

CONTENTS

Message from the President	1
Executive Committee (2024–26)	2
IARI Alumni in Academic and Industry Leadership	2
ALUMNI Focus @Abroad	3
Institutional Achievements & Rankings	4
Alumni Spotlight	4
Alumni Engagement in Global Forums and Public Service	6
Flashback Moments	8
Alumni Reunions & Campus Connect	8
Alumni Association Initiatives & Institutional Engagement	9
Students' Corner	12
In Memoriam	12
Secretary's Report	13
Fund Raising Initiatives by IARI Alumni Association	14
Connect with IARI Alumni Association	14
Appeal	15
Photo Gallery	16

Message from the President

Dear Alumni,
Greetings from IAA!

It is a great pleasure to present our IARI Alumni Newsletter for July–December 2025, reflecting the exciting activities during the period. The coverage reflects the continued excellence, leadership, and global impact of IARI alumni, alongside the growing engagement of our Association with Alma Mater.



This issue highlights the remarkable achievements of our alumni in academia, scientific leadership, public service, diplomacy, and industry. From leadership roles in the national and international scientific bodies to prestigious awards and fellowships, our alumni continue to influence agricultural policy, climate-resilient farming, food security, and innovations worldwide. These accomplishments reaffirm IARI's legacy as a premier institution in the country.

A major milestone during this period was the IAA–IARI National Seminar on “IARI Towards a World-Class Higher Education Institution”, which brought together around a hundred eminent scientists, policymakers, and international experts to deliberate as to how we can strengthen IARI global standing through needed reforms in existing curriculum, interdisciplinary research, global partnerships, and innovation ecosystem.

The conduct of successful General Body Meeting, 34th Foundation Day celebration, alumni reunion, and vibrant student cultural programme on December 2, 2025 demonstrated clearly the alumni bonding and the shared commitment to elevate IARI as a global institution of higher standing.

I am particularly happy about the formal launch of the USA Chapter of our association. It is a significant step forward towards strengthening our global engagement, and international collaboration.

In the coming months, IAA will focus on structured alumni mentoring, institution of a few merit recognition awards, faculty development initiatives, stronger industry–academia linkages, setting up a few regional chapters, and enhanced digital engagement among our alumni.

I sincerely thank the members of Executive Committee for their unwavering support throughout. Together, we shall continue nurturing our Alma Mater to attain new heights.

Finally, I wish you and your family a very happy and prosperous New Year 2026.

With best regards,



R. S. Paroda
President, IARI Alumni Association

Executive Committee (2024–26)

Dr. R. S. Paroda – President

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–IARI – Member (Chief Patron)

Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean, ICAR–IARI – Member (Patron)

Dr. R. C. Agrawal – Vice President

Dr. G. K. Mahapatro – Vice President

Dr. Anil Kumar Singh – General Secretary

Dr. Sridhar Gutam – Joint Secretary

Dr. Rajarshi Roy Burman – Treasurer

Dr. B. M. Prasanna – Member

Dr. Malvika Dadlani – Member

Dr. A. Amarender Reddy – Member

Dr. V. Govindaswamy – Member

Dr. Manu S. M. – Member

Dr. Baskar Reddy – Member (Industry Representative)

Dr. K. V. Prabhu – Member (Ex-Officio)

Dr. S. L. Mehta – Member (Ex-Officio)

Dr. S. Baskar Reddy Inducted as EC Member (Industry Representative), IARI Alumni Association

Dr. S. Baskar Reddy has been inducted as an Executive Committee Member of the IARI Alumni Association as the Industry Representative in year 2025. He is Senior Advisor at Syngenta Foundation India, Advisor (Agriculture) at FICCI, and a Consultant with IFC, World Bank Group. He holds a Ph.D. in Soil and Water Conservation Engineering from IARI, New Delhi, and has over 20 years of experience in the agriculture business sector.



IARI Alumni in Academic and Industry Leadership

Dr. M. L. Jat was elected as president NAAS for the period of 2026-28

On the successful completion of his term as President of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) on 31st December 2025, sincere appreciation is extended to Dr. Himanshu Pathak for his effective and visionary leadership. His tenure significantly strengthened NAAS's role in promoting excellence in agricultural research, science-based policy, and sustainable development. Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director



General, ICAR, was elected as President, NAAS. Notably, both Dr. Himanshu Pathak and Dr. M. L. Jat are distinguished alumni of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), reflecting IARI's enduring contribution to national leadership in agricultural sciences.

ISSS: Successful Completion of Dr. Himanshu Pathak's Term



On the successful completion of his term as President, Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS), Dr. Himanshu Pathak is sincerely acknowledged for his contributions to advancing soil science research, professional engagement, and capacity building in

the country. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, was elected as President, ISSS for a period of two years viz. 2026, 2027. Dr. Srinivasa Rao is an alumnus of IARI and also serves as the Chief Patron of the IARI Alumni Association.

Dr. K. Dhanumjaya Rao Appointed Vice-Chancellor

Dr. K. Dhanumjaya Rao, an IARI alumnus, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Dr. Y. S. R. Horticultural University, marking an important milestone in his academic and administrative career. One of the youngest Vice-Chancellors to lead the University, his appointment reflects his leadership, vision, and contributions to horticultural education and research. His stewardship is expected to further strengthen the University's focus on innovation, academic excellence, and sustainable



horticultural development. The IARI alumni fraternity extends warm congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Rao on this prestigious responsibility.

From IARI to Industry Leadership: Dr. Bhanukiran



An alumnus of IARI with a PhD in Agricultural Entomology, Dr. Bhanukiran has completed 25 years of distinguished service at Bayer Crop Science. Since joining Bayer in 2000, he has played a pivotal role in the testing and commercialization of Bt cotton hybrids across India, supporting large-scale farmer adoption through extensive outreach. Currently, he leads Direct-to-Farmer (D2F) digital advisory initiatives, shaping Bayer's digital agriculture roadmap to benefit smallholder farmers. His work across transgenic crops, digital advisory, and farmer-centric innovation aligns closely with Bayer's vision of "Health for All, Hunger for None".

ALUMNI Focus @Abroad

V. Ponnuraj, IAS, Senior Advisor, Asian Development Bank



V. Ponnuraj, IAS, an IARI alumnus, is working as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director, Asian

Development Bank (ADB), Manila. In this role, he contributes to strategic policy advice and supports decision-making on regional development priorities, economic policy, and multilateral co-operation across Asia and the Pacific. With his extensive experience in public administration and governance, Mr. Ponnuraj brings valuable insights from India's development landscape to ADB's global platform. The IARI alumni fraternity extends best wishes to him in this important international assignment.

Dr. Venkatachalam Murugan, Consulate General of India, Birmingham

Dr. Venkatachalam Murugan, IFS, an IARI alumnus, is currently serving abroad as Consul General of India, Birmingham (UK). With a distinguished career in the Indian Foreign Service, he has been contributing to strengthening India's diplomatic engagement and consular services for



the Indian diaspora. The IARI alumni fraternity takes pride in his international service and extends best wishes for his continued contributions in representing India overseas.

Dr. Ajay Kumar, Minister (Commerce), Embassy of India, Washington, DC

Dr. Ajay Kumar, an IARI alumnus with a PhD in

Agronomy, is currently serving as Minister (Commerce) at the Embassy of India, Washington, DC. A 2002-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, he has had a

distinguished diplomatic career with diverse international and headquarters assignments, contributing significantly to India's trade, commercial, and economic diplomacy. The IARI alumni fraternity takes pride in his achievements and extends best wishes for his continued service in strengthening India's global economic engagement.



Institutional Achievements & Rankings

IARI Shines in NIRF 2025 Rankings

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, has once again reaffirmed its national leadership by securing the No. 1 rank in the Agriculture & Allied Sectors category of the NIRF



India Rankings 2025. IARI also achieved an impressive 2nd rank in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) category, highlighting its strong commitment to sustainability and nation-building. The Institute recorded commendable performance across other categories as well, ranking 24th Overall, 16th among Universities, and 29th among Research Institutions. These achievements reflect IARI's excellence in education, research, innovation, and outreach. The IARI fraternity proudly acknowledges the collective efforts of its faculty, researchers, students, and alumni in strengthening the Institute's legacy. The NIRF 2025 rankings stand as a testament to IARI's continued impact on agricultural advancement, food security, and sustainable development in India.

Alumni Spotlight

Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia Awarded Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025

Dr. Satendra Kumar Mangrauthia, an IARI alumnus and Principal Scientist at ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), Hyderabad, has been awarded the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2025 under the Vigyan Yuva category (Agricultural Sciences) on 23rd December 2025. This prestigious national

honour recognises his outstanding contributions to agricultural biotechnology and impactful scientific innovation supporting sustainable agriculture and food security. The IARI alumni fraternity proudly congratulates Dr.



Mangrauthia on this distinguished achievement, which reflects the Institute's enduring legacy of excellence in science and leadership.

Prof. Kadambot Siddique honoured with Crawford Fund Medal



Professor Kadambot Siddique AM, a distinguished alumnus of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and Hackett Professor of Agriculture and Director, UWA Institute of Agriculture, University of Western Australia, has been honoured with the 2024 Crawford Fund Medal at the 2025 Crawford Fund for Food Security Annual Conference held on 12th August 2025. The award recognises his over three decades of eminent contributions to international agricultural research, education, and capacity building, particularly in crop physiology, production agronomy, farming systems, and crop improvement across several regions of the world. The IARI alumni fraternity proudly congratulates Prof. Siddique on this prestigious global recognition.

Dr. S. P. Singh Wins Australia's National Food Safety Award



Dr. Sukhvinder Pal Singh (S. P. Singh), an IARI alumnus, has been honoured with the Food Safety Award 2025 by the Australian Institute of Food

Science and Technology (AIFST) at the AIFST25 held in Melbourne on 12th August 2025, in recognition of his significant contributions to food safety research and practice in Australia. Currently serving as a Senior Research Scientist with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Dr. Singh has played a key role in strengthening food safety across the supply

chain, including leadership in initiatives to restore consumer confidence in fresh produce. The IARI alumni fraternity congratulates him on this well-deserved international recognition.

Dr. Prasanna Boddupalli Receives 2025 International Crop Science Award



Dr. Prasanna Boddupalli, a distinguished IARI alumnus and former Director of CIMMYT's Global Maize Program and Regional Director for Asia, has been awarded the 2025 International Crop Science Award by the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) at CANVAS 2025 held from 9-12 November 2025 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. This prestigious global recognition honours his visionary scientific leadership, innovation, and international impact in crop science. Dr. Boddupalli's contributions have significantly strengthened global maize improvement programmes, advanced international collaboration, and improved agricultural productivity and livelihoods across regions. The IARI alumni fraternity proudly congratulates him on this outstanding achievement.

Dr. Prakash Kumar Jha Receives 2025 American Society of Agronomy Early Career Award

Dr. Prakash Kumar Jha, an alumnus of IARI and Assistant Professor of Agricultural Climatology at Mississippi State University, has been awarded the 2025 Early Career Award by the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and



Soil Science Society of America at CANVAS 2025 held from 9-12 November 2025 in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. This prestigious recognition honours his impactful contributions to climate-smart agriculture and sustainability outcomes across agricultural landscapes, while fostering strong collaborations among researchers, students, producers, and industry partners. The award also recognizes his commitment to mentorship, interdisciplinary innovation, and leadership within the agronomy, crop, and soil science communities as chair of the early career committee at ASA-CSA-SSSA. The IARI alumni fraternity congratulates Dr. Jha on this well-deserved achievement and looks forward to his continued contributions to advancing resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.

IAA EC member Honoured with NAAS Fellow

The IARI Alumni Association congratulates Dr. A. Amarendra Reddy, EC Member, IARI Alumni



Association, on being elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), with effect from 1st January 2026, a prestigious national recognition for excellence in agricultural science and evidence-based policymaking, and as a Fellow of the Telangana Academy of Sciences in recognition of his significant contributions to science and policy-oriented research, bringing pride to the IARI alumni community.

Alumni Engagement in Global Forums and Public Service

IARI Alumni Participate in World Food Prize Foundation DialogueNEXT, New Delhi



Several distinguished IARI alumni participated in the *World Food Prize Foundation DialogueNEXT*, held on 8–9 September 2025 at the ICAR Convention Center, New Delhi, and organised in collaboration with CIMMYT, the Borlaug Institute for South Asia, and ICAR. The dialogue, themed “Take it to the Farmer,” focused on farmer-centric innovations in agri-tech, climate- and water-smart agriculture, youth leadership, and nutritious food

systems. Participating IARI alumni included Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda, Dr. Ramesh Chand, Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Dr. Cherukumalli Srinivasa Rao, Dr. B. M. Prasanna, Dr. Pratap Singh Borthal, and Dr. Satendra Mangrauthia. Held on World Agriculture Day, the event highlighted India's leadership in agricultural innovation and global food security.

IARI Alumnus Delivers Lecture on Climate-Resilient Agriculture at LBSNAA



Dr. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, IAS (1996), a distinguished IARI alumnus, recently delivered a lecture at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA),

Mussoorie, on “*Making Indian Agriculture Climate-Resilient*”.

He currently serves as the Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, and as the Chief Administrator, Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri. A PhD from IARI with a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Birmingham, Dr. Padhee is widely recognised for his leadership in agricultural policy, food and nutrition security, and climate-resilient farming. The IARI Alumni Association takes pride in his contributions to strengthening India's agricultural resilience.

IARI Alumnus Participates in the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries

Dr. Ravi Kota, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, participated in the 5th National Conference of Chief Secretaries held in New Delhi from 26–28 December 2025, chaired by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. The conference focused on “*Human Capital for Viksit Bharat 2047*”. Dr. Kota highlighted Assam's progress in school and higher education under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and discussed the integration of AYUSH with allopathy to strengthen holistic healthcare delivery. He reaffirmed Assam's commitment to advancing human capital development in support of a Viksit Bharat.



Dr. Anil Kumar Singh Delivers First Dr. D. K. Das (IARI) Memorial Lecture

Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary, Indian Association of Agronomy (IAA), delivered the First Dr. D. K. Das (IARI) Memorial Lecture on 18 November 2025 at the 89th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Soil Science, held in Coimbatore.

Titled “*Grounded in Science: Unlocking the Power of Soil Physics for Climate-Smart Agriculture*,” the lecture highlighted the importance of soil physical properties and their integration into the Soil Health Card (SHC). Dr. Singh also emphasized the use of AI, machine learning, and data-mining tools to develop Pedotransfer Functions (PTFs) using soil and remotely sensed data.



Flashback Moments

From the Archives: IARI, 1973

A group photograph from 1973 at IARI, taken during the tenure of Dr. K. Kanungo as Dean and Dr. Joshi as Director, IARI. Among the students, familiar faces include Dr. S. K. Sharma, Dr. Bhatnagar, and Dr. Negi, capturing a formative era in IARI's academic history.



A Glimpse into IARI's Legacy (1975–76)

A historic group photograph from IARI, New Delhi, taken on the occasion of a felicitation hosted by the Post-Graduate Students in Agronomy Division to honour Dr. Rajendra Prasad on receiving the prestigious Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Prize (1975–76). The image captures faculty members, researchers, and postgraduate students of the Agronomy Division, reflecting the rich academic culture and mentorship tradition that has shaped generations of agricultural scientists at IARI.



Bottom Legend (L to R)

Sitting on Ground: A. K. Dubana, S. K. Biswas, Y. G. Ram, A. B. Waghmare, B. R. R. Rao, V. Tyagi, P. Naul, O. P. Pandey; **Sitting on Chairs:** S. L. Sharma, R. Pallu, D. N. Konde, S. Prasad, T. R. Behera, R. Prasad (Mrs. D.P. Schmidt), Dr. Schmidt, Dr. R. Prasad, K. C. Joshi, P. K. Trehan, Anand Karpekar, L. S. Rao, O. P. Joshi; **Standing 1st Row:** A. V. Ramachander, J. K. Goswami, D. D. Tiwari, V. R. Patel, Ms. M. Fatima, Ms. S. Malik, Dr. D.C. Patel, S. K. Kumar (Dr. P. S. Sekhon); **Standing 2nd Row:** B. P. Barak, R. C. Sachde, K. Vijayakumar, G. P. Patel, M. F. Patel, R. P. Jain, P. Raghavendra Mani, M. Siddappa, S. A. Krishnamoorthy, K. Ramakrishna, Dr. Mathur, T. E. Krishnan

Alumni Reunions & Campus Connect



M.Sc. (2000) and Ph.D. (2002) Batch Reunion at IARI

Alumni of the M.Sc. (2000) and Ph.D. (2002) batches reunited on 8 to 9 November 2025 at the Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Library, IARI. The gathering was marked by nostalgia, camaraderie, and joyful interactions among batchmates and seniors, celebrating the enduring bonds formed during their time at IARI. The reunion was coordinated by Dr. Siddayya (Ph.D. 2002), former President of the PGSSU.

IARI Alumni Association Dinner in Hyderabad on October 29th, 2025

IARI Alumni Association meeting was organized on 29th October in Hotel Avasa in Hyderabad. Dr R.S. Paroda, President of the IAA along with Dr A.K. Singh, Secretary, IAA attended the meeting and discussed the current activities of IAA with 20+ IARI alumni members. IAA also sought



suggestions for new activities to be undertaken by IAA. Members also volunteered to set up a regional chapter of IAA in Hyderabad. Some of the prominent members who attended the meetings were Dr. Himanshu Pathak, DG, ICRISAT, Dr. G.R. Chintala, former chairman, NABARD and Dr. W. R. Reddy, former DG, NIRD & PR. The dinner was sponsored by Dr. L. Srinivasa Rao, Chairman, Eldorado Agritech Ltd. and IAA member.

Alumni Association Initiatives & Institutional Engagement

IAA-IARI National Seminar Charts Roadmap for Transforming IARI into a World-Class Institution



The IARI Alumni Association (IAA), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, successfully organised a two-day National Seminar on “IARI Towards a World-Class Higher Education Institution” on 29–30 September 2025 at the NASC Complex, New Delhi. The event brought together approximately 100 distinguished scientists, policymakers, academicians, industry leaders, and young researchers to deliberate on strategies to elevate IARI's global stature in higher education, research, and innovation.

Inaugural remarks by Dr. M. L. Jat (Director General, ICAR) underscored the importance of holistic and multidisciplinary education, while Dr. R. S. Paroda (President, IAA) highlighted IARI's legacy as a land-grant institution and called for curriculum revamps, global collaborations, and quality enhancement to position IARI among the world's top universities. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao



(Director, IARI) outlined a strategic roadmap focusing on world-class infrastructure and capacity building, and Dr. Anupama Singh (Joint Director, IARI) presented a detailed SWOT analysis to guide future transformation. International perspectives were shared by Prof. Kadambot Siddique (University of Western Australia), Dr. R.S. Kanwar (Former Vice-Chancellor, LPU) and Dr. K. Maredia (Michigan State University), emphasizing innovation, entrepreneurship, and global partnerships as key drivers.

Key recommendations emerging from the seminar included developing state-of-the-art infrastructure, revising curricula for interdisciplinary research, forging international academic partnerships, strengthening industry-academia linkages, instituting incentives for excellence, and launching capacity-building programmes to nurture future academic and scientific leadership. A Youth Forum and Essay Competition further engaged young faculty and students in envisioning IARI's future trajectory.

IAA–IARI Lecture on Entrepreneurship for Agricultural Graduates



The IARI Alumni Association (IAA), in collaboration with ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, successfully organised a special lecture on “Options for Entrepreneurship for Agricultural Graduates” on 31st October 2025 at the Auditorium, Division of Agricultural Engineering, IARI. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Anil K. Singh, Secretary, IAA, followed by opening remarks from Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI and Chief Patron, IAA. Dr. R. C. Agarwal, Vice President, IAA, introduced the speaker, Dr. G. R. Chintala, Former Chairman, NABARD, Hyderabad. In his lecture, Dr. Chintala highlighted emerging entrepreneurial opportunities for agricultural graduates, emphasizing agribusiness innovation, institutional support mechanisms, and the role of finance and policy in nurturing agri-entrepreneurs. An interactive session moderated by Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean & Joint Director (Edn.) and Patron, IAA, enabled faculty members and students to engage directly with the speaker. The programme concluded with the Chairman's address and felicitation by Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA, followed by a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. R. R. Burman, Treasurer, IAA. The event provided valuable insights and inspiration for young professionals aspiring to pursue entrepreneurship in agriculture.

IAA 34th Foundation Day Celebrations Reaffirm Support for Students & Faculty

The IARI Alumni Association (IAA) proudly celebrated its 34th Foundation Day and Alumni Meet on 2nd December 2025 with over 300 alumni, faculty, and students participating both on-site and

online. The day featured an inspiring Foundation Day Lecture, the Annual General Body Meeting (GBM), cultural performances, and a networking dinner.

Padma Vibhushan Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, former Director General of CSIR, delivered the Foundation Day Lecture on “*More from Less for More (MLM)*”, highlighting how innovation-driven approaches and emerging technologies, such as digital tools and biotechnology, can benefit small and marginal farmers. The lecture was chaired by Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda, President of IAA, and moderated by Dr. Anupama Singh and Dr. Anil Kumar Singh. At the GBM, chaired by Dr. Paroda, the Association's activities and achievements were



reviewed, and plans for the coming year were outlined, including mentoring programmes, scholarships, enhanced career guidance for students, faculty development initiatives, and new alumni recognition awards. Eminent alumni and dignitaries, including Dr. M. L. Jat (Director General, ICAR), Dr. Sanjay Kumar (Chairman, ASRB), Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao (Director, IARI), Padma Bhushan Dr. R. B. Singh, Padma Shri Dr. Surinder Kumar Vasal, and others, graced the event.

IAA General Body Meeting Held Successfully

The General Body Meeting of the IARI Alumni



Association (IAA) was successfully held on 2nd December 2025 at the Auditorium, Division of Agricultural Engineering, IARI, New Delhi, with both in-person and online participation, enabling wide engagement of alumni from across India and abroad. During the meeting, members discussed and approved key agenda items, including the confirmation of previous minutes, presentation of the annual report and audited accounts, and deliberations on future activities and initiatives of the Association. Constructive suggestions were shared to strengthen alumni engagement and enhance IAA's role in supporting IARI's academic and institutional growth. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to active alumni participation and collaborative efforts to advance the objectives of the IARI Alumni Association in the coming year.

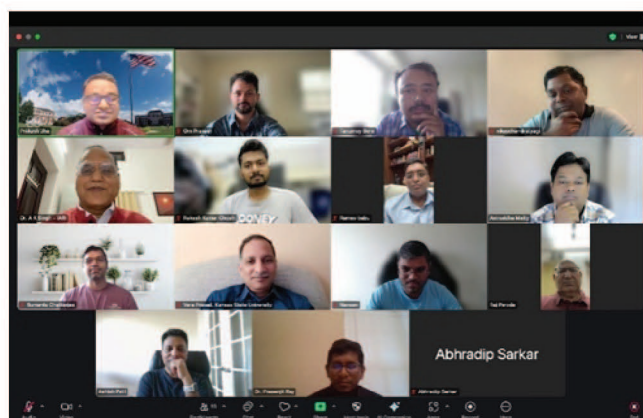
The general body meeting concluded with vibrant cultural performances and a networking dinner, reaffirming the Association's commitment to supporting students and faculty and enhancing leadership in agricultural science.

Launch of the USA Chapter of the IARI Alumni Association

The USA Chapter of the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) was formally launched in the presence of distinguished leaders and alumni, marking a significant milestone in strengthening global engagement among IARI graduates. The inaugural gathering was well attended by 15 IARI alumni, all of whom expressed their commitment to joining and building the USA Chapter. The launch event was graced by Shri Ramesh Babu, an IARI alumnus and Hon'ble Consul General of India, Atlanta; Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IARI Alumni Association; and Dr. A. K. Singh, Secretary, IAA. Their presence

underscored the importance of strengthening academic, professional, and innovation-driven linkages between IARI alumni in India and abroad.

Looking ahead to 2026 with a total of 34 existing members, the USA Chapter plans to complete registration as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the United States. The chapter will initiate monthly virtual and hybrid alumni meetings to foster professional networking and mentorship. Moreover, the chapter will also support IAA-India through student mentoring, visiting lectures, and joint academic initiatives, mentorship pipelines connecting IARI students with U.S. academia, industry, and startups, and collaborative proposal development and exchange programs. The USA Chapter envisions serving as a vibrant platform to connect IARI alumni, amplify their global impact, and contribute meaningfully to agricultural science, education, and innovation in partnership with IAA and allied institutions worldwide.



Students' Corner

Vibrant Cultural Evening Marks IAA Foundation Day Celebrations

The IAA Foundation Day Celebrations were held on 02 December 2025 at the Agricultural Engineering Auditorium, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. The cultural programme was convened by Mr. Kirubhakaran S, Social & Cultural Secretary, PGSSU, and coordinated by Ms. Nimmala SreeValli, Literary Secretary, PGSSU, with Ms. Yashasvi Bharadwaj gracefully anchoring the evening. The program opened with a soulful devotional rendition of *Shankara* by Dr. V. V. Sadamate, Former Cultural Secretary (1973–74) and IARI alumnus, followed by an elegant semi-classical dance by Siri and a spirited Haryanvi solo by Priyanshi. Highlights included a vibrant group song by Soujanya and



team, an enchanting Chinese fan dance by Bidya and team, a melodious vocal performance by Chandrima Saikia, and a spectacular Fire and Water dance by Manjunath and team, bringing the evening to a memorable close.

From Living Soil to Shared Prosperity - IARI

by Prakash Kumar, IARI Hub (Raipur)

Mother Nature spoke through living soil,
In patient lessons born of toil;
We learned to read her silent signs,
Where earth and wisdom intertwine.

From soil well-tended, futures rise,
From nurtured roots, true wealth derives;
Not gold alone, but minds aware,
Of how to grow with thoughtful care.

Education shaped our mindful hand,
To serve, protect, and understand;
For when the soil is taught to thrive,
Prosperity keeps hope alive.



So long as earth can breathe and give,
And learning guides the way we live,
The IARI flame, in nature's trust,
Shall turn green growth to shared, just wealth.

In Memoriam

Dr. M. G. Som (1935-2025)

The IARI Alumni Association deeply mourns the passing of Dr. M. G. Som, former Vice-Chancellor of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), West Bengal, and a distinguished alumnus of IARI on November 3rd, 2025. Dr. Som made valuable



contributions to agricultural education, research, and institutional leadership. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and students. May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. M. Raghuraman (1973-2025)

The IARI Alumni Association deeply mourns the sudden demise of Dr. M. Raghuraman, Head, Entomology, BHU, who passed away due to a heart attack on the morning of 18 November 2025, following his morning walk. His untimely passing

is a great loss to the academic and alumni community. We mourn the passing of a remarkable teacher, an inspiring mentor, and a distinguished scientist, whose impact stretched far beyond the classroom. His guiding words, “Discipline, Decency, Decorum, and Cleanliness”, were more than advice; they formed a lasting blueprint for professionalism and integrity that shaped how

generations of students approached their studies and careers. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, students, and well-wishers. May his soul rest in peace.



Secretary's Report

The last six months were a very noteworthy period in the progress of IAA establishment. Under the dynamic guidance of Dr. Paroda, President, IAA and support provided by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Chief Patron, and Dr. Anupama Singh, Patron, the office, inaugurated on April 15, 2025, has now become fully functional with all modern amenities that are needed for efficient functioning. The Executive Committee and Local Office Bearers meetings were held frequently to review the progress and plan new activities. In view of the current need for increasing the involvement of the corporate sector, the EC decided to nominate an alumnus from that sector by nominating Dr. S. Baskar Reddy from Syngenta to the EC. The Alumni Directory, an important activity is being continuously updated and the database already has more than 6500 alumni listed but more updating is required. We hope that with everyone's support the number will soon cross 7000. IAA has been able to make some progress towards opening a FCRA account for our foreign donors and we are hopeful of generating more resources to help us to multiply our activities.



A major recommendation of the seminar held on June 22, 2024 was to organize a national level meet to discuss, deliberate and develop an action plan for IARI to achieve a global status. This was executed by organizing a National Seminar on September 29-30, 2025 entitled “IARI Towards a World Class Higher Education Institution” with generous financial support from ICAR. About one hundred participants representing eminent scientists, policymakers, international experts and young minds met online and offline for two days to deliberate on this focused theme. The outcome is being published as a document entitled “IARI towards a World-Class Higher Education

Institution - A Way Forward”. This will be in addition to the proceedings of the seminar.

An Interaction Meet with IARI Faculty and Students was organized on October 31, 2025 in which Dr. Chintala, Former Chairman, NABARD, elaborated upon the “Options for Entrepreneurship for Agricultural Graduates”.

As per the EC decision, December 2 will be celebrated as “Alumni Meet” Day every year. Accordingly, on December 2, 2025 the first activity organized was the Foundation Day Lecture delivered by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Former Director General, CSIR. He spoke on “More from Less for More” highlighting the challenges faced by the agriculture sector in feeding the most populous nation on the planet. It was followed by the Annual General Body Meeting and a Felicitation Ceremony of IARI Alumni during which eminent, very senior (>80 years) and gold category donors were honoured. An exciting and vibrant cultural evening was presented by the students of The Graduate School. For the first time, a dinner was hosted in the lawns of IAA Office which completed a memorable Alumni Meet.

In the next six months, we hope to continue with the IAA Lecture Series, conduct an awareness program on agriculture for school students, provide mentorship support to alumni entrepreneurs, initiate IAA-IARI awards for students and faculty, set up some regional chapters, and many more including resource generation efforts.

At the end, I would like to thank each and everyone who has supported IAA, directly and indirectly, with the hope that this unstinted support will continue unabated.

Wishing all our esteemed alumni a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Anil K. Singh

Brief from Treasurer

IARI Alumni Association (IAA) had paltry fund (less than ₹10 lakhs) which was insufficient for the revival of the Association and take any new initiative. In the pursuit of invigorating the IARI Alumni Association, under the leadership of Honourable President, a fund generation drive was undertaken. An appeal was made to all the distinguished alumni during October 2024. We had requested our distinguished alumni to donate in three categories – ₹5 lakhs (Gold), ₹3 lakhs (Silver) and ₹1 lakh (Bronze). Many alumni immediately responded to the appeal and donated generously to IAA. Total 13 Alumni donated in Gold Category, 2 in Silver Category and 69 in Bronze category. Many alumni also donated less than ₹1 lakh.

The notable alumni donated in Gold category are - Dr. R. S. Paroda, Dr. Manmohan Kohli, Dr. Mohan Saxena, Dr. S. K. De Datta, Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Dr. G. R. Chintala, Dr. Ashok K. Singh, Dr. B.M. Prasanna, Dr. Sanjay Swarup, Dr. Ravi Kota, Dr. A. K. Padhee, Dr. C. Viswanathan, Prof. Kadambot Siddique and Dr. S. Baskar Reddy.

We, on behalf of IARI Alumni Association sincerely acknowledge the generous support of the Alumni. IAA also sincerely acknowledge the contribution of many Faculty and Scientists those who did not study at IARI, but also contributed to IARI Alumni Association.

During the period October 2024 to December 2025, total ₹1,42,88,000/- was generated from the donations received from our Alumni. Donations made ₹50,000/- and above are considered as donations for Corpus Fund. The Corpus Fund amount thus generated are made as fixed deposit and the principal amount is not to be used for any purpose. The interest generated out of the fixed deposits of Corpus Fund amount are to be utilised for recurring cost of IAA for undertaking mandated and defined activities.



- Rajarshi Roy Burman

Connect with IARI Alumni Association

Stay connected with the IARI alumni community through our official platforms:

- **Facebook:** IARI Alumni Association
- **LinkedIn:** IARI Alumni Association
- **X (formerly Twitter):** @iarialumni
- **YouTube:** @IARIAlumni
- **Instagram:** @iari_alumni
- **Alumni Portal:** alumni.iari.res.in

Email: iari.iaa.1992@gmail.com



APPEAL

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Warm greetings for the New Year 2026.

You will be pleased to know that we have been working to revive the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) over the past two years. We now have a functional office on the Pusa campus near the Director's office, a dedicated website (<http://www.alumni.iari.res.in>), a directory of over 6,500 members, and a bi-annual newsletter to keep you updated on our activities.

We have also launched key scientific initiatives, such as interactions between distinguished alumni, experts, and IARI students and staff—including public lectures, alumni meets, and consultations on transforming IARI into a global agricultural university. The Secretary's report in this newsletter highlights our main activities from the last six months. Our core aim remains to serve our Alma Mater effectively.

On resource generation, we started with less than ₹10 lakhs. We launched a donation drive inviting well-placed alumni to contribute in three categories: ₹5 lakh (Gold), ₹3 lakh (Silver), and ₹1 lakh (Bronze). We were heartened by the response—over 15 in Gold, 2 in Silver, and more than 40 in Bronze.

As a steadfast supporter of IARI, I invite you to extend your generosity in any of these categories—or even with a minimum contribution of ₹20,000—to help fuel our ongoing programmes. Contributions may be made securely via bank transfer, cheque, or QR code using the official IAA details below:



Bank Transfer Details:

Account Name: IARI Alumni Association
 Account No.: 90292010017848
 IFSC Code: CNRB0019029 (or CNR80019029)
 Bank: Canara Bank

By Cheque: Send in favor of "IARI Alumni Association" to:
 Treasurer, IARI Alumni Association
 ICAR-IARI, Pusa Campus, New Delhi - 110012

Your support is vital for IAA to achieve its goals, including scholarships, excellence awards, and student mentorship. I look forward to your generous response.

With best regards,

R. S. Paroda

President, IARI Alumni Association

IAA-IARI Awards

From the year 2026 (End of Academic year 2025-26), IAA is pleased to announce awards in the following category for IARI Faculty and students:

1. One Best Researcher
2. One Best Teacher
3. Three Best All Rounder Students (one from each campus of IARI-Delhi, Jharkhand and Assam)

The guidelines will be issued soon and the awards will be given every year on the IAA Foundation Day i.e. December 2.

Photo Gallery



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