee members participating in person at the IAA Office. These meetings brought together committee members from across locations to deliberate on key matters related to alumni engagement, institutional development, governance, and the future activities of the Association. The discussions focused on strengthening alumni-institute linkages, enhancing alumni participation in upcoming initiatives, reviewing the progress of ongoing activities, and exploring new avenues to support the growth, outreach, and long-term development of both IARI and the IAA.

Framework Finalized for IARI Alumni Excellence Awards



The formats for the IAA Awards were finalized based

on the recommendations of the committee constituted by the Executive Council (EC) on 23rd June 2026, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and Chief Patron, IAA. The committee deliberated on various aspects of the awards to ensure a transparent, inclusive, and merit-based selection process. The finalized formats will provide a comprehensive framework for recognizing distinguished alumni and further strengthening alumni engagement with the Institute.

ICAR-IARI Strengthens Its Global Standing

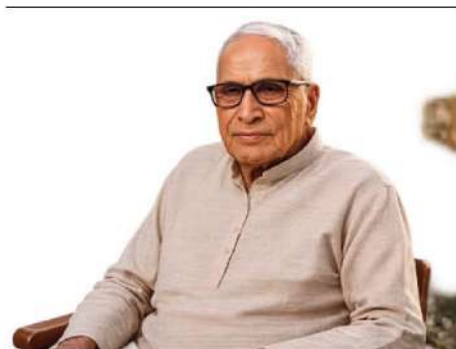


ICAR-IARI continued to reinforce its leadership in agricultural education and research through outstanding national and inter-national rankings. In 2026, IARI debuted in the QS World University Rankings by Subject, securing a place among the Top 151–200 globally in Agriculture & Forestry. The Institute also retained Rank No. 1 in the Agriculture & Allied Sectors category of the NIRF 2025–26 rankings and was ranked No. 1 in India for Agricultural Science and Forestry by EduRank 2026. IARI also earned notable positions in the Global University Rankings (GUR) and the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR), reaffirming its global reputation for excellence in agricultural research, education, and innovation.

Honours, Awards and Distinguished Achievements

IARI alumni Dr. Gopalji Trivedi, Dr. P. L. Gautam and Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh conferred Padma Shri by Hon'ble President of India

Dr. Gopalji Trivedi (Posthumous), an IARI alumnus and former Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), was conferred with the Padma Shri.



Prof. (Dr.) Prem Lal Gautam, an IARI alumnus and former Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was conferred with the Padma Shri.



Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri in recognition of his significant contributions to the development of advanced paddy varieties, agricultural research, and farmer-centric innovations.



Dr. R. S. Paroda Conferred D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) by ICAR–NDRI



The IARI Alumni Association proudly congratulates Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA on being conferred the prestigious Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) (Honoris Causa) by ICAR–National Dairy Research Institute during its 22nd Convocation held on 20th March 2026 at Karnal.

Pusa Krishi–Pusa Taksay Receives Best Incubator Award



Pusa Krishi–Pusa Taksay was conferred the Best Incubator Award on 9th March 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The award was presented by Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. This prestigious recognition celebrates Pusa Krishi's

significant contribution to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-led transformation in Indian agriculture.

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award Conferred on Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–IARI and Chief Patron, IAA was honoured with the prestigious Dr. M. S. Swaminathan Award on 18th April 2026. The award was presented by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Former Vice President of India.



IARI Alumnus receives Dr. S. K. Vasal Award for Excellence



Dr. Bhupender Kumar, an alumnus of IARI and Senior Maize Breeder at ICAR–Indian Institute of Maize Research (ICAR–IIMR), Ludhiana, has been conferred with the prestigious Dr. S. K. Vasal Award for Excellence in Crop Hybrid Research (2025) for his contributions to maize development by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS).

Institutional Events & Celebrations

ICAR–IARI and IARI Alumni Association Co-host Alumni Dinner During Convocation Week

As part of the 64th Convocation celebrations, ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) jointly hosted



the annual Alumni Dinner on 13th February 2026. The event brought together alumni from India and abroad with faculty members, retired scientists, students, and staff, celebrating their enduring bond with the Institute.

The Alumni Dinner provided an opportunity to reconnect with former classmates and teachers, exchange professional experiences, and strengthen collaborations across academia, research, government, industry, and international organisations. The gathering reflected the strength of the IARI alumni network and its continued commitment to the Institute.



Earlier, ICAR-IARI organized the Gold Medal Presentation Ceremonies for postgraduate and Ph.D. students on 8 – 9th February 2026. The week-long celebrations culminated in the 64th Convocation on 13th February 2026, where Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan conferred undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral degrees on more than 500 students, reaffirming IARI's excellence in agricultural education and research.

ICAR-IARI celebrates 122nd Foundation Day

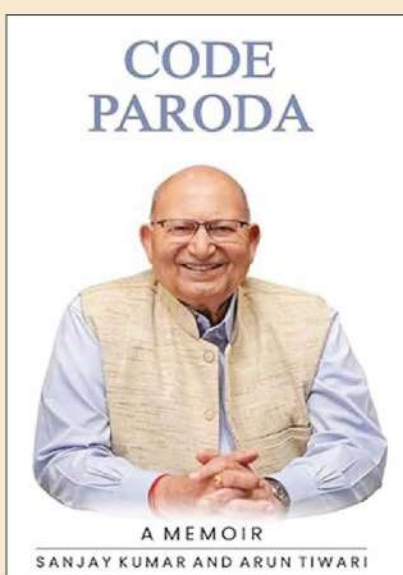


ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, celebrated its 122nd Foundation Day on 1st April 2026 at the Dr. B. P. Pal Auditorium. The event was graced by Mrs. Rekha Gupta, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi along with Shri Ravinder Singh (Indraj), Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Government of Delhi; Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR; Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and Chief Patron, IAA and other distinguished guests. Employees were felicitated for their outstanding contributions.

Code Paroda: A Memoir — Chronicles the Extraordinary Journey of Dr. R. S. Paroda

By Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, ASRB and Dr. Arun Tiwari, Former Senior Scientist, DRDO, and co-author of *Wings of Fire* with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

Code Paroda: A Memoir chronicles the inspiring life and legacy of Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda, President, IAA, eminent agricultural scientist, institution builder, Chairman, TAAS as well as former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR. The memoir traces his remarkable journey from a farming family in Rajasthan to becoming one of India's most influential leaders in agricultural research and education. Through engaging narratives and personal reflections, the authors highlight Dr. Paroda's visionary leadership in strengthening agricultural research institutions,



promoting the conservation of plant genetic resources, advancing technology-driven agricultural development, and fostering national and international scientific collaborations. The memoir also offers valuable insights into leadership, institution building, and public service.

More than a biography, Code Paroda: A Memoir is a tribute to a visionary whose lifelong contributions have transformed Indian agriculture and continue to inspire generations of scientists, students, alumni, and policymakers.

Institutional Milestones and Strategic Growth

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Lays Foundation Stone for Major Infrastructure Projects at ICAR-IARI

On 14th January 2026, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, laid the foundation stone for two major infrastructure projects at IARI, New Delhi, a ₹45 crore Girls' Hostel and a ₹60 crore Academic Building.



Robotics and AI Laboratory Inaugurated at ICAR-IARI

A state-of-the-art Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Laboratory was inaugurated at IARI, New Delhi, on 6th February 2026.



New Infrastructure and Research Facilities Inaugurated at ICAR-IARI, Assam

On 26th May 2026, several key infrastructure and



research facilities were inaugurated at IARI, Assam, by Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, in the presence of Shri Gyandendra Tripathy, IAS, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR; Dr. D. K. Yadava, DDG (Crop Science), ICAR; and Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, Assam. These newly inaugurated facilities, including the Kulsi Girls' Hostel, Nilachal Boys' Hostel, Sports Complex, and Farm Pond, will significantly strengthen the institute's academic, research, and student support infrastructure.

Climate Resilient Green Agriculture (CARIGAR) Lab Inaugurated

The CARIGAR Lab at the Division of Environmental Sciences, ICAR-IARI was inaugurated by Dr. M. L. Jat, DG, ICAR and Secretary, DARE on 5th June 2026. Established with support from the ICICI Foundation for Inclusive Growth under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, the CARIGAR Lab is envisioned as a hub for advancing sustainable agriculture research.



ICAR–IARI: Strategic Partnerships and Institutional Engagements

International Delegations Visit

A delegation from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, visited ICAR–IARI on 10th February 2026 to interact with scientists and faculty members and explore opportunities for academic collaboration, joint research, and knowledge exchange in agricultural science and innovation.



On 18th February 2026, H. E. Captain Edmundo Lara Montaño, Hon'ble Vice President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, accompanied by senior government officials, visited ICAR–IARI. Discussions focused on agricultural research, innovation, and strengthening bilateral cooperation in science and technology.



Connecting Research with Policy and Practice

On 5th March 2026, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–IARI and Chief Patron, IAA interacted with 170 IAS probationers of the 2025 batch at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie. He delivered a lecture on “Agricultural R&D and Policy Pathways for Viksit



Bharat,” where he emphasized the role of agricultural research, innovation, and evidence-based policymaking in achieving sustainable and inclusive national development.

FCI Leadership Visit



On 24th April 2026, Shri Naveen Kumar, AGM, Food Corporation of India (FCI) visited the IARI. During the visit, he interacted with scientists and officials of the institute and was apprised of the ongoing research, innovations, and technologies being developed to enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability, and food security.

Industry Meets 2026



ICAR–IARI organized two Industry Meets during this period to strengthen partnerships between academia and industry. The first, held on 30th January 2026, focused on the crop and horticultural sectors, while the second, on 23rd April 2026, emphasized Natural Resource Management. Both events brought together eminent scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, startups, researchers, and students to promote innovation, technology transfer, and collaborative research.

The meetings featured distinguished dignitaries, including Dr. M. L. Jat, Dr. Ramesh Chand, Dr. R. S. Paroda, Dr. H. S. Gupta, Dr. R. B. Singh, Dr. D. K. Yadava, and Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao. The April meet witnessed participation from 82 agro-industries, 105 industry representatives, 40 startups, and over 160



postgraduate and Ph.D. scholars, highlighting the growing importance of public–private partnerships in advancing sustainable agriculture and natural resource management.

Thought Leadership

Workshop on Science Communication for Students Held at ICAR–IARI

A two-day hands-on workshop, “*Students' Guide to Science Communication*,” was organized at IARI, New Delhi, from 7 – 8th May 2026. Jointly conducted by IARI and ICAR–Directorate of Knowledge Management in Agriculture (DKMA), the workshop focused on refining students' science communication and outreach skills, enabling them and clearly communicate scientific knowledge to diverse audiences.



IAA Lecture Series

Lecture on Climate Change in Dryland Agriculture



The IAA organized a lecture on “Innovations in Adaptation to Climate Change in Dryland Agriculture” by Dr. H. M. Kadambot Siddique, distinguished IARI alumnus at the Dr. B. P. Pal Auditorium, IARI on 28th April 2026. The programme was chaired by Dr. R. S. Paroda, former DG, ICAR and Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS).

The lecture highlighted the challenges posed by climate change in dryland ecosystems and discussed innovative research and management strategies for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of agriculture in arid and semi-arid regions. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from scientists, students, alumni, and stakeholders from the agricultural sector.

Prof. Kadambot Siddique interacts with IARI Management



On 28th April 2026, Prof. H. M. Kadambot Siddique held an interactive session with the management of the IARI. The discussions focused on strengthening research collaborations, addressing emerging challenges in agriculture, and exploring innovative approaches for enhancing the resilience and sustainability of farming systems in the face of climate change.

The interaction provided a valuable platform for exchanging ideas and fostering future partnerships in agricultural research and education.

Lecture by Dr. Vishweshwaraiah Prakash

Dr. V. Prakash, former Director of the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), and Distinguished Scientist, CSIR delivered a guest lecture on “Value Chain-Led Agriculture and Food Science for Better Nutrition” on 3rd June 2026. The lecture emphasized the critical role of integrating agriculture, food science, and nutrition through value-chain approaches to enhance food quality, nutritional security, and sustainable development. The session offered valuable insights to scientists, students, and stakeholders engaged in building resilient and nutrition-sensitive food systems.



Distinguished Lectures by IARI Alumni

56th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture



During the 56th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture at the 64th Convocation of IARI, New Delhi, on 12th February 2026, Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) and DG, ICAR, highlighted imperative to transform India's agriculture into resilient and sustainable agrifood systems that ensure nutrition security, environmental sustainability, and inclusive growth. He emphasized the “*One Health*” approach and the ICAR-ICMR-led SEHAT initiative, which links agriculture, nutrition, and health to improve public well-being through sustainable food systems.

Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Memorial Lecture by Dr. R. S. Paroda

On 4 – 5th June 2026, during the NAAS Foundation Day celebrations, Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda delivered the Swaminathan Memorial Lecture on “From Food Security to Farmers' Prosperity.” In his inspiring address, Dr. Paroda highlighted the importance of innovation, sustainability, and farmer-centric policies in advancing Indian agriculture and improving rural livelihoods. The lecture offered valuable insights into achieving long-term prosperity and resilience for farmers, while paying tribute to the visionary legacy of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan.



Beyond the Classroom

ICAR-IARI Achieves Distinction at AIU North-Central Zone Youth Festival



IARI marked a significant cultural achievement through its participation in the 39th Inter-University North-Central Zone Youth Festival 2025–26, held from 3 – 7th February 2026 and organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Re-entering the festival as a debutant, IARI was the only agricultural university among 27 participating institutions and competed in 22 events across music, dance, dramatics, literary, and fine arts. The Institute delivered an impressive performance, securing top-five finishes in Classical Dance (Solo), Folk Dance, and One Act Play.

ICAR-IARI, Assam Celebrates Foundation Day

IARI, Assam celebrated its Foundation Day on 26th May 2026, marking another year of excellence in agricultural research, education, and innovation. The occasion highlighted the institute's contributions to strengthening agricultural development in the North-Eastern region. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI & Chief Patron, IAA, emphasized the importance of leveraging modern infrastructure, scientific innovation, and quality education to accelerate sustainable agriculture and foster institutional growth.



PUSAites in Leadership

Padma Shri Dr. P. L. Gautam Appointed Chair of NBA Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity

The IAA fraternity congratulates Padma Shri Dr. P. L. Gautam, distinguished agricultural scientist, former Chairperson of the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and an esteemed IARI alumnus, on his appointment as the Chair of the reconstituted NBA Expert Committee on Agrobiodiversity. The Committee will provide expert guidance on the conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit-sharing of agricultural biodiversity. We wish that Dr. Gautam's leadership may strengthen national efforts towards safeguarding genetic resources, promoting sustainable agriculture, and advancing biodiversity conservation.



IARI Alumnus Appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office

Dr. C. Sridhar, an IAS officer of the 2001 Bihar cadre and an alumnus of the Division of Plant Breeding and Genetics, IARI, has been appointed as Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on 31st March 2026. His appointment to one of the country's most prestigious administrative positions is a matter of immense pride for the IARI fraternity. The IAA community extends its heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Sridhar and wishes him continued success in his distinguished career in public service.



IARI Alumnus Appointed Vice Chancellor of AAU

On 24th April 2026, Dr. D. J. Rajkhowa, a distinguished alumnus of the IARI, was appointed as the Vice

Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat. His appointment reflects his outstanding contributions to agricultural research, education, and leadership. The IAA fraternity congratulates Dr. Rajkhowa on this significant achievement and wishes him success in his new role.



IARI Alumnus Dr. Raman Babu Appointed Global Research Program Director at ICRISAT

Dr. Raman Babu, a proud alumnus of IARI, has been appointed as the Global Research Program Director – Accelerated Crop Improvement (ACI) at ICRISAT. An internationally recognized scientist with over 25 years of experience in crop improvement, plant breeding, and genomics, Dr. Babu's appointment is a matter of pride for the IAA fraternity and reflects the Institute's legacy of nurturing leaders in agricultural science.



Dr. Naveen P. Singh Appointed Assistant Director General (International Relations), ICAR

The IAA extends its heartiest congratulations to Dr. Naveen P. Singh on his appointment as ADG, ICAR. Dr. Singh's appointment reflects his distinguished contributions to agricultural research, leadership, and international cooperation. IAA wishes him great success in strengthening global partnerships and advancing India's agricultural research and innovation agenda.



Dr. M. Prabhakar Assumes Charge as Director, ICAR-ATARI, Bengaluru

The IAA extends its warm congratulations to Dr. M. Prabhakar on assuming charge as Director,



ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Bengaluru. A distinguished agricultural scientist and leader, Dr. Prabhakar has made significant contributions to agricultural research, extension, and technology dissemination. IAA wishes him success in his new role and in further strengthening the agricultural extension system and farmer outreach programmes in the region.

Dr. Hanuman Sahay Jat Appointed Director, ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur

Heartiest congratulations to Dr. Hanuman Sahay Jat on his appointment as Director, ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Jat served as Director of ICAR-Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana. His appointment reflects his outstanding contributions to agricultural research, natural resource management, and sustainable farming systems. The IAA extends its best wishes for his successful tenure and leadership in advancing research for arid and semi-arid regions of India.



IARI Alumnus Appointed Associate Dean

Heartiest congratulations to Dr. Bhanu Pratap, a distinguished alumnus of the IARI, on his appointment as Associate Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology (ANDUAT), Kumarganj, Ayodhya. This achievement reflects his dedication and significant contributions to agricultural education, research, and academic leadership. The IAA extends its best wishes for his successful tenure in this important role.



Shared Reflections and Memories

IARI Alumnus Graces International Women's Day Celebrations

Mrs. Priya Patil, IRS, a distinguished alumnus of the IARI, graced the ICAR–Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) International Women's Day Celebrations as the Chief Guest. Her presence and inspiring address highlighted the importance of women's leadership, empowerment, and contributions to nation-building, motivating researchers, students, and professionals alike.



IARI Alumnus Leads Yoga Day Celebrations in Birmingham



Dr. Venkatachalam Murugan, an IARI alumnus and Consul General of India in Birmingham, led the 12th International Day of Yoga 2026 celebrations at

Victoria Square, Birmingham, where over 500 participants joined in promoting the theme “Yoga for Healthy Ageing.” He highlighted Yoga as India's timeless gift to humanity and showcased several Government of India initiatives under Yoga Mahotsav 2026.

Farewell to IARI Alumnus Dr. Ramesh Chand

Shri Ajay Jakhar, Chairman of the Bharatiya Krishak Samaj, hosted a farewell function in honour of Dr. Ramesh Chand, former Member, NITI Aayog, on 8th May 2026 at The Claridges, New Delhi.

The programme was attended by Dr. K. V. Raju, Member, NITI Aayog; Dr. Ashok Gulati, renowned agricultural economist; Dr. R. S. Paroda, the President, IAA and several eminent personalities from the agricultural sector. The gathering applauded Dr. Ramesh Chand's outstanding contributions to agricultural policy and reforms during his distinguished tenure of over a decade as Member, NITI Aayog, and wished him continued success in his new role as Adjunct Professor at the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi.



Strengthening IAA through Philanthropy and Partnerships

Building a Strong Corpus Through the Generosity of Alumni and Well-Wishers

The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) now has a verified alumni database comprising 6,988 alumni, authenticated through their email IDs and/or mobile numbers. This growing network has significantly

strengthened alumni engagement and outreach.

Reflecting their enduring commitment to the Institute and the Association, alumni and well-wishers have contributed ₹1.77 crore towards the IAA corpus as fixed deposits. These generous contributions have helped build a strong corpus fund to support the

Association's long-term programmes and initiatives.

Gold Donors (₹5 Lakh Each)

The Association gratefully acknowledges the following Gold Donors, each of whom has contributed ₹5 lakhs towards the corpus fund:

- Dr. R. S. Paroda
- Dr. B. M. Prasanna
- Dr. S. K. Vasal
- Dr. A. K. Padhee
- Dr. Himanshu Pathak
- Dr. Mohan Saxena
- Dr. S. K. De Datta
- Dr. Rattan Lal
- Dr. Ashok K. Singh
- Dr. C. Viswanathan
- Dr. S. Baskar Reddy
- Dr. G. R. Chintala
- Dr. Manmohan Kohli
- Dr. Sanjay Swarup
- Dr. Ravi Kota

Donor Category	Number
Gold	15
Silver	3
Bronze	72

The IARI Alumni Association expresses its heartfelt gratitude to all alumni and well-wishers whose generosity and continued support are strengthening the Association, expanding alumni engagement, and enabling it to serve the IARI community more effectively.

Dr. Srinivasa Rao Linga Commits ₹1 Crore to IAA

Dr. Srinivasa Rao Linga, an accomplished agricultural scientist, entrepreneur, and Founder & Chairman of the Srikar Group of Companies, has made a generous commitment to the IARI Alumni Association (IAA). Hailing from Mutukuru Village, Palnadu District, Andhra Pradesh, he has made significant contributions to Indian agriculture.



Dr. Linga has committed to contribute ₹20 lakh per annum for five years (a total of ₹1 crore) to the IAA. This generous contribution will strengthen the Association's corpus fund and support its long-term programmes and initiatives for the benefit of the IARI community.

IAA Support for Graduates' Student Union

The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) has committed to providing ₹2 lakh per annum to the Graduates' Student Union (GSU) of IARI in support of student activities. The funding will help promote academic, cultural, professional, and leadership initiatives while strengthening engagement between alumni and students.

In Memoriam

Tributes to Padma Shri Dr. Gopalji Trivedi



Padma Shri Dr. Gopalji Trivedi (15th February 1930 – 12th May 2026), former Vice Chancellor of RPCAU and a distinguished IARI alumnus, passed away on 12th May 2026. A visionary leader and stalwart of Agricultural Extension, he made outstanding contributions to agricultural education, research, and extension, leaving an enduring legacy that continues to inspire generations of agricultural professionals. The IAA pays its heartfelt tributes to Dr. Trivedi and extends sincere condolences to his family. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

IAA Mourns the Passing Away of Dr. T. C. Jain



The IAA expresses profound grief over the demise of Dr. Tikam Chand Jain, former Assistant Director General (ICAR), Senior Expert at the World Bank, and a distinguished IARI alumnus, on

24th March 2026. Dr. Jain made significant contributions to agricultural research, development, and international cooperation during his illustrious career. The Association pays heartfelt tributes to his memory and extends its sincere condolences to his family. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

IAA Mourns the Demise of Dr. D. Damodar Reddy



Dr. D. Damodar Reddy (15th June 1967 - 22nd March 2026), Principal Scientist, ICAR-NAARM, former Director of ICAR-Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), and a distinguished IARI alumnus, passed away in Hyderabad on 22nd

March 2026 following a heart attack. He made significant contributions to agricultural research and institutional development through his dedicated service. The IARI Alumni Association expresses its profound grief, extends heartfelt condolences to his family, and pays tribute to his lasting contributions to Indian agriculture. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

IAA Mourns the Loss of Prof. K. R. Sarkar

The IAA fraternity deeply mourns the demise of Prof.



K. R. Sarkar (2nd January 1939 - 23rd June 2026), former Professor, Division of Genetics, IARI, New Delhi, who passed away on 23rd June 2026. A distinguished geneticist and inspiring teacher,

Prof. Sarkar influenced generations of students through his teaching, particularly the GENE-100 course, and his valuable contributions to agricultural education and research. The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) pays heartfelt tributes to his memory and extends its sincere condolences to his family, colleagues, students, and well-wishers. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Latest Announcements

The following awards have been instituted by the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) through a corpus fund created by alumni and well-wishers of IARI.

IARI Alumni Association Awards - 2026

IARI Alumni Association (IAA) invites nominations by eligible candidates for the following awards:

- (1) Best Researcher Award (One)
- (2) Best Teacher Award (One)
- (3) Best UG Student Award (Three)

The nomination form and other details may be downloaded from the IARI Alumni Association website (<https://alumni.iari.res.in/>) or ICAR-IARI website (<https://iari.res.in/en/alumni-association.php>). The proforma duly filled along with all relevant documents (as pdf) are to be submitted on or before 5.00 pm on 31st August 2026 through email (iari.iaa.1992@gmail.com).

Secretary, IAA

IAA Activities Planned for July–December 2026

The IARI Alumni Association has planned the following activities for the second half of 2026:

1. **IAA Awards 2026:** Applications and nominations for the IARI Alumni Association Awards will be invited through the July 2026 issue of the IAA Newsletter and the IAA and ICAR-IARI (all campuses) websites. The last date for submission of applications and nominations is 31st August 2026. Following the evaluation process, the awardees will be announced in November 2026.
2. **Hyderabad Regional Chapter Meeting:** The IAA Hyderabad Regional Chapter Meeting is scheduled to be held during the first half of July 2026, under the leadership of Dr. B. M. Prasanna.

3. **IAA Distinguished Lecture:** The next IAA Lecture by Dr. Kashmir Singh is tentatively scheduled for 10th August 2026. An IARI alumnus, Dr. Singh joined the Indian Police Service after completing his Ph.D. at IARI and went on to serve the nation with distinction while also excelling in golf at both the national and international levels.

4. **Visit of Dr. S. K. De Datta:** Globally renowned scientist and IARI alumnus Dr. S. K. De Datta is expected to visit ICAR-IARI on 4 – 5th September 2026. In addition to his generous contribution of ₹5 lakh to the IAA, he has donated ₹1 crore to ICAR-IARI for establishing a state-of-the-art laboratory in the Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry in his honour. The laboratory is expected to be inaugurated during his visit. The IAA also plans to felicitate Dr. De Datta and organize an interaction with him at the IAA Office.

5. **IAA Foundation Day 2026:** The IAA Foundation Day will be celebrated on 2nd December 2026.

IAA Publications

During the period, the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) published two important publications aimed at contributing to the Institute's vision of academic excellence and institutional development:

1. **IARI Towards a World-Class Higher Education Institution: A Way Forward**
2. **National Seminar on IARI Towards a World-Class Higher Education Institution – Proceedings and Recommendations** (ISBN: 978-81-999542-9-8)

These publications present valuable perspectives and recommendations to support IARI's continued pursuit of excellence in agricultural education, research, and innovation.

Shared Memories



Some PUSAites at the IARI Industry Meet, held on 24th April 2026 at IARI, New Delhi.



Dr. Chandra Prakash and Dr. M. R. Dhiman, esteemed IARI alumni, at Katrain on 24th April 2026.



Alumni at Floriculture & Landscape Division.



A glimpse of Shri L. N. Mishra's visit to IARI, New Delhi.



A memorable still from ISRO, highlighting interactions and experiences during the visit.



IARI Alumni Dr. Ajay Kumar Minister (Commerce) of the Embassy of India, Washington DC recent visit to IARI.

ICAR-INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEW DELHI

★ STUDENTS' SUCCESS ★

**IARI SCHOLARS CLINCH
IAUA OUTSTANDING Ph.D. THESIS AWARDS**



DR. SHILPA S. SELVAN

FIELD OF EXCELLENCE:
AGRICULTURAL
PROCESSING & STRUCTURES



**IAUA
OUTSTANDING
Ph.D. THESIS
RESEARCH
AWARD 2025**



DR. MANOJIT CHOWDHURY

FIELD OF EXCELLENCE:
FARM MACHINERY &
POWER ENGINEERING

★ AWARD GIVEN UNDER AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING CATEGORY ★

— Congratulations! —

Division of Agricultural Engineering, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

**GATE-2026
Agricultural Engineering - Our Achievers**

Shivangi - AIR 03	Sakshi Raj - AIR 21
Kumar Vaibhav - AIR 22	Samiksha - AIR 25
Anuj - AIR 27	Krishna Bansal - AIR 31
Shauryavardhan - AIR 36	Aniket Raj - AIR 74
Naresh Kumawat - AIR 91	Rohit - AIR 91
Abhinav Kumar - AIR 95	Sumit Patel - AIR 117
Himanshu Ranjan - AIR 179	Aman Kumar - AIR 237

ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Our students: Our pride

ISRO Scientist (Agriculture): 6/8

— Congratulations —



Ms Suman (Ag Physics)



Mr Bijan Kr Mondal (SS&AC)



Mr Ayan Sarkar (Agronomy)



Ms Souramita Chakraborty (Ag Physics)



Ms Sudipta Basu (Ag Physics)



Ms Kalyani Vishwas Patil (SS&AC)