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IARI NEWS



Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, MSSRF, Chennai, delivering the 33rd Dr. B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture



From the Director's Desk

The Institute made significant progress during the quarter in research, education, and outreach, reflecting the collective efforts of its scientists, students and staff. Major achievements include the release of rust-resistant wheat varieties HD 3515 and HD 3495, biofortified wheat varieties HI 1696, HI 1700 and HI 8858, and hulless barley varieties BHS 500 and BHS 502. Pusa Sampann, a high-yielding summer squash variety, and two ornamental kale varieties, Pusa Ornamental Kale-1 and Pusa Ornamental Kale-2 were also released. Key research outcomes from translocation studies of heavy metals in tomato and the contribution of wheat awn-associated traits towards yield stability under terminal heat stress were highlighted. An effective strategy for managing white root rot in apple and an ultrasound-assisted hydro-alcoholic extraction method for recovering bioactive compounds from *Cordyceps militaris* devised.

Postgraduate students secured placements in academic institutions and the private sector. ICAR has launched the National Scholarship Portal (NSP)-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system to facilitate timely scholarship disbursement. Mental health and wellness programs were organized to support students' psychological well-being and stress management.

The Institute inaugurated state-of-the-art research facilities and organised capacity-building programs, specialized workshops and field days for farmers and students. An MoU with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India was signed to promote collaborative research on the utilization of iron ore tailings in crop production. Externally funded research grants, agripreneurship programs and high-impact publications further strengthened the Institute's research and outreach activities.

ICAR-IARI remains committed to scientific excellence, sustainable agricultural development and farmer-centric growth. I hope this newsletter will serve as a valuable source of information for farmers and stakeholders. I congratulate the scientists and Publication Unit staff for their efforts in bringing out this issue in a timely manner.

Ch. Srinivasa Rao
Director, ICAR-IARI

News Index

Research 2
Education 5
Extension 8
Capacity Building 9
IARI Jharkhand Highlights 13
IARI Assam Highlights 13
Research Grants, Technology Commercialization and Agripreneurship 15
Institutional Activities 18
Awards and Honours 19
Publications 19
Visits 21

RESEARCH

Crop Improvement

Development & Identification of Crop Varieties

Bread Wheat Varieties

HD 3515 (Unnat HD 3086) is an improved version of the popular wheat variety HD 3086, carrying the *Lr52* gene for resistance to Indian leaf rust pathotypes. It has an average grain yield of 48.2 q/ha and a potential yield of 60.35 q/ha, with 119 days to maturity. Seeds are amber-colored and oblong, with a high thousand-kernel weight (46.5 g), 11.65% protein, 42.75 ppm iron and 30.65 ppm zinc, with excellent chapati (7.2) and biscuit-making quality (7.5).

(Jha Shailendra K, Mallick N, Vinod, Niranjana M, Raghunandan K, Mallikarjuna MG, Yadav R, Singh SK, Gaikwad K, Kumar N, Babu HP, Kumar M, Das TR, Neethu M, Singh G, Singh C, Division of Genetics) (shailendra@iari.res.in)



Field view of HD 3515

HD 3495 (Unnat HD 3059) is an improved version of HD 3059 with high yield, yellow rust resistance (carrying *Yr15* gene) and suitable for late-sown, irrigated conditions of the North Western Plains. It recorded an average yield of 51.2 q/ha and a potential yield of 65.7 q/ha, with 128 days to maturity. Seeds are amber colored with 38.5 g thousand-kernel weight, 11.9% protein, 38.1 ppm iron and good chapati-making quality (7.7). It also exhibits seedling resistance to all tested Indian yellow rust pathotypes.

(Jha SK, Mallick N, Vinod, Niranjana M, Raghunandan K, Yadav R, Singh SK, Gaikwad K, Kumar N, Babu HP, Kumar M, Das TR, Singh G, Singh C, Division of Genetics) (shailendra@iari.res.in)



Field view of HD 3495

Biofortified Wheat Varieties

Three biofortified wheat varieties (HI 1696, HI 1700, HI 8858) developed by ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Indore, have been identified for release for different agro-climatic zones.

HI 1696 (Pusa Biofortified Gehun Prakhar) has 39.8 ppm iron (Fe), good biscuit-making quality (10.2) and has a potential yield of 67.8 q/ha. It is recommended for late-sown, irrigated conditions of the Peninsular Zone.

HI 1700 (Pusa Biofortified Gehun Utkarsh) has a potential yield of 61.1 q/ha and is recommended for timely-sown, restricted-irrigation conditions of the Central and Peninsular Zones. It has 12.3% protein and 42.3 ppm Fe content.

HI 8858 (Pusa Biofortified Gehun Malav Yash) has a potential yield of 72.6 q/ha and is recommended for timely-sown, irrigated conditions of the Peninsular Zone. It has high Fe (43.9 ppm), Zn (40.6 ppm) and yellow pigment (6.0 ppm).

(Jang Bahadur Singh, Rahul Gajghate, DK Verma and TL Prakasha, ICAR-IARI, Regional Station Indore) (jang.sing@icar.org.in)

Barley Varieties Identified for Release

Two barley varieties developed at ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Shimla, have been identified for release in the Northern Hill Zone.

BHS 500 (Pusa Krishna) is a six-rowed, hulless barley variety developed from the cross HBL 276/RD 2715. It produces an average grain yield of 25.35 q/ha and is resistant to yellow and leaf rusts under artificially inoculated field conditions. It contains 11.3% grain protein, has a hectolitre weight of 72.6 kg/hl and a glycemic index of 31.6.





Field view and grains of BHS 500

BHS 502 (Pusa Trilok) is a six-rowed, dual-purpose barley variety developed from the cross HBL 704/ RD 2715. It produces an average grain yield of 29.26 q/ha and a green fodder yield of 45.62 q/ha. BHS 502 (Pusa Trilok) produces an economic yield of 39.23 q/ha, 8.49% higher than the check variety BHS 380, and has a grain protein content of 10.6%, compared with 10.0% in the check. The variety is also resistant to yellow and leaf rusts under artificially inoculated field conditions.

(Patial M and Pal D, ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Shimla)
(madhu_gen@iari.res.in)





Field view and grains of BHS 502

Hulless Barley Demonstration in Ladakh

The hulless barley variety BHS 352, developed by ICAR-IARI, recorded a grain yield of 21.21 q/ha at Choskore, Fokar Kargil district, Ladakh, compared with 16.19 q/ha for the local check. Its performance highlights its potential for cultivation under the cold, dry conditions. The variety can support traditional barley-based foods and beverages and contribute to livestock feed availability, particularly during winter.

(Dr. Nazir Hussain, KVK, University of Ladakh, Kargil-1)
(kvkkargil@uol.ac.in)



Field view of BHS 352

Pusa Sampann: A High-Yielding Summer Squash Variety

ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Katrain developed and released Pusa Sampann, a high-yielding, open-pollinated summer squash variety with attractive shiny dark green fruits through inbred selection. It recorded an average yield of 48.70 t/ha, which is 26.20% and 20.84% higher than the check varieties. The variety exhibits field tolerance to powdery mildew and is suitable for summer cultivation in hills and winter cultivation in plains. It has been released for cultivation in the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi.

(Kumar S and Parkash C, ICAR-IARI Regional Station Katrain)
(sandeepkumar@iari.res.in)



Fruit of summer squash Pusa Sampann

Development of Two Ornamental Kale Varieties

ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Katrain developed two ornamental kale varieties, Pusa Ornamental Kale-1 and Pusa Ornamental Kale-2, for pot culture, bedding and landscape gardening. Pusa Ornamental Kale-1 features attractive white inner leaves with green fringed margins, while Pusa Ornamental Kale-2 has purple inner leaves with highly fringed margins. Both varieties develop ornamental heads within 55–60 days and retain their attractive appearance for 60–70 days under field conditions. These varieties offer promising options for enhancing ornamental diversity in gardens and urban landscapes.

(Dhiman MR, ICAR-IARI, Regional Station, Katrain)
(mrarjun01@iari.res.in)



Pusa Ornamental Kale-1

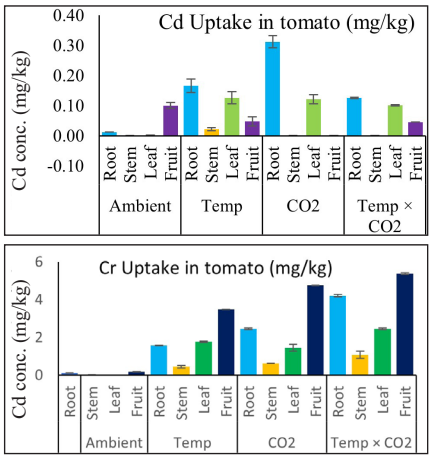


Pusa Ornamental Kale-2

Basic Research

Uptake and Translocation of Cadmium (Cd) and Chromium (Cr) in Tomato Under Climate Change Conditions

A controlled pot experiment at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, evaluated Cd and Cr uptake in tomato under elevated CO_2 (550 ± 50 ppm), temperature (+1.5–2°C), and their combination. Elevated CO_2 and temperature increased Cd uptake but reduced its translocation to fruits, keeping levels below permissible limits. Cr accumulated substantially and translocated to fruits, exceeding the 2.3 mg kg^{-1} permissible limit, highlighting the need to develop strategies to minimise Cr uptake and translocation.



(Kumar S, Division of Environmental Science) (sandeepk@iari.res.in)

Awn-associated Physiological Traits Contribute to Yield Stability in Wheat Under Terminal Heat-stress

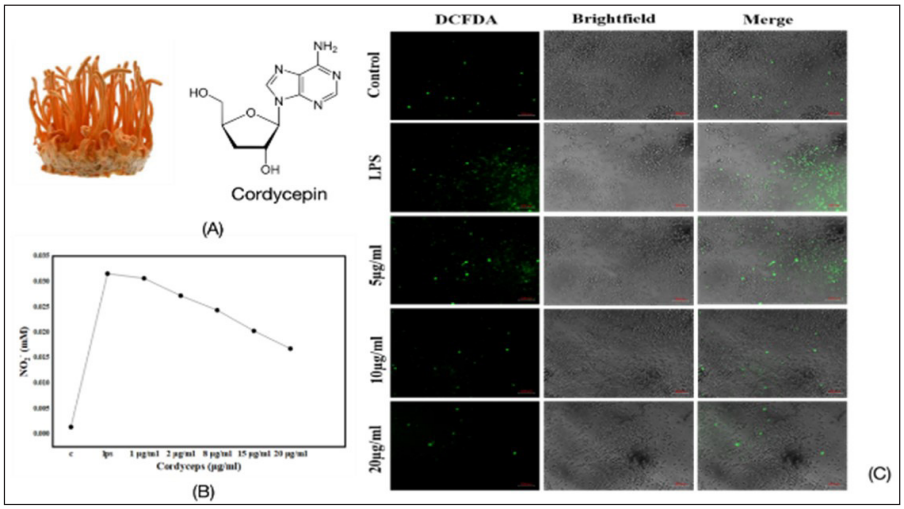
A study of 27 wheat genotypes under terminal heat stress identified awn traits as important contributors to grain yield and thermal resilience. Longer, thicker awns with higher epicuticular wax, chlorophyll, and moisture content maintained lower surface temperature and better hydration. These traits positively influenced ear dry weight, grain weight per spikelet, and awn contribution to yield, highlighting their potential as targets for heat-tolerant wheat improvement.

(Solaiyappan M, Paul V, Pandey R, Jain N, Division of Plant Physiology and Division of Genetics) (vijaypaul@iari.res.in)

New Extraction Process Unlocks the Full Functional Potential of *Cordyceps militaris*

An ultrasound-assisted hydro-alcoholic extraction method was developed for *Cordyceps militaris* to efficiently recover diverse bioactive compounds while minimizing extraction time and heat exposure. The extract demonstrated significant anti-inflammatory activity by reducing nitric oxide release and antioxidant activity by lowering intracellular ROS in RAW 264.7 macrophages. This multi-component approach offers improved characterization and potential applications in functional foods, nutraceuticals and other value-added medicinal mushroom products.

(Krishnan V, Division of Biochemistry) (vedakrishnan@iari.res.in)

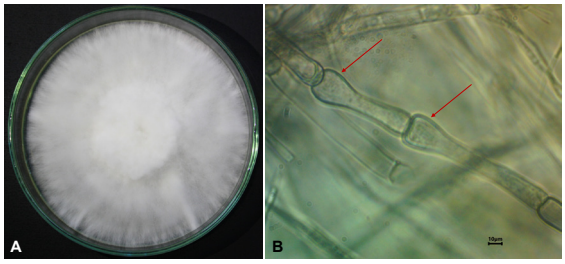


Multi-component extraction strategy enabled cordycepin rich mycoceutical formulation and its validation for anti-inflammatory potential

Crop Protection

Effective Management of White Root Rot of Apple

White root rot caused by *Dematophora necatrix* was effectively managed using 5% garlic extract and selected fungicides, achieving complete laboratory inhibition and 100% plant survival in field trials. Integrating botanicals with fungicide rotation offers a promising strategy for sustainable disease management.



Cultural and microscopic characteristics of *Dematophora necatrix*. A: White fan-shaped mycelium B: Microscopic observations showing the presence of pear-shaped swelling near septa of fungal mycelium

(Watpade, S, RS Shimla) (watpade.santosh@icar.org.in)

EDUCATION

Appointment of IARI Alumni as Faculty

Ten alumni of ICAR–IARI, New Delhi, have been appointed as Assistant Professors; nine at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, and one at Kaveri University, Hyderabad. The RLBCAU appointees are Dr. Gouthami Shiva Swamy (Food Science and Postharvest Technology), Dr. Hemant Kumar (Entomology), Dr. Pinaki Roy (Agricultural Extension), Dr. Pradeep Kumar Vishwakarma (Fruit Science), Dr. Smita Jaiswal (Agricultural Engineering), Dr. K. Srikanth Reddy (Agronomy), Dr. Saurabh Singh and Dr. Sirasapalli Bhargav Kiran (Vegetable Science) and Dr. Neeraj Singh Negi (Floriculture and Landscaping). Dr. Soumya Cheela (Agricultural Economics) joined Kaveri University, Hyderabad.



Placement Activities

Agristo Masa Pvt. Ltd. Selects IARI Student for Management Trainee Position



PUSA LAUNCHPAD – Placement Cell, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, successfully organized a campus placement drive on July 01, 2026, facilitating career opportunities for agricultural students. Agristo Masa Pvt. Ltd., a multinational joint venture between Masa Global Foods and Belgium-based Agristo NV, a leading potato processing company, participated in the drive to recruit young talent for its agro-business operations. Ms. Priya Karna, a final-year MSc student from the Division of Agricultural Economics, ICAR-IARI, was selected for the Management Trainee (MT) – Agro position.

ICAR Launch Event of NSP-DBT

The National Scholarship Portal (NSP)-Enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) System was launched on August 10, 2026 at Dr. B.P. Pal Auditorium, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in the august presence of Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India, Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR; Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and other distinguished senior officers from ICAR and IARI. The portal is designed to facilitate the distribution of scholarships and fellowships to students engaged in educational and research pursuits within agricultural and allied sciences disciplines. Through this initiative, ₹21.35 crore has been disbursed directly to approximately 6,000 students.



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare with dignitaries at launch event of NSP-DBT

Orientation Session

The Graduate School and PGSSU, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, organized an Open Hall Institute seminar on "How to Write Winning Research

Proposals for the Prime Minister Research Fellowship (PMRF) Scheme" on August 19, 2026, at Dr. B.P. Pal Auditorium. Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Education) and Dean, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi presided over the session and guided approximately 70 Ph.D. students. The two-hour seminar focused on developing effective research proposals, emphasizing significance, originality, objectives, methodology, and expected outcomes. The session also familiarized students with fellowship opportunities under the PMRF and IARI–Industry Doctorate Fellowship schemes.



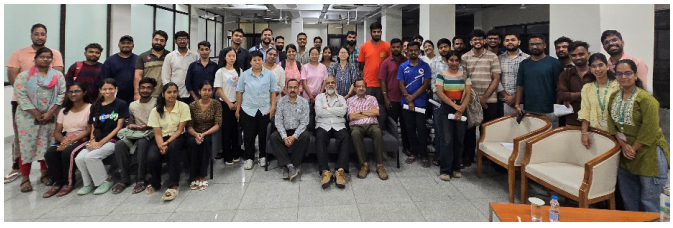
Dr. Anupama Singh, JD (Education) and Dean with students at the Institute Seminar

Online Program on Mental Health of Students

The Graduate School organized an online session on "Awareness of Mental Health of Students: Ethics and Management" through virtual mode for all the faculty members of IARI and its hubs on July 14, 2026. Dr. Anita Srivastava, Chief Medical Officer, and Ms. Sakshi Dhawan, Counselling Psychologist, IARI Dispensary delivered a talk on "Supporting students' mental health: A faculty guide to recognition, response, ethics, and legal responsibilities".

Interactive Session on Early Goal Setting: "Dream Big"

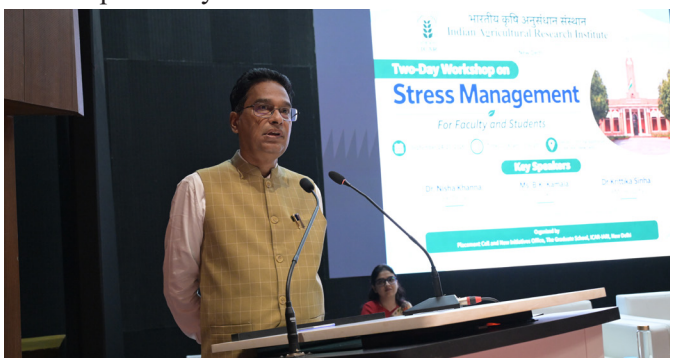
The Post-Graduate Students' Union of ICAR- IARI, New Delhi organised an interactive session on "Early Goal Setting: Dream Big" on July 27, 2026 for UG, PG, and PhD students, on career exploration and goal. The guest speaker, Dr. Md Ariz Ahammed, IAS, an alumnus of IARI inspired the students to make informed choices and take proactive steps toward their future careers.



Students at the interactive Session on Early Goal Setting: "Dream Big"

Workshop on Stress Management at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

A two-day workshop on stress management was organized by the Placement Cell and New Initiative Office, along with the Graduate School, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, on September 24–25, 2026, at Dr. B.P. Pal auditorium. Approximately 225 students and faculty members participated in hybrid mode from main- and off-campuses of IARI. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi announced daily yoga sessions at Vasant Hostel Ground and a 21-day online yoga program in collaboration with the ISHA Foundation. Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Edu) & Dean, ICAR-IARI, the need to develop inner strength to face challenges and failures positively.



Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, addressing participants on student well-being and stress management

Dr. Nisha Khanna, renowned psychologist, delivered an interactive session on practical approaches to stress management, emotional wellness, and resilience. Ms. B.K. Kamala of the Brahma Kumaris introduced Rajyoga meditation techniques for mental peace and stress reduction. Dr. Krittika Sinha, Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology at Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi, discussed the causes and types of stress and demonstrated practical coping strategies. The workshop emphasized holistic well-being and the importance of integrating stress-management practices into daily life.



Speakers and participants at the stress management workshop organized at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

Lectures

Dr. B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture

ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, organized the 33rd Dr. B.P. Pal Memorial Lecture on "One Planet, One Health: Bio-happiness and a Sustainable Future" on July 17, 2026. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, and presided over by Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan highlighted environmental, economic, and health challenges threatening the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. She emphasized risks to food and nutrition security from biodiversity loss, declining pollinators, soil degradation, and climate change while advocating the 'One Planet, One Health' approach.

ICAR-IARI Alumni Association Eminent Expert Lecture

The IARI Alumni Association, in collaboration with ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, organized an eminent expert lecture on "Never Stop Learning" on August 10, 2026, at NRL Auditorium in hybrid mode. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Kashmir Singh, IPS (Retd.), distinguished IARI alumnus and former Additional Director General, CISF, and was presided over by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA. Dr. Singh shared his journey from scientific research to the Indian Police Service, highlighting the importance of lifelong learning, resilience, and embracing new challenges.



Dr. R.S. Paroda President, IAA, felicitating Dr. Kashmir Singh, IPS (Retd.)

Teachers' Day Lecture

ICAR-IARI, New Delhi in collaboration with the Genetics Club, organized Teachers' Day lecture on September 07, 2026, at Dr. B.P. Pal Auditorium, New Delhi. Dr. H.S. Gupta, Chairman, Assam Agriculture Commission and former Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi delivered a lecture on "Reorienting Indian Agriculture for Self-sufficiency in Pulses and Edible Oil". Prof. R.B. Singh, former Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi chaired the program and introduced the speaker. Dr. Gupta emphasized upon collective scientific progress and to align research and development with national priorities and societal needs.



Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI felicitating the chair, Prof. R.B. Singh, and speaker the Dr. H.S. Gupta

College and School Students' Exposure Visits

Students from the Faculty of Agriculture, Maharishi Markandeshwar University, Mullana, Ambala, visited the ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Karnal, on September 22, 2026. Similarly, students from SGT University, Gurugram, visited KVK, Shikohpur, Gurugram, on August 5, 2026, to learn about the latest agricultural techniques and technologies.



Students ICAR-IARI centres to gain practical exposure to the latest agricultural technologies

EXTENSION

Field Days

Field days organized by KVK Shikohpur, Gurugram, and ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, promoted improved agricultural practices and sustainable crop production. On September 13, 2026, KVK Shikohpur demonstrated the performance of pearl millet variety HHB 67 Improved 2-7. A balanced fertilizer use program was conducted at Tripadi village on September 24, 2026, emphasizing soil health and scientific nutrient management. The Division of Agronomy, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi demonstrated conservation agriculture-based rainfed systems, highlighting resource-use efficiency and climate-resilient farming practices. ICAR-IARI, New Delhi also showcased diverse mango varieties and promising selections at the 35th Mango Festival, held from July 3–5, 2026, at Dilli Haat, Janakpuri. Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta visited the stall, IARI's contributions to mango diversity and varietal development.





Glimpses of ICAR-IARI stall showcasing diverse mango varieties

Outreach Programs

ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and KVK Shikohpur, Gurugram, conducted diverse extension activities during July–September 2026. CSR-supported programs across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan promoted fermented organic manures, balanced nutrient management, and climate-resilient agriculture. DD *Kisan's Chaupal Charcha* featured FPO value addition and processing, reaching a national audience. KVK scientists participated in *Kisan Melas* promoting oilseeds and *Shree Ann*, organized clean milk production awareness for 18 participants, and shared mushroom cultivation expertise through DD Kisan's live program '*Sach ke Sath'*. A water conservation and rainwater harvesting awareness program at Amity University, Panchgaon, benefited over 100 students.



Interactive session of KVK experts with farmers and rural women entrepreneurs during *Chaupal Charcha*

Commemoration of Important Days

KVK Shikohpur, Gurugram, observed Parthenium Eradication Awareness Week from August 16–22, 2026, highlighting its agricultural, ecological and health hazards. ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Karnal, conducted parthenium weed uprooting and removal activities on August 21–22 to maintain a healthy environment. To celebrate the auspicious occasion of *Hariyali Amavasya*, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Gurugram, organized a tree plantation drive at the KVK campus on August 12, 2026. Hindi promotion activities were organized across ICAR-IARI during September 2026. Hindi competitions on September 21 in the presence of Dr. Arpan Jain 'Avichal'. The Divisions of Agronomy and Microbiology organized hindi competitions under *Hindi Chetna Maas*, encouraging staff participation and promoting wider use of the hindi language.





Glimpses of Parthenium Eradication Awareness Program





Glimpses of Hindi Awareness Program

Swachchh Bharat Abhiyan

Under *Swachhata Hi Seva* 2026, the Division of Agronomy, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, organized cleanliness drives across its premises, involving staff in maintaining hygienic workplaces. The Water Technology Centre conducted a special cleanliness program on September 28. ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Karnal, organized cleanliness activities from September 17 to October 02, engaging children and staff members. KVK Gurugram observed *Swachhata Pakhwada* from September 17–25 across Shikohpur and Sohna villages, sensitizing students, village leaders and SHG women on waste segregation and eliminating single-use plastics.





Glimpses of Swachchh Bharat Abhiyan activities

CAPACITY BUILDING

Training Programs, Workshops and Conferences

Division / Unit/KVK	Duration	Program
Division of Biochemistry	August 10, 2026	Orange Bridge: Skilling Early-mid Career Scientists for Project Ideation, Writing, Pitching, Implementation, and Knowledge Dissemination (in collaboration with SPBB)
CATAT	July 10, 2026	Advanced Production Technologies of *kharif* Crops and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	July 15, 2026	Protected Cultivation & Flowers Farming and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	July 23, 2026	Integrated Pest & Disease Management and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	August 06, 2026	Integrated Nutrient Management and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	August 13, 2026	Crop Residue Management and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	August 18, 2026	Food and Nutritional Security Among Farm Women through Nutrition-Sensitive Technologies under *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan*
	August 25, 2026	Processing of Fruits & Vegetables and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	September 24, 2026	Advanced Production Technology of *rabi* Crops and Balanced Use of Chemical Fertilizer
	September 29, 2026	Training of Women Farmers of West Bengal
Division of Economics	August 14, 2026	Evaluation and Impact Analysis of Promising Technologies Developed

Division / Unit/KVK	Duration	Program
Division of Agricultural Engineering	August 26-September 02, 2026	Farm Mechanization and Precision Agriculture Technologies for Small and Marginal Farmers of the NEH Region
	September 06-16, 2026	Protected Cultivation and Drip Irrigation Technologies for Off-Season Vegetable Production in the NEH Region
Division of Entomology	August 12-14, 2026	Biosafety and Bioethics for Excellence in Modern Entomological Research
Division of Agricultural Extension	August 10-14, 2026	Module-II training program for Assistants
Division of Genetics	September 15-17, 2026	Entrepreneurship Development through Seed Production and Management
Division of Microbiology	August 17-21, 2026	Cultivation and Processing of Spirulina Biomass for Value-Added Product Development and Exposure to Commercial Ventures
	August 24-28, 2026	Bioinformatics for Agri-Tech Innovations: A Hands-on Workshop
	September 17-18, 2026	Unlocking the Potential of Biomass: Innovations in Lignocellulosic Valorization and Microbial Biomass Products
Division of Nematology	September 21-25, 2026	Detection and Diagnostics for Nematode-Induced Diseases in Agri-Horti Crops
Division of Seed Science & Technology organized the farmers trainings under SCSP scheme during July- September 2026	July 08-14, 2026	Scientific Goat Farming
	July 22, 2026	Good Management Practices for *kharif* Crops and Input Distribution Program at Asra, Hapur, UP
	July 27-31, 2026	Value Addition in Millets
	August 05, 2026	Good Management Practices for *kharif* Crops and Input Distribution program at Kalyanpur, Hapur, UP
	September 07, 2026	Good Management Practices for *kharif* Crops and Input Distribution Program at Bhaipur, Bulandshahar, UP
	September 13, 2026	Improved Crop Management in *kharif* Crops at IARI, New Delhi
	September 15-17, 2026	Entrepreneurship Development through Seed Production and Management at Kunhaida, Ghaziabad, UP
	September 15-23, 2026	Seed Production and Quality Evaluation
Division of Vegetable Science	July 29, 2026	Development of Doubled Haploids in Hot and Sweet Peppers for Creating and Utilizing Novel Genetic Variations
ZTM & BPD Unit	July 07-10, 2026	Cultivation and Processing of *Spirulina* Biomass for Value-Added Product Development and Exposure to Commercial Ventures (in collaboration with the CCUBGA, Division of Microbiology)
	August 17-21, 2026	Bioinformatics for Agri-Tech Innovations: A Hands-on Workshop
	August 24-28, 2026	Entrepreneurship and Skill Development in Mushroom Cultivation Technology (in collaboration with the Division of Plant Pathology)
	September 07-11, 2026	Entrepreneurship and Skill Development in Mushroom Cultivation Technology (in collaboration with the Division of Plant Pathology)
	September 15, 2026	Workshop-cum-Industry Meet on "Seed Registration & Indenting through the SATHI Portal and the New Seed Policy" through Online Mode
Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Shikohpur	August 20, 2026	Integrated Pest Management in *kharif* Crops
	August 25, 2026	Awareness on Soil Salinity Techniques
	September 02-09, 2026	Mushroom Production Technology



International Training on “Seed Production and Quality Evaluation”



Workshop on “Biosafety and Bioethics for Excellence in Modern Entomological Research”



Training on “Farm Mechanization and Precision Agriculture Technologies for Small and Marginal Farmers of the NEH Region”



Training on “Protected Cultivation and Drip Irrigation Technologies for Off-Season Vegetable Production in the NEH Region”



Training on “Entrepreneurship Development through Seed Production and Management”



Training on “Value Addition in Millets” at KVK Shikohpur



“Module-II training program for Assistants”

Official Language Translation Training Program

A five-day Official Language Translation Training Program was organized from August 10-14, 2026, in collaboration with the Central Translation Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The program focused on Hindi-English translation for official, scientific, and technical communication. Participants received training in scientific terminology, standardization of technical terms, and maintaining accuracy in translation. The initiative aimed to promote effective use of Official Language Hindi through clear and comprehensible communication.



Dignitaries and participants at Official Language Translation Training Program

ICAR-IARI JHARKHAND HIGHLIGHTS

Training Program at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, East Singhbhum

Under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), a training program on "Empowering Farmwomen, Extension Functionaries, Rural Youth and FPO Members to Promote Nutrition-Sensitive Sustainable Agriculture through Improved Varieties and Vegetable/Kitchen Garden Kits" was organized at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), East Singhbhum, Jharkhand on September 8, 2026.. During the training program, farmers were imparted knowledge on the importance of vegetable crops and the role of kitchen garden in ensuring nutritional security. A total of 100 farmers participated in the training program.



Farm women under SCSP training program at KVK, Singhbum, Jharkhand

ICAR-IARI ASSAM HIGHLIGHTS

Field Day for Promotion of Pusa Marigold Cultivation

ICAR–IARI, Assam organized a Field Day on July 08, 2026 at Ming Mang Village and Manipuri Gaon, Gogamukh, Dhemaji, to promote the cultivation of improved Pusa marigold varieties for its multiple benefits and as a trap crop for eco-friendly insect pest management. Scientists demonstrated the production potential and management practices of improved marigold varieties under local agro-climatic conditions. Quality seedlings of Pusa Parv, Pusa Deep, and Pusa Utsav were distributed to progressive farmers.



Scientists and farmers at the Field Day on Pusa Marigold cultivation

Fruit Biodiversity Block for Underutilized Fruit Crops at ICAR-IARI, Assam

ICAR-IARI, Assam research farm is developing a 1 ha Fruit Biodiversity Block featuring around 25 underutilized fruit species for conservation, evaluation, and promotion of fruit diversity. Pineapple is being introduced as an intercrop using an innovative planting design that accommodate about 1,100 plants per katha. The initiative aims to enhance biodiversity and promote efficient utilization of limited land resources.



Plantation of fruit saplings at the Fruit Diversity Block at ICAR-IARI, Assam

Hands-on Training on Paddy Mechanization at Gogamukh

A field demonstration on paddy drum seeder and rice transplanter was conducted at Ujani Ukhamati Village, Gogamukh, on July 10, 2026, benefiting 65 farmers along with input suppliers and agriculture officials. The hands-on session provided practical training on operation, calibration, maintenance and troubleshooting, highlighting the technology's labour-saving potential.



Field demonstration on paddy drum seeder and transplanter

Empowering Farmers through Digital Agriculture at RRS Gerua

A one-day training on mobile applications for smart farming, agricultural marketing, and government services was organized at RRS, IARI Assam, Gerua, on September 23, 2026, benefiting 54 farmers. The program also featured a practical visit to the fish-based integrated farming system demonstration unit.



Participants at training program on mobile applications at RRS Gerua, Assam

Deeksharambha 2026 of Undergraduate Students

The *Deeksharambha* program for the 2026–27 UG batch was organized at ICAR–IARI Assam on September 02, 2026, marking the formal beginning of the students' academic journey. The program was chaired virtually by Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–IARI , New Delhi, while Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Edu.) & Dean, and Dr. Harshwardhan Choudhary, Associate Dean, attended in offline mode. The program provided an important platform for student orientation, interaction and familiarization with the Institute and academic rules and regulations.



Deeksharambha 2026 of UG students at IARI Assam

IARI Assam–IFFCO for Collaboration on Agricultural Development

ICAR–IARI Assam and IFFCO organized an interaction and brainstorming session on August 20, 2026 at Gogamukh, exploring collaboration in research, farmer training, technology dissemination, and career development. The session featured discussions on nano-fertilizers and sustainable nutrient management, strengthening research–industry–farmer linkages in the North-Eastern Region.



Participants from ICAR-IARI Assam and IFFCO at the interactive session

RESEARCH GRANTS, TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION AND AGRIPRENEURSHIP

Externally Funded/Contractual/Consultancy Projects Sanctioned and Implemented (> ₹ 10 lakhs)

Externally Funded Projects

Project Title	Amount (₹ in lakhs)	Duration	Funding Agency	Principal Investigator
Impact assessment and valorisation of iron ore tailing into mineral-rich crop-safe soil conditioner for agri-application	137.58	September 18, 2026 - April 30, 2029	Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Pvt. Ltd.	Dr. Bhupinder Singh, PS, Division of Environment Science
Crop Sustai N project to verify global potential of biological nitrification inhibition (BNI)	111.25	July 06, 2026 - May 31, 2028	CIMMYT	Dr. Harikrishna, SS, Division of Genetics
National mission on high yielding seeds	97.61	July 13, 2026 - March 31, 2031	ICAR (approved SFC Memo of Central Sector Scheme)	Dr. Firoz Hossain, PS, Division of Genetics
An integrated biomanufacturing platform with CO_2 capture for novel microbial formulations targeting methane reduction and drought resilience in rice-wheat cropping systems	96.22	August 13, 2026 - August 12, 2028	DBT	Dr. Rajeev Kaushik, Professor, Division of Microbiology
Genetic dissection for fruit size, quality and bacterial blight resistance in pomegranate through genome-wide association mapping	89.40	August 13, 2026 - August 12, 2029	DBT	Dr. Nripendra Vikram Singh, PS, Division of Fruits and Horticultural Technology
Bridging global knowledge and local needs through AI for enhanced agricultural production, sustainability and resiliency (BRIDGE)	89.24	July 15, 2026 - September 30, 2028	ICAR (under QUAD AI-ENGAGE initiative)	Dr. P R Shashank, SS, Division of Entomology
Physiological analysis to understand the growth-promoting effects of *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. Israelensis in rice	82.56	August 19, 2026 - December 02, 2026	Gates Foundation	Dr. Ruchi Bansal, SS, Division of Plant Physiology
Genomic dissection of karnal bunt resistance in RILs of newly identified durum wheat (*Triticum durum* Desf.) accessions through quantitative trait locus sequencing for introgression into bread wheat	64.11	September 10, 2026 - September 09, 2029	DBT	Dr. Prashanth Babu H, SS, Division of Genetics
CRISPR/Cas mediated precision-guided sterile insect technique for the population suppression of maize fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) and cotton pink bollworm, *Pectinophora gossypiella* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae)	56.22	July 17, 2026 - July 16, 2029	DST	Dr. Ashok Karuppannasamy, S, Division of Entomology
Genetic variability, molecular characterization and development of molecular markers specific to genes governing resistance to Maydis leaf blight (MLB) in maize	55.89	August 04, 2026 - August 03, 2029	DST	Dr. Ashvin Kumar Katral, S, Division of Genetics
Integrative-taxonomy of leafhopper (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) fauna associated with bamboo from India	51.24	July 17, 2026 - July 16, 2029	DST	Dr. Mogili Ramaiah, S, Division of Entomology

Project Title	Amount (₹ in lakhs)	Duration	Funding Agency	Principal Investigator
Integrated capacity building and input support for livelihood enhancement and empowerment of scheduled caste farmers in Ganganagar district, Rajasthan	45.00	August 11, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Agricultural Education Division ICAR	Dr. Sushmita Saini, S, Division of Agricultural Extension
Deciphering the nutritional and nutraceutical potential of Naga fermented Soybean Axone/Akhuni for development of value-added products	42.11	July 09, 2026 - July 08, 2029	DBT	Dr. Sweta Kumari, SS, Division of Biochemistry
Augmenting livelihood and nutritional security through climate smart and drudgery mitigating interventions in agriculture among tribal communities of Uttarakhand	40.00	August 13, 2026 - March 31, 2027	Agricultural Education Division, ICAR	Dr. Girijesh Singh Mahra, SS, Division of Agricultural Extension
Breeding elite Indian wheat with durable fusarium head blight resistance using marker-assisted backcrossing	37.67	September 22, 2026 - September 21, 2029	DBT	Dr. Vikas V.K., SS, ICAR-IARI, R.S., Wellington, Tamil Nadu
Exploring the potential of machine learning, big data analytics and remote sensing for soil health monitoring in Indian agro-ecosystems	24.21	September 08, 2026 - March 31, 2029	NASF-ICAR	Dr. Rajeev Ranjan, SS, Division of Agricultural Physics
Extraction and non chemical functionalization of pea pod protein for development of clean label smart food additives	36.71	September 10, 2026 - September 10, 2028	DBT	Dr. Shruti Sethi, PS, Division of FS&PHT
AICRP on Kharif Pulses (Voluntary Centre)	19.85	August 13, 2026 - August 12, 2031	ICAR	Dr. Satheesh Naik SJ, SS, ICAR-IARI, R.S., Bihar
Contract Research Project				
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	50.54	August 12, 2026 - August 11, 2029	Syngenta India Private Limited	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
Evaluating IFFCO nanofertilisers on mango and kinnow fruit quality and yield	36.08	August 25, 2026 - April 24, 2028	Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited	Dr. Jai Prakash, PS, Division of Fruits and Horticultural Technology, IARI
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	34.72	July 01, 2026 - June 30, 2029	Syngenta India Private Limited	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	33.89	July 01, 2026 - June 30, 2029	Bayer Crop Science Limited	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	33.53	July 30, 2026 - July 29, 2029	M/S Nichino India Pvt. Ltd.	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	33.33	July 30, 2026 - July 29, 2029	UPL Sustainable Agri Solution Limited	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	22.96	August 12, 2026 - August 11, 2029	UPL Sustainable Agri Solution Limited	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
Efficacy evaluation of Fluopyram 250 G/L + Imidacloprid 100G/L SC on chilli crop	17.55	September 10, 2026 - September 09, 2027	Bayer Crop Science Ltd.	Dr. Tamoghna Saha, SS, ICAR-IARI, Regional Station, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar

Project Title	Amount (₹ in lakhs)	Duration	Funding Agency	Principal Investigator
AINP on pesticide residues and Contaminants	15.24	July 01, 2026 - June 30, 2029	Bayer Crop Science Limited	Dr. Vandana Tripathi, PS, Network Coordinator
Coordinated studies on the efficacy of oil-based bio-nematicide formulation against root-knot nematode (Meloidogyne spp.) in tomato under in-vitro, pot and field conditions	12.62	August 24, 2026-August 23, 2027	JU Agriscience Pvt. Ltd.	Dr. K. Kranti K.V.V.S, S, Division of Nematology, ICAR-IARI
Consultancy Project				
Expert advisory on QCI-NABET accredited functional areas for preparing EIA/EMP reports of project of JM EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd.	12.07	July 29, 2026-July 28, 2029	JM EnviroNet Pvt. Ltd.	Dr. D.S. Gurjar, PS, WTC

IP Management

During the last quarter, the details of patent applications filed and granted and copyrights registered are provided below:

Application No	Name of Innovation	Division	Status
202611093047	A novel non-invasive method for batch delivery of RNP complex in tiny insect embryos	Plant Pathology	Filed
202611108231	Polymeric bio-coating formulation of yeast metabolites for enhanced post-harvest management	Plant Pathology	Filed
202411101296	TOLCKV-specific primers and PTR based agro-construct for screening of leaf curl disease resistance	Plant Pathology	Granted
202111012967	Vital wheat gluten extraction process and its regeneration in gluten free pearl millet flour	Biochemistry	Granted
202311030667	Method for extracting graphene from single-use plastic	Environmental Sciences	Granted

Technology Commercialization

Under the Lab to Land Initiative, from July-September 2026, 13 technologies developed by ICAR-IARI, New Delhi were commercialized to nine industry partners, resulting in a total revenue generation of ₹14.05 lakh.

Corporate Membership

Two new industry partners were enrolled and a revenue of ₹15000 was generated.

Student Internship

A total of 20 intern students joined the IARI Internship Training Program across various divisions of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi and its regional stations. The program generated total revenue of ₹2.95 lakh.

Incubation Activities

ICAR-SHITIJ 2.0

Pusa Krishi launched ICAR-SHITIJ 2.0 on July 3, 2026, under the National Agricultural Innovation Fund (NAIF) Scheme to support agri-startups in plant health and precision agriculture through a hub-and-spoke network of seven ICAR institutes. Of the 190 applications received, 34 startups were selected for a two-month free entrepreneurship training program, which commenced on August 20, 2026. The program offers scientific mentorship, technology validation, field-trial assistance, business development, and market-linkage support to help startups build scalable and sustainable agri-enterprises.

UPJA & ARISE 2026

Under our flagship incubation Programs UPJA and ARISE 2026, one-on-one business and technical mentoring and structured learning sessions were conducted from July 14-August 14, 2026. The sessions provided startups with personalized guidance on technology, business strategy, product development, market positioning and venture growth, while strengthening their capabilities in finance, branding, communication, business development and market readiness. The Raftaar Incubation Committee (RIC) meeting was held from September 07-14, 2026, which reviewed the startups' ideas, proposals, technologies, and innovations.

INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Inauguration of State-of-the-Art Research and Education Facilities at Division of Entomology

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, inaugurated the upgraded research and education facilities at the Division of Entomology on August 12, 2026. The facilities include a modern Entomology Library, upgraded postgraduate laboratory, and Insect Biosafety Level (IBSL) Facility. These additions will strengthen advanced research, postgraduate education, practical training, insect diagnostics, and safe handling of agriculturally important insect species.



Dignitaries along with faculties and students at the inauguration event

Inauguration of Dr. S.K. De Datta Advanced Soil Laboratory

The Dr. S.K. De Datta Advanced Soil Laboratory was inaugurated on September 3, 2026, at the Division of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, by renowned scientist Dr. Surajit Kumar De Datta, in the presence of Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao and other senior officials. Equipped with state-of-the-art instruments, the facility will strengthen advanced soil research, scientific innovation, and agricultural research capabilities at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.



Inauguration of Dr. S.K. De Datta Advanced Soil Laboratory

Foundation Stone Laid for IAA Cafeteria at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

The foundation stone of the IARI Alumni Association (IAA) cafeteria was laid at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, on September 24, 2026, by Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, in the presence of Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, TAAS; President, IAA and Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and Chief Patron, IAA, and other senior officials. The initiative marks a step towards enhancing amenities and providing a dedicated space for interaction among IARI alumni, students, and the institute community.



Dr. M.L. Jat Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, laying the foundation stone of the IAA Cafeteria

74th Extension Council Meeting

The 74th Extension Council Meeting was held on August 20, 2026, to review the progress and achievements of extension activities undertaken by the Institute and its various Divisions. It was attended by 20 members and representatives of the Extension Council, along with approximately 40 delegates and officers from the Institute, its regional stations, and KVKs.

Meeting of the Senior Officers Council

To review research, education, and administrative activities, strengthen interdepartmental coordination, assess ongoing initiatives; and plan future programs and institutional priorities.



Meeting of Senior Officers Council

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Dr. Anil Khar, Fellow, The Royal Society of Biology, UK
- Mr. Abhishek Verma (Sr. Technical Assistant), People's Choice Award in Art in Phytopathology photography competition organized by the American Phytopathological Society (APS).
- Dr. Arpan Bhowmik, IARI Assam, appreciation award by IFFCO
- Dr. Pravin Kumar Upadhyay, Scientist, Division of Agronomy, Dr. R.C. Gautam Award-2025.

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VISITS OF NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL DIGNITARIES / DELEGATIONS TO IARI



Visit of delegation from Afghanistan to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on July 09, 2026



Visit of Parliamentary Committee on Commerce on July 15, 2026.



Visit of delegation from Iran to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on August 05, 2026



Visit of delegation from Ethiopia to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on August 14, 2026



Visit of delegation from Nigeria to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on August 17, 2026



Visit of ICAR-IARI Director and JD (Research) to ICAR-IARI Regional Station, Pune on August 20, 2026



Visit of delegation from Seychelles to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi August 24, 2026



Visit of delegation from Sri Lanka to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on September 16, 2026



Visit of delegation from Netherlands to the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi on September 17, 2026

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