

(September 18 - 19, 2025)

National Consultation on Scaling Agroforestry

To advance sustainable agriculture, enhance farmer livelihoods, and tackle climate change, the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), under the leadership of its Chairman, Dr R.S. Paroda, recently convened the National Consultation on Scaling Agroforestry. Held over two days, September 18–19, 2025, at the NASC Complex in New Delhi, the event brought together around 90 policymakers, researchers, academicians, industry leaders, and farmers. This consultation was organized in partnership with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), and the World Agroforestry Center (CIFOR-ICRAF).



The consultation aimed to evaluate the current status of agroforestry in India, identify key challenges, and develop a strategic roadmap for its large-scale adoption. It also sought to foster collaboration among government bodies, research institutions, the private sector, and farming communities.



Key Takeaways from the Consultation

The event featured a series of presentations and discussions showcasing successes and challenges within India's agroforestry sector. The inaugural session included keynote addresses from Dr RS Paroda and Dr Eliane Ubalijoro, CEO of CIFOR-ICRAF, Kenya. Dr ML Jat, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, also delivered his talk.



Technical sessions explored diverse aspects of agroforestry—from research innovations to policy and regulatory frameworks. Highlights included agroforestry's potential for carbon trading and its critical role in climate change mitigation. A dedicated farmers' session provided valuable firsthand insights into effective agroforestry models.

On the second day, participants engaged in parallel round-table discussions focused on four priority areas:

- Research and Innovation: Prioritizing species selection and enhancing research dissemination.
- Enabling Policies: Identifying policy interventions to overcome barriers.
- Value Chains and Market Linkages: Strengthening market access and farmer connectivity.
- Capacity Building and Extension: Developing targeted training and reinforcing extension services.



The New Delhi Declaration: A Blueprint for the Future

The consultation concluded with the "Second New Delhi Declaration on Scaling Agroforestry – 2025," a comprehensive strategic roadmap for the sector. The declaration reaffirms agroforestry as a proven land-use system that addresses food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and rural livelihoods. It further underscores agroforestry's alignment with India's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

While acknowledging significant progress since the 2014 National Agroforestry Policy, the declaration also highlights ongoing challenges such as institutional overlaps, fragmented state policies, and inadequate market infrastructure.

To overcome these barriers and realize a "Viksit Bharat", the declaration puts forth key resolutions:

- **Strengthening Institutional Coordination:** Proposing the establishment of a National Agroforestry Development Board as a unified clearinghouse.
- **Expanding Policy and Investment Support:** Calling on all states to adopt dedicated agroforestry policies and increase funding, including through carbon markets and CSR contributions.
- **Promoting Quality Planting Material and Research:** Advocating a nationwide nursery accreditation system to ensure certified, high-quality planting stock.
- **Enhancing Extension and Awareness:** Recommending the creation of dedicated extension cadres within institutions like Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).
- **Developing Markets and Value Chains:** Establishing frameworks for improved marketing and processing of agroforestry products.

The New Delhi Declaration aims to transform India's agricultural landscape into one that is more resilient, sustainable, and profitable for millions of smallholder farmers.

