

64th Convocation of ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

10 February 2026

The 64th Convocation of ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi kick-started with the Professors’ presentations on 10 February 2026 (Third day) at the Agricultural Engineering Auditorium of ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean and organized under the convenorship of Dr. Jasdeep C. Padaria, Professor, MBB, with Dr. Shruti Sethi, Principal Scientist, FS&PHT, as Co-Convenors. The programme highlighted major scientific contributions emerging from the School of Crop Improvement, School of Crop Protection, School of Natural Resource Management, and School of Basic Sciences.

The Session I- Crop Improvement was chaired by Dr. B. M. Prasanna, Distinguished Scientist, CIMMYT & Director, CIMMYT-Asia, and featured presentations by Dr. C. Bhardwaj (Genetics and Plant Breeding), Dr. Sunil Archak (Plant Genetic Resources), and Dr. Gyan Mishra (Seed Science & Technology). The School of Crop Improvement reported substantial achievements in crop genetics and breeding, with research contributions leading to the development and evaluation of over 100 improved crop varieties and advanced breeding lines across cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and horticultural crops. Research outcomes include biofortified varieties, climate-resilient cultivars, and stress-tolerant genotypes addressing drought, heat, salinity, and major biotic stresses. The School has also contributed to the conservation and characterization of thousands of plant genetic resources, alongside advances in seed science and quality enhancement technologies, directly supporting national food and nutritional security goals.

The Session II- Crop Protection was chaired by Dr. C. D. Mayee, Former Chairperson, ASRB, New Delhi, with technical inputs from Dr. Suman Gupta (Agricultural Chemicals), Dr. Subramaniam S. (Entomology), Dr. Anil Sirohi (Nematology), and Dr. Aundy Kumar (Plant Pathology). The School of Crop Protection highlighted impactful research in safeguarding crop health through more than 80 validated technologies and management modules related to entomology, plant pathology, nematology, and agricultural chemicals. Research findings emphasize integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) approaches that have enabled 20–40% reduction in pesticide use in major cropping systems. Contributions include development of eco-friendly pest control strategies, disease diagnostics, resistant sources, and biological control agents, reinforcing sustainable and environmentally responsible crop protection.

Session III on Natural Resource Management was chaired by Dr. V. N. Sharda, Former Member, ASRB, New Delhi, and included presentations by Dr. Murtaza Hasan (Agricultural Engineering), Dr. P. Krishnan (Agricultural Physics), Dr. Y. S. Shivay (Agronomy), Dr. D. K. Sharma

(Environmental Sciences), Dr. Rajeev Kaushik (Microbiology), Dr. T. J. Purakayastha (Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry), and Dr. Khajanchi Lal (Water Science & Technology). The School of Natural Resource Management showcased multidisciplinary research outputs focused on sustainability and climate resilience. Research findings include over 90 technologies, models, and decision-support tools related to soil health management, water-use efficiency, precision agriculture, agricultural engineering innovations, and climate-smart practices. Research outcomes have demonstrated 10–25% improvement in resource-use efficiency, enhanced soil fertility, and improved water productivity, contributing to resilient and sustainable agricultural production systems.

Session IV on Basic Sciences was chaired by Dr. A. K. Shasany, Director, CSIR–National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, and featured contributions from Dr. Ranjeet R. Kumar (Biochemistry), Dr. Jasdeep C. Padaria (Molecular Biology & Biotechnology), and Dr. Anjali Anand (Plant Physiology). The School of Basic Sciences highlighted foundational research that underpins applied agricultural innovation. Research contributions include significant research outputs in biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, and plant physiology, supporting trait discovery, stress physiology, and molecular characterization. Advances in genomics, molecular markers, metabolic profiling, and physiological screening tools have strengthened translational research pipelines and supported varietal development, stress tolerance research, and next-generation agricultural technologies.

Each session provided a platform for concise technical deliberations and concluded with Chairperson's remarks emphasizing interdisciplinary research integration, technology translation, and farmer-centric innovation. Overall, the programme highlighted its cumulative contributions of hundreds of varieties, technologies, tools, and scientific advancements that continue to address national priorities related to food security, climate change adaptation, sustainability, and natural resource conservation.





Glimpses of third day (10.02.2026) of 64th Convocation Programme of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi