

# e-NEWSLETTER

## INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

.... Connecting Engineers in Agriculture

May - June 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!** I feel extremely happy to bring this issue of e-newsletter, as we have achieved many milestones during these two months. The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers has really become an International Society of repute. It has moved now to its next phase of development and contributions to Indian Agriculture. These two months have seen lot of happenings. We had one ISAE Council meeting, one editorial board meeting, two executive committee meeting, meetings with Springer, besides contacts with state Government and IITs officials etc. We took several decisions in these meetings to provide further wings to our beloved society.

**Dear members!** The most sought milestone of the Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India) has now been achieved. The journal has, after two years' hectic efforts, received it's the first web of science impact factor of 0.9 for 2025. This is considered high impact factor for an entrant. We exchanged MoU signed with Springer and transfer process documents and other formalities for co-publishing JAEI with Springer has been started. The first issue of 2027 will be published by them. Dr. Abhay Kumar Thakur, treasurer participated in Annual conference of Korean Society of Agricultural Mechanization. They were very happy and extended all supports and expressed to have collaborative work. Myself and Dr. Dhingra attended CIGR board meeting in online mode when they reviewed our preparation of CIGR International Conference 2028 in New Delhi. I have also received invitation from ASABE, USA for attending their Annual International Meeting and meetings are scheduled with them for making work plan. Friends! All these shows that how our society has now been Internationalized and we feel proud to be member of the society.

**Dear Agineers!** I am also happy to inform that efforts for establishing directorate of Agricultural Engineering is bearing fruits. After Maharashtra, Odisha has also separated function of Agricultural Engineering work under the overall control of chief engineers reporting directly to principal Secretary Agriculture as other directors of the ministry. Some movements of files in J & K, Haryana have also seen. I had some correspondence with Bihar as well. You all also will be delighted to know that IIT Mandi is going to start B. Tech. in Agricultural Engineering and Data Analytics. This is the second IIT after 1952 which has been convinced successfully to start this programme.

**Dear readers!** Preparation of CIGR 2028 conference is progressing. We are waiting for names of some committee members from CIGR HQ before finalizing the brochure. The conference is being advertised through various media. Request you all to visit its website [www.cigr2028.org](http://www.cigr2028.org) regularly to make it more popular so that participation from world over should be maximized.

**Friends!** We have opened several fronts of activities. Drafted letters to send to line ministries for panelling ISAE as their consulting organization. We have started recognising industries in convention. Progress of society however depends on contributions of each member. We have the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention (Diamond Jubilee convention) and International Symposium in Srinagar in October. The date of submission of abstracts and award nominations/applications are approaching near. Request you all to submit abstracts and hope nominations/applications for awards have been submitted in large numbers.

**Dear All!** This society is for you, by you and of you. Your active involvements in society's activities are of paramount importance to sustain momentum achieved so far. **Come and help us to bring it to a newer height. Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!!**

S N Jha  
President, ISAE

## From the Editor-in-Chief's Desk



Dear Members and Readers,

It is a matter of immense pleasure to bring to this edition of the ISAE e-Newsletter. The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) has entered a dynamic new phase of institutional growth, marked by significant strides in expanding our professional footprint both nationally and across the globe.

This edition highlights the remarkable advancements and collaborative milestones achieved between May -June 2026. A premier highlight of this period is the landmark academic achievement of our flagship publication, the *Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India)*, which secured a notable Journal Impact Factor of 0.9 in the latest Clarivate JCR release. To further enhance its global reach, discoverability, and digital infrastructure, the society has officially executed a co-publishing agreement with Springer Nature. This transition to the globally recognized Springer platform represents a monumental shift for our research community. On the academic and administrative front, we celebrate the pioneering launch of the B.Tech program in Agricultural Engineering with Data Analytics at IIT Mandi, signalling a future-ready transformation in engineering education.

A deeply significant milestone for our society during this period is the celebration of the illustrious career and superannuation of our esteemed President, Dr. Shyam Narayan Jha, from his post as Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR. Dr. Jha's visionary leadership, alongside his pioneering research contributions in sensor technologies, makhana processing, and robotics, has left an indelible mark on the landscape of Indian agriculture. While we extend our heartiest wishes for his fulfilling retired life, the society looks forward to his continued guidance as we steer towards the upcoming 60th Annual Convention in Srinagar.

I hope the technical insights, institutional updates, and featured innovations in this issue offer valuable takeaways for your field implementation and research endeavours. Your constructive suggestions and feedback remain vital to further refining this mouthpiece of our society.

Warm regards,

**Chandra Shekhar**  
Chief Editor



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## ISAE Happenings

### 14<sup>th</sup> ISAE EC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026

The 14<sup>th</sup> ISAE Executive Committee Meeting, was held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026, on virtual mode. The meeting commenced by welcoming all members of the Executive Committee and Organizing team from Srinagar Chapter. The President ISAE outlined the ongoing activities and invited 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. President ISAE expressed concern and discontent about the persistent delays in the preparations. The EC reviewed the draft brochure prepared by the organizers, following points were discussed /suggested:

- ✓ The President emphasized that the event being the Diamond Jubilee Convention, the phrase “60th Annual Convention (Diamond Jubilee)” should be prominently displayed in the brochure.
- ✓ It was suggested that “Annual Convention” should appear as the principal heading, while “International Symposium” may be kept as a secondary title.
- ✓ Theme titles should be highlighted in bold letters and enclosed in inverted commas for better presentation.
- ✓ Technical session themes shall be finalized in consultation with respective experts and directors.
- ✓ Additional information related to connectivity, tourism, and convention logistics shall be incorporated.
- ✓ The EC deliberated on the composition of National and International Advisory Committees for the convention. It was decided to include: current Directors, former Vice-Chancellors, former Presidents of ISAE and international experts associated with agricultural engineering. It was advised that formal consent letters/e-mails should be sent to all proposed members seeking their willingness and messages for the convention compendium.
- ✓ The convention bank account should be operational within couple of days. If delayed further, the ISAE Headquarters account details may temporarily be used for the online portal.
- ✓ The Organizing Team shall prepare detailed expenditure estimates and accordingly finalize sponsorship and advertisement rates.
- ✓ The EC discussed and approved organization of technical, farmer, and student sessions as integral parts of the convention.

The President thanked the participants from the Srinagar Chapter for their active participation in the discussion and advised to expedite the preparations.

In the later session, the following points were discussed

**1- Co-publishing JAEI with Springer**– The EC reviewed the proposed agreement with Springer regarding publication matters of JAE(I). The President presented the draft agreement before the EC. Clause 5.2 relating to honorarium for editors and editorial board members was discussed. Members clarified that the phrase “if applicable” gives complete discretion to the Society. Dr. Athul Mohod raised concerns regarding annual increase in article numbers mentioned in the agreement. Members agreed that the proposed targets are indicative and not mandatory. The EC approved the Springer agreement and authorized proceeding further after incorporation of minor modifications.

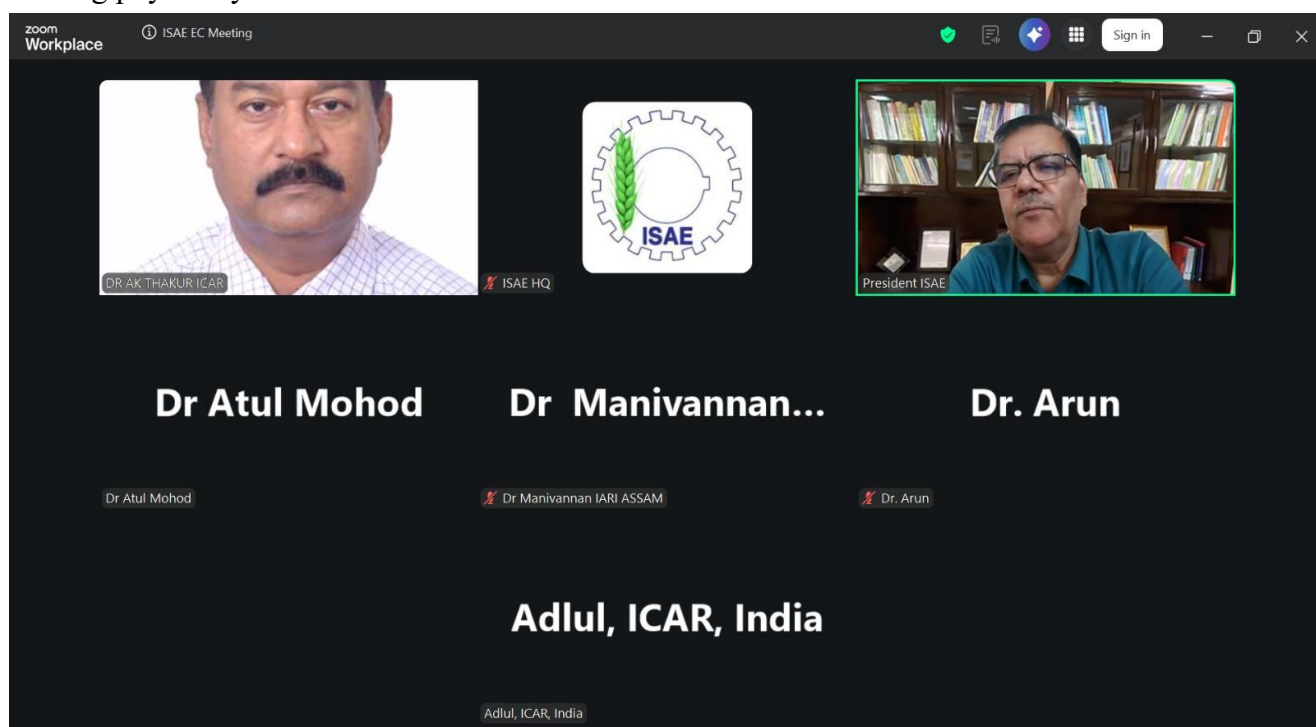
## ISAE Happenings

**2- Balance Sheet for the Previous Convention** – The EC discussed pending financial settlement related to the previous Bhopal Convention. Dr. Manivannan emphasized the urgency of closing pending accounts before the forthcoming convention. The President expressed concern over delays in submission of audited statements. The Executive Committee resolved that the Bhopal Convention accounts must be settled urgently and audited statements be submitted at the earliest. The Secretary General will write to the Convenor of 59th ISAE Annual Convention and the Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal to settle the account at earliest and balance amount may be transferred to the ISAE headquarter account.

**3- Award Notification** – The EC discussed timelines for award applications and scrutiny procedures. Members deliberated on the last date for submission of nominations/applications. Dr. Manivannan suggested June 30, 2026 as the last date considering postal and processing delays. The President emphasized strict adherence to bylaws regarding eligibility of previous awardees.

- Last date for submission of award applications: 30 June 2026
- Award notification circular to be issued by: 20 May 2026
- Bylaw provisions restricting previous award winners from reapplying shall be highlighted in bold in the notification.
- Online application system shall continue without mandatory hard copies.

**4. Council Meeting and International Representation** – The President informed the members regarding upcoming council meetings and international participation. Physical Council Meeting scheduled on 31 May 2026. Dr. A K Thakur, Treasurer will represent ISAE in South Korea. Dr. D. Dhingra will attend the CIGR Conference. Participation of President in ASABE conference was also discussed. The EC approved international representation and requested members to attend the Council Meeting physically.



## ISAE Happenings

### 15<sup>th</sup> ISAE Executive Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

The ISAE Executive Committee Meeting, was held on 13 June 2026, 11 am on virtual mode. The meeting commenced with the President, Dr. SN Jha, welcoming all participants. Dr. P.K. Sahoo, General Secretary, formally opened the meeting by acknowledging the presence of all Executive Committee members, the Kashmir organizing team, and special guests.

The General Secretary proposed to begin with the presentation from the Kashmir team regarding convention preparations, followed by discussions and the formal Executive Committee meeting agenda.

#### 1. The 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE Annual Convention – Progress Update (SKUAST-Kashmir) was Presented by

Dr. Mudasir Ali and Dr. Rohitashw Kumar presented details as below:

- Brochure Printing- The convention brochure has been printed and 15 copies will be dispatched via speed post to ISAE Headquarters on Monday, June 15, 2026
- Bank Account Setup - A separate bank account titled "60th ISAE Annual Convention" has been opened at J&K Bank, Shalimar Branch
- Committee Formation- it was informed that Local event organizing committees for various tasks have been framed and Formal committee notifications will be issued by the registry office on Monday, June 15, 2026
- Website and Dashboard Development - A dedicated convention website and dashboard has been developed by the CIAML (Center for something) technical team. The website is fully functional and operational. Passwords have been shared with respective technical directors for abstract review
- Abstract Submissions - Five abstracts have been received from participants as of the meeting date. All received abstracts are currently under review by respective technical directors
- Sponsorship and Fundraising- As per message received from Dr. Garg at ICAR Headquarters, funding will be requested from:

Ministry of Jal Shakti

ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)

CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)

Additional funding sources identified by the Kashmir team include:

**Industry Partners:** Mahindra, Escorts Kubota, John Deere, FIL Industries, Olemac Machinery

**Financial Institutions:** NABARD, J&K Bank

**Government Bodies:** SERB, JKEDA (Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Agency)

**Private Sector:** Kyber Milk Pvt Ltd, Snow Cap Milk Pvt Ltd. etc

## ISAE Happenings

**2. Invitation of IIT Directors for Special Sessions-** The President suggested to invite directors of nearby IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) to participate in or conduct special sessions at the convention. Specifically mentioned were:

- IIT Jammu
- IIT Ropar
- IIT Mandi

Dr. Rohitashw Kumar noted that IIT Mandi already has an existing collaboration with SKUAST-Kashmir, which could facilitate their participation.

The General Secretary suggested that a formal letter of invitation be sent to the IIT directors. He clarified that if they attend, they will be appropriately felicitated and honoured, but the specific modus operandi for their involvement would be decided subsequently.

**3. Media Engagement Strategy for ISAE -** The President emphasized the critical importance of engaging major media houses to cover agricultural engineering topics and ISAE activities. He noted that while agriculture is widely covered in mainstream media, engineering in agriculture is often overlooked. And in the discussion following was emphasised :

- Major newspapers: Hindustan Times, Times of India, Dainik Jagran
- Electronic media channels
- The President stressed preference for mainstream newspapers and electronic media rather than agricultural magazines alone
- ISAE should invite big media houses to forums and conventions to highlight engineering in agriculture
- Mamta Jain will lead the agriculture media outreach initiative
- A comprehensive layout plan for media engagement will be developed
- A dedicated ISAE press WhatsApp group will be created after the press meet. The group will be carefully curated to include only relevant media personnel
- Press meet/press briefing confirmed for September 15, 2026 i.e. on Engineers Day
- Major media houses (print and electronic) will be formally invited to ISAE forums and conventions

**4. Membership Fee Reduction for PhD Students and Young Professionals Proposal:** Dr. Mudasar Ali requested ISAE to grant a 50% reduction in Life membership fees for the following categories, valid up to the convention only:

- PhD scholars
- Research Associates (RA)
- Junior Research Fellows (JRF)
- Senior Research Fellows (SRF)
- Young professionals working on project

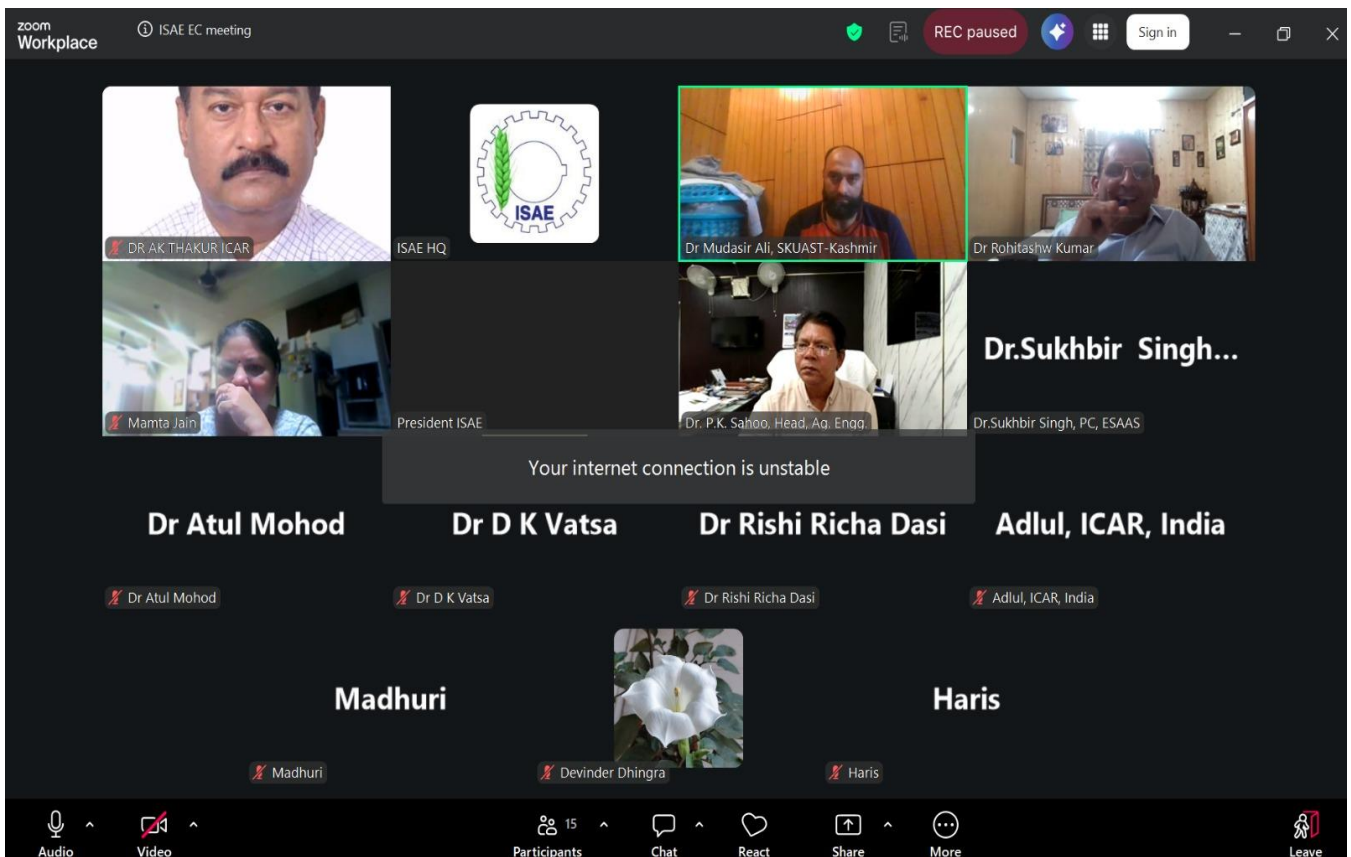
The reduction is intended to encourage young researchers and professionals to become life members during the convention period, the EC denied the request.

## ISAE Happenings

**5. Industry Participation and Industry Awards-** In a strategic move to boost corporate collaboration, the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) has announced plans to develop a structured data collection form to streamline industry participation in its upcoming conventions. To formally honor outstanding corporate contributions, the society will initiate a process to amend its bylaws, concurrently inviting members to submit suggestions for these structural updates. While the formal industry awards await constitutional integration, ISAE will explore issuing interim recognition certificates and is actively evaluating the inclusion of a dedicated job fair in future convention planning to bridge the gap between academic talent and industrial employers.

**6. ISAE Journal and Library/Archive Matters –** Lot of old volumes of publications are lying with ISAE HQ that need to be disposed suitably. Dr. Mohod had been requested for the same with the help of Secretary General and ISAE office workers.

**7. Status of audited report of last convention was enquired by the President and was suggested to get the said account settled with organising committee of ICAR-CIAE Bhopal.**



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface with the following details:

- Meeting Title:** ISAE EC meeting
- Participants:**
  - DR AK THAKUR ICAR
  - ISAE HQ
  - Dr Mudasir Ali, SKUAST-Kashmir
  - Dr Rohitashw Kumar
  - Mamta Jain
  - President ISAE
  - Dr. P.K. Sahoo, Head, Ag. Engrs.
  - Dr.Sukhbir Singh, PC, ESAAS
  - Dr Atul Mohod
  - Dr D K Vatsa
  - Dr Rishi Richa Dasi
  - Adlul, ICAR, India
  - Madhuri
  - Devinder Dhingra
  - Haris
- System Message:** Your internet connection is unstable
- Meeting Controls:** Audio, Video, Participants (15), Chat, React, Share, More, Leave

## ISAE Happenings

### ISAE Council Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2026

The ISAE Council Meeting was held in physical mode on May 31, 2026 at ISAE HQ, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Dr. S.N. Jha (President, ISAE). During the meeting 13 members were present and the Secretary General informed that the proceedings of the ISAE council meeting held on Nov. 9, 2025 at CIAE, Bhopal were circulated earlier and was placed for confirmation by the executive council. The action taken reports for executive council meeting and executive committee meetings were also presented. And further discussion on following agenda were held during the meeting:

1. Dr. Sahoo highlighted the decision in last council and GB meeting and actions thereon. He informed the house that most of the action were taken except one, on which he requested the opinion of the council and was decided to put in next council/GB meeting
2. The matter of attendance of few directors in meeting was discussed and decided to act as per byelaws and rules of the society.
3. The Secretary General informed the Council that the Springer team has agreed for Co-publishing Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India) with Springer. Final terms and conditions have been finalized and Exchange of MoU with Springer will be in a week or two. He added that by doing this, definitely the society will save lot of money (printing cost, DOI and crossref etc.). The council approved the proposal.



## ISAE Happenings

4. Er. Madhuri Dixit Ghugari, informed the EC about the proposal as the Director (Industry, Start-up, and Entrepreneurship) viz., preparation of draft for CSR funding and share it with NGOs/industry for training programs through ISAE; will approach the banks for CSR funds for training/awareness programs; industry recognition to be plan and platform for job and internship to the agricultural engineering students; media to be invite for press release for convention at SKUAST Srinagar; preparation of draft for ministry for consultancy services from ISAE; work on the eligibility criteria of the institution where the agricultural engineering students go for training for one month, 10 and 20 weeks training.
5. The audited account from the convener of the 59<sup>th</sup> ISAE Annual Convention is still awaited. President requested the Secretary General to draft/send a letter to settle the account immediately and also saving during the convention should be transferred to ISAE accounts at the earliest possible.
6. Dr. A.K. Thakur, Treasurer ISAE presented unaudited financial position of the society for 2024-25 and informed the members that the books for the year 2025-26 have been submitted to the CA for auditing the accounts/balance sheet for the FY 2025-26.
7. Discussions were also made on theme decided for ISAE wall calendar 2027. The council endorsed the same. The President requested Dr. Manivannan, Vice President (Activity Council) to take initiative accordingly.
8. Requested to send invitation letters for 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE Convention at SKUAST, Srinagar, to the Director IIT Mandi and the President, Korean Society of Agricultural Engineers from ISAE HQ..

At the end, Dr. A.K. Mishra, Chairperson Delhi Chapter felicitated Dr. S.N. Jha (Former Deputy Director General, Agril. Engg.), a world-renowned scientist for upliftment of millions of lives through his research, leadership skill and management ability with a memento and shawl for his outstanding contributions during his tenure as Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering) and for number of things first time in the society as President ISAE. All the members appreciated the efforts of Dr. Jha and wished him all the best upon his superannuation from the post of Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR and looks towards his guidance to provide, speed, scale and services to the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE).



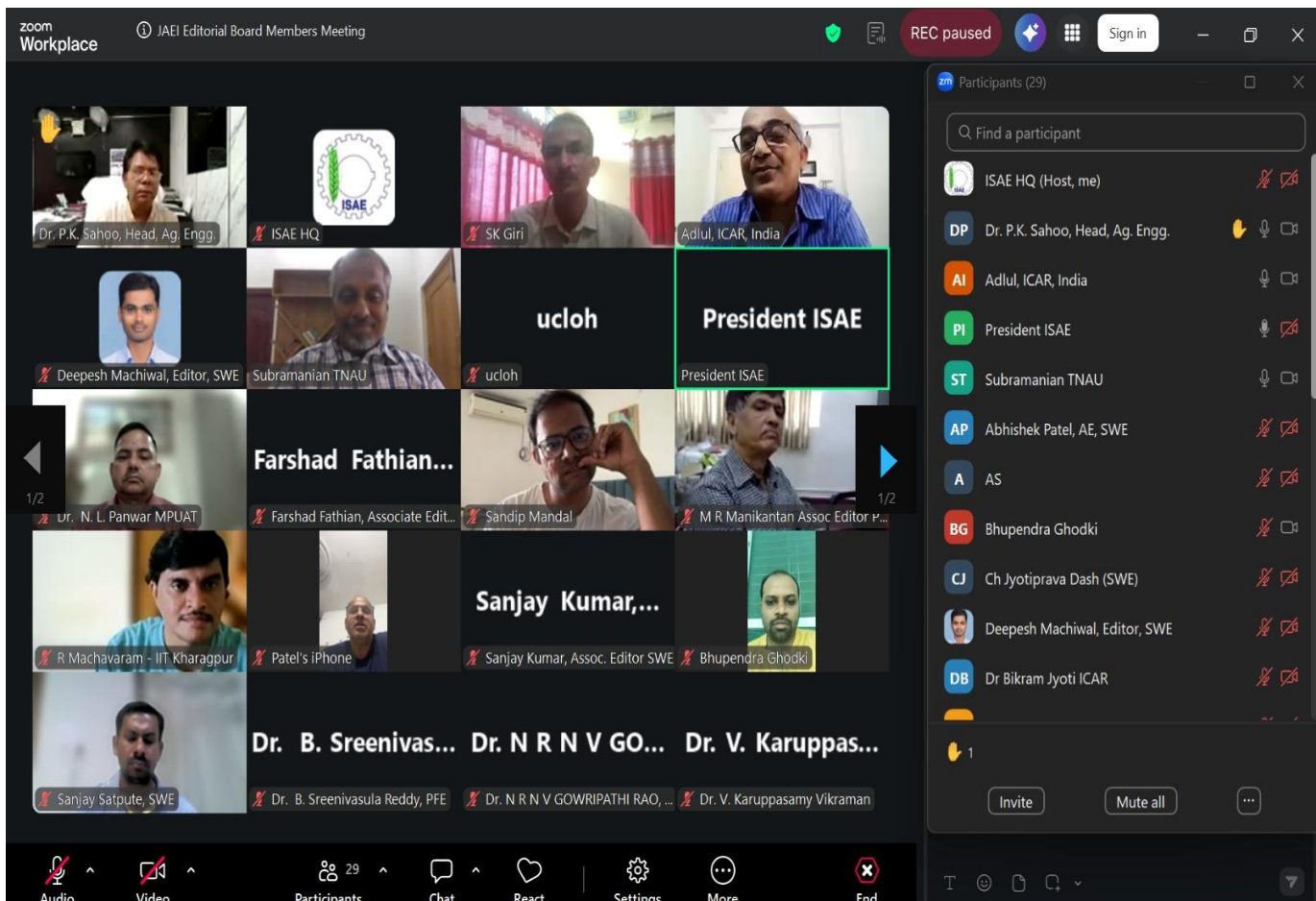
## ISAE Happenings

### JAEI Editorial Board meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2026

JAEI Editorial Board Meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026, The President opened the meeting by congratulating all editorial board members on two major achievements: the journal's indexing and the signing of a co-publishing MOU with Springer.

Dr. Adlul Islam, Editor-in-chief of JAEI, provided an update on the upcoming Springer transition, including the status of pending manuscripts and the expected migration timeline as following points was discussed :

- Review the current status of the JAEI (Journal of Agricultural Engineering India) editorial operations
- Announce and discuss the journal's new co-publishing agreement with Springer
- Address the transition of manuscript management to the Springer platform (SNAPP)
- Assess performance of each editorial section and set targets for manuscript processing
- Collect feedback and commitments from all editorial board members



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface for the 'JAEI Editorial Board Members Meeting'. The meeting is currently paused, as indicated by the 'REC paused' status. The interface displays a grid of participants, including ISAE HQ, SK Giri, Adlul, ICAR, India, and various editors and associates. A list of participants is visible on the right side of the screen, including ISAE HQ (Host, me), Dr. P.K. Sahoo, Head, Ag. Engg., Adlul, ICAR, India, President ISAE, Subramanian TNAU, Farshad Fathian, Associate Editor, Sandip Mandal, M R Manikantan Assoc Editor P..., R Machavaram - IIT Kharagpur, Patel's iPhone, Sanjay Kumar, Assoc. Editor SWE, Bhupendra Ghodki, Dr. B. Sreenivasula Reddy, PFE, Dr. N R N V GOWRIPATHI RAO, and Dr. V. Karuppasamy Vikraman. The interface also shows controls for audio, video, participants, chat, react, settings, more, and end.

## ISAE Happenings

### Dr. Abhay Kumar Thakur Delivers Keynote at Korean Society's 50th Anniversary Conference

Dr. Abhay Kumar Thakur, Principal Scientist at ICAR and Treasurer of ISAE, addressed the 50th Anniversary Spring Conference of the Korean Society for Agricultural Machinery in Jeju, Republic of Korea (13–16 May 2026). His keynote lecture, “*Current Status of Smart Agriculture and Directions for Technological Development in India*,” highlighted India’s progress and future pathways in AgTech.

The landmark conference, themed “*The Intelligent Agricultural Machinery Industry through Convergence: 50 Years—Into the World, Into the Future*,” brought together global experts to discuss autonomous machinery, robotics, smart precision agriculture and AI. With 252 presentations, international seminars and special sessions on eco-friendly machinery, commercialization and global strategies, the event underscored the Society’s role in advancing agricultural mechanization and fostering sustainable, globally connected futures.



### Invitation for Suggestions on ISAE Election Reforms



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AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

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#### Invitation for Suggestions on ISAE Election Reforms

[Latest News & Updates](#)

ISAE has constituted a committee for suggesting reforms in the election process. The committee invites suggestions from respected members for foolproof elections. The suggestions may please be provided by July 31, 2026 through email at following addresses:

- 1) [kksingh03@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kksingh03@yahoo.co.uk)
- 2) [mansingh61@gmail.com](mailto:mansingh61@gmail.com)
- 3) [nachiket\\_k@yahoo.com](mailto:nachiket_k@yahoo.com)

# Announcement of 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE Annual Convention

The 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE annual Convention and International Symposium is scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> 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 key dates and organizational details.

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

**60<sup>th</sup> ISAE ANNUAL CONVENTION-2026**

**WOMEN LED ENGINEERING INNOVATIONS IN SMART FARMING**

**Jointly Organised by**

**ISAE** | **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 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE Annual Convention



### Annual Convention & International Symposium

The 60th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) and International Symposium are being jointly organized by the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), New Delhi and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), Srinagar, during 5-7 October, 2026 at SKUAST-K Shalimar Campus, India. The event will bring together researchers, academicians, technocrats, innovators, and industry professionals to exchange ideas and deliberate emerging trends in agricultural engineering. The focus will be on women-led innovations in smart agriculture, along with advancements in artificial intelligence, robotics, and digital technologies for next-generation farming. Key areas of discussion will include farm mechanization, precision agriculture, intelligent irrigation systems, sustainable resource management, post-harvest technologies, renewable energy applications, and capacity building in agricultural engineering to meet the challenges of the future.

### Theme of the Symposium

The themes of the 60th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) and the accompanying international symposium reflects the evolving landscape of modern agriculture, with a strong emphasis on innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability. Central to the convention is the theme **"Women Lead Engineering Innovations in Smart farming,"** highlighting the vital role of women in driving technological advancement and transformative change in the agricultural sector. Complementing this is the symposium theme **"AI and Robotics for Gen-Z Farming,"** which focuses on the integration of cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, drones, and IoT in shaping the future of agriculture. Together, these themes aim to promote smart, efficient, and climate-resilient farming systems, encourage youth and women engagement, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration to address the challenges of food security, resource management, and sustainable agricultural development.



# Announcement of 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE Annual Convention

## THEME 1

### Smart Farm Mechanization, Robotics & Automation

#### AI & AUTONOMOUS FIELD OPERATIONS

- Autonomous tractors, self-guided transplanting & harvesting robots
- AI-powered real-time crop scouting and field navigation
- Computer vision for plant phenotyping and disease detection
- Human-robot collaboration in field operations

#### DRONES & UAV SYSTEMS

- Multi-spectral and hyperspectral UAV-based crop monitoring
- Drone-assisted precision spraying and variable-rate application
- Swarm drone technology for large-scale farm operations

#### PRECISION & DIGITAL MECHANIZATION

- IoT-enabled smart machinery and sensor-integrated equipment
- Machine learning for predictive maintenance of farm machinery
- Variable-rate technology (VRT) and GPS-guided mechanization

#### LIVESTOCK & AQUACULTURE AUTOMATION

- Automated milking, feeding and health monitoring system
- AI-based livestock behaviour and welfare assessment
- Precision aquaculture and automated fish farm management

## THEME 2

### Intelligent Post-Harvest, Processing & Food Systems Engineering

#### AI & SENSOR-BASED QUALITY SYSTEMS

- Machine learning for real-time grading, sorting & defect detection
- Electronic nose, hyperspectral and NIR-based non-destructive quality evaluation
- Blockchain-enabled traceability and food authentication systems

#### ADVANCED PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES

- Emerging non-thermal processing: ultrasound, pulsed electric field, HPP
- 3D food printing and novel texture engineering
- Nano-encapsulation and smart packaging for extended shelf life

#### FUNCTIONAL FOODS & NUTRACEUTICALS

- Bioactive compounds from regional Himalayan crops and plants
- Fermentation technology and probiotic food systems
- Protein engineering from alternative and plant-based sources

#### CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN FOOD PROCESSING

- Zero-waste valorization of agri-processing by-products
- Bio-based packaging and biodegradable materials
- Upcycling food waste to high-value functional ingredients

## THEME 3

### AI-Driven Soil, Water & Climate-Resilient Resource Management

#### SMART IRRIGATION & FERTIGATION

- IoT-based automated irrigation scheduling and fertigation management
- Solar-powered and energy-autonomous irrigation systems
- STP-treated water recycling for sustainable irrigation

#### REMOTE SENSING & GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Satellite and UAV-based soil health and land-use mapping
- AI-powered crop water stress and evapotranspiration estimation
- Digital soil carbon mapping and sequestration monitoring

#### CLIMATE RESILIENCE & MOUNTAIN HYDROLOGY

- Spring rejuvenation technology for Himalayan water security
- Glacial melt and snowpack monitoring for agricultural planning
- Climate-smart water-energy-food-environment nexus frameworks

#### GROUNDWATER & WATERSHED TECHNOLOGY

- Aquifer recharge modelling and groundwater sustainability index
- AI for contaminant detection and water quality prediction
- Sustainable drainage systems and nature-based solutions

## THEME 4

### Green Energy, Digital Technologies & Sustainable Agri-Systems

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY IN AGRICULTURE

- Agri-PV (agrivoltaics): co-location of solar generation and crop production
- AI-optimized solar irrigation, cold storage & agro-processing systems
- Biomass gasification, biogas and biofuel from agri-residues

#### AI, BLOCKCHAIN & DIGITAL FARM PLATFORMS

- Blockchain for supply chain transparency and smart contracts in agriculture
- Farm management information systems (FMIS) & cloud-based advisory
- Digital twins for whole-farm simulation and scenario planning

#### PRECISION & DATA-DRIVEN AGRICULTURE

- Large language models (LLMs) and generative AI for crop advisory
- Federated learning and privacy-preserving AI in farm data systems
- Real-time crop simulation models linked to satellite and sensor data

#### CLIMATE-SMART & CARBON-NEUTRAL AGRICULTURE

- Net-zero emission pathways for farm operations
- Carbon credit monitoring and MRV systems using remote sensing
- Agroforestry systems and digital tools for ecosystem service valuation

## 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*

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2028 New Delhi, INDIA

[www.cigr2028.org](http://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)



## Government of Odisha Unifies Agriculture Engineering Wings To Boost Operational Efficiency

In a major administrative restructuring, the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, has announced the creation of a unified Agriculture Engineering Wing. The official order, issued from Krushi Bhavan, aims to break down institutional silos and streamline the execution of vital farming and infrastructure schemes across the state.

Previously, engineering wings operated independently under three separate directorates within the department. According to senior officials, this fragmented structure restricted institutional coordination, causing delays in scheme execution and hampering overall departmental efficiency. The new directive brings all field offices and headquarters engineers under a single, cohesive command structure.

The consolidation introduces critical changes to the governance and financial workflows of the engineering wing:

- All serving Agriculture Engineers are now under the direct administrative control of the Department's Secretary.
- The Chief Engineer, Agriculture, will act as the functional head, supervising all technical staff and routing establishment matters.
- The Chief Engineer will process all project reports, estimates, and technical sanctions directly to the Secretary for final approval .
- The DDO-cum-Under Secretary will handle headquarters salaries, while Zonal and Divisional Engineers will act as DDOs for field offices.

The newly formed unified wing will take immediate charge of planning, executing, and maintaining key agricultural infrastructure. This includes major state and central programs such as:

- Farm mechanization and protected cultivation structures.
- Irrigation projects under RIDF, MIF, and SUJAL.
- Micro-irrigation interventions under PMKSY-PDMC.
- Post-harvest management infrastructure under MIDH.
- The order comes into force with immediate effect, superseding all previous administrative arrangements and financial delegations.



## IIT Mandi Launches Pioneering B-Tech In Agricultural Engineering With Data Analytics For 2026 Batch

In a major push toward future-ready education, the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi has officially launched a specialized B-Tech in Agricultural Engineering with Data Analytics starting from the 2026 academic session. Admissions for this specialized interdisciplinary branch are being conducted through the ongoing JoSAA 2026 counselling process. The program features a selective intake of 30 seats for its inaugural batch.

The newly introduced curriculum directly merges fundamental agricultural engineering principles with cutting-edge data science tools. The program addresses modern farming vulnerabilities by training a new generation of professionals to manage high-tech systems. Students enrolled in this branch will explicitly focus on:

- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning applied to crop yields.
- IoT and Smart Agriculture systems for automated fields.
- Remote Sensing & GIS mapping to track soil data.
- Automation & Robotics in farm mechanization.
- Data Analytics & Decision Support Systems for farming businesses.

According to IIT Mandi academic updates, the branch prioritizes an experiential learning model over standard theory. The engineering coursework includes dedicated laboratory components, structured field training, and collaborative research initiatives. The institute has established strategic collaborations with leading agri-tech companies and startups. These partnerships will directly channel undergraduate students into field internships and real-world industrial projects before graduation.

Nestled in the agricultural landscape of Kamand, Himachal Pradesh, the IIT Mandi curriculum aims to solve immediate environmental crises. The ultimate objective of the degree program is to develop professionals who can build climate-resilient food systems, precision agriculture models, and highly sustainable farming architectures capable of tackling global food security demands. Candidates clearing the JEE Advanced examination can finalize their seat preferences on the JoSAA portal.

**कॅरियर के विकट**  
 दैनिक भास्कर सिटी रिपोर्टर/कोटा Dt.15-06-2026

जोसा काउंसलिंग के राउंड-1 में आईआईटी में नया ट्रेड सामने आया है। नए शुरू हुए कोर्सेज ने आईआईटी की सिविल, मैकेनिकल और मेटालर्जिकल जैसी कोर ब्रांचेस को बहुत पीछे छोड़ दिया है। इसमें आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (एआई), कोडिंग और डेटा साइंस, मैथ्स एंड कंप्यूटिंग और क्वांटम साइंस, एग्रीकल्चर इंजीनियरिंग और डेटा एनालिटिक्स जैसे एडवांस्ड कोर्सेज पसंद किए जा रहे हैं। इन कोर्सेज की कट-ऑफ का ग्राफ इतनी तेजी से ऊपर भागा है। इन्होंने पुराने आईआईटी

आईआईटी	कोर्स	अपेक्शित	क्लोजिंग
IIT मंडी B.Tech.	एग्रीकल्चर इंजीनियरिंग और डेटा एनालिटिक्स	13535	14987
मद्रास	इंस्ट्रूमेंशन और बायोमेडिकल	2863	3884
	कंप्यूटेशन		

# IIT Mandi Launches Pioneering B-Tech In Agricultural Engineering With Data Analytics For 2026 Batch



ADMISSIONS 2026

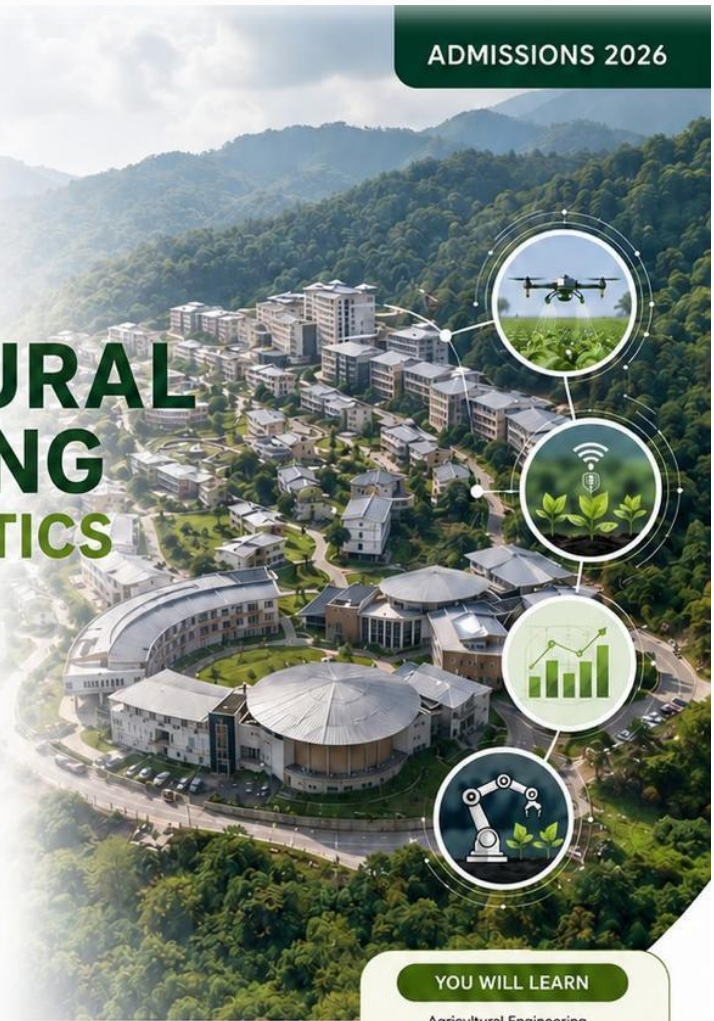
## BTech in AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING with DATA ANALYTICS

*Engineering Sustainable Agriculture Through Data and Innovation*

IIT Mandi has introduced a B-Tech programme combining the fundamentals of agricultural engineering with artificial intelligence, machine learning, IoT, remote sensing, automation, and data analytics.

The programme places strong emphasis on experiential learning — through laboratories, field training, internships, and research projects — and includes collaborations with agri-tech companies and startups.

The programme aims to produce professionals capable of driving precision agriculture, sustainable farming, and climate-resilient food systems.



### PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS



#### AI & DATA DRIVEN AGRICULTURE

Learn AI, ML, IoT, Remote Sensing and Data Analytics for next-gen agriculture.



#### EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Hands-on labs, field training, internships and research projects.



#### INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS

Work with leading agri-tech companies and innovative startups.



#### SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Drive precision agriculture, sustainable farming and climate-resilient food systems.

### YOU WILL LEARN

- Agricultural Engineering Fundamentals
- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- IoT and Smart Agriculture
- Remote Sensing & GIS
- Automation & Robotics
- Data Analytics & Decision Support Systems
- Sustainable Agriculture & Climate Resilience

“ Where Agriculture Meets Technology for a Better Tomorrow ”



IIT Mandi  
Kamand, Himachal Pradesh, India



[www.iitmandi.ac.in](http://www.iitmandi.ac.in)

ADMISSIONS THROUGH JoSAA 2026

*Be a part of the movement to transform agriculture with innovation and intelligence.*



# The Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India) Secures An Impact Factor of 0.9 in Latest Clarivate JCR Release

The Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India), the flagship publication of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), has achieved a Journal Impact Factor (JIF) of 0.9 in the latest 2025 Journal Citation Reports (JCR) released by Clarivate in 2026. This milestone marks a significant step forward for the Indian agricultural engineering research community on the global stage.

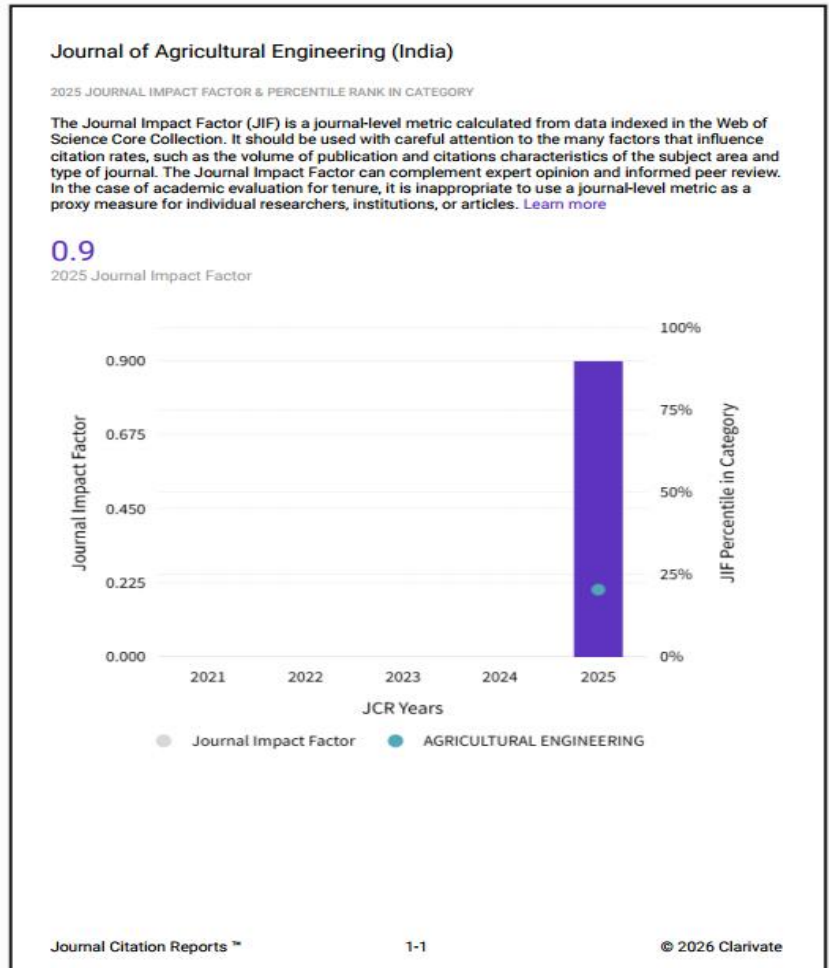
The newly released data indexes the publication within the Web of Science Core Collection, establishing its formal citation footprint.

- The journal registered a 2025 Journal Impact Factor of 0.900.
- It positions the publication within the competitive Agricultural Engineering category.

The indexing serves as a vital validation for domestic researchers focusing on farm mechanization, soil conservation, and smart agricultural systems. By maintaining its presence in the JCR, the journal ensures that Indian research on indigenous agricultural challenges gets tracked alongside global innovations, Boosting India's Agri-Tech Research Footprint.

The impact factor is a journal-level metric, this steady indexing will attract higher-quality research submissions from international authors.

Managed under the aegis of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), the journal publishes peer-reviewed research papers, operational notes, and critical reviews. It covers core domains including farm machinery, soil and water engineering, post-harvest technology, and renewable energy applications in farming.



# Springer Nature and Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers Sign Publishing Agreement For Flagship Journal

Springer Nature India Private Limited has officially entered into a formal publishing agreement with the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) to co-publish and distribute the *Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India)*. The partnership aims to significantly expand the journal's global reach, enhance its digital visibility, and elevate the international profile of Indian agricultural engineering research.



The agreement brings together one of the world's leading academic publishers and India's premier professional society for agricultural engineering will Strengthening Global Academic Reach.

Springer Nature India Private Limited, operating from its headquarters at Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. & Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE), headquartered at the National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, Pusa Campus, New Delhi. formally executed agreement. The agreement was signed by Dr. Pramod Kumar Sahoo on behalf of the society as Secretary General of ISAE.

Under this new partnership, the *Journal of Agricultural Engineering (India)* will migrate its hosting, distribution, and digital infrastructure to Springer Nature's globally recognized platform. The collaboration is expected to provide key academic benefits:

- Enhanced international dissemination through Springer's extensive institutional subscription networks and Global Access
- Implementation of robust peer-review tracking and editorial workflow tools with Advanced Submission Infrastructure.
- Seamless indexing across major international databases to drive higher citation rates and Increased Discoverability.



## ISAE Invites Applications For National 2026 Ph.D. Thesis Competition In Agricultural Engineering

The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) has officially opened submissions for its Ph.D. Thesis Competition for the year 2026. The initiative aims to evaluate the highest standard of doctoral research across Indian institutions while specifically enhancing the concise presentation skills of young scholars.

### Submission Details and Deadlines :

Aspiring researchers must submit their fully completed nomination proformas digitally via email to [isae1960@gmail.com](mailto:isae1960@gmail.com) and [headquarter@isae.in](mailto:headquarter@isae.in). The absolute deadline for all application submissions is August 20, 2026. Submissions must include provisional or original degree certificates, alongside detailed summaries highlighting innovative research attributes such as patent potential or breakthrough technologies .

**Eligibility and Selection Parameters:** The competition features highly specific academic and institutional criteria for all potential applicants as :

- Candidates must possess both B.Tech. and M.Tech. degrees in Agricultural Engineering and Technology.
- Eligible doctoral research must be fully completed, including final viva-voice examinations, between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2026.
- Applicants are required to hold active ISAE life memberships.
- Selected finalists must deliver their entire research thesis presentation within a strict 5-minute time limit.

**Rewards and National Recognition :** Winners of the national competition will receive formal excellence certificates and comprehensive financial support. This includes free registration and travel allowances to present their research papers at the **60th ISAE Annual Convention and International Symposium**. The landmark event is scheduled to take place at SKUAST-K, Shalimar, from October 5 to October 7, 2026.



### INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS

G-4, A Block (Ground floor), National Agricultural Science Centre Complex,  
Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, Pusa Campus, New Delhi -110012

#### Call for Ph.D. Thesis (Agricultural Engineering & Technology) Competition - 2026

The Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers (ISAE) invites applications for the online Ph.D. Thesis (Agricultural Engineering & Technology) competition - 2026. This competition aims to improve the presentation skill in shorter time and judge the best work in Ph.D. research in Agricultural Engineering and Technology from Indian Institutions, completed in all respect including viva-voce exam between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2026. Eligible candidates must hold B.Tech. and M.Tech. degrees in Agricultural Engineering and Technology and be ISAE life members, and have their degree certificates. Application should be submitted via email to [isae1960@gmail.com](mailto:isae1960@gmail.com) and [headquarter@isae.in](mailto:headquarter@isae.in) by **August 20, 2026**. Presentation of the thesis must be done within 5 min time. The winners of the competition will be given certificate, free registration, and travel allowance for presentation of the papers in 60<sup>th</sup> ISAE Annual Convention and International Symposium to be held at SKUAST-K, Shalimar during October 5-7, 2026.

## Notification For ISAE Awards – 2026

ISAE is pleased to announce the invitation for nominations/applications for various awards aimed at recognizing the remarkable achievements of its members in the field of Agricultural Engineering and Technology for their valuable contributions to the profession and society as a whole. These awards are exclusively open to individuals/chapters who hold the requisite membership as applicable for each specific award.

### **Name of the Awards and number of Awards to be awarded are as follow:**

1. Mason Vaugh Agricultural Engineering Pioneer Award (1 award, by Nomination/search only)
2. ISAE Gold Medal for Life Time Achievements (1 award, 2 awards in exceptional cases, by Nomination only)
3. Prof Gajendra Singh ISAE Education Gold Medal Award (1 Award, by Nomination only)
4. ISAE Fellow (5 Awards, by Nomination only)
5. ISAE Distinguished Service Award (7 Awards)
6. ISAE Commendation Medal for Professional Achievements (7 Awards)
7. Best JAEI Reviewer Award (4 Awards, no application needed; best reviewer will be selected by a committee based on paper reviewed by individual reviewer during the year JAEI publications,)
8. Best JAEI Research Paper Award (4 Awards, no application needed; best paper from each division will be selected from the paper published during previous year in JAEI by a committee)
9. ISAE Team Award (2 Awards)
10. ISAE Outstanding Book Award (1 Award)
11. ISAE Student Paper Award (5 Awards, Students are invited to submit papers for oral presentation at the 60th ISAE Convention (physical mode). Best paper will be selected from the student session)
12. Best Research Paper Presentation Award (8 Awards, no application needed, best papers presented in technical session of the Annual Convention will be decided by the committee/chairman of the session)
13. Best Chapter Award (1 Award)
14. ISAE-TAFE Sivasailam Memorial Student Gold Medal Award (2 Awards)

The details of the different ISAE Awards may be accessed at <https://isae.in/> Interested individuals must complete the online application form accurately, providing all the necessary details and supporting documentation. It is essential to review the specific requirements and guidelines for each award to ensure a complete and valid application.

All the deserving members are requested to apply/nominate in large numbers, adhering to the respective timelines/deadlines. We extend our gratitude to all members for their unwavering commitment to advancing the field of Agricultural Engineering and Technology for serving the profession and society.



## An Inspirational Lecture “How to Become the Top 1% in Today’s World”

On 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 in the Department of Agricultural Engineering, Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) had the privilege of hosting Dr. Dharmendra Saraswat, Professor, Department of Agricultural & Biological Engineering, Purdue University, USA, a distinguished academician and internationally recognized expert in agricultural engineering. He earned his Ph.D. in Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering from The Ohio State University. Dr. Saraswat shared valuable insights on career opportunities in abroad, highlighting the growing demand for agricultural engineers and researchers in global institutions. He guided students on pathways to pursue higher education, research collaborations, and professional growth in foreign universities and industries. His discussion emphasized the importance of building strong academic foundations, developing technical expertise, and cultivating a global perspective. Dr. Saraswat stressed that excellence is not achieved by chance but through discipline, consistency, and continuous self-improvement. He encouraged students to focus on skill development, innovation, and adaptability in an ever-evolving world driven by technology and knowledge. He has also shared practical advice on time management, networking, and maintaining a growth-oriented mind-set. Success in the modern era requires not only technical knowledge but also resilience, effective communication, and the ability to embrace challenges as opportunities. The session concluded with an engaging interaction by the students enthusiastically. Dr. Saraswat’s visit proved to be highly motivational, leaving students inspired to dream bigger and work harder towards their goals.



## Expert Lecture on "Wavelet-Denoised Learning Model for Predicting Time Series"

The Department of Agricultural Engineering at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), successfully hosted a prestigious and highly technical expert lecture on May 26, 2026 by Dr. Ranjit Kumar Paul, an eminent ICAR National Fellow hailing from the renowned ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in New Delhi. This specialized session brought to the forefront the critical intersection of mathematical signal processing and advanced computational intelligence, specifically focusing on how hybrid algorithmic frameworks can revolutionize temporal forecasting within the agricultural sector.

Dr. Paul meticulously detailed the operational mechanics of utilizing mathematical wavelets as a sophisticated preprocessing and filtering layer designed to systematically deconstruct raw historical time-series datasets. By isolating localized structural trends and stripping away the ambient, chaotic noise inherently found in biological, environmental, and physical systems, this method allows subsequent machine learning models to train on highly refined, clean data streams. The integration of such wavelet-denoised learning frameworks addresses a long-standing challenge in predictive analytics, successfully yielding significantly higher accuracy metrics, minimized error propagation, and robust structural stability over expanded temporal horizons.



## ICAR – IARI, Earns Global Distinctions

The ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, has secured premier positions in the 2026 global and national university rankings, reinforcing its status as a premier hub for agricultural education and research. According to the latest Edu Rank 2026 data, IARI achieved the milestones in the Agricultural Science category as : 1<sup>st</sup> in India, 7<sup>th</sup> in Asia and 47<sup>th</sup> in the World.

The institute secured the Rank 1 spot among India's Government Agriculture & Horticulture Universities in the Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) 2026. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director of ICAR-IARI, credited the milestone to the institution's continuous leadership in research, education, and innovation. The rankings highlight IARI's growing impact in elevating Indian agricultural science on the global stage.



**ICAR-INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
PUSA, NEW DELHI - 110 012, INDIA

**ICAR-IARI EARNs GLOBAL DISTINCTION**

*A proud moment for Indian agricultural excellence on the global stage.*

EDURANK 2026	EDURANK 2026	EDURANK 2026
47 <sup>th</sup> IN THE WORLD for Agricultural Science	7 <sup>th</sup> IN ASIA for Agricultural Science	1 <sup>st</sup> IN INDIA for Agricultural Science

**IIRF RANKING 2026**  
ICAR-IARI SECURED **RANK 1** AMONG INDIA'S GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE UNIVERSITIES

- From Indian soil to global recognition, ICAR-IARI continues to lead with excellence in agricultural research, education, and innovation.
- A legacy of excellence. A future of impact.
- Proudly elevating stature in global agricultural science.

**Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao**  
Director, ICAR-IARI

Source: EduRank 2026 | IIRF Ranking 2026

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



## ICAR-IIOR's Smart Seed Coating Technology Strengthens Climate-Resilient Agriculture through Enhanced Seed Quality and Crop Establishment

In a significant step towards strengthening climate-resilient agriculture and improving farm productivity, ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research (ICAR-IIOR), Hyderabad, has developed and demonstrated an innovative biopolymer-based Smart Seed Coating Technology designed to enhance seed quality, crop establishment, and resilience against biotic and abiotic stresses across a wide range of agricultural crops.

As agriculture faces increasing challenges from climate change, erratic rainfall, drought, temperature extremes, soil degradation, emerging pests and diseases, and declining resource-use efficiency, ensuring superior seed performance has become more critical than ever. Seed is the primary carrier of agricultural technology and serves as the foundation of crop productivity. Even under optimal management conditions, poor seed establishment can significantly limit yield realization. Strengthening seed performance during the early stages of crop growth therefore offers one of the most cost-effective and scalable approaches to improving agricultural productivity.

The Smart Seed Coating Technology (Indian Patent) developed by ICAR-IIOR utilizes biodegradable biopolymeric materials to create a multifunctional protective layer around seeds. The coating acts as a carrier system for beneficial microorganisms, nutrients, micronutrients, crop protection agents, and plant growth-promoting compounds, delivering them directly at the seed-soil interface. This protective microenvironment promotes rapid germination, vigorous seedling growth, enhanced root development, and improved tolerance to environmental stresses during the critical crop establishment phase.

Field demonstrations conducted under farmer field conditions have shown substantial improvements in crop establishment, plant vigor, and productivity. In Groundnut and Soybean, demonstrations conducted in Telangana recorded yield improvements of nearly 30 percent compared to conventional farmer practices, highlighting the potential of the technology to enhance productivity and profitability. Similar seed enhancement approaches have demonstrated positive impacts across multiple crops under diverse agro-climatic conditions. Multi-location AICRP-Seed trials across soybean, maize, groundnut, chickpea, cotton, mustard, and pigeon pea demonstrated consistent improvements in seedling vigour, crop establishment, and yield, with productivity gains ranging from **12–37% over untreated controls**, highlighting the potential of biopolymer-based multilayer seed treatments as a scalable Smart Seed technology for diverse cropping systems.

The technology is particularly relevant for rainfed agriculture, which accounts for a major share of India's cultivated area and is highly vulnerable to climatic uncertainties. Delayed monsoons, intermittent droughts, moisture stress, poor soil conditions, and pest and disease pressures frequently affect seedling emergence and crop establishment, ultimately reducing yields. By improving seed performance and protecting emerging seedlings during the most vulnerable stages of growth, smart seed technologies can significantly enhance crop resilience and reduce production risks.



## ICAR-IIOR's Smart Seed Coating Technology Strengthens Climate-Resilient Agriculture through Enhanced Seed Quality and Crop Establishment

Unlike conventional seed treatments that serve a single purpose, the ICAR-IIOR platform functions as a comprehensive seed enhancement system capable of integrating multiple beneficial inputs into a single application. The technology can be customized for cereals, millets, pulses, oilseeds, fibre crops, fodder crops, vegetables, spices, and horticultural crops, making it a versatile solution for diverse farming systems across the country.

The innovation aligns closely with national priorities on sustainable agriculture, climate resilience, improved seed systems, and enhanced resource-use efficiency. Wider adoption of advanced seed enhancement technologies can contribute significantly to increasing agricultural productivity, reducing input losses, improving nutrient and biological use efficiency, and supporting the country's efforts towards food, nutritional, and economic security.

ICAR-IIOR scientists emphasized that future agricultural growth will increasingly depend on technologies that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of every input used by farmers. Smart Seeds represent an important step in this direction by delivering protection, nutrition, and biological support precisely where they are needed, at the earliest stage of crop growth. Such technologies can help farmers achieve better crop establishment, improved stress tolerance, higher yields, and greater profitability while minimizing environmental impacts.

To maximize the benefits of this innovation, ICAR-IIOR is promoting partnerships with public and private seed systems for large-scale dissemination and adoption. State Seed Development Corporations, National Seed Corporation, Cooperative seed federations, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), seed processing units, seed hubs, custom seed treatment centres, seed entrepreneurs, and private seed companies can play a pivotal role in integrating smart seed technologies into seed production and distribution networks. Such collaborations will help ensure that quality-enhanced seeds reach farmers at scale and contribute to sustainable agricultural growth.

ICAR-IIOR continues to advance research on next-generation seed enhancement technologies involving biopolymers, beneficial microbes, nutrient delivery systems, and environmentally sustainable formulations aimed at transforming conventional seeds into climate-resilient Smart Seeds. The widespread adoption of such technologies can strengthen India's seed systems, improve agricultural productivity, enhance resilience to climate change, and ultimately contribute to improved livelihoods for millions of farmers across the country.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2274497&reg=48&lang=1>



## Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches Nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from Raisen, Madhya Pradesh

Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' from Ramasiya village in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, delivering a clear message to farmers that if the soil is protected, agriculture will thrive, farmers will become stronger, and the nation will prosper. He called for the promotion of balanced fertilizer use, soil testing, Soil Health Cards, natural farming, water conservation, and scientific agricultural practices.

Launching the month-long campaign, which will run across the country from June 1 to June 30, Shri Chouhan said that the Earth is our mother and protecting its health is a collective responsibility. He appealed to farmers to avoid the indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and instead apply fertilizers only according to the actual requirements of the soil based on scientific testing. He noted that excessive use of chemicals reduces soil fertility and destroys beneficial micro organisms present in the soil, directly affecting agricultural productivity and increasing cultivation costs.

The Union Minister said that the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' is a national resolve to protect Mother Earth. Under the campaign, agricultural scientists, experts from agricultural universities, officials of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, agriculture department teams, and public representatives will visit villages across the country to create awareness among farmers. Farmers will be educated about soil testing, balanced nutrient management, natural farming, modern sowing techniques, water conservation, and advanced agricultural practices.

He emphasized that every farmer must have a Soil Health Card so that fertilizer application can be based on the actual needs of the land. This, he said, will reduce cultivation costs, enhance productivity, and help maintain soil fertility over the long term. Shri Chouhan clarified that while the government provides fertilizers to farmers at subsidized rates, this should not encourage excessive use. Sustainable agriculture, he stressed, depends on the judicious and balanced application of fertilizers.

Shri Chouhan stated that making agriculture more profitable remains a key priority of the Government of India. He informed that special field demonstrations would be organized in the region for soybean, paddy, and pulse crops. Farmers will be trained in the use of improved seeds, scientific sowing methods, modern technologies such as laser levellers, and water-efficient farming practices. Regular training programmes will also be conducted with the support of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and expert institutions.



The Union Minister also linked women's empowerment with the campaign. He said that women would be connected to employment, income-generation activities, and self-employment opportunities through Self-Help Groups. Eligible women will be provided training, financial support, and opportunities to start small enterprises so that they can become self-reliant and contribute to increasing household incomes.

Speaking about youth, Shri Chouhan said that greater opportunities for guidance, skill development, and preparation would be created for them. He observed that rural development is not limited to roads, housing, and basic infrastructure but also includes generating employment, income, and self-reliance within villages.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that the campaign launched from Ramasiya village would eventually evolve into a major people's movement driven by public participation. He directed officials to regularly visit villages, provide technical assistance to farmers, and ensure that the commitment to saving agriculture is translated into action on the ground. He appealed to farmers, women, and youth to actively participate in development initiatives, stating that prosperous villages, empowered farmers, self-reliant women, and a brighter future can only be achieved through the collective efforts of government and society.

The Union Minister said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is a visionary leader who thinks far ahead and plans for future generations. He remarked that Mother Earth does not belong only to the present generation but also to those yet to come. Therefore, he said, its condition should never deteriorate to the point where it can no longer produce food for future generations. To ensure that the soil remains healthy and productive, farmers will be encouraged to use balanced fertilizers based on the actual nutrient requirements of the land.

He further announced that the campaign would also focus on creating awareness against counterfeit fertilizers and pesticides. Farmers will be guided on crop selection and seed varieties best suited to local agro-climatic conditions, appropriate farming systems, seed treatment methods, and other scientific agricultural practices. Information on the use of green manure for improving soil health will also be disseminated. In addition, benefits of various schemes of the Central and State Governments will be extended to farmers across the country through the campaign.

A large number of farmers, agricultural scientists, experts from Krishi Vigyan Kendras, public representatives, and administrative officials attended the programme. On the occasion, nutrition kits were also distributed to malnourished children.



## Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav Chair High-Level Meeting on Permanent Solution For Stubble Management

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, today chaired a high-level inter-ministerial meeting at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, on stubble management and its permanent solution.

The meeting reviewed the progress made under the Crop Residue Management (CRM) scheme and the preparedness of states for effective management of paddy stubble during the upcoming harvesting season.



The Union Agriculture Minister said that stubble burning not only pollutes the environment but also affects the health of Mother Earth. It destroys beneficial insects, reduces soil fertility and has an adverse impact on public health due to pollution. From this point of view, it is extremely necessary to stop it.

He informed that the Crop Residue Management scheme was started in 2018-19 to deal with the problem of stubble burning. Since then, a total financial assistance of Rs. 4,266.47 crore has been provided to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). With this assistance, more than 3.54 lakh crop residue management machines have been distributed in the states and more than 43,500 Custom Hiring Centres have been established.

Regarding preparations for 2026-27, he informed that a provision of Rs. 544.15 crore has been made under the CRM scheme, out of which the first instalment of Rs. 272.07 crore has already been released.

The Union Agriculture Minister said that the states have set ambitious targets for the current year, which include distribution of more than 46,000 crop residue management machines, establishment of 910 Custom Hiring Centres and development of 141 stubble supply chain projects. The meeting also reviewed the action plans prepared by the states for management of an estimated 2.762 crore tonnes of stubble during the paddy harvesting in 2026.

Shri Chouhan said that due to the continuous efforts of the Central Government, state governments, ICAR institutions, Agricultural Science Centres, local bodies and farmers, there has been a significant reduction in stubble burning incidents in the past years.

Both ministers stressed on further strengthening the ex-situ use of stubble through biomass power plants, compressed biogas (CBG) units, ethanol production plants and pellet manufacturing units. They said that such efforts are creating a permanent market for stubble and converting agricultural residue into economic resources.

The meeting also reviewed the monitoring and institutional arrangements established for effective implementation of the programme. It was informed that the inter-ministerial committee constituted for crop residue management is holding regular review meetings. States have been advised to complete distribution of machines before August 2026, strengthen Custom Hiring Centres, ensure full utilisation of available machinery and run extensive public awareness campaigns.

Special emphasis was laid in the meeting on promoting short-duration and low-water requiring paddy varieties so that the time window between paddy harvesting and wheat sowing can be increased.

The Union Agriculture Minister informed that the government has already taken necessary steps through ICAR and state agricultural institutions to discourage cultivation of long-duration paddy varieties and promote suitable alternative varieties.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan laid special emphasis on continuous monitoring of the crop from sowing to harvesting of paddy so that the time window available between paddy harvesting and wheat sowing can be increased. He said that the 'Stubble Protection Force' will be made active in at least 70 tehsils of 14 districts of the National Capital Region (NCR) to ensure strict monitoring which will help in further reducing stubble burning incidents.

Both Union Ministers advised the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to review the available stubble stock and its utilisation capacity for pellet/briquette manufacturing units, compressed biogas (CBG) plants and co-firing in thermal power plants (TPPs).

The Union Agriculture Minister stressed on wide publicity of successful models and inspiring experiences of stubble management. He emphasised on creating awareness among farmers that in those fields where stubble was incorporated into the soil instead of being burnt, an increase in paddy productivity has been observed. He also stressed on effectively promoting Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) technique in the states.

Both Union Ministers reiterated the government's commitment to eliminate the problem of stubble burning through mechanisation, technical innovation, industrial use of stubble, public awareness and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders.

Shri Chouhan said that the objective of the Central Government is to implement permanent solutions for stubble management for environment protection, maintaining soil fertility and increasing farmers' income and productivity.

Senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and concerned agencies participated in the meeting.

## Centre Reviews Kharif Preparedness Amid El Niño Concerns; Shivraj Singh Chouhan Holds High-Level Meeting with States

With the possibility of El Niño and a weak or uncertain monsoon this year, the Central Government has intensified its preparedness for the Kharif season. Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today chaired a high-level virtual meeting with Agriculture Ministers of states, senior officials, District Collectors, experts from ICAR, ICAR-CRIDA and the India Meteorological Department to review the situation across the country. He assured farmers that the Centre and state governments are jointly undertaking all necessary measures to address any challenge.



### Weak Monsoon Scenario and Potential Impact

Addressing a press conference after the meeting, Shri Chouhan said that the southwest monsoon is significantly delayed this year and rainfall so far has been around 43 per cent below normal. According to IMD forecasts, rainfall is likely to remain weak even during the week ending July 2. This could directly affect Kharif crops, particularly in rainfed regions where agriculture is heavily dependent on monsoon rains. Keeping these risks in view, the Central Government, under the leadership and guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has been making advance preparations for several days. Shri Chouhan said the government is not waiting for conditions to deteriorate but is proactively implementing scientific planning and field-level interventions to minimise the impact and safeguard farmers' livelihoods.

### Identification of 315 Potentially Affected Districts

Shri Chouhan said that the Ministry of Agriculture and ICAR jointly assessed districts vulnerable to low rainfall and inadequate irrigation based on scientific data. Around 315 districts have been identified as potentially affected by weak monsoon conditions. Of these, 111 districts have been categorised as high priority, where irrigation coverage is below 25 per cent. Another 76 districts fall under the medium-priority category with irrigation coverage between 25 and 50 per cent, while 128 districts have been classified as low priority owing to relatively better irrigation facilities through dams and other sources. A majority of these districts are located across 12 states—Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Bihar, Jharkhand, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Detailed discussions were held with Agriculture Ministers and District Collectors of these states, and they were urged to expedite preparedness at the local level.

### **District Agriculture Contingency Plans: First Line of Defence**

Shri Chouhan informed that ICAR and ICAR-CRIDA have prepared District Agriculture Contingency Plans for all districts. These plans incorporate district-specific climatic conditions, cropping patterns, water resources and risk factors and prescribe measures such as suitable alternative crops under low rainfall conditions, crop diversification strategies, optimum use of available water resources and additional income opportunities to mitigate risks. He directed states and district administrations to ensure that DACPs do not remain confined to files but are translated into actionable field plans. The plans should be reviewed and updated according to local conditions and kept ready as operational documents for immediate implementation whenever required. He emphasised that the success of any contingency plan depends on effective implementation at the grassroots level and urged district administrations to execute them with full commitment.

### **Water Conservation and Irrigation Management**

Water conservation has been accorded top priority amid the possibility of a weak monsoon. Shri Chouhan said every drop of water is precious and planning is being carried out with that objective. He directed that ponds, reservoirs, streams, farm ponds, check dams, stop dams and temporary bunding structures be repaired and strengthened immediately. Water conservation and harvesting works under MGNREGA and forthcoming rural development programmes such as VB-GRAMG should receive priority so that employment generation and enhancement of water storage capacity can go hand in hand. Sensitive districts have been advised to accord top priority to drinking water supply and, if necessary, arrange water transfer from surplus regions to deficit areas. Basin-wise reservoir storage positions were also reviewed during the meeting. While some basins have storage levels above normal, others are witnessing deficits ranging from 20 to 60 per cent. States have been asked to prioritise interventions accordingly.

### **Crop Strategy: Short-Duration, Low-Water and Diversified Crops**

The Union Minister said changing crop strategy in rainfed areas has become the need of the hour. States have been advised to promote short-duration crop varieties and those capable of delivering higher yields with lower water requirements. Farmers have been encouraged to adopt crop diversification to reduce dependence on a single crop and distribute risks across multiple crops. Intercropping and mixed farming practices are also being promoted to ensure that if one crop is affected, farmers can still generate income from others. Special emphasis has been laid on pulses, Shri Anna and oilseeds, which perform relatively better under limited moisture conditions. States have also been advised to switch immediately to alternative crop options if there is a prolonged gap between the normal sowing period and the onset of rainfall. "We will not allow fields to remain vacant. There will be sufficient rainfall for some crop to be cultivated, and our preparations are aligned accordingly," Shri Chouhan said.

### **Advance Arrangements for Seeds, Fertilisers and Inputs**

Providing details regarding availability of agricultural inputs, Shri Chouhan said adequate seed arrangements for the Kharif season have already been made. Additional seed stocks have been earmarked for potentially affected districts. Around one per cent extra seed stock has been reserved specifically for districts where resowing may become necessary. According to reports from the Ministry of Fertilisers, the availability of all major fertilisers, including urea, DAP, MOP, NPK and SSP, is satisfactory for the Kharif season. Separate monitoring mechanisms are in place to ensure

timely distribution and delivery in districts vulnerable to weak monsoon conditions so that farmers can undertake sowing immediately when weather conditions become favourable. The Minister stressed that sowing should be undertaken only after cumulative rainfall of 75–100 mm and adequate soil moisture. Premature sowing after light rainfall increases the risk of seed damage and resowing.

### **Scientific Advisory Through KVKs and Digital Platforms**

Highlighting the importance of timely scientific advisories, Shri Chouhan said the country's 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendra serve as the principal link for delivering technical guidance and crop management information to farmers. KVKs and Agro-Meteorological Advisory Units have been instructed to work closely with districts and continuously guide farmers regarding the possible effects of El Niño and weak monsoon conditions. Information dissemination will be strengthened through Agro-Met advisories, SMS and WhatsApp messages, call centres, radio and television broadcasts, and social media platforms. The objective is to ensure that every farmer receives timely information and scientific guidance to make informed decisions regarding sowing, crop changes and input use.

### **Livestock and Fodder Management**

Shri Chouhan said a severely weak monsoon could lead to fodder shortages for livestock. To address this possibility, advance supply plans are being prepared to transport fodder from surplus regions to deficit areas. Fodder stocking, alternative fodder sources and supply chains are being planned in advance to prevent sudden disruptions for livestock owners. The Centre and states will jointly strengthen monitoring mechanisms to prevent black marketing and hoarding of fodder.

### **Financial Security for Farmers: PMFBY, KCC and PM-KISAN**

The Union Minister emphasised that preparedness should not be limited to crops and water alone and that financial security of farmers is equally important. Special focus is being placed on expanding coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in potentially affected districts to ensure timely compensation in the event of crop losses. States have been directed to expedite issuance of Kisan Credit Cards to eligible farmers so that they have adequate resources to deal with seed losses, resowing and other agricultural investments. Referring to the recently released instalment under PM-KISAN, Shri Chouhan said farmers can utilise these funds for seeds, fertilisers and other essential agricultural inputs. He said PMFBY, KCC and PM-KISAN together would act as a comprehensive support system for farmers during challenges such as El Niño.

### **Multi-Tier Coordination and Monitoring Framework**

Shri Chouhan said the success of contingency measures ultimately depends on district-level implementation. Accordingly, a multi-tier coordination framework has been developed at the Centre, state, district, block and village levels with clearly defined responsibilities. Regular meetings and real-time data-sharing mechanisms are being established among District Collectors, Agriculture Departments, Water Resources Departments, Rural Development Departments, Animal Husbandry Departments, KVKs, ATMA and other institutions. At the national level, an 'El Niño Monitoring Cell' and a 'Crop Weather Watch Group' have been constituted in New Delhi to continuously analyse monsoon progress, crop sowing, crop conditions, input supplies and market indicators. States have also been instructed to establish control rooms and designate nodal officers for coordination with the Centre. Most states have already nominated their nodal officers. The Minister informed that secretary-level reviews are being conducted every week and that he personally reviews the El Niño situation every Tuesday.

### **Production Targets, Storage and Food Security**

Several major production targets set for Kharif 2025, including rice, maize and total foodgrain output, have already been achieved or exceeded. For Kharif 2026, a foodgrain production target of around 176 million tonnes has been set, taking into account monsoon forecasts, MSP, demand trends, previous performance and ongoing government schemes. Buffer stocks of both rice and wheat remain comfortable, and therefore there is no immediate threat to food security despite concerns over a weak monsoon.

### **Message to Farmers: Stay Prepared, Do Not Panic**

Directly addressing farmers, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that despite the possibility of a weak monsoon, the country is fully prepared to collectively deal with any challenge. "There is no need to panic. What is required is preparedness and collective action. If the Centre and states, scientific institutions, district administrations and farmers work in coordination, the challenge posed by El Niño can be converted into an opportunity where water conservation, crop diversification, scientific advisories and social security schemes together provide a protective shield for farmers," he said. Expressing confidence in the collective efforts of all stakeholders, Shri Chouhan said India's agriculture, livestock and rural economy can be protected from major disruptions and farmers' livelihoods can be strengthened through every possible means



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