

(5 June 2026)

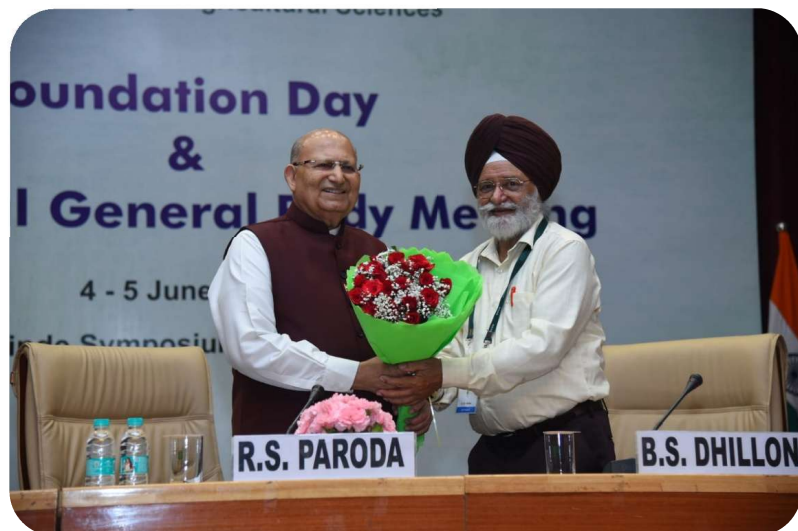
**Shifting Focus from Food Security to Farmers' Prosperity: Dr RS Paroda Delivers the Prof. MS Swaminathan Foundation Day Lecture 2026**



The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) celebrated its Foundation Day on June 05, 2026, at the AP Shinde Symposium Hall, NASC, New Delhi, featuring a highly anticipated commemorative program chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Distinguished Professor, ICRIER & Former Member, NITI Aayog. The event commenced with a traditional lamp lighting and floral tribute, followed by a welcome address from

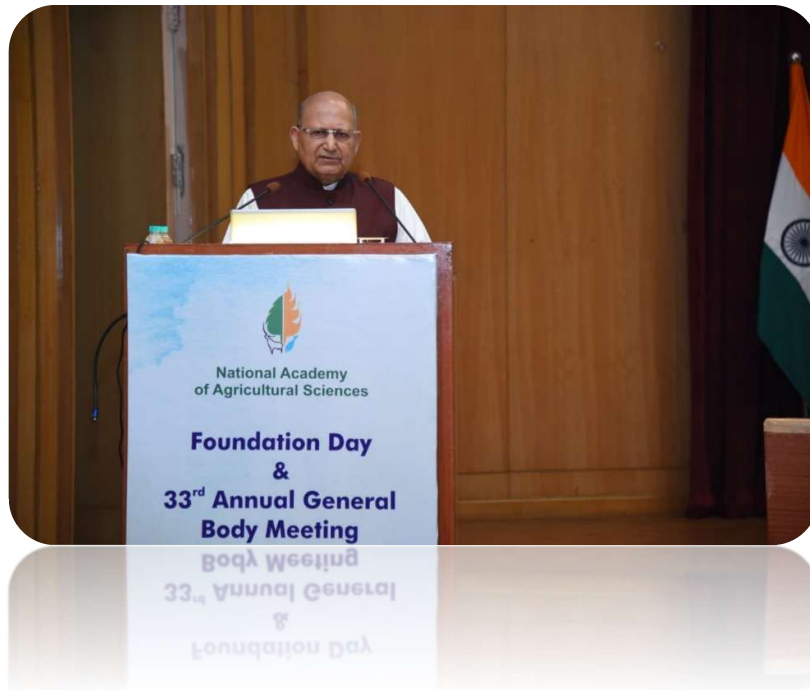
Dr PK Joshi, Vice President, NAAS.

Introducing the speaker, Prof. Ramesh Chand invited Dr RS Paroda, Founder Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, TAAS and Padma Bhushan awardee to deliver for the prestigious Prof. MS Swaminathan Foundation Day Lecture 2026 on the topic, "From Food Security to Farmers' Prosperity".



## Executive Summary of the Lecture

In his presentation, Dr RS Paroda paid tribute to the late Bharat Ratna Dr MS. Swaminathan, invoking his timeless principle of the "Evergreen Revolution"—achieving productivity in perpetuity without ecological harm. While India has achieved massive production success, securing an advance estimate of 349.14 million tonnes of cereals, 27.42 million tonnes of pulses, and 43.1 million tonnes of oilseeds for 2025–26, Dr. Paroda highlighted a troubling paradox where this massive production coexists with critical systemic stress. Farmers continue to face shrinking landholdings, declining profitability, deteriorating soil health, groundwater depletion, rising climate risks, nutritional insecurity, and a growing disinterest among youth toward farming.



To build a secure future, Dr Paroda argued that the modern farmer must be reimagined beyond the traditional role of just *Annadata* (food provider) to also become a *Poshandata* (nutrition provider), *Urjadata* (energy provider), water conservationist, and climate protector. Achieving true prosperity requires a reduction in input costs, improved resource use efficiency, unhindered knowledge dissemination, market integration, and climate resilience.

To operationalize this shift, Dr Paroda outlined **Five Pillars for Reimagining Indian Agriculture**:

1. **Production to Prosperity:** Transitioning the economic focus from raw volume to farmer-centric profitability.
2. **Calorie to Nutrition Security:** Moving beyond hunger satisfaction to comprehensive nutritional delivery.
3. **Climate-Smart Technology:** Deploying data-driven solutions and sustainable farming practices.
4. **Post-production with Inclusion:** Prioritizing value addition, waste reduction, and infrastructure.
5. **Youth and Women as Leaders of Change:** Empowering new demographics to drive agricultural innovation.

Furthermore, the lecture emphasized critical institutional reforms, such as goal-oriented research, stronger extension systems, and collaborative ecosystems blending public institutions, startups, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Looking forward to India's Agricultural Future - 2047, Dr Paroda envisioned a landscape defined by vibrant bio-economy hubs, water security, knowledge entrepreneurs, and global trade excellence, noting that India already stands as the world's 5th largest exporter of food according to WTO data. Ultimately, the presentation concluded that ensuring the Indian farmer can live with dignity, security, and prosperity is the truest collective tribute India can pay to the legacy of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan.

Following the lecture, Prof. Ramesh Chand shared his chairman remarks, leading into a formal felicitation of both the speaker and the chair, and concluding with a vote of thanks by Dr BS Dhillon, Vice President, NAAS.



The lecture received outstanding feedback from the distinguished scientists in attendance, whose impressions are highlighted below:

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*Great presentation, Respected Sir.*

*Your insightful deliberations on agriculture, rural development, and the pivotal role of Indian farmers were truly inspiring. The presentation effectively highlighted the immense contribution of our Scientific community and our farmers in ensuring food security, sustaining the rural economy, and supporting the nation's growth. Your vision for strengthening agriculture through innovation, technology, and farmer-centric policies was both enlightening and motivating. Thank you for sharing your valuable thoughts and experiences. It was an enriching and thought-provoking presentation.*

*Best regards,*

**MS Chauhan**

*Former VC, GBPUAT, Pantnagar*

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*Sir,*

*Thank you so much for accepting our invitation and delivering an excellent lecture. Listening to you is always a learning opportunity for me. I apologise I couldn't meet you after the lecture, as I had to leave by 5 pm to take Bhubaneswar flight to join the Regional Consultation of BSHP scheduled tomorrow.*

*Regards 🙏*

**Dr Dwivedi,**

*Secretary, NAAS*

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*Respected sir. We learnt a new perspective to focus upon for the growth of agriculture. Sir your presentation was highly insightful. It is always enriching to listen to you sir. Regards 🙏🙏*

**Padaria, JDE, IARI**

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*Delighted by your insightful and thought provoking Swaminathan Memorial Lecture. Attended online.*

*Hearty congratulations. 🙏🙏*

**Dr Naik, former VC, Shivamoga**

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Good afternoon. It was an excellent lecture, very informative, positive and inspirational. You probably left soon after the lecture. I will be leaving tomorrow morning. So may be we talk on phone or zoom later. Thank you so much for everything you have done for Indian and global agricultural institutions. 🙏

**Dr Vara Prasad**

Kansas University

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Enjoyed your lecture - professionally wholesome, informative, educative, inspiring. Take home point if farmers prosper India prospers. Your slides were a treat to see and source of education

My congratulations 🙏

**JC Katyal**

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Dear Sir,

What a lecture sir.

I am speechless, mesmerized and in awe of you being there blessings generations.

Charansparsh Sir

Regards

**Anupama Singh**

Dean, IARI

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Respected Dr Paroda ji,

Sincere and heartfelt congratulations on delivering an inspiring speech on the occasion of the Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Foundation Day lecture yesterday at NAAS.

Your extraordinary contributions to research and institution-building in agriculture have made a significant impact on agriculture in our nation. The lecture delivered by you was a reflective of your entire journey linked with Indian Agriculture which gives us tremendous insights into the way ahead towards prosperity of farmers and creation of Krishak Pradhan Bharat.

Warm regards.

**Sanjay Kumar**

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*Jai Shree Krishna*

*Suprabhatam*

*You probably left the NASC complex immediately after the lecture...*

*Hope all is well. I relished your lecture yesterday...*

*Very aptly highlighting the road map for furthering the pace of transformation in various domains of Agriculture.*

*Your seven-pointed focus was quite appropriate, ...in tune with the prevailing fluxes of agricultural development.*

*Have a blissful weekend.*

***Dr BL Jalali***

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*Your lecture was indeed visionary clearly identifying the 7 thrust areas for urgent action to boost the growth of agriculture and farmers' prosperity and achieving SDGs at a faster pace. I enjoyed the presentation from many angles. Best regards*

***Bhag Mal, TAAS***

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*Hon'ble Dr R S Paroda Sir IN IN*

*Thank you for sharing the Zoom meeting link. It gave me the privilege of attending your lecture, which was truly invaluable for me. 🙏🙏*

*I was particularly moved by your statement, "भारत कृषि प्रधान देश तो रहा है पर कृषक को प्रधान नहीं बना पाया." These words reflect your deep concern for farmers and your lifelong commitment to Indian agriculture 🌾*

*I would also like to mention that during the programme, Prof. Ramesh Chandra Sir beautifully highlighted your remarkable contributions. At the same time, it made me realize that a lifetime of service, vision, and leadership such as yours cannot be fully captured in a single speech or a single day. Even after reading Code Paroda, one continues to discover new dimensions of your inspiring journey and contributions to Indian agriculture 😊😊*

*Listening to your thoughts was a privilege and a learning experience that I will always cherish ✨*

*With deepest respect and regards 🙏🙏*

***Anand Paroda***

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*Sir,*

*Good morning,*

*The above feedback are true reflections of the extremely well articulated lecture delivered by you, a befitting tribute to the memory of Dr. Swaminathan, which none other than you could have done in the manner it was done because you have known Prof. Swaminathan, Indian Agriculture and Indian farmers so intimately.*

*It was blessings for the Academy to have you deliver the Foundation Day lecture. A truly memorable one.*

*We look forward to final copy of the Foundation Day Lecture for printing it from Academy and circulating it to concerned Ministries, Departments and also sharing with NARS institutions for its wider circulation. Lecture was attended online by large number of participants.*

*With kind regards.*

**Ashok Singh**

Secretary, NAAS

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*You are always the best! Brings so much positive vibes with you. Everyone was speechless and there was pin drop silence during your presentation and the hall was full.*

*Wished if you could have spent more time with us all before and after the presentation 🌻 🌻*

**Gurinder Randhawa**

*Reaction on Dr Randhawa's remarks by Dr Padaria:*

*Respected sir. She is absolutely correct. I too endorse her observations and feelings. We are blessed to have a visionary leader, thinker and intellectual like you sir, who has continuously taken Agricultural Research, Education and Extension to a glorious and respectable orbit. We continue to learn several virtues from your persona. Our best regards.*

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*Dear sir,*

*Your speech in the NAAS yesterday (MSS Foundation Lecture) was outstanding!*

**Nerkar, former VC, Rahuri**

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*Dear Sir*

*It was a wonderful synthesis towards future Indian farming. Green to Evergreen. Digital to FPOs.*

*Youth to Women. Few slides but with effective messages and attractive. Well connected with Ecosystems. A great Dr MS Swaminathan Lecture of NAAS on its Foundation Day.*

*Best regards*

**Ch Srinivasa Rao**

Director, IARI

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*Respected sir, your insight and messages are not comparable with anyone. Giving my observation will be just like showing a diya to a Sun. You are more than Sun for not only Indian but global agriculture sir. 🙏*

*SN Jha, DDG (Engg)*

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*Wonderful feedback indeed, reflecting the kind of extraordinary presentation, adding new dimensions, minimum slides with so much depth and breadth in it, truly visionary and highly inspiring. Most befitting to the name of Swaminathan. During my student days at IARI I had an opportunity to similar class of presentations by none other than Swaminathan, Borlaug, Paintal DG, ICMR etc. In recent years, I haven't heard such a thoughtful lecture, which would probably go down as historic one in shaking soul of Indian Agriculture.*

*Hearty congratulations. Better to circulate it to policymakers. Looking forward for some more such inspiring lectures in the near future*

*Respectful Regards*

*M.K. Naik, Former VC*

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