

(10 October 2026)

## **Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr R S Paroda Inaugurates State-of-the-Art Central Laboratories at ICAR-NRCSS, urges Scientists to Adopt a Positive, Innovative, and Nation-First Approach**

Renowned agricultural scientist Padma Bhushan Awardee Dr R S Paroda, Chairman, TAAS and former Secretary of DARE and former Director General of ICAR, inaugurated the newly established state-of-the-art Central Laboratories—focusing on Molecular Biology and Plant Tissue Culture—under the Genome Editing Project at the ICAR-National Research Centre on Seed Spices (NRCSS) in Ajmer.



During his visit, Dr Paroda inaugurated the *Methi* (Fenugreek)

Germplasm Database, an interactive digital platform aimed at enhancing researchers' access to crop genetic resources. He also inspected the institute's various laboratories, institutional museum, newly constructed seed processing plant, and Medium-Term Storage (MTS) facility for germplasm.



Dr Paroda praised the ongoing efforts of ICAR-NRCSS in preserving, characterizing, and utilizing precious genetic resources of seed spice crops. He highlighted the critical role that advanced biotechnologies and genome editing will play in accelerating crop improvement, disease resistance, and quality enhancement in seed spices. Furthermore, he emphasized the need for a

dedicated All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) under ICAR focused specifically on seed spice crops to broaden impact across the country.

Addressing the scientists, staff, and delegates, Dr. Paroda urged the scientific community to adopt a mindset that is positive, innovation-oriented, and centered on national interest. He stressed the importance of setting clear research priorities, strengthening infrastructure, maintaining high standards of institutional documentation, and delivering impactful scientific outputs to serve the farming community.

The event was attended by ICAR-NRCSS Director Dr Vinay Bhardwaj, who welcomed Dr Paroda and presented an overview of the center's research accomplishments and future direction, along with Extension Officer Mr GK Tripathi and the center's scientists and staff.



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