

e-NEWSLETTER

INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

.... Connecting Engineers in Agriculture

March - April 2026



7000 + Members

36 Chapters

3 Scientific Publications

Published by
INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

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Message From The President



My Dear ISAEians! The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers is moving now its next phase of development and contributions to Indian Agriculture. The last two months have seen those changes. We had two executive committee meetings, one editorial board meeting, three meetings with Springer and two interactions with state Government officials etc.

Dear members! The MoU signed with Korean Society of Agricultural Mechanization was operationalized. We are going to participate in their annual programme. We organized online lecture in collaboration of ASABE on grain storages. Large number of people both members and non-members attended the same. In last two EC meeting we took several important decisions to provide speed and scale to ISAE activities and achievements. We have also decided dates and themes of Annual Convention and International symposium, updating the memberships database, theme of 2027 wall calendar. Our journal JAEI is getting indexed by web of science and we are desperately waiting for the first impact factor likely to come in last week of May or June this year, besides we have almost finalized the terms and conditions for co-publishing JAEI with Springer. All these shows that how bar of standard and functioning of the society has been raised. We should be proud of our society and its functioning.

Dear readers! We have also started preparing for CIGR 2028 conference. Draft brochure was circulated among the stakeholders and members for suggestions. Hopefully we will be finalizing all programmes in next two months. The conference is being advertised through various media. Request you all kindly to visit its website www.cigr2028.org regularly to make it more popular so that participation from world over should be maximized.

Dear Agineers! Efforts for establishing directorate/Department of Agricultural Engineering is progressing. I had talk with Hon'ble CM office Bihar and also efforts for Punjab was put. Letters were re-submitted and pushed through Secretary DARE in Punjab. Pursued cases in Telangana, Karnataka, J & K etc.

Friends! The society's progress depends on your contributions. Persuasion for Directorate at local level, timely and quality review of research papers, contributions of articles in our publications, gathering advertisements for AET and e-newsletter, conducting workshops/seminars using ISAE banners are some of continuous activities where your participations are essential to progress the society to a newer height. Society is of you, for you and by you. **Come forward and help us to improve it to further newer heights.**

Dear All! I superannuated from the formal job of Dy. Director General, ICAR on the 30th April 2026. I thank ICAR and all of you for your cooperation, helps in all happenings for betterment of our profession and the Indian Agriculture keeping me in centre of all activities. This is an event that happens in everyone's life. Thousands of individual messages and calls for your well wishes on this event have further motivated me to do some more and more services to societies. I assure you that will continue for furtherance of Agricultural Engineering & Technology profession in Indian Agriculture. **Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!!**

S N Jha
President, ISAE

From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk



It is pleasing to note that The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) has moved into a new phase of development. Several steps have been taken by the Executive Committee to better the Society and expand our activities. The Executive committee remain dedicated to advancing the agriculture profession and growing our reputation among professionals—both in India and internationally..

This edition of the e-newsletter features glimpses of the efforts and advancements made in agricultural engineering between March and April 2026. It highlights activities conducted across the country by various institutes to disseminate vital know-how to all stakeholders.

A significant highlight of this period is the celebration of the illustrious career of Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha, our President and outgoing DDG (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR. Dr. Jha's pioneering research in sensors, makhana processing, and robotics has left an indelible mark on the field .His leadership in establishing global collaborations and driving policy reforms has truly elevated the stature of Indian Agricultural Engineering . On behalf of the entire Society, we extend our heartfelt wishes for a very happy and fulfilling retired life, and we look forward to his continued guidance.

I hope the technologies featured here provide valuable takeaways for professionals as they implement these innovations in the field. Your suggestions and feedback are always welcome to help further improve this mouthpiece of the ISAE.

Chandra Shekhar
Chief Editor



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ISAE Happenings

12th ISAE EC meeting held on March 14, 2026

The ISAE Executive Committee meeting was held on March 14, 2026 at 4:30 pm in Zoom platform. The meeting commenced with the Secretary General welcoming all members of the Executive Committee and special invitees. The Secretary General requested Srinagar Chapter team to brief about the preparations for upcoming ISAE Convention & Symposium.

In the meeting the organizing team/Office bearers from Srinagar Chapter briefed about their thoughts regarding the upcoming ISAE Convention. The President, ISAE, emphasized that the early release of the convention flyer and wider publicity would allow sufficient time for prospective participants to plan and participate. The organizing chapter proposed several possible dates in October and November. After deliberation, the EC finalized the dates October 5–7 for the convention. Discussion on Annual Convention and International Symposium Themes were also held and after long deliberations followings were decided by the EC with consent of organizing team from Srinagar:

Annual Convention : Women Lead Engineering Innovations in Smart Agriculture
International Symposium: AI and Robotics for Gen Z Farming

The President advised the organizing chapter to finalize the organizing committee, including the Convener, Organizing Secretary, and other key members at the earliest. Dr. S. Manivannan, VP (Activity Council) stressed that the convention dates are approaching and requested that the first circular be designed and uploaded on the Society's website within one week. The Secretary General thanked the participants from the Srinagar Chapter for their active participation in the discussion.

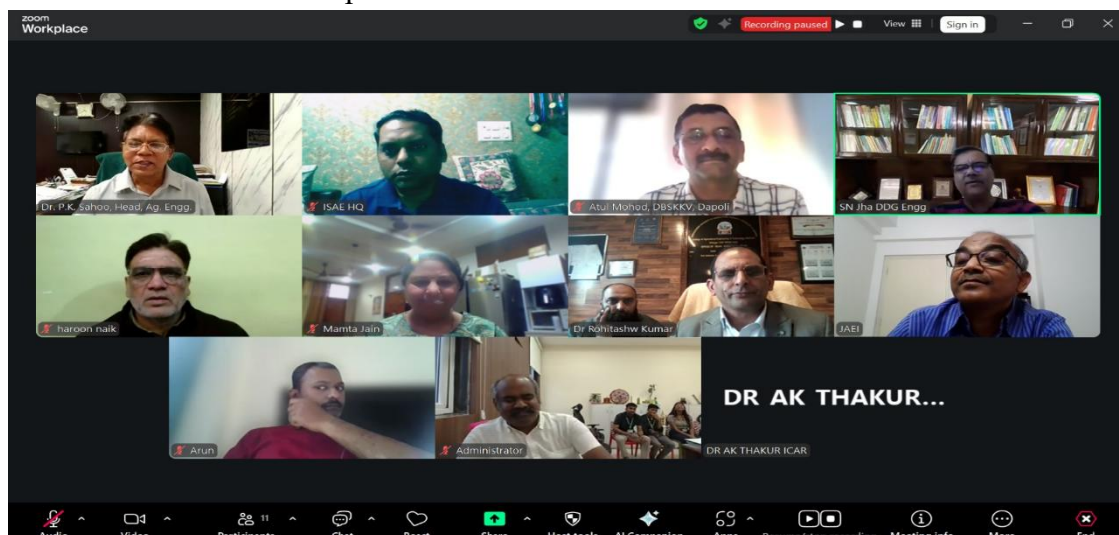
The Executive Committee meeting started with Secretary General's comprehensive briefing of Action Taken on decisions made during the previous Executive Committee meeting. The following agenda were discussed and decided with consensus

- 1. Co-publishing JAEI with Springer**– The President informed the EC that Springer official has informally intimated that the proposal of co-publishing of the Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India) is in active consideration by the senior people and we may have a positive confirmation by the end of March. The EC further authorized the President to do the needful as publishing JAEI will not only save lot of money of ISAE, but will add prestige to the journal as well
- 2. Revision of printing charges for Journal** – The Secretary General informed the EC that he had discussions and negotiations with the printing firm regarding printing charges. After review and deliberation, the revised printing charges, were approved by the EC
- 3. ISAE Overseas Chapter** – Dr. Manivannan, Vice President (Activity Council) informed the EC that he had discussions with Dr. M. Annamalai, Prof., University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada regarding the formation of overseas chapters. Dr. Annamalai suggested the establishment of two overseas chapters. After discussion, the EC decided to establish only one Overseas Chapter initially. The EC approved the proposal and nominated Dr. M. Annamalai as the Interim Chairman of the Overseas Chapter. Dr. Manivannan will coordinate with Dr. Annamalai for further steps toward initiating the chapter formation

ISAE Happenings

4. **Membership Update** – The EC reviewed the current status of the membership details updation process. Dr. Arun Kumar, Secretary-I briefed the EC members that the ISAE office has contacted all members to confirm their current mobile numbers and active email IDs. It was further informed that members who did not respond to the initial communication were subsequently contacted through email reminders requesting them to update and confirm their contact details. After deliberation, the EC decided that the contact details of members whose information is still unavailable will be retrieved through the respective chapters and the Society's official WhatsApp groups, in order to ensure that the membership database remains updated and complete
5. **Participation in overseas conference** – The President informed the EC that an invitation has been received from the Korean Society of Agricultural Mechanization to participate in their annual conference. He further informed that the host society will bear the expenses for economy class air travel, registration, and accommodation. The President invited EC members to express their interest in participating within the next couple of days, as he would be occupied with other important engagements during the scheduled dates.
6. **Online Conference Module** – Earlier, the EC had decided to develop and maintain an online conference management module to facilitate ISAE events. However, due to technical and operational complications, the EC decided not to go ahead with proposal as of now. It requires more discussion. Instead, the Organizing teams/Chapters may arrange appropriate online facilities independently for their respective events.
7. **Guest Lecture Series** – The President suggested initiating a monthly guest lecture series, with one lecture to be organized every month for the benefit of members and the wider professional community.
8. **Extension of agreement for website service provider** – President informed the EC that an email has been received from website service provider for extension of service agreement; which is due for renewal from April 01 2026. EC considered the proposal and agreed to extend the service with the same terms and conditions.

The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks to the Chair and Committee Members for their valuable contributions at about 6:45 pm.



ISAE Happenings

13th ISAE Executive Committee meeting held on 11th April, 2026

The ISAE Executive Committee meeting was held on April 11, 2026 at 11:00 am in Zoom platform. The meeting commenced with the Secretary General welcoming all members of the Executive Committee and Organizing team from Srinagar Chapter. The Secretary General requested Srinagar Chapter team to brief about the preparations for upcoming ISAE Convention & Symposium.

Preparation for Upcoming Convention – Organizing team/Office bearers from Srinagar Chapter briefed about the preparations regarding the upcoming ISAE Convention. Considering that the event date is approaching, the organizers were instructed to release the first flyer within a couple of days and the final comprehensive brochure within a week. The President advised the organizing chapter to finalize the working team of organizers, including the Convener, Organizing Secretary, and other key members at the earliest.

The Secretary General thanked the participants from the Srinagar Chapter for their active participation in the discussion. In the later session, the Secretary General provided a comprehensive briefing on the Action Taken Report regarding the discussions and decisions made during the previous Executive Committee meeting. The following points were discussed.

1. Co-publishing JAEI with Springer– The President informed the EC that the Springer team has provisionally agreed for the following terms: (a) a guaranteed payment of €3,000 applicable up to € 60,000 in total revenue and (b) 10% royalty applicable on revenues exceeding €60,000. He informed that the final terms and agreement will be drafted at earliest.
2. ISAE Calendar for the Year 2027 – The EC discussed the theme for the ISAE 2027 calendar. Two themes: “Watershed” and “Legendary Agricultural Engineers” were proposed. The Vice President (Activity Council) was suggested that further preparation be undertaken before finalizing the theme. It was suggested that high-quality images related to watershed development be collected, along with brief notes highlighting successful case studies from different agricultural contexts.
3. Printing of Recommendations of the Bhopal Convention – The EC deliberated on the printing of the recommendations from the last convention. It was decided that the draft recommendations be compiled and printed. The organizers will be requested to submit any additional recommendations for finalization prior to printing.
4. Balance Sheet for the Previous Convention - The EC discussed the non-receipt of the financial statement for the Bhopal convention. To avoid further delays, it was decided that the organizers be reminded and requested in writing to submit the audited accounts and close the financial records at the earliest.

ISAE Happenings

13th ISAE Executive Committee meeting held on 11th April, 2026

5. Proceedings of Overseas Chapter – The Vice President (Activity Council) informed the EC about a meeting convened regarding the initiation of an overseas chapter. The proceedings of the meeting were presented before the EC. After due consideration, the EC approved and accepted the proceedings.
6. CIGR Conference – It was noted that Dr Devinder Dhingra could not attend the meeting due to other commitments. The EC decided to invite him to the next EC meeting to provide a detailed briefing on the ongoing preparations and current status of organizing the conference.
7. Document on Impact of Agricultural Engineering Education and Research – The EC discussed the preparation of a comprehensive document reflecting the impact of agricultural engineering education and research. The theme was deliberated in detail, and it was decided to initiate the process of collecting relevant information and data for the document. As was done in previous years a book may be published and released in the upcoming convention at Srinagar .

The meeting concluded with a formal vote of thanks to the Chair and Committee Members for their valuable contributions at about 12:00 Noon.

The proceeding released with the approval of the President, ISAE.



Announcement of 60th ISAE Annual Convention

The 60th ISAE annual Convention and International Symposium is scheduled for 5th to 7th October 2026, with following themes :

- **Annual Convention:** Women Lead Engineering Innovations in Smart Agriculture
- **International Symposium:** AI and Robotics for Gen Z Farming



The poster features a central illustration of a woman wearing a headset and holding a tablet, surrounded by various agricultural robots and a tractor. The text is arranged in a structured layout with logos and dates.

www.isae.in
www.https://skuastkashmir.ac.in

60th ISAE ANNUAL CONVENTION-2026

WOMEN LED ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS IN SMART FARMING

Jointly Organised by

Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers
New Delhi

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir
Main Campus, Shalimar, Srinagar Kashmir (J&K) India-190025

June 1, 2026
Abstract Submission Starts

June 30, 2026
Last Date for Abstract Submission

July 15, 2026
Notification of Acceptance of Abstract

July 30, 2026
Submission of Full Length Paper

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AI & ROBOTICS FOR GEN-Z FARMING

Date: **October 5-7, 2026** | Venue: **SKUAST-K, Shalimar**



Announcement of 7th CIGR International Conference 2028

The **7th CIGR International Conference**, scheduled for **3rd – 7th October 2028 in New Delhi, India**. It will be jointly organized by the CIGR International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The event aims to highlight transformative engineering innovations that empower smallholder farms and contribute to global food security and sustainability.

The conference, themed “Engineering Innovations in Small Farms for Food-Secure Future,” will address a comprehensive range of topics including land and water engineering, automation, AI in agriculture, crop production technologies, post-harvest processing, farm energy solutions, and modern system management. **ISAE is going to organise this event.**

TECHNICAL SESSIONS (WITH BROAD AREAS/TOPICS)

The conference will host an extensive range of technical sessions and thematic tracks under the following seven broad areas:

- Section I: Land and Water
- Section II: Structures and Environment
- Section III: Plant Production
- Section IV: Energy in Agriculture
- Section V: System Management
- Section VI: Bioprocesses
- Section VII: Information Technology

In addition to scientific discussions, the conference will feature: Plenary Sessions by global experts; Student Competitions (elocution, design contests); Startup Showcases and live technology demos; Use Case Presentations, exhibitions, and field visits; Cultural tours to explore the heritage of New Delhi



CIGR International Commission of
Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering



Indian Society of
Agricultural Engineers



Indian Council of
Agricultural Research

7th CIGR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2028

ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS IN SMALL FARMS FOR A FOOD-SECURE FUTURE

3rd - 7th Oct 2028 New Delhi, INDIA

www.cigr2028.org

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2028

Supporting
Partners

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, India
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries, India
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, India
- American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, USA
- Asian Association for Agricultural Engineering
- Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Association (AMMA-India)



A brief Account of Contributions of Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha

A brief Account of Contributions of Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha, during his tenure as ADG & DDG, Engineering, ICAR HQ, New Delhi

On account of superannuation of Dr. S. N. Jha DDG (Agricultural Engineering) on 30 April 2026, ISAE feel privileged in travelling through the lane of Dr. Jha as ADG and DDG at ICAR headquarter. Dr. S, N, Jha, is a world renowned scientist for upliftment of millions of lives through his research, leadership skill and managerial ability. Impact of his several pioneering research including the first research on application of sensors in agriculture, horticulture/ *kishan* train, makhana processing, establishment of food testing laboratories etc. are well known. Even though he had not been directly involved in research over the last 10-12 years as a scientist, he is being ranked continuously in the top 2 % scientists across all research fields of the world with current ***h-index* of 44 and 6377 citations** which is rarely found in engineering disciplines as on 30 April 2026. (www.snjha.in). Beyond research, he has been



instrumental in a wide spectrum of institution building, developmental reforms, and policy initiatives. These have led to strengthening activities, expanding infrastructures, improving visibility and ease of doing business across ICAR in general and engineering institutes in particular.

The ICAR-CIAE Bhopal got a face-lift in several ways. Names and mandates of all “All India Coordinated Research Projects (AICRPs)” and CRPs (Consortia Research Platform) operational at CIAE were revised and updated, besides changing direction and dedications towards new challenges. **Re-created the post of Head, Transfer of Technology Division (TTD) and the Coimbatore centre which hitherto was in project form since 1980s got approval as Regional Research Station**, drone and automation labs, centre of excellence in robotics and AI with a group of scientists trained in robotics and AI, **NABL accredited food testing labs** etc. were established. The campus was modernized with RCC roads and beautification, a new CRP on spectroscopy in agriculture has been included in the EFC 2026-31. Facilities for developing cutting-edge technologies for precision agriculture, the first indigenous cotton harvester etc. were successfully established and developed.

The ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana’s, name and foundation day were corrected, AICRP on Post Harvest Technology was renamed to AICRP on Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (PHET) and AICRP on Plasticulture Engineering and Technology was restructured as AICRP on Plastic Engineering in Agricultural Structure and Environment Management (PEASEM) with complete engineering mandates—both schemes won the best AICRP award. **The HCP division at ICAR-CIPHET Abohar campus was upgraded to a regional station, a new division on Automation and Sensor Technology was established and COFAME (Confederation of Food and Agro-processing Machinery Enterprises) was constituted in Ludhiana to support food and agro-processing machinery enterprises.** Posts of all project coordinators and technical staff across AICRPs were safeguarded, staff strength increased considerably and a new network project on alternative food and nutrition production has been included in the EFC 2026-31. **NABL accredited food testing labs, and the pioneering facilities for non-destructive food quality evaluation are among the major one were developed.**

A brief Account of Contributions of Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha

The ICAR-CIRCOT has undergone all around transformation. The scientific manpower in position has increased by about 50% and the fund allocation to the institute increased to more than 250%. The disciplines of Textile Manufacture and Electronics & Instrumentation that are essential for the Institute's mandate has been reinstated in ARS. The Ginning Training Centre located at Nagpur, established under the Integrated Cotton Development Project in 1980's, has been recommended by the GB for upgrading it to a full-fledged Regional Research Station. The CRP on Natural Fibres was operationalized with CIRCOT as a nodal centre. The Genomic Editing Laboratory was established for extraction of fine chemical.

The institute's revenue generation increased by more than three times compared to that in 2021. The proactive intervention through Ministry of Finance and the PMO has enabled the institute to demonstrate the technology of Currency Grade Paper and get the recognition from Bank Note Paper Mill, Mysuru and also garnered consultancy for improving their process. The Laboratory was equipped with sophisticated instruments that has enabled this referral laboratory to be recognized as **world's the sixth-best laboratory for fibre testing**. The construction of long pending Type IV staff quarters, procurement of USTER HVI were successfully accomplished. The institute had the historic visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India during its Centenary Year Celebration in 2024.

The ICAR-NINFET (erstwhile NIRJAFT) Kolkata underwent a complete transformation of name, mandates and focus towards engineering for all natural fibres, except cotton. Number of scientists in position increased by about 50%, its budget tripled in amount and secured approval for a new G+5 building to replace century-old infrastructure. New AI and robotics labs were established, consultancy projects flourished and the institute gained national prominence, even drawing **recognition from the highest levels of government**, when Yak-jute fibre shawl was presented to HPM Shree Narendra Modi jee in one of the National programme organized by the Government of India. It has now become a premier institute for new age fibres and a main institute for serving to the need of the Ministry of Textile.

The ICAR-NISA (erstwhile IINRG) Ranchi, a 100-year old institute, was fully revamped. Its name, mandates, direction, as well as work orientation were fully changed. **A new division was created and century-old buildings, laboratories, training centres etc. were modernized**. Its budget raised by 2.5 times, CRP on secondary agriculture is being shifted from ICAR-CIPHET Ludhiana to ICAR- NISA. **The President's visit** marked a historic milestone, underscoring the institute's growing importance during its centenary celebration in 2024. Collectively, these efforts not only modernized infrastructure and expanded mandates but also positioned this institute as vibrant centres of innovation, policy support and national visibility in Secondary Agriculture.

At the ICAR level, Dr. Jha contributed significantly in structural and developmental reforms of the council. **ICAR-IASRI was brought under Engineering SMD**, while the Research Centre for Makhana at Darbhanga was transferred to SMD and later upgraded to **National Research Centre (NRC) on Makhana** with an expanded mandate covering other aquatic crops as well. **The division also received the ICAR Data Management Centre and ICT unit, alongside an increase in the number of ADGs from two to three and principal scientists from two to nine**. The SFC/EFC units rose from five to eight and the annual budget of SMD doubled in 2025–26 compared to 2021–22.



A brief Account of Contributions of Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha

In research initiatives, Makhana is rocking, genome editing project, buiding materials from crop residues, alternative ways of food and nutrition production, NIR spectroscopy in agriculture, nondestructive food quality and safety evaluation, secondary agriculture, new age fibres are a few to name.

A landmark initiative was the conceptualization and in-principle agreement for establishing a National Institute on Agricultural Robotics and AI, which are emerging as a centre of excellence within a newly sanctioned Agricultural Engineering college. **At the council level, reforms**, not limited to, include delegation of laptop purchase powers to directors, modification of qualifications for scientific posts, re-transfer of institute administration sections to SMDs and revival of ARS disciplines such as Textile Manufacturing and Technologies, Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering and Computer Applications in Agriculture. Adoption of Five days' week in ICAR institutes, corpus funds utilization and their guidelines, reducing eligibility from PhD to Master degree for ARS examination, eligibility of admission of students from non-ICAR accredited institutions in ICAR institutes are some among other many initiatives with critical inputs/initiatives of Dr. Jha implemented in the council.

Policies on instruments use, scientific cadre transfers and data management were made and introduced, along with transparent governance including APAR grading system based on pre-defined parameters in engineering division, monthly meetings at SMD and of all directors/PCs to take collective decisions, informal monthly meetings with all staff of the division here at Delhi to improve the work culture. Some big projects of National importance such as Uniform loss assessment norms in FCI/CWC warehouses, pulse milling out turn and storage norms, mechanization level and impact of CHC survey etc. were initiated and completed under his supervision and guidance and giving millions of rupees' benefits to the Nation.

Parliament Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food Processing recommended establishment of Directorate of Agricultural Engineering and posting of engineers at panchayat and block levels in each state first time. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DoAFW) advised Agricultural Engineering division of ICAR to form an inter-state committee for finalizing the modalities and structure of the Directorate of Agricultural Engineering under the Chairmanship of DDG Agricultural Engineering and the report of the committee was accepted and endorsed to all state Governments for implementation. Honourable AM Shree Shivraj Singh Chauhan jee, the then Honourable AM Shree Tomar jee and Rupala jee as well as Secretary DoAFW Shree Chaturvedi jee also wrote letters to Chief Ministers and Chief Secretary, respectively, of all states to establish Directorate of Agricultural Engineering to achieve the targets of farm mechanization level of 75-80% by 2047. National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) upon his initiatives has also brought policy papers on Farm Mechanization and Secondary Agriculture to guide the nation for getting accelerated development in these fields. Efforts are visible - Maharashtra has created the post of Director (Agricultural Engineering), Chhattisgarh has approved and about other 10 states are in different phase of its consideration.

Efforts of Dr. Jha also expanded agricultural engineering education in IITs (at least three IITs are considering to open a department upon his letter) and three new colleges have already been established.



A brief Account of Contributions of Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha

To modernise the education he personally got courses on sensors, robotics and food safety introduced in B. Tech syllabi. Initiatives such as educational videos/podcast and lectures in schools, colleges and devoted sessions for 11th/12th students in Annual convention of Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers have helped in considerable improvements in Gross enrolment ratios in B. Tech. Agricultural Engineering in states where it was going down. Restrictions for non-ICAR accredited institutions' students for admission in ICAR institutes were got removed, food safety digest magazines and establishment of NABL-accredited food testing labs (now numbering 247 in panel of FSSAI) strengthened the sector. Agricultural engineers were made eligible for food inspector roles, besides canvassing for getting ARS eligibility changed from PhD to Master's degree. His contributions to creation of the National Makhana Board, getting HSN codes and FSSAI standards for makhana, and establishment of Bihar Agriculture Science Academy are well acknowledged by public and private sectors. The Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India) achieved web of Science indexing and decision of co-publishing with Springer shows his commitment for all round development of Agricultural Engineering in the country. Additionally, the online launch of *आधुनिक कृषि अभियान्त्रिकी पत्रिका* marked a new era of outreach and knowledge dissemination in collaboration of Industries.

At International level, he brought CIGR 2028 conference first time in Indian subcontinent. The India became the first country to won membership of CSAM (Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization) of United Nations' Governing Council continuously for two terms. Raised the voice for opening of mechanization division in FAO, and collaborations with American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ASABE), Society of Agricultural Mechanization of South Korea, Nepal, universities of USA and some other countries and organizations were got intensified through signing of MoUs and operationalizing them.

Wherever Dr. Jha has worked, has left his indelible marks, institutions/projects under him received highest level of recognitions. He is not only a world **renowned scientist of Agricultural Engineering world over**, but during his stint in Council Headquarter and as institute director, he has proven that he is not only a **great institution builder, leader but also a great science and administration reformers**. He is loved for raising right points at right time without any hesitation, fear and favours but with fact and figures to get the reforms done. He is so strong in persuasion and continuation of work that whatever he thinks and initiates, get it completed sooner or later. He has not only brought Agricultural Engineering and Technology in fore front of National Agricultural Research Education and Extension System, but has also vibrated almost all state governments of the country for bringing reforms in their Department of Agriculture by establishing directorate of Agricultural Engineering. **He is really a foresighter for future research needs, leader of leaders, manager of managers, great motivators and inspiration for generations to come.**

The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers wish him all the best upon his superannuation from the post of DDG (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR and looks towards his further contributions to provide, speed, scale and system of services to Indian Agriculture.



World Water Day 2026

World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of fresh water. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.1 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis. A core focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Every year, UN-Water — the UN’s coordination mechanism on water and sanitation — sets the theme for World Water Day. In 2024, the focus was on Leveraging Water for Peace; in 2025, on Glacier Preservation. In 2026, the theme will be Water and Gender.



Key messages for World Water Day 2026

- **The global water crisis affects everyone – but not equally.** Where people lack the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, inequalities flourish, with women and girls bearing the brunt. It’s time to centre women and girls in water solutions.
- **Women must shape the future of water.** Water services must withstand climate change and meet everyone’s needs. We need a transformative, rights-based approach to solving the water crisis, where women’s voices, leadership and agency are fully recognized.
- **Where water flows, equality grows.** When women and girls have equal voice in water decisions, services become more inclusive, sustainable and effective. We must invest in women’s leadership to make water a force for a healthier, more prosperous, gender-equal future that will benefit us all.

Source : <https://www.un.org>



World Water Day 2026

ICAR-IARI, New Delhi celebrates World Water Day

On the occasion of 'World Water Day' on 22nd March 2026, Water Technology Centre, ICAR Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi organized a technical programme on the central theme "Water and Gender". Dr. S.K. Ambast, Hon'ble Member (NRM), ASRB graced this occasion as Chief Guest who emphasized on the significant contribution of women in all spheres of Indian society. He briefed regarding the challenges faced by women in collecting fresh water from long distance especially in saline and water scarcity zones and the need for developing best management practices for sustainable water resource management with active participation of women farmers. Dr. Ambast also sensitized the gathering regarding current status of over-exploitation of groundwater and effective steps for strengthening groundwater recharge.

A Rapid Brainstorming Session on the theme "Empowering Farm Women through Water Literacy and Governance" was also organized in collaboration with Dhan Foundation, Madurai, Tamil Nadu in which 17 farmers (including 8 women farmers) from 6 states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Bihar, Odisha and Delhi shared their field experience in efficient utilization of water resources including tanks.

Dr. Anupama Singh, Joint Director (Education) & Dean, Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research) and Dr. R.N. Padaria, Joint Director (Extension) graced the occasion as Special Guests. Dr. Anupama Singh mentioned about the importance of traditional water harvesting structures in ensuring better water security and active women participation. Dr. C. Viswanathan elaborated about the positive impact of automated irrigation and climate resilient water management in reducing the drudgery of farm women. Dr. R.N. Padaria spoke about the significant role played by women in maintenance of 'Jal Sahelis' in Bundelkhand region and steps needed to strengthen the scope of women in decision making in water management. Earlier, Dr. P.S. Brahmanand, the Project Director, WTC, IARI delivered welcome address and set the context for the central theme i.e. 'Water and Gender' and explained about the significance of women farmers in sustainable water management. The publications of WTC, ICAR-IARI were released by the Chief Guest in this programme. About 140 participants comprising of farmers, HoDs, Professors, scientists, staff and students representing Delhi University, NRAA, ICAR-NBSSLUP, ICAR-NIAP, ICAR-IARI and Dhan Foundation attended this event.



Source: WTC, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi



World Water Day 2026

Celebration of World Water Day 2026 - Department of Agricultural Engineering, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University

World Water Day was enthusiastically celebrated on 23rd March 2026 in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University highlighting the critical importance of water in sustainable development and social equity. The event was thoughtfully structured into two engaging sessions, combining academic participation with expert insights. The celebration commenced with an essay competition in the first half of the day, centred on the theme **“Water and Gender.”** This theme aligned with the World Water Day 2026 slogan: **“Where water flows, equality grows.”** Participants actively expressed their perspectives on the interconnection between water access and gender equality. The essays emphasized how equitable water distribution can empower women, reduce drudgery, and enhance socio-economic development in rural and agricultural communities. The competition provided a valuable platform for students to critically reflect their thought on water-related challenges through a gender lens.

In the second half, an insightful lecture was delivered by **Prof. Kishan Singh Rawat (FANSE, SFSN)**, Geo-informatics, Civil Engineering Department, Graphic Era University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The lecture focused on **“Cropland Soil Moisture Assessment through Remote Sensing.”** Prof. Rawat elaborated on advanced geospatial techniques and satellite-based approaches for monitoring soil moisture in agricultural fields. He has given emphasis on significance of accurate soil moisture assessment in improving irrigation efficiency, crop productivity, and water resource management-key concerns in the era of climate variability. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, where winners of the essay competition were felicitated for their thoughtful contributions. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by the Head of the Department, honouring the speaker and participants. In the spirit of **World Water Day 2026: “Water and Gender,”** the lecture advanced vital dialogue on inclusive water resources engineering and sustainable development, motivating research toward a more equitable and water-secure future



World Water Day 2026

ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad

On the occasion of World Water Day, ICAR–CRIDA, Hyderabad in collaboration with Watershed Organization (WOTR) and Indian Society of Dryland Agriculture (ISDA) and Indian society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE-Telangana Chapter) organized a Farmers’ Rally to promote awareness on water conservation and efficient water management in agriculture, with active participation of farmers, women farmers, scientists, staff, and students.

Shri M. Kodanda Reddy, Chairman, Telangana Agriculture Farmers Welfare Commission, graced the programme as Chief Guest, while Dr. Arun Tiwari, Retired Scientist, DRDO, attended as Guest of Honour.

Experts deliberated on key aspects of water management, including water-saving technologies, water budgeting, groundwater recharge, and climate-resilient practices. Emphasis was laid on the adoption of farm ponds, micro-irrigation, solar energy, watershed development, and resource mapping to enhance water use efficiency. The role of ICAR–CRIDA in disseminating location-specific technologies and advisories was also acknowledged.

The Chief Guest highlighted the importance of judicious water use in dryland agriculture, appreciated the role of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and recognized the contributions of women farmers in improving water use efficiency.

As part of the celebrations, awards were distributed to best-performing villages, progressive farmers, and students for their contributions to water conservation and awareness. The programme witnessed participation of around 300 farmers.



Directorate of Agricultural Engineering to be Formed in Chhattisgarh to Provide Affordable Modern Equipment to Farmers

A separate Directorate of Agricultural Engineering will be established in the state. Preparations by the Department of Agriculture have intensified for this initiative. Administrative approval for the proposal has been received, and the file has currently been sent to the Finance Department for final clearance. The primary objective of establishing this directorate is to provide modern agricultural machinery to farmers at lower costs, which will reduce farming expenses, increase productivity, and create new employment opportunities at the rural level. This will be the third directorate within the Agriculture Department; the Directorate of Agriculture and the Directorate of Horticulture already exist.

Although the provision for its formation was made in the 2024-25 budget, the establishment could not be completed at that time. Now, after about a year and a half, the process has gained momentum. Departmental officials state that the complete setup is ready, and further action will begin as soon as financial approval is received. Agriculture Minister Ramvihar Netam provided detailed information regarding this in the Legislative Assembly, confirming that administrative approval is secured and the finance process is underway.

Directorate of Agril Engg in Chhattisgarh status

शासन-प्रशासन

दैनिक भास्कर, रायपुर, सोमवार 23 मार्च, 2026

पहल • कृषि विभाग में पहले से दो संचालनालय, अब तीसरे का प्रस्ताव वित्त विभाग के हवाले किसानों को सस्ते आधुनिक यंत्र दिलाने के लिए बनेगा कृषि इंजीनियरिंग संचालनालय

भास्कर न्यूज | रायपुर

प्रदेश में एग्रीकल्चर इंजीनियरिंग का अलग संचालनालय बनेगा। इसके लिए कृषि विभाग में तैयारी तेज हो गई है। नए संचालनालय के प्रस्ताव को प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति मिल चुकी है। फिलहाल इसकी फाइल वित्त विभाग के मंजूरी के लिए भेजी गई है। एग्रीकल्चर इंजीनियरिंग संचालनालय बनाने की मुख्य वजह किसानों को कम कीमत पर आधुनिक कृषि यंत्रों उपलब्ध कराना है। इससे खेती की लागत घटेगी। उत्पादकता बढ़ेगी और ग्रामीण स्तर पर रोजगार के नए अवसर भी सृजित होंगे। यह कृषि विभाग में तीसरा संचालनालय होगा। विभाग में कृषि संचालनालय और उद्यानिकी संचालनालय पहले से हैं।

वर्ष 2024-25 के बजट में इसके गठन का प्रावधान किया गया, लेकिन संचालनालय की स्थापना नहीं हो सकी। अब करीब एक-डेढ़ साल बाद फिर इसकी प्रक्रिया तेज हुई है। विभागीय अधिकारियों के मुताबिक संचालनालय का पूरा सेटअप तैयार कर लिया गया है। वित्तीय स्वीकृति मिलते ही आगे की कार्रवाई शुरू होगी। इस संचालनालय का मुख्य उद्देश्य खेती में मशीनीकरण को बढ़ावा देना और किसानों को आधुनिक उपकरणों की आसान उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना है। कृषि विभाग के अंतर्गत नए संचालनालय की स्थापना को लेकर बजट सत्र के दौरान विधानसभा में कृषि मंत्री रामविचार नेताम ने विस्तार से जानकारी दी थी। मंत्री नेताम ने बताया कि कृषि अभियांत्रिकी संचालनालय के प्रस्ताव पर प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति मिल चुकी है। वित्त की स्वीकृति के लिए कार्यवाही प्रक्रियाधीन है।

नए संचालनालय की होगी यह जिम्मेदारी

कृषि अभियांत्रिकी संवर्ग को तकनीकी कार्य सौंपे जाएंगे। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में कस्टम हायरिंग सेंटर और फार्म मशीनरी बैंक स्थापित किए जाएंगे। इससे छोटे और सीमांत किसान किराए पर आधुनिक मशीनों का उपयोग कर सकें। इसके अलावा रोटावेटर, सीड ड्रिल-जीरो टिल सीडर, हैप्पी सीडर, छोटे किसानों के लिए ट्रैक्टर का विकल्प के रूप में पावर टिलर, कीटनाशक छिड़काव के लिए बूम स्प्रेयर व ड्रोन स्प्रेयर और हार्वेस्टर / कंबाइन हार्वेस्टर समेत थ्रेशर, रीपर, लेजर लैंड लेवलर, मल्टीचर / थ्रेशर, ड्रिप और स्प्रींकलर सिस्टम और कृषि ड्रोन जैसे उपकरणों की मरम्मत और रखरखाव, भूमि सुधार व अर्थ वर्क के लिए मशीनरी उपलब्ध कराना, कृषि यंत्रों का प्रदर्शन और परीक्षण शामिल है।

अभी 29 पदों का खाका तैयार
कृषि अभियांत्रिकी संचालनालय के लिए कुल 29 पदों का सृजन किया जाएगा। इसमें संचालक से लेकर तकनीकी और सहायक स्टाफ तक शामिल होंगे। इसमें कृषि अभियांत्रिकी संचालक, अपर संचालक, संयुक्त संचालक और उप संचालक के 1-1 पद होंगे। जबकि सहायक संचालक के 2 पद प्रस्तावित हैं। इसी तरह यांत्रिक सहायक के 3 पद, मुख्य लिपिक / सहायक ग्रेड-1 के 2 पद हैं। इसके अलावा सहायक ग्रेड-2, लेखापाल, सहायक ग्रेड-3 और कंप्यूटर ऑपरेटर के 3-3 पद हैं। वहीं वाहन चालक के 4 जबकि भृत्य के 5 पद रखे गए हैं।

पुराने संचालनालय की जिम्मेदारी
छत्तीसगढ़ में खेती से जुड़े काम अभी मुख्य रूप से दो संचालनालयों के जरिए संचालित होते हैं। कृषि संचालनालय धान, गेहूँ, मक्का, दलहन-तिलहन की उन्नत खेती को बढ़ावा देने, केंद्र व राज्य की योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन, किसानों को तकनीकी सलाह व प्रशिक्षण, मिट्टी परीक्षण, उर्वरता सुधार, भूमि संरक्षण और जल संरक्षण जैसे कार्य करता है। वहीं उद्यानिकी संचालनालय फल-सब्जी उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने, नर्सरी व प्लांटेशन विकास, ड्रिप-स्प्रींकलर सिंचाई, उद्यानिकी मिशन योजनाओं के संचालन और पोस्ट-हार्वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट पर काम करता है।

ICAR–IARI, New Delhi and IARI Alumni Association Organize Expert Lecture on Climate Change Adaptation in Dryland Agriculture

ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, in collaboration with the IARI Alumni Association (IAA), organized an expert lecture and interaction session at the institute. The lecture on “Innovations in Adaptation to Climate Change in Dryland Agriculture” was delivered by Prof. Kadambot Siddique, Hackett Professor of Agriculture Chair and Director, The UWA Institute of Agriculture, University of Western Australia (UWA), Australia. Dr R. S. Paroda, President, IAA, formally introduced the speaker, highlighting his distinguished contributions to global agricultural research and leadership in dryland farming systems. He also outlined key milestones of the IAA and its significant contributions to nation-building and global agricultural platforms. In his opening remarks, Dr Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and Chief Patron, IAA, emphasized the institute’s role in achieving self-sufficiency in pulse production. He underscored the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable agricultural practices and highlighted the importance of effective science communication in addressing climate change challenges.

In his keynote address, Prof. Siddique elaborated on adaptation strategies to climate change in agricultural systems, with a particular focus on dryland and rainfed regions. He emphasized the urgency of addressing greenhouse gas emissions and presented case studies from China, Australia, and India to illustrate successful adaptation approaches. He appreciated ICAR-IARI’s initiatives in fostering industry-oriented and research-driven opportunities for students. Encouraging young researchers, he stressed the importance of perseverance, noting that challenges and setbacks are integral to the innovation process. Prof. Siddique also discussed the global challenges posed by climate change, including increasing seasonal variability, shifting agricultural production zones, and heightened stress in dryland ecosystems. He highlighted the value of farmers’ experiential knowledge and emphasized that adaptation strategies should integrate and refine traditional practices through scientific interventions.

Noting that climate change will have a significant impact on future agricultural productivity, he called for region-specific strategies tailored to local agro-climatic conditions. He further emphasized the need for integrated approaches involving policy support, improved agronomy, crop breeding, and efficient resource management to strengthen resilience in dryland agriculture. The session concluded with an interactive discussion, wherein faculty members and students actively engaged with the speaker on emerging challenges and potential solutions for climate-resilient agriculture.



(Source: ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi)

Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026 Inaugurated at Raisen, Madhya Pradesh

The National Unnat Krishi Mela 2026 was held from April 11–13 at Dussehra Maidan, Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, focusing on technology-driven farming, integrated farming systems, and increasing farmer income. Inaugurated by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the event featured 300+ stalls, live agricultural demonstrations, and 20+ technical sessions.

Key Highlights of the 2026 Raisen Krishi Mela:

Focus Areas: The event emphasized "Lab to Land" technology transfer, organic/natural farming, water conservation, and value addition to crops.

Key Discussions & Sessions:

- The three-day mela included technical sessions on soil health, seed production, horticulture (vegetables/flowers), micro-irrigation, and pest control.
- Specialized Topics: The sessions covered bee-keeping, pearl farming, dairy, poultry, and goat farming for added income.
- Stubble Management: A dedicated focus was given to "waste to wealth" initiatives, educating farmers on turning stubble into fertilizer/energy.
- Mobile App Launch: A new Soil/eFARM mobile application was launched for farmers.
- Exhibition: Over 300 stalls showcased agricultural innovations, machinery, and millet-based products from Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- The event was designed to be a "school of agriculture" aimed at strengthening regional agricultural roadmaps for districts including Raisen, Vidisha, Sehore, and Dewas.

The three-day Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026, an exhibition-cum-training programme, was inaugurated today at Raisen, bringing together key stakeholders from across the agricultural sector. The inaugural session was graced by Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister of Defence; Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Dr Mohan Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.



Among other distinguished attendees were Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, and Shri Atish Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, along with several public representatives and senior officials from central and state governments. The Mahotsav features approximately 350 stalls from national and international organisations and companies, showcasing cutting-edge technologies, innovations, and achievements in agriculture.

Over the course of the event, 27 thematic panel discussions are being organised, focusing on enhancing farmers' livelihoods through modern agricultural practices. Key areas of discussion include precision agriculture, crop residue management, farm mechanisation, integrated farming systems, and soil health management. Live demonstrations, including integrated farming models and soil testing services, are also being conducted to provide hands-on learning experiences to farmers and stakeholders. On the occasion, dignitaries also launched the e-FARM mobile application, developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal. The application offers smart, crop-specific fertilizer recommendations aimed at optimising yield and maintaining soil health. Currently, it supports major crops such as soybean, maize, rice, wheat, and chickpea at the farm level in Madhya Pradesh.

The Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026 serves as a significant platform for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and promotion of sustainable and technology-driven agriculture in the region.

(Source: ICAR & PIB)

Union Agriculture Minister Releases Madhya Pradesh Climate Adaptation Atlas

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Atlas on Climate Adaptation in Madhya Pradesh Agriculture during the Unnat Krishi Mahotsav being organized at Raisen, Madhya Pradesh during 11 – 13 April 2026. This open-access digital platform provides information on climate hazards, vulnerability, risk along with adaptation options for 13 crops and 6 livestock species at a granular scale enabling local level adaptation planning.



Developed jointly by ICAR and BISA-CIMMYT, this Atlas is an extract of the Atlas of Climate Adaptation in Indian Agriculture. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, Minister of Labour, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Aidel Singh Kansana, Minister of Farmers Welfare and Agriculture Development, Madhya Pradesh, Shri Narendra Shivaji Patel, State Minister of Public Health and Medical Education, Madhya Pradesh, Dr M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, Dr A K Nayak, Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, Dr Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR and other senior officers of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India were present on the occasion.

The event is being organized with a view to empower farmers of Madhya Pradesh through raising their awareness about the emerging technologies and knowledge tools for making agriculture more profitable and sustainable.

(Source: ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad)

Krishi Road Map' Launched to Transform Agriculture in Key Districts of Madhya Pradesh during Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026

In a major step towards strengthening regional agricultural development, the second day of Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026: Pradarshani evam Prashikshan witnessed the official launch of the Krishi Road Map for four key districts of Madhya Pradesh Raisen, Vidisha, Sehore, and Dewas. The roadmap was formally unveiled by Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, along with Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of Panchayat and Rural Development, and Labour and Employment, Government of Madhya Pradesh.



The session commenced with a comprehensive presentation by Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, who outlined the framework and strategic vision of the roadmap. The launch provided a platform for focused deliberations on critical agricultural challenges such as climate change, crop diversification, soil nutrient management, and the need for robust cold storage infrastructure. Addressing these issues, Dr Jat proposed a range of actionable interventions:

- ✓ **Technology Integration:** Promotion of precision agriculture through tools such as the e-FARM application for fertilizer recommendations, adoption of crop diversification strategies, and use of advanced machinery like laser land levelers.
- ✓ **Resource Management:** Emphasis on water conservation through micro-irrigation systems, broad bed and furrow techniques, and farm pond development.
- ✓ **Soil and Crop Health:** Systematic soil health mapping, balanced micronutrient application, and promotion of intercropping and integrated farming systems.
- ✓ **Market and Economic Empowerment:** Strengthening market linkages via platforms like e-NAM, along with promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and development of seed villages.
- ✓ **Sustainability Measures:** Focus on carbon credit opportunities and diversification into secondary enterprises to enhance and stabilize farmers' incomes.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel lauded the Unnat Krishi Mahotsav as a significant initiative in empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Shivraj Singh Chouhan further elaborated on the district-specific strategies, highlighting that the roadmap serves as a scalable model with the potential for replication across the entire state.

The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Monoranjan Mohanty, Director, ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal. The Krishi Road Map marks a decisive step toward building a resilient, technology-driven, and economically sustainable agricultural ecosystem for the farming communities of Madhya Pradesh.

(Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal)

Dr S.N. Jha, DDG (Agril. Engg.) Visits ICAR-CIRCOT, Mumbai To Review The Performance of The Institute

Dr S.N. Jha, Deputy Director General (Agril. Engg.) ICAR visited ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai to review the performance of the institute. A Scientists' Interaction meeting was also organised to assess the performance of the scientist.

Dr Jha emphasized on consistent & dedicated work by the Scientist to achieve their targets and improve the overall performance of the institute. He reiterated that the scientist should focus on unearthing innovative ideas and work for the betterment of the society.

Dr S.K. Shukla, Director, ICAR-CIRCOT elucidated on the achievements made by the institute and also acknowledged the transformation that happened in the institute with the cooperation and support of the Council.

On the Occasion three products viz., Cotton-Hemp blended shirt developed in collaboration with ICAR- National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology, Kolkata under CRP on Natural Fibres, Crease & Wrinkle free shirt and CIRCOT Extra-Long Staple Calibration Cotton were released at the hands of Dr Jha.

A MoU for commercialization of the technology was signed by ICAR-CIRCOT with M/s Pro-Ortho Perfect India Pvt. Ltd., for transfer of the technology 'Conductive yarn and conductive paste for heat-generating smart textiles' in the presence of DDG.

Later, Dr Jha, was felicitated by the institute, Indian Society for Cotton Improvement, Indian Fibre Society and Mumbai Chapter of Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers.



(Source: ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai)



DDG, Agril. Engg, ICAR Visits ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata, Inaugurates Facility and Reviews New-Age Fiber Innovation

Dr S. N. Jha, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR visited ICAR-National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology, Kolkata, on 16th April 2026. During his visit, he inaugurated the newly constructed elevator facility at the institute premises. The occasion was attended by Dr D. B. Shakyawar, Director, ICAR-NINEFT, Heads of Divisions, staff members, and CPWD officials.



Dr Jha appreciated the efforts of the Institute in realizing this long-awaited facility and noted that it would greatly benefit employees, retired personnel, and visitors, particularly the elderly. In his address, he emphasized the importance of cohesion, dedication, timeliness, and accountability for enhancing institutional visibility and performance. An interaction meeting with the staff was held subsequently, wherein Dr Shakyawar highlighted the achievements of the Institute and acknowledged the continued guidance and support from ICAR Headquarters.

A post-lunch brainstorming session on ‘New Age Fibres: Present Status and Future Perspectives’ was jointly organized by ICAR-NINFET and The Indian Natural Fibre Society.

Technical presentations were delivered on fibre mechanization and robotics, and value addition and processing of new-age fibres. The Institute also showcased its innovation in developing a jute-cotton blended linen-inspired fabric through an advanced cottonization process, producing yarns up to 30S Ne and a lightweight, breathable 100 GSM fabric suitable for apparel. This technology, jointly developed with ICAR-CIRCOT, has been successfully scaled up at Arvind Limited.

On this occasion, two Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) were signed between M/s Farndo Private Limited, Noida and ICAR-NINFET for

- (i) licensing the production of vegan leather products from pineapple and banana fibres, and
- (ii) establishment of a Common Facility Centre (CFC) for fibre extraction from pineapple and banana.



(Source: ICAR- National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology, Kolkata)

Water Resources Development For Livelihood Improvement of Smallholder Farmers

Interventions of water harvesting based integrated farming systems were carried out in two clusters of villages in Dhenkanal Sadar and Odapada blocks of Dhenkanal District in Odisha. Ten water harvesting structures (WHS) were constructed in two clusters of villages in the farmers' field on a participatory basis. Harvested water in WHSs was used for multiple purposes viz. agriculture, fish culture, on-dyke horticulture, vegetable cultivation, poultry, dairy and mushroom cultivation; integrated farming system (IFS) models were developed. The components of the land area for the IFS units comprised pond area, embankment or bund area, upland area and cultivated paddy area

The net income from the integrated farming systems varied from Rs. 16,100 and 251,000 per ha. Poultry farming in the uplands and intensive cultivation around the embankments of the pond were found to be effective in increasing net return from the IFS models. The considerable variation in net income per ha in different IFS models emphasized the role of the farmer in building a successful model.

The comparative stock of the physical, social, financial, human and natural assets of farmers were analysed considering the conditions before and after adoption of the technology. The variables under above 5 types of assets were measured on the basis of the responses of the farmers on a 5-point continuum scale (minimum and maximum value are 1 and 5, respectively) during an interview using a pretested survey schedule. The overall standard of living of farmers was assessed on the basis of their asset holding before and after the technology introduction, the value of overall standard of living ranging from 5 to 25. Maximum improvement occurred in natural assets which increased by 70%, followed by 24% increase of physical assets. Social and financial asset gains were found to be in the range of 17–21%. The overall standard of living of farmers due to the interventions increased from 13.5 to 17.1 in a scale of 5 to 25, respectively.

(Source: ICAR-Indian Institute of Water Management, Bhubaneswar)



National Forum on Solarization of Agriculture Organised at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

A National Forum on Solarization of Agriculture, aimed at bringing together efforts of NARES and CGIAR, was successfully organized by the ICAR–



Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The event, held at ICAR-IARI, was conducted in a hybrid mode and witnessed participation from researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders from across the country. In his address, Dr Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI, emphasized the need for a collective action plan to scale up solarization in agriculture. He identified key priority areas including irrigation, farm operations, and agrivoltaics.

Highlighting the importance of innovation, he stated the potential of rooftops and farm structures as energy-generating assets and described solarization as a critical area for research. He also stressed the importance of targeted crop approaches, improving dust removal efficiency of solar panels, and enhancing adoption among smallholder farmers. Furthermore, he underlined the need to harness green energy for national development and to increase per capita energy availability.

Dr Alok Sikka, Emeritus Scientist, IWMI and Former Deputy Director General (NRM), ICAR, highlighted that solarization of agriculture in India has already reached an advanced stage through large-scale initiatives. He emphasized the importance of conserving groundwater resources through effective energy management, noting that solarization enables systems where surplus energy can be sustainably fed back. He also called for integrating solar energy within the broader framework of food, water, energy, and climate systems to address food security and land-use challenges.

Welcoming the participants, Dr P. S. Brahmanand, Project Director and Principal Scientist, Water Technology Centre (WTC), ICAR-IARI, underscored the importance of collaborative and technology-driven approaches in advancing solarization in agriculture. Dr Gopal Kumar, Interim Country Representative, IWMI India and Bangladesh, highlighted the role of solarization in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat and net-zero emissions. He pointed to the evolving role of farmers from energy consumers to producers and potential energy sellers, emphasizing that meaningful impact will be realized when this transformation takes place at the farm level. He further noted that farm-level solar energy is poised to become a key driver of sustainable agricultural growth.

The forum also featured technical presentations by scientists on agrivoltaics, solarization pathways, the irrigation-energy nexus, and emerging innovations in solar-powered agriculture. The event served as a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, fostering collaboration, and strengthening partnerships aimed at advancing solarization of Indian agriculture in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

(Source: ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi)



Circular ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal and M/s. Natures Bioplastics Pvt. Ltd. Develops Biodegradable films for Milk and water Packaging

The use of plastic-based films has contributed to severe environmental pollution and ecological harm due to their non-biodegradability, persistence in ecosystems. Recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, the Government of India has launched a nationwide campaign to ban single-use plastics, aiming to mitigate environmental pollution and promote the adoption of sustainable alternatives. Despite significant progress in developing biodegradable films for food packaging, existing solutions often fail to achieve the dual objectives of sustainability and effective shelf-life enhancement for perishable goods.

Additionally, current biodegradable films lack flexibility in application, specifically for packaging liquid foods, where leakage, leaching of polymers in to filled liquid and structural integrity pose challenges. Keeping in view a suitable biodegradable films for water and milk packaging has been developed using renewable materials, such as polysaccharides, proteins, and biopolymers.

The characterization of the developed two types of biofilm have been carried out as per IS 15609: 2005, IS 11805: 2024 and ASTM standards. Based on the comparative evaluation of both the types of biofilms samples against the relevant BIS standards for water packaging film (IS 11805:2007) and water packaging film (IS 15609:2005), shows that, the developed biofilm materials for packaging of water and milk complies the respective BIS standards while offering the additional advantage of biodegradability, highlighting their strong potential as environmentally sustainable alternatives to conventional LDPE/LLDPE films for water and milk packaging. Both the films were further tested by filling with water and milk in pouches.

The filled pouches analyzed for its drop as well as leak tests. The cost of production of conventional three layer LDPE packaging film used for milk is Rs. 150-160/kg while the cost of developed biofilm is Rs. 170-175/kg. However, cost may be reduced during commercial scale industrial production.

(Source: ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal)



Milk Pouch



Water Pouch

ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal Develops Low Cost, Low Energy Based on-Farm Storage System For Enhancing The Shelf Life of Fresh Argo Commodities: A Boon For Farmers And Stakeholders

To maintain the lower storage temperature and high relative humidity condition is crucial to extend the shelf life of fresh agro produce. Conventional refrigeration system based cold storage system maintains such desired condition for storage of fresh agro produce but involves high initial investment (Rs. 5-7 lakhs/tonne) and operating cost (up to 4 Kw-h energy requirement per tonne). As an alternative low cost, low energy indirect-direct evaporative cooling based storage system suitable for on-farm storage of fresh horticultural commodities has been developed. The storage unit has 1 tonne storage capacity and especially constructed using hollow bricks.

The inner wall of the storage structure has been insulated using specially designed PU foam and polycarbonate sheet based panelling keeping in view of minimization of heat loss and maintain the inside storage temperature. The matching capacity of direct and indirect evaporative cooling units has been designed and integrated. The indirect evaporative cooling (IDEC) unit consists of specially designed cross flow type plate and fin heat exchanger while the direct evaporative cooling (DEC) unit consists of an experimentally standardized cooling pad media.

These developed indirect evaporative cooling (IDEC) and direct evaporative cooling (DEC) integrated with the storage unit in such way that any one of the system may operate individually or may operate in hybrid mode as per the requirement of inside storage and environmental conditions. The performance parameters have been optimized for individual as well as hybrid operation of the system.

At the optimized operating conditions, the hybrid system fetch the highest cooling efficiency and cooling capacity with the temperature drop in the tune of 18.3°C from the peak summer ambient temperature of 40°C. The shelf life of fresh cucumber in the developed system enhanced up to 14 days over 3 days at ambient conditions with non-significant change in quality attributes.

This allows a sufficient buffer period for farmers and stakeholders for marketing of quality product to maintain the supply chain. The cost of developed storage system is about 3 lakhs and energy consumption of 1 Kw-h/t. Overall this technology is boon to the farmers and other stackholders.



(Source: ICAR-Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal)

Smart Agri Summit 2026

The **Smart Agri Summit 2026 - Chapter 1**, organized by **IIT Ropar** in partnership with **ANNAM.AI** (an AI Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Education), was held on **March 25, 2026**, at the Senate Hall, IIT Ropar. The summit focused on transitioning from the "Green Revolution" to "**Green Intelligence**," centering on AI-driven, data-backed solutions to empower farmers and enhance agricultural productivity, sustainability, and resilience.

Key Highlights and Outcomes

Launch of "Green Intelligence": The summit emphasized moving beyond traditional farming to data-driven decision-making, utilizing IoT, AI, and GIS for precision farming.

Weather Intelligence Network: ANNAM.AI announced the deployment of 100 advanced AI-enabled weather stations, beginning in Punjab, to provide hyperlocal, real-time data for farmers to make better sowing and irrigation decisions

AI Training Program: The initiative includes fully funded AI training for 10,000 students and rural youth to create a skilled pipeline for agri-tech adoption.

Key Attendees: The summit hosted **Shri Gurmeet Singh Khudian** (Agriculture Minister, Punjab) as Chief Guest, along with **IAS Arshdeep Singh Thind** (Administrative Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Punjab), and **Dr. Pushendra P. Singh** (Project Director, ANNAM.AI & Dean, IIT Ropar).

MoU Signing: ANNAM.AI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) to deploy the ANNAM AI Chat Engine and other technologies for real-time farmer advisory.

Core Themes & Discussions

- **Farmer-First Innovation:** The focus was on ensuring technological innovations reach grassroots farmers and address their actual challenges.
- **Data-Driven Decision Making:** Experts highlighted the need for interoperable, structured datasets to drive insights for crop assessment, pest detection, and yield optimization.
- **Sustainability & Resilience:** Strategies to enhance farm productivity while promoting climate-resilient and sustainable farming practices.

The Smart Agri Summit 2026 is part of a larger initiative to build a robust, AI-powered agricultural ecosystem across India, with the first chapter serving as a foundation for future, more impactful events.



CSIR Transfers Indigenous Bio-Bitumen Technology: Turning Farm Residue into Sustainable Roads

In a significant step towards sustainable and circular infrastructure development, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) today organized a Technology Transfer Event for its innovative technology titled *“Bio-Bitumen from Lignocellulosic Biomass – From Farm Residue to Roads”* for large-scale industry adoption in New Delhi.

The event was attended by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh; Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR, Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, along with senior officials from Ministries, CSIR institutes, industry stakeholders, and policymakers.

Speaking on this occasion, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan described the development of bio-bitumen technology as a “historic and transformative step” that connects agriculture with infrastructure and innovation. Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan added that the adoption of bio-bitumen aligns strongly with India’s climate commitments, Net Zero targets, and flagship initiatives such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, the National Bio-Energy Mission, and circular economy frameworks. The use of farm residue for high-value infrastructure applications also offers additional income opportunities for farmers while reducing stubble burning and environmental pollution.

Dr. Jitendra Singh in his address highlighted that this initiative reflects India’s commitment to self-reliance, clean energy transition, and the principle of “Waste to Wealth.” He underlined that the technology demonstrates effective convergence of multiple sectors, including agriculture, science and technology, and infrastructure development, supported by strong public-private partnerships. He added that the bio-bitumen technology has demonstrated promising performance in terms of durability, compatibility with conventional bitumen, and reduced carbon footprint, making it suitable for large-scale implementation in national highway projects.

Dr. N. Kalaiselvi stated that the development marks a paradigm shift from petro-based to bio-based materials and reiterated CSIR’s commitment to regular technology rollouts for national development.

The event also witnessed participation from senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), CSIR leadership, scientists, industry stakeholders, farmers and policymakers, marking a major milestone in translating laboratory-scale innovation into real-world, field-ready solutions for India’s road sector.

The technology transfer pertains to the bio-bitumen production process developed by CSIR–Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) and CSIR–Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP).

Developed through years of research, the bio-bitumen technology utilises agricultural biomass and crop residues as feedstock through a thermochemical conversion process, producing a renewable and environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum-based bitumen. The technology has demonstrated performance equivalent to conventional bitumen while offering substantial environmental and economic benefits, and has been developed for adoption by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in road construction.

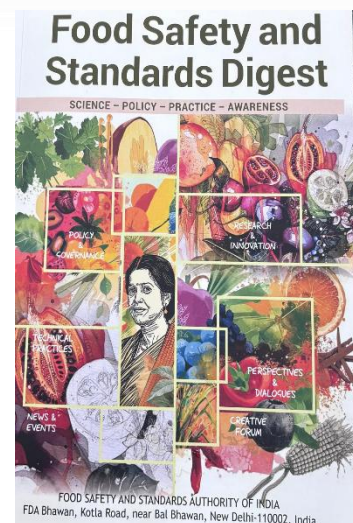
The breakthrough enables the production of bio-bitumen from agricultural residues, offering a renewable, low-carbon alternative to conventional bitumen and directly addressing the twin national challenges of pollution arising from agricultural waste and increasing dependence on imported bitumen.



"Food Safety and Standards Digest," The Official Bi-Annual Magazine Published By The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

Dr. Shyam Narayan (S. N.) Jha is a prominent agricultural scientist who currently serves as the Chairperson of the Scientific Committee, an apex committee of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Upon his active initiative as Chairman of its apex committee the FSSAI has started its first magazine to establish conversations and flow of information with/to consumers, manufacturers and other stakeholders.

The first issue of "Food Safety and Standards Digest," the official bi-annual magazine published by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). The magazine covers food safety science, policy updates, regulatory frame works, and technical compliance guidelines. It aims to disseminate scientific research, promote innovation in food safety, and facilitate dialogue among stakeholders.



How Agricultural Engineering is Key To Making Indian Farming Future-Ready

Agriculture has long been one of the strongest foundations of economic and social progress. It supports food security, generates livelihoods, supplies raw materials to industries, and sustains rural economies. Even today, for millions of families, farming is still an important means of earning their living and is their way of life. However, today the conditions are different from those of the past. Farmers have been encountering unpredictable rainfall, high input prices, labour problems, and fewer resources.



Agricultural practices that were successful in the past are still applicable today, although farming in the current world requires flexibility and foresight. Agricultural operations depend on how efficiently resources such as land, water, labour, and technology are used.

This is where agricultural engineering has taken on a larger and more meaningful role. Engineering principles are applied to agriculture in order to solve problems and minimise wastage in the field. Right from preparation of the soil, irrigation, harvesting, preservation, to food processing, the contribution of agricultural engineering spans every step in the agricultural process.

As farming systems keep on evolving, agricultural engineering plays an important role in ensuring that agriculture becomes more modern, more resilient, and more future-ready.

Understanding agricultural engineering in modern farming

Agricultural engineering refers to the use of scientific principles, technological advancements, and designs within agricultural practices. In essence, it deals with improving agricultural practice through innovative means. It can be observed in everyday activities carried out within farms. The use of tractors, seed drills, planters, harvesters, and sprayers ensures that the tasks are performed in a more efficient manner.

Water management is another important aspect. In many areas, water has been regarded as one of the most essential elements for farming. Through drip irrigation and sprinklers, water can be used effectively while ensuring proper growth of crops. Without these technologies, the results can be unpredictable in areas lacking water sources.

Moreover, agricultural engineering also enhances the management of land and soil. Systems for draining the land, bunding, terracing, and erosion control contribute towards the maintenance of farmland and soil.

How Agricultural Engineering is Key To Making Indian Farming Future-Ready

Even after harvesting the crops, its usefulness does not end. The storage facilities, drying facilities, cooling techniques, grading techniques, and food processing methods all contribute to minimising loss and improving the quality of produce before they reach the consumers. This also means higher profits for the farmers.

Moreover, contemporary farming practices are increasingly adopting a data-driven approach. Contemporary sensors, drones, GPS-controlled machinery, and satellite systems are helping farmers monitor the health of their crops, measure moisture levels, and optimise resource usage. As a result, there is less waste of fertiliser, pesticides, and water.

Consequently, agricultural engineering does not solely concern machinery but rather involves the development of superior systems to improve efficiency and feasibility within agriculture.

Agricultural modernisation

Agricultural modernisation is wrongly perceived to be merely about replacing the old equipment with the latest machinery. Rather, agricultural modernisation is about developing an efficient, climatically adaptable, commercially viable, and sustainable agricultural system. Engineering in agriculture is the key driver in facilitating the change process.

Agriculture does not struggle because knowledge is missing. It struggles because knowledge often exists in separate pockets that do not communicate with each other. Agricultural engineering does not attempt to increase knowledge for its own sake; its real purpose is to connect what already exists into a coherent system. Once these connections are made visible and functional, agriculture begins to behave in a fundamentally different and more coordinated way.”

This idea reflects a common phenomenon in agriculture. While there are many practical ideas that can be implemented, it is not always possible to achieve their integration. There could be good-quality seeds, but poor irrigation. There might be high productivity, but no storage space. There can be an increase in demand from the market, but poor transportation networks.

The mechanisation of farm equipment is an excellent example. The usage of machines such as the laser land leveler, precision seeder, power weeder, and combine harvester will help in speeding up the process. Early cultivation and harvesting may be beneficial to crop productivity.

The significance of this innovation concerning water conservation cannot be overstated as well. Devices equipped with moisture sensors, automated irrigation system, fertigation devices, and better pumping stations will help deliver water and fertilizers more efficiently.

Systems for post-harvest processing have significant value as well. However, in some regions, most of the produce is lost after harvesting owing to lack of adequate storage conditions. Cooling rooms, drying equipment, conveyor belts for grading and transport help reduce wastage and maintain produce quality. Climate resilience through agricultural engineering also becomes an important aspect. The use of

How agricultural engineering is key to making Indian farming future-ready

polyhouses, shade nets, drainage, and rainwater harvesting systems become necessary for coping with temperature stress, excessive rainfall, as well as water shortages.

There is also the economic advantage that better efficiency, lesser wastage, better quality, and market access may lead to increased income. In this context, the engineering of agriculture can be seen to support both agricultural production and agriculture profitability.

The road ahead

It is innovation that will shape the future of agriculture, and agricultural engineering will play an essential part in ensuring that this happens. There is a growing requirement for smart irrigation technologies, solar energy-driven farm equipment, robotic technologies, climate management technologies in agriculture, smart farming practices, and new techniques in food processing. Not only have these innovations improved efficiency, but they have even defined agriculture for the future.

The shift in paradigms provides many opportunities for students, businessmen, and institutions. In the industry, there has been a growing demand for individuals who are knowledgeable not only about technical operations but also about the actual problems encountered by the farmers.

On the same note, it would be equally essential for these developments to embrace inclusivity. There exist many farmers working on small pieces of land and who cannot afford machinery which is costly to purchase. There are also other options, like equipment rentals, equipment services, fabrication services, and equipment servicing in the countryside.

The agriculture industry is moving toward a new era characterised by efficiency, sustainability, and intelligent technologies. The ability to feed the ever-growing number of individuals while preserving the existing resources requires a new approach in farming, which should be modern, realistic, and flexible. Agricultural engineering makes this possible. It bridges the gap between concepts and feasible measures, contributing to the development of agriculture.

With continued development within the modern system of farming, agricultural engineering will be one of the dominant factors influencing agriculture in the coming years.

Source : Article published in the Hindu Newspaper (By Prof. Mukti Kanta Mishra, President, Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), Odisha.)

Up Coming Events

Training Program on Mechanized Direct Seeded Rice (DSR)

Training Program on Mechanized Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) Operation, Repair & Maintenance of Agricultural Machinery Step into hands-on learning and master the machines powering modern rice systems—from laser land levelers to seeders and sprayers is scheduled.

Program focus to:

- Operate and calibrate DSR machinery with precision
- Troubleshoot and perform minor repairs in real time
- Apply maintenance strategies that reduce downtime and costs

Designed for scientists, engineers, extension professionals, and agri-service providers ready to turn technical knowledge into field performance.

Training Schedule: May 19–21, 2026

Application Deadline: May 5, 2026 🌱

Build the skills that drive efficient, scalable, and sustainable rice production.

Apply here: <https://bit.ly/MDSR2026>

Read more about the course here: <https://lnkd.in/dbY88p5j>



The poster features a blue background with a white box in the top left containing the IRRI logo and name. The main title 'Training Program on Mechanized Direct Seeded Rice' is in large white font. Below the title are icons for a calendar, a location pin, and a dollar sign, each followed by text. A QR code is in the bottom left. The bottom right contains application link and deadline text. The right side of the poster shows a photograph of a man operating a yellow tractor in a field.

IRRI International Rice Research Institute

Training Program on Mechanized Direct Seeded Rice

May 19 to 21, 2026

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India

Non-IRRI staff- USD 425
IRRI Staff - USD 382



Application Link:
<https://bit.ly/MDSR2026>

Application Deadline:
May 5, 2026

Up Coming Events

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATIONISTS (IASWC) in collaboration with ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), Dehradun & MCC, Kolkata is organizing a Brain storming session on “Water – Livelihood Nexus : Pathways for resilient and sustainable development”



MCC

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATIONISTS (IASWC)
in collaboration with
ICAR- INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION (IISWC),
DEHRADUN
&
MCC, KOLKATA

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

**“WATER-LIVELIHOOD NEXUS:
 PATHWAYS FOR RESILIENT AND
 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”**

21 APRIL, 2026 | **ICAR-IISWC, DEHRADUN**

Introductory Remarks
Dr M Madhu
 Director, ICAR-IISWC & President, IASWC, Dehradun

Welcome Address
Dr Ambrish Kumar
 Head, H&E, ICAR-IISWC & Vice-President, IASWC Dehradun

Coordinator
Dr Raman Jeet Singh
 Sr. Scientist, SS&A, ICAR-IISWC & Secretary, IASWC Dehradun

SPEAKERS

Prof Rohitashw Kumar,
 Dean, CAET, SKUAST, Srinagar

Dr N.K. Sharma
 Former Head, ICAR-IISWC, Dehradun

Sh Rabindra Nath Patra
 Secretary, ISARA

Sh Pabitra Paramanya
 Sector Coordinator, Food Security & Livelihood, MCC

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATIONISTS (IASWC)
 218, KAULAGARH ROAD, DEHRADUN- 248195, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

Awards & Recognition



Dr. Madan Kumar Jha

Professor

Agricultural and Food Engineering

Dr. M K Jha, has been elected as a CIGR Fellow and Member of International Academy of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (IAABE)

ISAE congratulate on his Distinctive recognition and outstanding profession achievement, leadership and contribution to the advancement of Agricultural and Biosystem Engineering at International level.



International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

March 24, 2025

Dear Professor Jha,

On behalf of the International Commission of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (CIGR), it is our great pleasure to congratulate you on your election as a CIGR Fellow and Member of iAABE.

This distinction recognizes your outstanding professional achievements, leadership, and sustained contributions to the advancement of agricultural and biosystems engineering at the international level.

The formal induction ceremony will take place during the Awards Ceremony at the closing session of the CIGR–EurAgEng World Congress 2026, on June 26, 2026, in Turin, Italy.

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us in Turin to celebrate this important recognition with colleagues from around the world.

With warm congratulations and best regards,

The CIGR Presidium.



Claus Grøn Sorensen
President



Seishi Ninomiya
Past President



Stephane Godbout
Incoming President



Fedro S. Zazueta
Secretary General

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LM-14393	Dr. Selvan Ponnuraman
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LM-14395	Dr. THIVYA P
LM-14396	Er. SANDEEP KUMAR SAROJ
LM-14397	Dr. Lovepreet Kaur
LM-14398	Dr. Prabhakar Singh

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AM-7046	Er. SANJEET KUMAR BORAH

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Membership No.	Name of Members
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SM-7508	Ram Harsith V
SM-7509	MENOJ RAJ T
SM-7510	Santhosh K
SM-7511	Suganth S
SM-7512	Ezhil Vendhan
SM-7513	Tharun prashanth
SM-7514	Rithika P

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6	ISAE Raipur Chapter Chhattisgarh	18	ISAE Kerala Chapter Tavanur, Kerala	30	ISAE Allahabad Chapter Uttar Pradesh
7	ISAE Delhi Chapter Delhi	19	ISAE Jabalpur Chapter Madhya Pradesh	31	ISAE Narenda Nagar Chapter, Ambedkar Nagar, Uttar Pradesh
8	ISAE Sikkim Chapter Ranipool, Gangtok, Sikkim	20	ISAE Bhopal Chapter Madhya Pradesh	32	ISAE Lucknow Chapter Uttar Pradesh
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11	ISAE Jharkhand Chapter Ranchi, Jharkhand	23	ISAE Dapoli Chapter Maharashtra	35	ISAE Mumbai Chapter Maharashtra
12	ISAE Haryana Chapter Hisar Haryana	24	ISAE Parbhani Chapter Maharashtra	36	ISAE Bengaluru Chapter, Karnataka

Contact details

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