

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Foundation Day Lecture

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

5 June 2026

**FROM FOOD SECURITY
TO FARMERS' PROSPERITY**

R.S. Paroda

Chairman

Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences

Tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. M.S. Swaminathan



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If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right.

Evergreen Revolution

Productivity in perpetuity without ecological harm

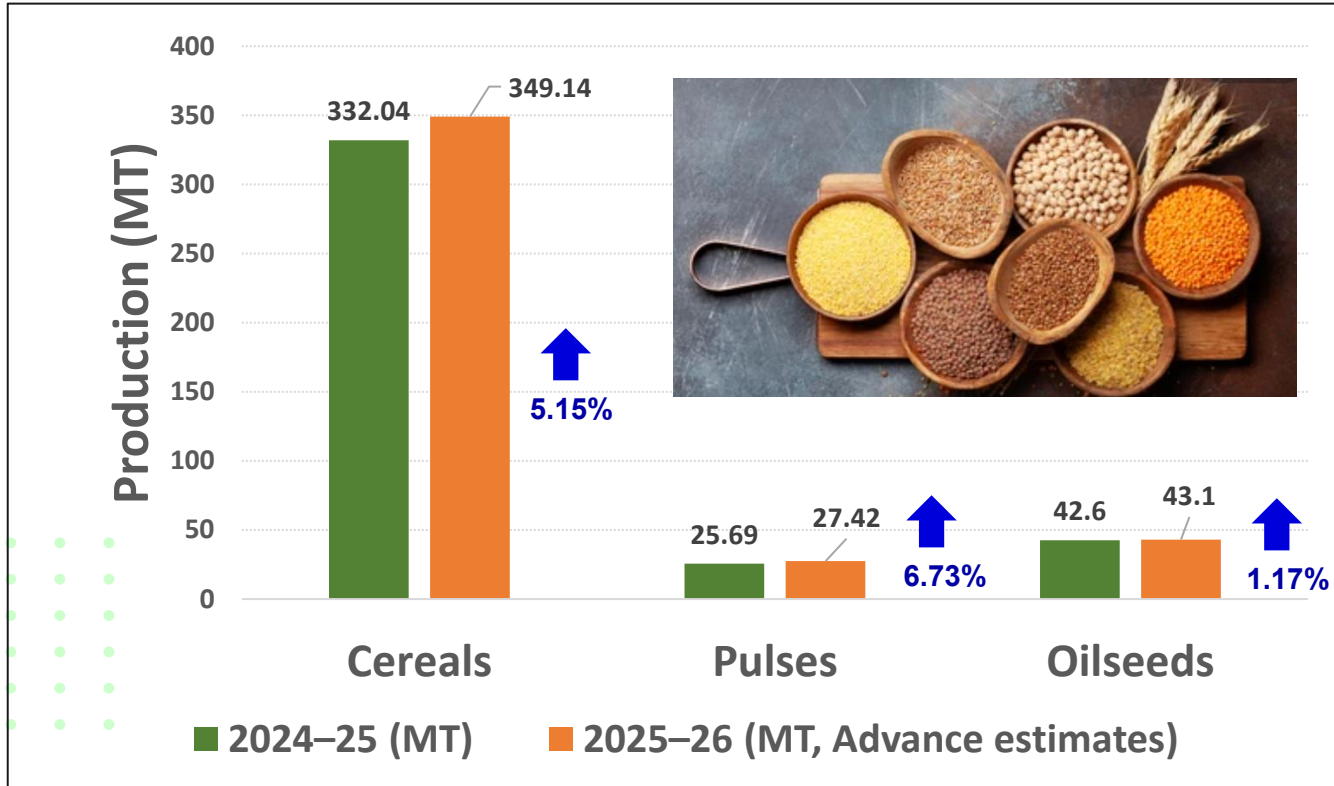
Farmer First

Future rooted in farmers' welfare and prosperity



Success & Stress Together

18.87 mt additional food grains (2025-2026)



1 DECLINING PROFITABILITY



2 SHRINKING LANDHOLDINGS



7 GROWING DISINTEREST OF YOUTH IN FARMING



3 DETERIORATING SOIL HEALTH



Our Troubling Paradox

... How to Make Our Farmers More secure

6 NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY



5 RISING CLIMATE RISKS



4 DEPLETION OF GROUNDWATER



What Makes a Farmer Prosperous?

01

Sharing of knowledge without dissemination loss

02

Reduction on cost of inputs

03

Improved input Use efficiency

04

Linking farmers to market both internal and external

05

Sustainability for natural resources

06

Resilience against climate risks

07

Dignity for farming profession

The Future Farmer: Beyond Just *Annadata*



FIVE PILLARS FOR REIMAGINIG INDIAN AGRICULTURE



• Production to
• Post-production
• for Farmers'
• Prosperity •



Climate-Smart
Agriculture



Technology
with Inclusion



Calorie- to
Nutrition-
Security



Youth (including
Women) as
Leaders of Change

Institutional Reforms

Science once powered India's food security. It must now power farmers' prosperity.



1. Mission-Oriented Research & Delivery

Research aligned to clear goals and real-world outcomes



2. Interdisciplinary Science for Innovation

Cross-domain science accelerating practical breakthroughs



3. Stronger Extension Systems

Public and private extension improving reach and adoption



4. Climate Intelligence & Climate-Smart Agriculture

Data-driven resilience, adaptation, and sustainable productivity

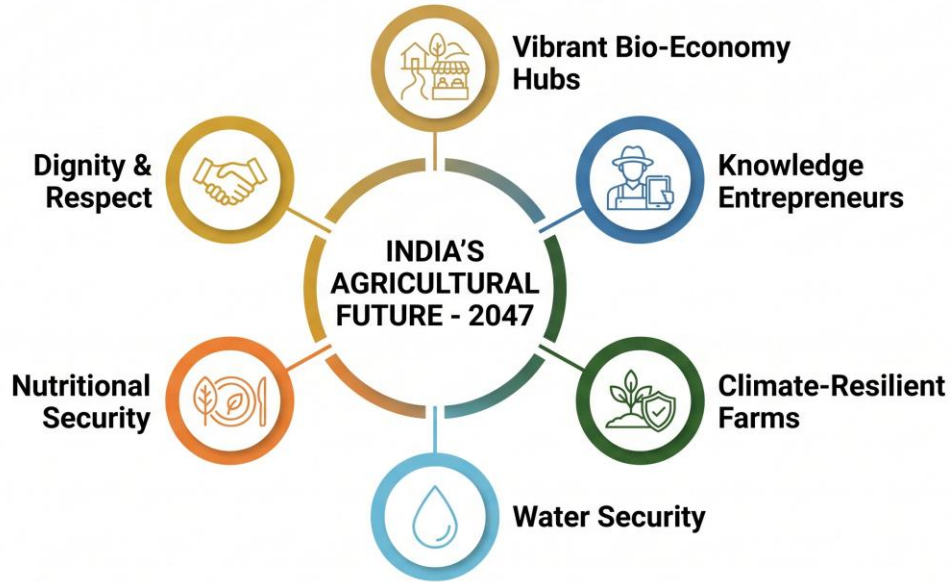


5. Strong Collaborative Ecosystems

Public institutions, private enterprise, startups, and FPOs working together



Vision for India's Agricultural Future



Our Collective Responsibility

*Not merely crops,
but farming
systems*



*Not merely
production but
post-
production*



*Not merely growth,
but harmony between
humanity and nature*



The 30 Largest Exporters of Food

**India is
5th
Largest
Exporter**



Source: World Trade Organization

VISUAL CAPITALIST



Can the Indian farmer live with dignity, security and prosperity?

*If yes...
that's a true tribute to beloved Prof.
M.S. Swaminathan*



Thank you

