

Press Release

National Forum on Solarization of Agriculture Held at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

New Delhi, April 21, 2026: *National Forum on Solarization of Agriculture*, bringing NARES and CGIAR efforts together, was successfully organised by ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute in collaboration with International Water Management Institute at the Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Library, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. The event was conducted in hybrid mode which was joined by researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the country.

In his remarks, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, emphasized on the requirement of a collective action plan to scale solarisation in agriculture. He highlighted key domains such as irrigation, farm operations, and agrivoltaics as priority areas. Stressing on the innovation, he described the potential of rooftops and farm structures as energy generators and underscored solarisation as a critical researchable area. He also highlighted the importance of targeted crop approaches, improving dust removal efficiency of solar panels, and enhancing adoption among smallholder farmers. He also emphasized on the need to harness green energy for national development and increasing per capita energy availability.

Dr. Alok Sikka, Emeritus Scientist, IWMI and Former DDG (NRM), ICAR highlighted that solarisation of agriculture in India has reached an advanced stage through large-scale initiatives. He stressed on the need to conserve groundwater resources by effective management of energy inputs, as solarisation enables systems where energy can be fed back sustainably. He emphasized on the visualisation of solar energy in the same integrated frame as of food, water, energy, and climate, particularly to address food security and land-use competition.

Dr. P. S. Brahmanand, Project Director and Principal Scientist, Water Technology Centre (WTC), ICAR-IARI, while welcoming the gathering, emphasized on the importance of collaborative and technology-driven approaches to advance solarization in agriculture. Dr. Gopal Kumar, Interim Country Representative, IWMI India and Bangladesh, highlighted the role of solarisation in achieving the goal of *Viksit Bharat* and *net-zero emissions*. He noted the transformation of farmers from energy buyers to producers and now potential energy sellers, emphasizing that real impact will be realized only when this transformation occurs at the farm level. He further stated that farm-level solar energy is poised to become a key carrier of sustainable agricultural growth.

The forum also featured technical presentations by scientists on topics related to agrivoltaics, solarisation pathways, irrigation-energy nexus, and emerging innovations in solar-powered agriculture. The event provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, collaboration, and strengthening partnerships towards advancing solarisation of Indian agriculture in a sustainable and inclusive manner.





(Source: ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi)