

The 32nd Dr BP Pal Memorial Lecture: A Visionary Call to Transform Indian Agriculture

The ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), hosted the 32nd Dr BP Pal Memorial Lecture on May 28, 2025. This annual event honors the remarkable legacy of Dr BP Pal, a pioneering visionary whose contributions laid the foundation for modern Indian agricultural science. The lecture is a prestigious platform that showcases cutting-edge ideas and strategies to propel Indian agriculture towards a sustainable and prosperous future.



**THIRTY SECOND
Dr. B. P. PAL
MEMORIAL
LECTURE**

28 May 2025 at 09:30 AM

Speaker
Dr. Mangi Lal Jat
Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)
Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Transitioning from Commodity-centric Agriculture to Agri-Food System is a Must for Viksit Bharat @2047

In Chair
Dr. R. S. Paroda
Chairman, TAAS and Former Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR

Agricultural Engineering Auditorium

Organized by:
The Genetics Club & The Graduate School, IARI

This year's lecture was delivered by Dr Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General of ICAR. Dr Jat is a distinguished agricultural scientist renowned for his expertise in sustainable farming systems, climate resilience, and precision agriculture. His address, titled **“Transitioning from Commodity-centric Agriculture to Agri-Food System – A Necessity for a Developed Bharat by 2047,”** emphasized the urgent need to evolve India's agricultural paradigm. He advocated for a holistic agri-food system approach that integrates production, processing, nutrition, and market linkages to ensure food security, farmer welfare, and environmental sustainability. He emphasized that achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 will require empowering youth, women, farmers, and the poor through a solid foundation in agricultural science, innovation, and extension. He underscored the urgent need to address pressing challenges such as environmental



degradation, biodiversity loss, climate change, and nutritional insecurity by adopting a systemic and inclusive approach. Dr. Jat outlined several strategic priorities, including the strengthening of local food systems, promotion of climate-resilient and regenerative landscapes, encouragement of demand- and market-driven research, establishment of specialized farming zones to reduce climate risks and improve market access, and the need for cross-sectoral convergence through quality science and the One Health framework.

Calling for a paradigm shift in Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D), Dr Jat stressed the importance of aligning scientific goals with national development objectives. He stressed for transdisciplinary research, integration of AI/ML, system-based co-creative innovations, and a robust data ecosystem. The DG further highlighted the importance of 'breeding for tomorrow,' development of quality human resources, strengthening of agricultural education, tech-enabled extension services, and the creation of actionable business plans aligned with the goals of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The lecture underscored that India's agricultural sector must move beyond the traditional focus on commodity production alone. Instead, it should embrace a comprehensive agri-food system that supports value addition, diversification, and climate-smart innovations. Such a transformation is essential to meet the ambitious vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India) by the country's centenary of independence in 2047. Dr Jat's insights highlighted how leveraging technology, policy reforms, and stakeholder collaboration can drive this transition effectively.

The event was chaired by Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS and former Secretary DARE and Director General of ICAR. Dr Paroda's leadership and lifelong dedication to plant breeding and sustainable agriculture added immense value to the discourse. He reinforced the need for immediate action and a systems approach to agricultural transformation. Dr Paroda underscored the importance of scientific innovation and inclusive growth in shaping India's agricultural future. He also emphasized the role of a strong agricultural education framework and collaborative efforts to ensure lasting impact.



Dr Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director and Vice Chancellor, ICAR-IARI, spoke about Dr Pal's monumental contributions to Indian agriculture.

The lecture was attended by scientists, faculty members, and students from ICAR-IARI and its sister institutes, including NBPGR, NIIPM, NIAP, and NIPB.

The complete lecture of Dr ML Jat and speech of dr RS Paroda can be accessed through following link:

https://youtu.be/0_pzm9Zmkss

