PRESS RELEASE

IARI and IAA Organize Expert Lecture on Climate Change Adaptation in Drylands

New Delhi, April 28, 2026: ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in collaboration with the IARI Alumni Association (IAA), successfully organized an eminent expert lecture and interaction session at the Dr. B.P. Pal Auditorium, IARI, New Delhi. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Kadambot Siddique, Hackett Professor of Agriculture Chair & Director, The UWA Institute of Agriculture University of Western Australia (UWA), Australia, on the topic "Innovations in Adaptation to Climate Change in Dryland Agriculture."

Dr. R. S. Paroda, President, IAA, formally introduced the speaker, outlining Prof. Siddique's distinguished contributions to global agricultural research and his leadership in dryland farming systems across the world. Dr Paroda also briefed about the milestones of IAA and its significant contributions in the nation building and at global platforms.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, IARI & Chief Patron, IAA, in his opening remarks highlighted the institute's contributions toward self-sustainability in pulses production and emphasized the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable agricultural practices. He underlined the importance of science communication in addressing climate challenges.

Delivering the keynote lecture, Prof. Kadambot Siddique spoke extensively on adaptation strategies to climate change in agricultural systems, with special focus on dryland and rainfed areas. He stressed the critical importance of addressing greenhouse gas emissions and presented case studies from China, Australia, and India to demonstrate successful adaptation approaches.

Prof. Siddique appreciated the initiatives of the IARI in promoting industry-oriented and research-intensive opportunities for students. Encouraging students, he advised them to remain persistent in their efforts, stating that setbacks are part of the learning process and should not discourage innovation.

He further discussed global challenges posed by climate change, including increasing seasonal variability, shifting agricultural production zones, and heightened stress conditions in dryland ecosystems. Emphasizing that farmers possess invaluable experiential knowledge, he noted that adaptation strategies should build upon and refine farmers' practices through scientific interventions.

Highlighting that climate change will significantly impact future agricultural productivity. Prof. Siddique called for region-specific strategies tailored to local agro-climatic conditions. He emphasized on the need for integrated approaches involving policy support, improved agronomy, crop breeding, and efficient resource management to enhance resilience in dryland agriculture.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, where faculty members and students actively engaged with the speaker on emerging challenges and solutions in climate-resilient agriculture.


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