

Press Note

Diaspora Youth Delegation under Know India Programme Visits ICAR–IARI, New Delhi

New Delhi, 12 December 2025. A 39-member delegation of young people of Indian origin (PIOs) from 17 countries visited the ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, the cradle of India’s Green Revolution, under the 80th Know India Programme (KIP), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. The Know India Programme aims to reconnect diaspora youth with India’s rich heritage while familiarizing them with the country’s scientific, economic, and technological progress.

The delegation was warmly received at IARI by the Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director IARI. In his welcome address, Dr. Rao highlighted IARI’s 120-year legacy in shaping modern Indian agriculture through path-breaking research, excellence in agricultural education, and strong farmer-centric extension systems. Dr. Rao elaborated on IARI’s historic and contemporary contributions, noting that the institute played a decisive role during the Green Revolution and continues to lead innovations for climate-resilient, resource-efficient, and sustainable agriculture. He underscored IARI’s globally recognized research outputs, particularly its world-renowned *Basmati rice varieties*, improved cereal and pulse cultivars, precision nutrient and water management technologies, and protected cultivation solutions. He also emphasized IARI’s growing international footprint, collaborative research programmes, and its role in supporting global food and nutritional security.

During an event, emerging challenges such as climate change, natural resource degradation, food system sustainability, and youth engagement in agriculture were discussed. Dr Rao encouraged the diaspora youth to act as ambassadors of Indian science and innovation, fostering global linkages in agri-food systems, research, entrepreneurship, and policy dialogue.

The delegation toured several state-of-the-art facilities at the institute, including the National Plant Phenomics Facility, the Centre for Protected Cultivation Technology, and the Integrated Farming Systems (IFS) Unit. Subject matter specialists briefed the visitors on advanced phenotyping tools, hi-tech horticulture, diversification-based farming systems, and IARI’s holistic approach to enhancing farm productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability.

Members of the delegation expressed keen appreciation for the scale and scientific depth of agricultural research in India. Several participants noted that the visit provided them with a new perspective on India’s leadership in agricultural science, particularly in the areas of crop improvement, digital agriculture, and climate-smart farming. The visitors lauded IARI’s integration of research with national development goals and acknowledged the institute’s contribution to ensuring food security for a large and diverse population.

The visit concluded with an interactive exchange, where delegates shared positive feedback and expressed interest in future collaborations, academic exchanges, and innovation partnerships with Indian institutions. The programme successfully strengthened the delegates’ connection with India’s scientific heritage and showcased IARI as a global hub of excellence in agricultural research and education.

