

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences



New Delhi, India

2025

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES



NASC, Dev Prasad Shastry Marg, Pusa,
New Delhi - 110 012, India



"National Academy of Agricultural Sciences is committed to advancing scientific knowledge and innovation in agriculture and allied sectors for food, nutrition and environment security. Our goal is to address pressing national and global issues on agriculture and drive progress across various scientific fields. We support excellence and promote collaboration in agriculture sciences as an apex independent think-tank working for the welfare of the farmers."

*Dr. Himanshu Pathak
President, NAAS*

The Academy and The Mission

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), established on June 5, 1990 has emerged as a vibrant national agricultural science organization devoted to promoting agricultural research, education, knowledge pool, national and international partnerships and science-society interface towards transforming agriculture and food policies leading to a food-nutrition-livelihood-ecology-secured and climate-smart India. The Academy is working with the mission "To act as a credible think-tank to provide views of scientific community on all agriculture related policy issues, to encourage talent and promote excellence in science, making it a powerful instrument for the growth of national economy with a vibrant agriculture".



*NAAS Headquarters at the National
Agricultural Science Centre
Complex, Pusa, New Delhi*

Objectives

The major objectives of the Academy, *inter-alia*, are to:

- To promote ecologically sustainable, economically viable and environment friendly agriculture,
- To recognize and support excellence of scientists, teachers, industry individuals, farmers and media personnel in agriculture,
- To promote interactions among the researchers in different national and international organizations,
- To secure and manage funds and endowments for the promotion of agricultural sciences
- To publish journals, policy papers, and other documents for the advancement of agricultural research, education and development
- To conduct other activities relevant to the accomplishment of the above goals, in public interest
- To organize inter-disciplinary events on issues of importance to farmers and farming, and provide evidence-based inputs for policies to advance agricultural research, education, strategic knowledge pool, and extension for development

Governance

The governance of the Academy is through (a) General Body, (b) Executive

Council, (c) Statutory Committees, and (d) Regional Chapters. The General Body is the supreme authority comprising of the entire Fellowship and meets once



A view of the meeting of the Executive Council in progress

a year. During this meet, newly elected Fellows are inducted, and major policy decisions are discussed. The Executive Council is the main decision making and implementing body, and it meets four to six times a year. Executive Council comprises of the President, Immediate Past President, two Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, Foreign Secretary, Treasurer, two Editors, twelve Members and one ICAR Nominee. The Academy has a few Statutory Committees to deal with various aspects of its governance. Presently, it has 12 Regional Chapters functioning at Barapani, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Cuttack, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Karnal, Kolkata, Lucknow, Ludhiana, Pune, and Varanasi. In line with the objectives of the Academy, the activities of the Chapters include organizing workshops, brainstorming sessions and lectures on topical issues; undertaking public awareness exercises for the popularization of science and issues of national/state interests; publishing periodicals, newsletters and directories of agricultural scientists; undertaking schemes for recognizing and motivating young scientists; and consultancies.

Fellowship

To recognize academic and scientific excellence, the Academy elects 29 Fellows every year in the following eight scientific sections. The section-wise distribution of the Fellowship is indicated in parenthesis.

1. **Crop Sciences** : Genetics and Plant Breeding, Plant Genetic Resources, Plant Biotechnology, Plant Physiology & Biochemistry, Seed Technology, Post-Harvest Technologies, and Bioinformatics for all field crops (6).
2. **Horticultural Sciences** : Genetics and Plant Breeding, Plant Genetic Resources, Plant Biotechnology, Plant Physiology & Biochemistry, Seed Technology and Post-Harvest Technologies and Bioinformatics for all horticultural crops (3).
3. **Animal Sciences** : Animal Genetics & Breeding, Animal Nutrition, Animal Physiology, Animal Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Animal Production, Animal Reproduction, Animal Health, Animal Products Technology, Dairy Sciences and Poultry Sciences and Bioinformatics (4).
4. **Fisheries Sciences** : Fish Genetics & Breeding, Fish Nutrition, Fish Pathology, Fish Biotechnology, Fish Biosystematics, Fish Processing & Technology, Fisheries Resource Management and Aquaculture and Bioinformatics (2).
5. **Natural Resource Management Sciences** : Agricultural Meteorology, Agronomy, Environmental Science, Forestry, Agroforestry, Soil Science including Soil Microbiology, Water Management (excluding Soil and Water Engineering) and Agricultural Physics and Bioinformatics (5).
6. **Plant Protection Sciences** : Agricultural Chemicals, Agricultural Entomology, Plant Pathology and Nematology, Organic Chemistry, Microbiology in relation to Plant Protection and Bioinformatics (4).
7. **Agricultural Engineering and Technology** : Farm Machinery & Power, Soil and Water Engineering, Agricultural Process Engineering, Value addition and Post-Harvest Technology, Food Technology,

Textile Technology and Computer Application including Bioinformatics in Agriculture (2).

8. **Social Sciences** : Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Statistics, Extension Education, and Community Science (3).
9. **Foreign Fellow (2)** : The Academy also elects two Fellows who are foreign citizens; eminent and internationally recognized leaders in their areas of specialization; have made notable scientific contributions with wider implications for global agriculture including Indian agriculture.
10. **Pravasi Fellow (3)** : The Academy elects three Pravasi Fellows who are the Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) or Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), holding foreign passport (residing within or outside India), eminent for their knowledge and contributions to agricultural sciences, and have contributed to the progress of agricultural sciences in India, or persons holding Indian passport (residing outside India) and having done their work in foreign or international organizations.

The total fellowship of the Academy, as of 1.1.2025 is 821, which includes 60 Foreign Fellows and 23 Pravasi Fellows.

Associateship

The Academy inducts scientists below the age of 40 years as Associates of the Academy based on their scientific contributions. 12 young scientists were recommended for associateship making total no of 126 NAAS Associates.

Young Scientist Awards

The Academy has instituted the Young Scientist Award in 1998 for recognizing excellence in research in Agricultural and Allied Sciences, including Environment and Nutrition for the scientists below the age of 35 years. Eight scientists are selected for the Young Scientist Award in recognition of their contributions in their respective disciplines every year. Till now, 72 scientists have been conferred with this award.

Corporate Fellowship

The Academy recognizes the role of leading private organizations in promoting agricultural research and development. It encourages the business houses and corporate bodies involved agriculture to become Corporate Fellows by contributing at least Rs. 10 million to the Corpus Fund of the Academy or for its activities needing sustained long-term funding support. The Academy can institute an award in the name of the corporate house, the funding for which is done from the interest accrued on the donated amount. Presently, the Academy has one Corporate Fellow.

Corporate Membership

A corporate body, having established reputation and willing to contribute Rs. 2.5 million or more towards the Corpus Fund of the Academy or for its activities needing sustained long-term support, demonstrably involved or proposes to be involved itself in the activities related to the objectives of the Academy or should be in conformity with the requirements

of preserving human, ecological and environmental health, is eligible for Corporate Membership of the Academy. The Academy has one corporate member.

Institutional Membership

Any national/international academic organization, having established reputation, demonstrably involved or proposes to be involved itself in the activities related to the objectives of the Academy or should be in conformity with the requirements of preserving human, ecological and environmental health, and willing to pay Rs. 1 million towards the NAAS Corpus Fund for supporting its long-term activities, is eligible for Institutional Membership of the Academy. The number of Institutional Membership currently stands at 37.

The Corporate Fellows / Members and Institutional Members can avail the opportunity to participate in scientific activities organized by the Academy; propose activities to be organized by the Academy in mutually agreed areas consistent with the Academy's objectives, be given a set of publications of the Academy free of cost, and attend the Annual General Body Meeting of the Academy as observers, but will not use the name of Academy for any commercial or promotional activity of their products.

Awards

The Academy has instituted various categories of awards to recognize and encourage meritorious and distinguished scientists for their celebrated contributions to the cause of agricultural research, education and extension. These awards consisting of scroll/silver plaque/citation/

gold plated silver medal/cash, are given once in two years during the Agricultural Science Congress. The awards are as follows:

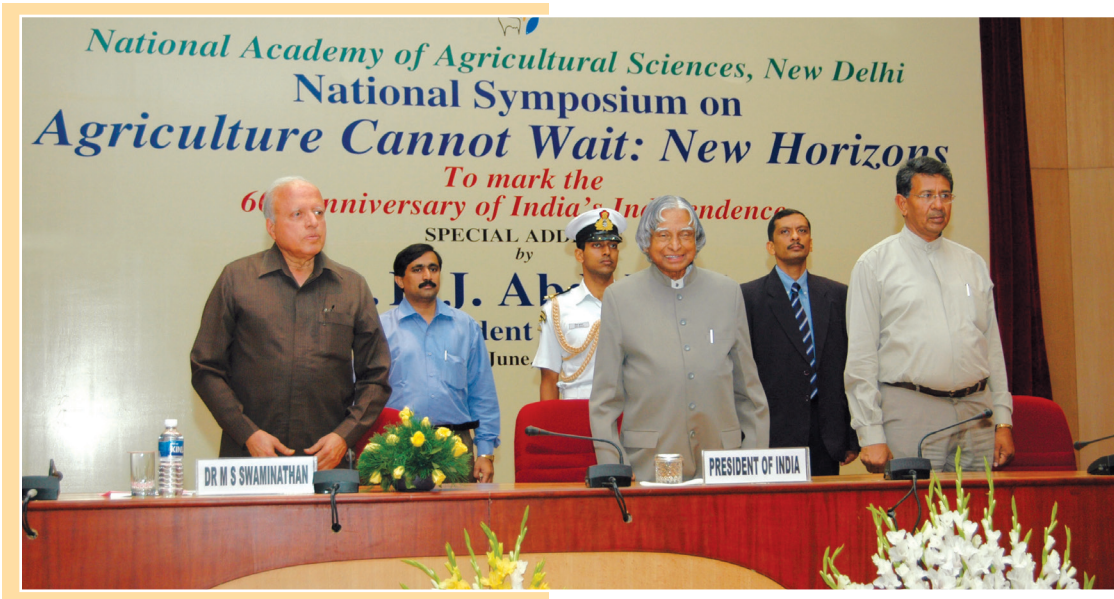
- Six Memorial Awards
- Six Recognition Awards
- Dr A.B. Joshi Memorial Lecture Award
- Dr Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture Award
- Three Endowment Awards (Shri L.C. Sikka Endowment Award; Dr (Ms) Prem Dureja Endowment Award; Dr N.G.P. Rao Endowment Award)

Congresses, Conferences, Workshops and Brainstorming Sessions

The primary mandate of the Academy is to generate and to share new knowledge for the advancement of agriculture. More than 100 Brainstorming Sessions on contemporary issues, and 16 International Congresses have been organized so far. The Academy also organizes lectures by eminent scientists from India and abroad.

Agricultural Science Congress

The Academy biennially organizes the National Agricultural Science Congress to provide a vibrant platform to leading experts, practitioners and stakeholders in agriculture and related sectors to discuss and exchange views on contemporary issues in Indian agriculture and for priority actions on transforming Indian agriculture and food systems. So far, 17 Agricultural Science Congresses have been organized.



Bharat Ratna H.E. President of India Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam inaugurating the Academy's National Symposium on 'Agriculture Cannot Wait: New Horizons' on 05 June 2007

During the year of the Congress, the Academy conducts an Elocution contest, generally on the Congress theme, involving students from Agricultural Universities and ICAR Deemed Universities, and awards the national level winners during the Congress. On this occasion, an Agri-Expo and Industry meet is also held. Another important feature of these Congresses is the Farmers – Scientists interaction where a large number of farmers raise many issues concerning their farming practices in view of the changing environment and the experts present satisfactorily explain to them the coping strategies that farmers need to adopt to minimize production loss.

The Academy conducts International and National Conferences, Symposia, Workshops, Seminars and Brainstorming Sessions. The Academy organized a National Symposium on "Agriculture Cannot Wait: New Horizons" to commemorate 60 Years of India's Independence. On this occasion, Bharat Ratna H.E. President of

India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam delivered a Special Lecture on "Innovate to Empower Agriculture". The President highlighted the attention of the scientists to farmers' actual problems, which need unique solutions in future.

National Conference on "Digital Agriculture: Empowering Indian Farming"-2024

The National Conference on "Digital Agriculture: Empowering Indian Farming"



was organized jointly by the Academy in Association with ICAR and ICRISAT during December 17-18, 2024 at NASC Complex New Delhi. The inaugural session was Chaired by Dr. Himanshu Pathak (Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR). He emphasized the importance of digital agriculture and suggested different organizations of the country to work jointly following a multi-disciplinary approach.

Publications

The publications of the Academy include (a) NAAS Newsletter, (b) Policy Papers, (c) Status/ Strategy Papers, (d) Policy Briefs, (e) Study Reports, (f) Annual Reports, (g) Foundation Day Lectures, (h) Presidential Addresses, (i) Journal - Agricultural Research, (j) Books, and (k) Year Book. As of now, the Academy has published 127 Policy Papers, 18 Status/Strategy Papers, 13 Policy Briefs, 13 Proceedings on important issues pertaining to agriculture, besides the Abstracts and Proceedings of Agricultural Science Congresses. "Hundred Years of Agricultural Sciences in India" is the most celebrated book of the Academy, which has been received, appreciated and read globally. Its contents

depict the heritage of Indian agriculture and the research contributions towards agricultural sciences are the epitome of its journey and directions of research over the last 100 years towards self-sufficiency, food for all and bringing a smile to the farmers. This Year Naas also published a book "Transformation of Agri-food Systems" in collaboration with Springer; State of Indian Agriculture; and Prof. M.S. Swaminathan- A Memoir.

In order to disseminate and promote research in newer and emerging areas of agricultural sciences globally, the Academy launched an International Research Journal 'Agricultural Research' in 2012 in collaboration with Springer India Pvt. Ltd. Four issues of the journal are published each year. Till now 13 volumes have been published. The Academy has brought out so far 24 NAAS Newsletters (4 issues per volume) flagging the latest issues, trends and discoveries, and it also publishes Year Book (a compilation of profiles of the Fellows and guidelines of the Academy) and a Year Planner every year.

National and International Linkages

To address issues concerning the better public understanding of science and identifying the frontline issues in which science and scientists have a stake, the Academy has developed linkages with ICAR Institutes, Agricultural Universities and other Research Organizations and NGOs. It works closely with the other Science Academies of the country including the Indian National Science Academy; Indian Academy of Sciences; Indian National





The signing of MoU with the Italian Academy

Academy of Engineering; National Academy of Sciences, India; National Academy of Medical Sciences; and National Academy of Veterinary Sciences. The Academy has established linkages with Science Academies in other countries as well. Thirteen Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Science Academies abroad including African Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

New Initiatives

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Foundation Day Lecture

The Academy's Foundation Day Lecture was renamed as Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Foundation Day Lecture, a befitting tribute to the Father of the Green Revolution. The



first Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Foundation Day Lecture was delivered by Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Former Vice President of India, on June 05, 2024. Highlighting the legacy of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, Shri Naidu praised his pioneering contributions to agricultural science which transformed India from a food-deficit to food surplus country.

Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture

The Academy is proud to introduce Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial Lecture, a new initiative in 2025 to honor the remarkable contributions of the Father of the White Revolution. This prestigious lecture will be delivered by Dr. Meenesh Shah, Chairman & Managing Director, National Dairy Development Board, during the 17th Agricultural Science Congress. A tribute to Dr. Kurien's unparalleled legacy in revolutionizing India's dairy sector and empowering rural livelihoods, this lecture aims to inspire future generations to emulate his visionary work in transforming the agricultural landscape of the nation.

Pedagogy Development Programme

The Academy initiated a Pedagogy Development Programme (PDP) from the year and so far more than 300 ICAR scientists have been benefitted through seven sessions. These training programs were designed to elevate the competencies of educators in effective teaching by integrating the participants.

PDPs successfully addressed the evolving needs of teachers in the changing dynamics of education. It provided a

platform for professional development, incorporating modern pedagogical techniques, technology integration, and fostering a learner-centered approach. The diverse range of topics and hands-on experiences ensured a comprehensive learning experience for the participants.

NAAS-PAAS Meeting

In order to enlarge the stakeholder partnership an interactive meeting of the Professional Association of Agricultural Societies (PAAS) was organized by the Academy in hybrid mode on September 26, 2023 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Himanshu Pathak (President, NAAS). Where in 65 participants representing 48 Professional Societies joined the meeting. In his opening remarks, Dr. Pathak explained the purpose of the initiative, emphasizing the need for greater involvement of PAAS in NAAS activities and improvement in the quality of Society journals.

NAAS-YUVA

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences has for the first time established the NAAS-YUVA (Youth United for Visionary Agriculture) to recognize and nurture

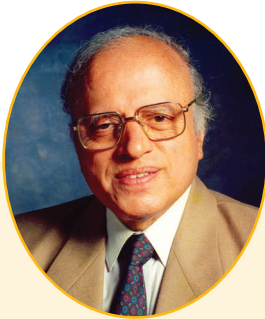
young scientific talent in the NARES. The forum is specifically designed to inspire and harness the innovative potential of young minds in agricultural sciences. Its objectives include organizing scientific programs and consultations on critical agricultural and related issues, while actively engaging youth—ranging from school students to young scholars and educators—in fostering groundbreaking innovations.

Smt. Kanak Aggarwal Girl-Student Scholarship Programme

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) started a ₹33 Lakhs scholarship program dedicated to empowering female students in Agriculture Studies, in collaboration with Crystal Crop Protection Limited! NAAS, with the support of Crystal, will enable 84 female students over the next 4 years to pursue their education at State and Central Agricultural Universities. This monumental initiative honours the legacy of the late Smt. Kanak Aggarwal, whose vision was to support women's participation in every sphere of life. By investing in these talented young women, we are not just shaping individual futures but are securing the future of agriculture.

NAAS Presidents

World-renowned academicians have been the Presidents of the Academy, who eminently guided its destiny over years and through their vision and wisdom helped accelerate the pace of growth of the Academy.



Prof M.S. Swaminathan
1992 - 1996; 2005 - 2007



Dr R.S. Paroda
1997 - 2000



Prof V.L. Chopra
2001 - 2004



Dr Mangala Rai
2008 - 2010



Prof R.B. Singh
2011 - 2013



Dr S. Ayyappan
2014 - 2016



Prof Panjab Singh
2017- 2019



Dr T. Mohapatra
2020-2022



Dr. H. Pathak
2023-till date

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Dr. R.T. Patil



Dr. E.V.S. Prakasa Rao



Dr. Paramjit Singh Minhas



Dr. Achamveetil Gopalakrishnan

Institutional Members

1. Bioersity International
2. Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA)
3. Centro Internacional de Major de Maize Y Trigo, CIMMYT India
4. International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
5. International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
6. International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)
7. International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
8. World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
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11. Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Ayodhya
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13. Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna
14. Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi
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22. Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Studies, Kochi
23. Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur
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31. Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir, Srinagar
32. Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati
33. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
34. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru
35. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
36. University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur
37. UP Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura
38. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute
39. ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute
40. Kamdhenu University
41. ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute



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