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August 2026

— 17th —

AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE & AWARDS 2026

🌾 *Celebrating Excellence in Agriculture* 🌾

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Celebrating The Champions of Indian Agriculture

The ATG Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards represents a powerful expression of the Agriculture Today Group's enduring commitment to the growth, recognition, and transformation of Indian agriculture. It is a dynamic platform that convenes the many voices shaping the sector's future. Policy-makers, industry leaders, scientists, agri-entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, and thought leaders come together under one roof with a shared purpose: to celebrate excellence, deepen understanding, and strengthen the collective resolve needed to advance agriculture across the country. In a sector as vital and complex as ours, such a convening is not simply valuable — it is essential.

What sets the ATG Conclave and Awards apart is its spirit of recognition that goes beyond trophies. The event honours vision, perseverance, and a lifetime of service to farming communities. Each award is a visible reminder that agricultural progress is driven by individuals and institutions who innovate, adapt, and lead responsibly. From breakthroughs in farm technology and digital agriculture to transformative work in sustainability, rural development, policy reform, and market linkages, the conclave acknowledges the many dimensions of progress that often remain unseen.

For the Agriculture Today Group, hosting this event is also a reaffirmation of our editorial mission. We have long held that agriculture merits informed attention, rigorous dialogue, and public recognition at the highest levels. The conclave creates a space where knowledge is shared, best practices are showcased, and future directions are debated with both seriousness and optimism. Sessions, panel discussions, and the awards themselves stimulate new thinking and partnerships that can translate into tangible impact on farms and in communities.

At a time marked by climate uncertainty, input pressures, shifting consumer preferences, and the urgent need for resilient food systems, the ATG Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards underscores a simple truth: agriculture is not merely an economic sector — it is the backbone of national well-being and rural livelihoods. By honouring those who advance the field, we affirm our belief that strengthening agriculture strengthens the nation.

As this journey continues, the conclave remains a source of pride, purpose, and responsibility for everyone at Agriculture Today Group. It is our tribute to the people and institutions tirelessly working to make Indian agriculture more innovative, inclusive, and future-ready..

Rajni Shaleen Chopra





The 17th ATG Conclave and Awards

Celebrating Vision, Leadership and Impact



From the CEO's desk

A Legacy of Leadership, A Celebration of Agriculture



I still remember the first time I attended the ATG Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards instituted by my father, Dr MJ Khan. I was a child then, and I realised much later that what I witnessed then was far bigger than an individual event. It was the beginning of a vision that would grow into one of the country's most respected platforms for celebrating the achievements of agriculture. This year, as the 17th edition of the conclave continued that journey, I feel a deep sense of pride in seeing how far this initiative has come and how strongly it continues to inspire the agricultural community.

Over the years, the ATG Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards has evolved from a pioneering initiative into a national platform where leaders from diverse sectors of agriculture come together with a shared purpose. Industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers all converge here, united by the belief that agriculture is not only an economic activity, but the foundation of India's growth, resilience, and future prosperity.

The 17th edition carried this legacy forward with even greater relevance and purpose. At a time when the agricultural sector faces climate uncertainty, changing market dynamics, shifting consumer expectations, and the urgent need for more sustainable practices, this conclave stands as a reminder that meaningful progress is possible when knowledge, experience, and commitment come together. Every award presented here represents more than individual excellence; it celebrates resilience, innovation, leadership, and dedicated service to the farming community.

As CEO, I take immense pride in the role this conclave continues to play in encouraging dialogue, recognition, and collaboration. It has always been a space where ideas are exchanged freely, partnerships are formed naturally, and new directions for agri-development are explored with seriousness and hope. It honours those who work consistently, often quietly, to strengthen rural livelihoods, improve productivity, promote technology adoption, and build a more sustainable and inclusive agricultural ecosystem.

For me personally, this journey is deeply emotional. What began as a childhood memory has grown into a living legacy of dedication, continuity, and responsibility. The ATG Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards is not only a celebration of achievement. It is a reaffirmation of our collective commitment to agriculture and to the millions of farmers whose efforts nourish the nation every day.



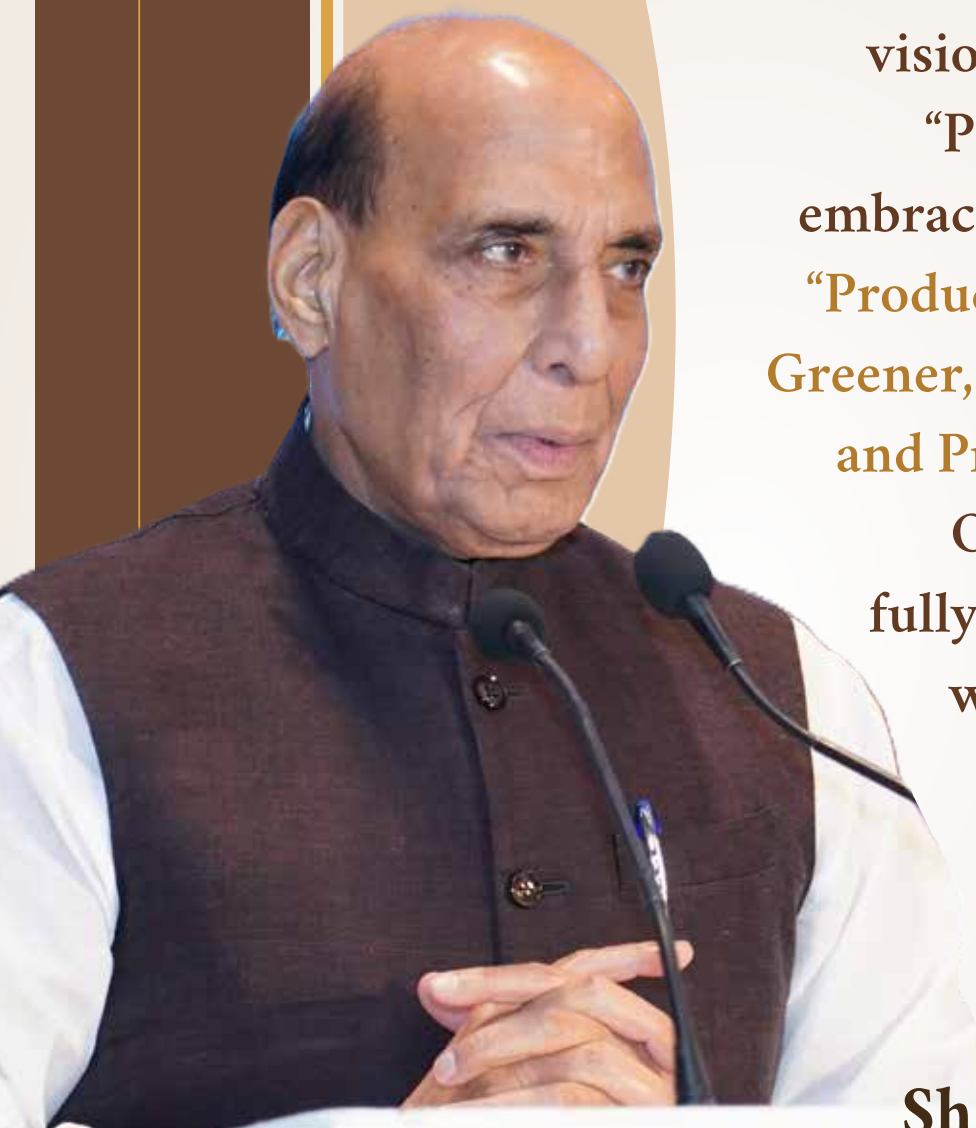
“

The nation's agri growth vision must go beyond “Produce More” and embrace the principles of “Produce Better, Produce Greener, Produce Smarter, and Produce Healthier.”

Our government is fully committed to the welfare of farmers; there will be no shortage of funds or resources.

Sh. Rajnath Singh

*Hon'ble Defence Minister
Government of India*



A photograph of a family of three—a mother, a father, and a young daughter—laughing and embracing each other. The mother is on the left, the father is on the right, and the daughter is in the middle, leaning against her father. They are all smiling broadly and looking at each other. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with warm lighting.

Health for all, Hunger for none

What drives us is creating a better life for everyone. Guided by our mission: **"Health for All, Hunger for None"**, we promote inclusive and sustainable growth through innovation. We have been advancing agriculture and healthcare in India for 130 years to create a better future for all.

www.bayer.in

17th Agriculture Leadership Awards 2026



CELEBRATING
**VISION
LEADERSHIP
IMPACT**



*Honouring those who shape a
sustainable future for agriculture
and global food security.*



The award for Mr Rahul Dhanuka is being received by his father Dr R.G. Agarwal, Chairman Emeritus of the Dhanuka Group

Mr. Rahul Dhanuka

*Managing Director
Dhanuka Agritech Limited*

CEO OF THE YEAR

“

*for strategic vision and
exemplary leadership in
business and empowering
farmers*

Mr. Rahul Dhanuka, Managing Director of Dhanuka Agritech Limited, is a respected leader in India's agro-chemical and agri-inputs industry. An MBA graduate from S.P. Jain Institute of Management & Research, he began his career in the pharmaceutical division of the Dhanuka Group before moving to Agritech.

With over 25 years of leadership experience, he has transformed the company's growth trajectory. As Director – Marketing, he drove strategic initiatives that expanded Dhanuka's rural presence and reinforced its leadership in crop protection. His customer-centric approach and deep understanding of agriculture have been pivotal in strengthening the company's market position.

He has led organizational transformation through robust systems, ERP implementation, and global partnerships. As Chairperson of the Risk Management Committee and member of the Stakeholders' Relationship Committee, he ensures strong governance, transparency, and effective risk oversight.

Beyond corporate responsibilities, Mr. Dhanuka contributes to the industry as Chairman of the Agricultural Chemicals Federation of India (ACFI) and Ex-Officio Member of the ICFA Board.

Known for compassionate leadership and strategic foresight, he continues to drive innovation, sustainable growth, and farmer-centric solutions while mentoring future industry leaders.



Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC)

Impact Leadership

“

*For creating impactful
risk solutions and
strengthening resilience in
agriculture*

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) is honoured with the Impact Leadership Award in recognition of its outstanding contribution towards strengthening India's agricultural resilience through inclusive, technology-driven, and farmer-centric insurance solutions. As India's leading specialised agriculture insurer, AIC has played a transformative role in safeguarding the livelihoods of millions of farmers by implementing flagship government schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) across diverse agro-climatic regions.

AIC has emerged as a pioneer in expanding risk protection across the agricultural ecosystem through innovative livestock, aquaculture, poultry, shrimp, and allied rural insurance products. The company has consistently leveraged digital technologies, satellite imagery, remote sensing, mobile applications, and data analytics to improve transparency, expedite claim settlements, and enhance service delivery, thereby increasing trust among farming communities.

AIC's commitment to financial inclusion and rural empowerment is reflected in its awareness campaigns, strategic partnerships with State Governments, financial institutions, Common Service Centres, FPOs and grassroots stakeholders. AIC has created a lasting impact on India's agricultural landscape.



Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI Bank)

Development Leadership

“

*for driving inclusive
growth and development in
agriculture and rural
economy*

IDBI Bank is honoured with the 17th Development Leadership Award 2026 for its significant contribution to India's economic development through inclusive banking, financial innovation, and sustained support to priority sectors. Built on a development banking legacy, IDBI has expanded access to finance, fostered entrepreneurship, supported productive investments, and advanced economic progress across urban and rural India.

The Bank's financial inclusion efforts have enabled millions - individuals, farmers, micro and small enterprises, and emerging businesses - to participate more effectively in development. Recognizing agriculture as vital to rural prosperity, IDBI has promoted agricultural finance, widened institutional credit, and supported allied sectors, strengthening rural economic activity. Alongside MSME development, infrastructure financing, and retail banking, the Bank has encouraged entrepreneurship, generated livelihoods, and advanced inclusive development.

Combining institutional heritage with modern banking excellence, IDBI has adopted technological innovation and digital transformation to make banking more accessible and responsive. Through responsible practices, sound governance, and service commitment, it continues to deepen financial participation and trust. By supporting national priorities - economic empowerment, rural development, enterprise creation, and social inclusion - IDBI exemplifies development leadership and contributes meaningfully to a more prosperous, inclusive India.



ITC Limited's Agri Business Division

Corporate Leadership

“

For exemplary corporate leadership driving innovation growth in agriculture

ITC Limited's Agri Business Division (ABD) stands among India's most diversified and digitally advanced agri enterprises, operating across 22 states and over 20 value chains, with an annual throughput exceeding 3.5 million tonnes and turnover of approximately Rs. 20,000 crores.

ABD anchors India's food security by securing the raw material backbone for Aashirvaad Atta, India's largest packaged branded atta, through precision sourcing and AI-led forecasting. Its farmer engagement model is unmatched in scale — sourcing directly from over 2 million farmers through more than 2,050 FPOs. Platforms like ITCMAARS, featuring KrishiMitra, the world's first GenAI-powered voice chatbot for agriculture, alongside ASTRA and TRADENEXT, have made ABD a national benchmark in agri-tech.

On sustainability, ABD carries forward ITC's legacy as the only enterprise globally of its scale to be water, carbon, and solid-waste-recycling positive, and is the first Indian company to achieve the FSA 3.0 Silver benchmark for wheat and paddy.

Combining scale, farmer welfare, digital innovation, and sustainability, ITC ABD has built a model of ethical, inclusive, and future-ready agribusiness — a fitting recipient of the Corporate Leadership Award 2026.



Krishi Rasayan Exports Pvt Ltd.

Industry Leadership

“

For providing innovative crop health solutions and remarkable contribution to the agriculture growth

Krishi Rasayan Exports Pvt. Ltd. is conferred with the Industry Leadership Award for its trailblazing contributions to crop health and agricultural growth.

Headquartered with seven ISO-certified manufacturing plants across India and a global presence spanning the USA, UAE, Bangladesh, and beyond, Krishi Rasayan Exports has evolved from a modest pesticide formulation unit into a ₹2,500-crore group delivering innovative solutions in crop protection, plant nutrition, and bio-stimulants.

The company's R&D-driven portfolio includes patented yield enhancers like Paushak Super Star, next-generation fungicides such as Kritect and Kri-Tect, and a dedicated focus on micro-algae-based micronutrients and organic nutrients.

Recognised at the 6th PMFAI SML Annual AgChem Awards during the 22nd International Crop Science Conference in Dubai in January 2026, the honours bestowed upon Krishi Rasayan Exports as "Company of the Year" and "Leader of the Year" underscore its commitment to sustainable, science-backed agriculture.

Through its wide network of branch offices and extensive distribution network, Krishi Rasayan Exports continues to empower millions of farmers with affordable, high-efficacy products that enhance productivity while safeguarding soil and environmental health.

“

Today, agriculture is not only the backbone of our economy but also the foundation of our health and future. If we protect soil, promote natural farming, and produce chemical-free grains, we will safeguard both our people and our planet. The true path to prosperity runs through sustainable agriculture

**Sh. Haribhau
Kisanrao Bagde**

*Hon'ble Governor of
Rajasthan*



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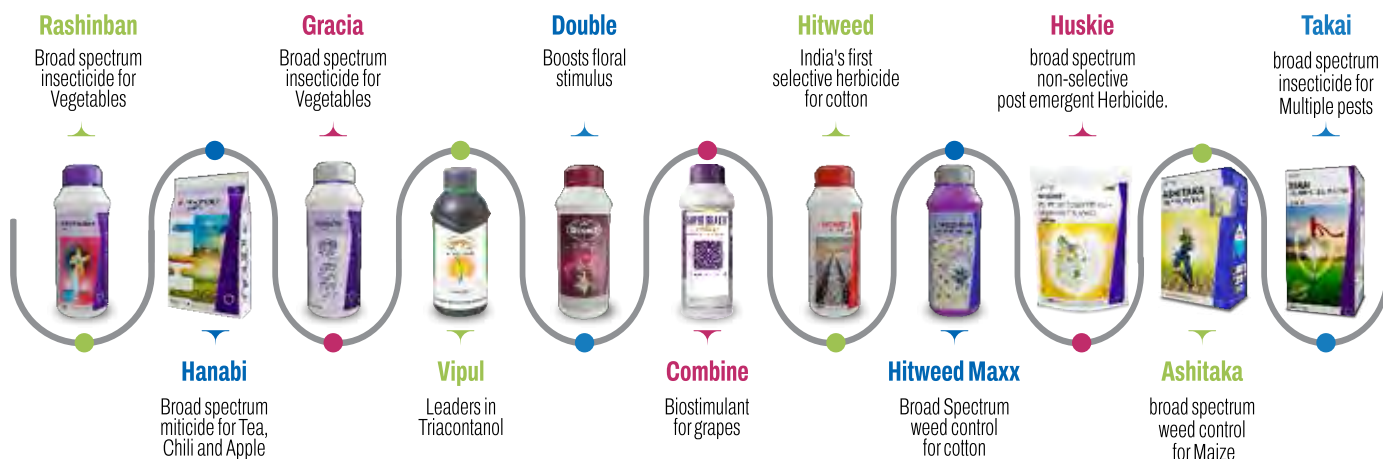
**We constantly innovate to
improve farmer productivity and
help feed our nation**

About Crop Care Business

- Leading player in Plant Growth Regulators & Cotton Herbicides
- 25+ Years of Global Leadership in Homobrassinolide based Biostimulants



Transforming Agriculture with Innovation





National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)

Cooperative Leadership

“

*For leadership in
promoting cooperatives
and empowering
farmers across India*

The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) is conferred with the Cooperative Leadership Award in recognition of its exemplary stewardship in strengthening the cooperative ecosystem and empowering farmers across the country. NAFED is ably fulfilling its role as the apex marketing agency for over 1.5 lakh primary agricultural cooperative societies, directly linking millions of small and marginal farmers to national and global markets.

Through its diversified portfolio—including procurement of food grains and pulses under government schemes, export of horticultural produce, distribution of fertilisers and seeds, and operation of rural retail outlets - NAFED ensures fair price realisation, reduces post-harvest losses, and enhances income security for farming communities.

Its pioneering initiatives in organic farming certification, cluster-based development of FPOs, and digital market linkage platforms have further democratised access to technology and value chains for rural producers.

With a pan-India presence and a commitment to co-operative principles of self-help, mutual accountability, and democratic governance, NAFED stands as a pillar of institutional resilience in Indian agriculture - making it a truly deserving recipient of this distinguished honour for visionary, impact-driven leadership



National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

Institutional Leadership

“

For outstanding growth and credit support to cooperative institutions across India

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has been honoured with the Institutional Leadership Award for its exceptional role in fostering the growth, financial viability, and institutional strengthening of cooperatives across India. NCDC functions as the premier financing and development agency for the cooperative sector, providing concessional credit, refinance, and technical assistance to over 1.2 lakh cooperative societies - including FPOs, dairy cooperatives, handloom clusters, and rural credit institutions.

In recent years, NCDC has significantly expanded its portfolio through innovative schemes such as the Cooperative Correction and Revival Programme, Women's Cooperative Thrift and Credit Initiative, and dedicated funding for agri-processing and value-chain infrastructure,

Its strategic partnerships with state governments, NABARD, and industry bodies have further enhanced the scale and impact of cooperative-led development, particularly in sectors like organic farming, food processing, and renewable energy. By combining financial discipline with a deep commitment to cooperative values - self-help, mutual responsibility, and democratic governance - NCDC has emerged as a bedrock of institutional resilience in India's agrarian economy, making it a most deserving recipient of this distinguished recognition.



Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal

Horticultural Education and Research Leadership

“

*For excellence in
Horticultural Education,
Research and Innovation*

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal (Haryana), has been honoured with the Horticultural Education and Research Leadership Award for its outstanding contributions to advancing horticultural science, education, and innovation.

Established in 2016 as the country's first dedicated horticultural university, it has rapidly emerged as a centre of excellence—offering undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes in diverse disciplines including fruit science, vegetable science, floriculture, post-harvest technology, and landscape architecture.

The university's research initiatives focus on climate-resilient crop varieties, precision horticulture, protected cultivation, value addition, and sustainable pest management, with several released varieties and technologies already adopted by farmers across northern India.

Its emphasis on industry-academia collaboration, international MoUs, and interdisciplinary innovation—particularly in nutrition-sensitive horticulture and agri-startup incubation—has positioned it as a catalyst for transforming horticulture from a subsistence activity into a high-value, knowledge-driven enterprise.

This award recognises the university's visionary leadership in cultivating the next generation of horticultural scientists, entrepreneurs, and change-makers for India's agrarian future.



Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

Academic Leadership

“

For outstanding academic leadership, pioneering agricultural research, and excellence in agri education

Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) is awarded the Academic Leadership Award in recognition of its sustained and transformative contribution to agricultural education, research, and outreach.

For over six decades PAU has combined visionary leadership with rigorous scholarship to advance crop improvement, sustainable farming systems, and climate-resilient technologies that have reshaped Punjab's agrarian landscape and impacted food security nationally.

Under decisive academic stewardship, PAU pioneered high-yielding crop varieties, integrated pest and nutrient management practices, and farmer-centric extension models that translated research into measurable on-farm benefits.

The university's commitment to excellence is evident in its curriculum innovation, faculty development, and interdisciplinary programs that prepare generations of agronomists, horticulturists, and agri-entrepreneurs to meet contemporary challenges. PAU's collaborative research partnerships with governments, industry, and farming communities exemplify inclusive leadership that bridges science and practice.

This award honours PAU's unwavering dedication to scholarly rigour, capacity building, and transformational leadership in agriculture — a legacy that continues to inspire innovation, uplift rural livelihoods, and strengthen India's agricultural resilience.



कृषि एवं किसान
कल्याण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND
FARMERS WELFARE



Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

Ministry Of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India

Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Govt. of Gujarat (Nodal Agency)

Scheme Features:

- Interest subvention of 3% on loans up to ₹2 crore for up to 7 years.
- Maximum rate of interest (ROI) on term loan is 9%.
- Credit guarantee for eligible loan upto Rs. 2 crore under CGTMSE & NABSANRAKSHAN scheme.
- Each beneficiary can set upto 25 Projects in locations with different LGD codes. Each project can get benefits upto Rs. 2 Cr.
- Benefits under AIF can be combined with other government subsidies.

APPLY FOR AIF SCHEME: <https://agriinfra.dac.gov.in/>

MAX 60 DAYS

Eligible Beneficiaries:

- Individual Farmers, FPOs, PACS, Cooperatives, SHGs, JLGs, Agri Entrepreneurs, Start-ups, State Agencies, PPP Projects

Eligible Projects:

- Warehouses, Cold Storage, Pack Houses, Grading & Sorting, Primary Processing Centres, Silos, Collection Centres, Food Processing Units, Cold Chain, Custom Hiring Centres, Farm Machinery Banks, Quality Testing Labs.

Expected Outcomes:

- Reduced wastage, better storage, improved market access, value addition, rural employment and higher farmer income.



Application
Video Tutorials



APPLY FOR
AIF SCHEME

Key Achievements of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) in Gujarat

✓ ₹6,500+ Crore Sanctioned	✓ 6,744 Projects Approved	✓ 536 Storage & Cold Chain Infrastructure Projects	✓ 1,470 Sorting & Grading Units Established	✓ 199 FPOs & PACS Benefited
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079-23240208
aif.gaic@gmail.com



@gaicofficial



Gujarat Agro Industries
Corporation Ltd



राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम

NCDC

Assisting Cooperatives. Always!

सहकारिताओं की सहायता में सदैव तत्पर!

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

‘सहकार से समृद्धि’

NCDC: POWERING THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a statutory corporation established by an Act of Parliament in 1963. Functioning under the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, NCDC is dedicated to promoting, strengthening, and modernizing the cooperative movement through financial assistance, capacity building, and developmental support.

The establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India, marked a new chapter in India's cooperative journey. Guided by the visionary mantra of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi—"Sahakar Se Samridhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation)—and under the leadership of Hon'ble Union Minister for Cooperation Shri Amit Shah, the Ministry has spearheaded transformative reforms that have revitalized the cooperative ecosystem and accelerated inclusive and sustainable development across the country.

As a key financial institution, NCDC empowers cooperatives through financial assistance, institutional strengthening, capacity building, and development initiatives across agriculture, dairy, fisheries, food processing, sugar, storage, livestock, textiles, and other allied sectors.

Through its wide-ranging interventions, NCDC has enabled cooperatives to enhance productivity, create sustainable livelihoods, generate employment, and strengthen rural economies across India.

Our Impact in Action

- ₹1.27 lakh crore + financial assistance disbursed in FY 2025–26.
- 40% CAGR achieved since the establishment of the Ministry of Cooperation.

Strengthening Cooperatives Across India

- ₹10,000 crore disbursed under GoI grant schemes to 56 Cooperative Sugar Mills.
- 1,000 Fisheries Cooperatives supported under PMMSY.
- 2,348 Fisheries Cooperatives strengthened under PM-MKSSY.
- Assistance for Deep-Sea Fishing Trawlers towards the Target of 200 Trawlers.
- Strengthened 17,964 dairy cooperative units enhancing infrastructure and promoting value addition.

Empowering Farmer Producer Organisations

- Currently, NCDC supports 1,863 Farmer Producer Organizations.

Capacity Building through LINAC

- 227 Training Programmes conducted in FY 2025-26
- 21,688 Participants trained through capacity-building initiative

Advancing Fisheries Entrepreneurship under PMMSY

- 320+ Entrepreneurs trained & incubated
- 150+ Fisheries-based enterprises established

Promoting transformative initiatives through-

- Sahakar Taxi Cooperatives Limited (Bharat Taxi)
- National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL)
- National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)
- Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL)
- Sahakar Sarathi Private Limited (SSPL)

Expanding our reach, strengthening our presence

- 19 Regional Office and 9 Satellite Offices established to bring NCDC's services closer to cooperatives across India

4, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110016, India

Contact : + 91-011-20862512, 20862866, Website : www.ncdc.in

“

Food processing is the bridge between agriculture and prosperity.

It has immense potential to generate employment, reduce post-harvest losses, improve farmer incomes, and strengthen food security.

Together, we must build globally competitive value chains that empower our farmers and position India as a leader in the food economy.

Sh. Chirag Paswan

*Hon'ble Minister of
Food Processing Industries,
Government of India*



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**REDUCING
EMISSIONS.
POWERING
REGENERATION.**

**WE TRANSFORM INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS INTO
MICROALGAE BIOTECHNOLOGY TO RESTORE
SOIL HEALTH AND DRIVE YIELDS.**

ADVANCED BIOLOGICALS FOR REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



Shoption

A B2B irrigation e-commerce platform offering digital sourcing, inventory forecasting, and shop-management tools for agri retailers

Startup Leadership

“

For pioneering innovation and creating transformative solutions for the agriculture

Shoption has been conferred with the Startup Leadership Award for its pioneering role in redefining agricultural innovation through technology-driven, farmer-centric solutions.

Founded with a mission to bridge critical gaps in the agri-value chain, the startup has developed scalable digital platforms and on-ground interventions that enhance market access, optimise input usage, and improve income realisation for smallholder farmers across India. Its flagship offerings—including AI-enabled crop advisory services, direct farmer-to-buyer market linkages, and fintech-enabled credit facilitation—have empowered over 250,000 farmers across multiple states, demonstrating measurable increases in yield, profitability, and resilience.

By integrating data analytics, IoT-based monitoring, and participatory design with deep field engagement, Shoption exemplifies how early-stage enterprises can drive systemic change in rural economies. Recognised for its agile execution, impact-first ethos, and commitment to inclusive growth, the startup has also fostered a vibrant ecosystem of agri-entrepreneurs, FPOs, and rural youth through capacity-building and incubation support.

This award underscores Shoption’s transformative potential—not merely as a business venture, but as a catalyst for sustainable, equitable, and future-ready agriculture in India.



Shaktiman (Tirth Agro Technology Pvt Ltd)

Farm Power Leadership

“

*For empowering farmers
through advanced farm
mechanization*

Shaktiman (Tirth Agro Technology Pvt. Ltd.), founded in 1997 by visionary farmer late Shri L.S. Gohil, is India's leading agri-implement manufacturer and the world's largest rotary tiller producer. With over 20 years of industry expertise, the company offers 100+ machines covering the entire crop cycle - from seedbed preparation (rotary tillers, power harrows, planters) to sowing, crop maintenance (sprayers, fertiliser broadcasters), harvesting (paddy and sugarcane harvesters), and post-harvest residue management (balers, mulchers, shredders).

Driven by its mission "Making Agriculture More Economical®," Shaktiman delivers innovative, affordable, and farmer-first solutions that have empowered 16 lakh+ farmers globally.

Its 82-acre, ISO 9001:2015 and TPM-certified manufacturing plant in Gujarat houses an advanced in-house R&D centre with comprehensive testing facilities, ensuring seamless tech integration, 100% quality adherence, and reliable products compliant with global standards (CE, EAC).

Committed to fully mechanising Indian agriculture sustainably, Shaktiman continues to bridge the gap between traditional practices and modern technology - creating long-term value for farmers, dealers, and society while bringing prosperity to over a million stakeholders across India and the world.



Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal

*Managing Director,
Indogulf Cropsciences Ltd.*

Visionary Leadership

“

*For pioneering vision
and exceptional
leadership in advancing
agriculture*

Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal is honoured with the Visionary Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and significant contribution to the advancement of India's agrochemical industry.

As the Managing Director of Indogulf Cropsciences Ltd., he has successfully guided the company through a phase of sustained growth, technological advancement, and global expansion. Under his leadership, the company has strengthened its research capabilities, diversified its product portfolio, and introduced innovative crop protection solutions that support sustainable agriculture and improved farm productivity.

His strategic vision also led to the successful listing of the company on the NSE and BSE in 2025, marking a significant milestone in its growth journey. Mr. Aggarwal has consistently promoted digital transformation, farmer-centric innovation, and responsible business practices while strengthening Indogulf's presence in domestic and international markets.

For his visionary leadership, commitment to innovation, and enduring contribution to sustainable agricultural development, Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal is a deserving recipient of this prestigious honour.



Mr. Karumanchi Prasad

*Founder & Managing
Director
Prasad Seeds Private Ltd.*

Entrepreneurial Leadership

“

*For entrepreneurial
excellence and remarkable
contribution to the seed
sector development*

Mr K. Prasad, Chairman and Managing Director of Prasad Seeds, has been conferred with the Entrepreneurial Leadership Award for his outstanding vision, business acumen, and transformative contributions to India's seed sector. Starting from modest beginnings in Andhra Pradesh over three decades ago, he built Prasad Seeds into one of the country's most trusted agri-input enterprises - pioneering high-yielding, climate-resilient varieties of cotton, maize, paddy, and vegetables tailored for smallholder farmers.

Under his stewardship, the company integrated cutting-edge breeding technologies, robust quality control, and farmer-centric extension services, ensuring access to affordable, certified seeds across India. Mr Prasad's commitment to R&D investment, public-private partnerships, and capacity building for seed producers has significantly strengthened the domestic seed value chain, reduced import dependency.

A believer in "seed as the first input of prosperity," he has consistently championed policies that incentivise innovation, protect farmer rights, and promote equitable benefit-sharing.

His vision exemplifies entrepreneurial excellence rooted in social purpose making him a most deserving recipient of this honour for elevating the seed sector as a cornerstone of India's agricultural self-reliance and food security.

“

India's next agricultural revolution will be **AI-driven**.

Artificial intelligence can add **Rs. 70,000 crore** to our farm economy, empower farmers with real-time advisories, and turn climate challenges into opportunities.

Let us build a future where science and technology serve every farmer, in every field, across every season.



Dr. Jitendra Singh

Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology & Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office



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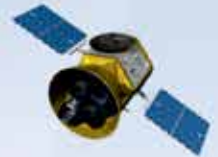
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Shri Pasha Patel

*Chairman of State Agriculture Price Commission,
Government of Maharashtra*

Farming Leadership

“

*For visionary leadership
in empowering farmers
and advancing the
agricultural sector*

Shri Pasha Patel, Chairman of the State Agriculture Price Commission, Government of Maharashtra, has been conferred with the prestigious Leader of Farmers Award in recognition of his unwavering advocacy for agrarian justice and evidence-based farm income policy. A seasoned farmer-leader and former legislator from Jalgaon, Shri Patel has dedicated over three decades to championing the cause of small and marginal cultivators, particularly in water-scarce regions of Vidarbha and North Maharashtra.

As Chairman of the State Agriculture Price Commission, he has spearheaded rigorous cost-of-cultivation studies, advocated for rational Minimum Support Price (MSP) formulations aligned with C2 + 50% principles, and pushed for timely procurement mechanisms to ensure all farmers receive remunerative prices. His grassroots connect—forged through extensive field visits, kisan sabhas, and collaboration with FPOs—has enabled him to articulate ground realities with clarity and conviction in policy forums, influencing both state and national discourse on farm distress, debt relief, and market reform.

Shri Patel's unwavering efforts for farmer welfare have earned him deep respect among farming communities and make him a truly deserving recipient of this honour for steadfast, principled representation of India's anna-datas.



Mr. Deepak Shah

*Chairman & Managing Director
Sulphur Mills Ltd (SML)*

Lifetime Achievement

“

For lifetime of extraordinary contribution and dedication to Indian agriculture

Mr Deepak Shah, Chairman and Managing Director of Sulphur Mills Limited (SML), has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his five-decade-long transformative contribution to Indian agriculture and the global agrochemical industry.

Widely acknowledged as the “Sulphur Man of India,” this US-educated mechanical engineer and techno-entrepreneur pioneered sulphur-based WDG (Water Dispersible Granule) formulations, revolutionising nutrient delivery while significantly reducing dosage per acre and enhancing input efficiency for millions of farmers. Under his visionary leadership, SML evolved into a Rs 2,200-crore group—including Sulphur Mills, Sumil Chemicals, and R3 Crop Care—exporting sustainable agri-solutions to over 80 countries and championing innovations in micronutrients, bio-stimulants, and eco-friendly crop care products.

A recipient of multiple accolades, including the ABSA Lifetime Achievement Award (2020–21) and the PMFAI SML AgChem Award (2022), Mr Shah is celebrated not only for his technical ingenuity but also for his unwavering farmer-first ethos, integrity, and commitment to “doing more with less”—making agriculture more productive, economical, and environmentally responsible. His enduring legacy epitomises entrepreneurial excellence grounded in purpose, science, and service to the annadata.



The State of Gujarat

Best Horticulture State

“

For outstanding leadership, innovation, and excellence in advancing horticultural development

Gujarat has been conferred the prestigious ATG Agriculture Leadership Award 2026 for its outstanding performance in the horticulture sector, recognizing the state as the Best State for Horticulture in India.

This national accolade was presented at the 17th Agriculture Leadership Conclave in New Delhi, with Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presenting the award to Gujarat's Agriculture Minister Shri Jitu Vaghani.

The state's horticulture sector has registered remarkable growth, with a 181% increase in horticultural crop area and a 326% rise in production since 2001. In 2022, fruit cultivation alone covered 4.48 lakh hectares, yielding 82.91 lakh metric tonnes, with mango, banana, citrus, pomegranate, and sapota as the leading crops.

Gujarat also ranks first in okra cultivation, contributing significantly to India's vegetable output, and leads in production of onion, potato, banana, lime, and papaya.

These achievements reflect the state's progressive policies, technology adoption, and strong farmer participation, firmly establishing Gujarat as a national leader in horticulture.

The award was received by Shri Jitubhai Vaghani, Minister of Agriculture, Gujarat



The State of Uttar Pradesh

Best Agriculture State

“

*For outstanding performance
and leadership in advancing
agricultural growth and
farmer welfare*

Uttar Pradesh is honoured with the ATG Agriculture Leadership Award in recognition of its outstanding performance and visionary leadership in advancing agricultural growth and farmer welfare.

Over recent years the state has implemented forward-looking policies that boosted productivity, diversified cropping systems, and strengthened resilient value chains. Innovative programs in seed distribution, farmer training, and digital advisory services have widened access to best practices and market information for millions of cultivators.

Significant investments in irrigation, cold-chain infrastructure, and rural roads have reduced post-harvest losses and improved market linkages, raising incomes across smallholder and marginal farming communities. Uttar Pradesh's emphasis on farmer-centric institutions—co-operatives, self-help groups, and agripreneurship hubs—has empowered women and youth, spurred local agro-processing, and created employment opportunities.

The state's collaborative approach with research institutions and private partners has accelerated adoption of climate-smart technologies and sustainable practices, enhancing long-term food security and environmental stewardship. For combining measurable agricultural growth with incl

usive, ground-level reforms that uplift farmers' livelihoods, Uttar Pradesh sets a powerful example of leadership and earns this award with distinction.

“

We must ensure that every farmer has access to affordable, quality fertilizers the backbone of agricultural productivity. Our government has allocated over Rs 70,000 crore in fertilizer subsidies this year, expanded the Nutrient Based Subsidy for Kharif 2026, and is diversifying import sources to safeguard supply. Fertilizer security is integral to farmer prosperity and national food security.



Smt. Anupriya Patel

*Hon'ble Minister of State
for Health & Family Welfare
and Chemicals & Fertilizers,
Government of India*



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SML's growth story is driven by innovation and strengthened by trusted partnerships, with a shared commitment to a sustainable future. Where, every milestone reflects the trust and support of our valued partners, farmers, and channel partners.

As we welcome our Brand Ambassador, Sachin Tendulkar, we celebrate a collective vision that continues to propel us forward.

Together, we remain committed to advancing Indian agriculture and building a brighter future.

“The future of agriculture will be shaped by ideas that combine innovation with purpose. It is encouraging to see SML working towards solutions that can empower farmers and contribute to a more sustainable future.”

- Sachin Tendulkar



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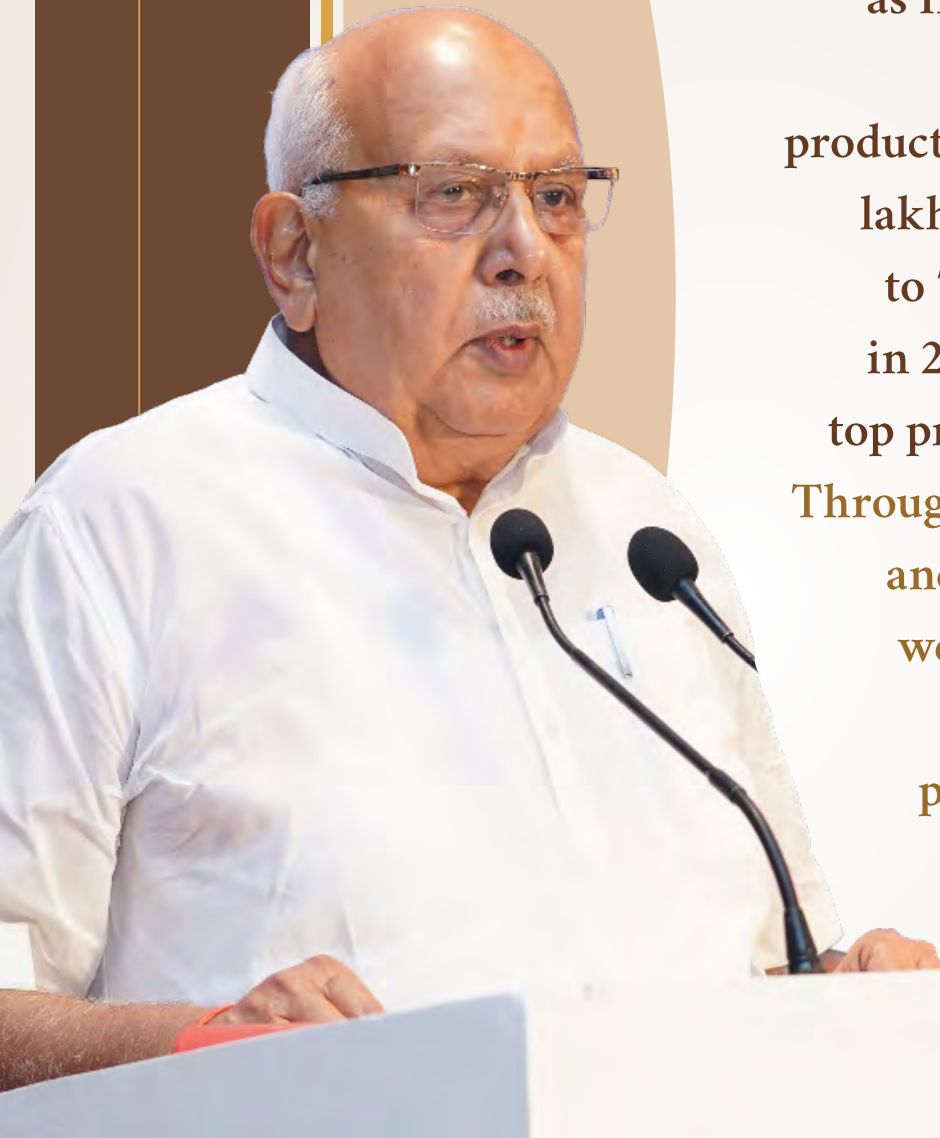
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Uttar Pradesh has emerged as India's new agricultural model. Our foodgrain production has risen from 547 lakh metric tonnes in 2017 to 737 lakh metric tonnes in 2024–25, making us the top producer in the country. Through reforms, technology, and irrigation expansion, we have transformed UP into a self-reliant, prosperous agricultural powerhouse.

Sh. Surya Pratap Shahi

*Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,
Agricultural Education and
Agricultural Research,
Government of Uttar Pradesh*



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Objectives

- Formalize micro enterprises
- Promote ODOP
- Improve institutional finance
- Technology upgradation
- Branding & marketing
- Employment generation

Eligible Beneficiaries

- Individuals, FPOs, SHGs, Cooperatives, Partnership firms, Private companies, NGOs

Outcomes

- Formalization
- Value addition
- Reduced post-harvest losses
- Better market access
- Higher income
- Rural employment

Key Components

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- Seed capital for **SHGs**- **Rs. 40,000** grant to SHG members associated in food processing businesses for small equipment
- Support for FPO/SHG common infrastructure- **35% up to Rs. 3 Crore**
- Branding & marketing support FPO/SHG
- Incubation Centre - 100% to Govt organizations / 50% to Private organizations.
- Capacity building - 3 Days paid training to applicant of this scheme



✓ 4,151 Applications submitted	✓ 1,925 Applications Sanctioned	✓ ₹617 Cr. Sanctioned Amount	✓ ₹122 Cr. Subsidy Disbursed	✓ 250 ODOP Applications Received
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17TH AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP CONCLAVE 2026

🌿 8-9 July 2026 | The Oberoi, New Delhi 🌿

INAUGURAL SESSION

The 17th ATG Agriculture Leadership Conclave commenced on July 8, 2026, with a grand inaugural session graced by Hon'ble Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Shri Chirag Paswan and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology. The session brought together a gathering of luminaries from across the agriculture and allied sectors. The session highlighted the growing importance of innovation, value addition, and collaborative action in shaping the future of Indian agriculture.

Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, delivered an insightful address at the ATG Leadership Conclave 2026, emphasizing the critical role of food processing in strengthening ag-

ricultural value chains and enhancing farmers' incomes. He highlighted the importance of innovation, investment, and stronger market linkages in building a more resilient and competitive agri-food system. His remarks underlined the need for greater collaboration among stakeholders to unlock opportunities for rural growth, employment generation, & sustainable agricultural transformation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Government of India, and Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, delivered an engaging address at the ATG Leadership Conclave 2026. He highlighted the transformative role of science, innovation, and technology in advancing Indian agriculture and improving rural livelihoods. Emphasizing the need for research-led solutions and stronger institutional collaboration, he called for

greater adoption of modern technologies to build a more productive, resilient, and future-ready agricultural sector.

Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice of India and a practising farmer, spoke about the realities, challenges, and aspirations of the farming community with remarkable insight. His address highlighted the importance of farmer-centric policies, sustainable practices, and respectful engagement with those who work the land. He emphasized that agriculture is not only an economic activity but a way of life that demands dignity, commitment, and long-term vision.

Shri Pasha Patel, Chairman of the Maharashtra Agri Price Commission, spoke on the importance of fair pricing, market stability, and policy support in strengthening farmer confidence and



agricultural sustainability. His remarks underscored the need to protect farmers' interests while ensuring efficient and transparent agricultural markets. He also emphasized that informed price policy and responsive institutions are essential to building a more equitable and resilient agri-economy.

Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, Agriculture Today Group, delivered a warm and purposeful address, reflecting the vision and spirit of the event. He emphasized the importance of bringing together policymakers, innovators, researchers, and farmers on one platform to shape the future of Indian agriculture. He emphasized that agriculture today is not only about cultivation, but also about driving economic growth, strengthening food systems, and fostering sustainability and prosperity in the years ahead.

SESSION 1 : STRENGTHENING INDUSTRY- ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIPS

Mr Sanjay Chaudhary, Vice President - Strategic & Corporate Affairs, Indogulf Cropsciences Limited, the moderator for the session, underlined the importance of innovation, responsible agri-inputs, and industry-led support for farmer prosperity. He spoke about the need for stronger partnerships between

the private sector and the agricultural ecosystem to improve productivity, sustainability, and market resilience. He highlighted the role of science-based solutions, quality inputs, and strategic collaboration in advancing Indian agriculture and strengthening rural livelihoods.

Dr. Nutan Kaushik, Director General, Amity Food & Agriculture Foundation, highlighted the vital role of research, innovation, and knowledge partnerships in strengthening Indian agriculture. She emphasized the need for science-led solutions, capacity building, and greater integration between academia and field-level practice to address emerging chal-

lenges in the sector. Her remarks also underlined the importance of sustainability, nutrition, and inclusive growth in building a more resilient and future-ready agri-food system.

Dr. R.C. Agrawal, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), stressed the vital role of education, research, and capacity building in shaping the future of Indian agriculture. He highlighted the need to strengthen academic institutions, encourage innovation, and equip the next generation with the knowledge and skills needed to meet evolving agricultural challenges. His remarks also underscored the importance of linking



agricultural education more closely with field realities, technology, and sustainable development.

Mr. M. J. Saxena, Advisor, Ayurvet Limited, highlighted the growing importance of natural, sustainable, and science-backed approaches in animal health and agriculture. He spoke about the need to promote eco-friendly solutions that support healthier livestock, improve productivity, and reduce dependence on harmful inputs. His remarks also emphasized the value of innovation, research, and responsible industry practices in building a more resilient and sustainable agri-livestock ecosystem.

Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Vice-Chancellor, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, emphasized the importance of horticultural innovation, research, and skill development in advancing Indian agriculture. He highlighted the need to strengthen science-based approaches, improve crop diversification, and promote sustainable practices that can enhance productivity and farmer income. His remarks also underlined the role of higher education institutions in developing talent, generating knowledge, and supporting a more resilient and future-ready horticultural sector.

Mr. Raju Kapoor, Director – Corporate Affairs, FMC India Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the importance of innovation, sustainability, and responsible crop protection in advancing Indian agriculture. He emphasized the need for science-based solutions, stronger industry-academia-farmer partnerships, and continued support for productivity enhancement and crop resilience. His remarks underlined the role of the private sector in enabling safer, smarter, and more sustainable agricultural practices for the benefit of farmers and the wider agri-food system.

SESSION 2 : DIPLOMATS SESSION ON GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE

Ambassador C. Rajasekhar, IFS (Retd.), Former Officer on Special Duty (States), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, moderated the session with distinction. He spoke on the importance of international cooperation, policy dialogue, and institutional linkages in advancing agricultural development across borders. His remarks highlighted how shared knowledge, strategic partnerships, and collaborative frameworks can strengthen resilience, encourage innovation, and support sustainable growth in agriculture.

His Excellency Mr. Jagannath Sami, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji, highlighted the importance of

strengthening global partnerships in agriculture through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and shared solutions to common challenges. His address emphasized the growing relevance of climate resilience, trade linkages, and innovation in building sustainable agri-food systems. He also underlined the need for closer cooperation between countries to advance farmer welfare, food security, and inclusive rural development.

His Excellency Mr. Mariano Agustín Caucino, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, spoke on the importance of global cooperation, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnerships in advancing agriculture and food security. His address highlighted the value of collaboration between nations in promoting innovation, sustainable production, and resilient agri-food systems. He also emphasized the need to build stronger cross-border linkages that support farmer prosperity, trade, and inclusive rural development.

His Excellency Mr. Mariano Agustín Caucino, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic, highlighted the importance of global cooperation, knowledge exchange, and strategic partnerships in advancing agriculture and food security. His address emphasized the need to deepen cross-border collaboration in innovation, sustainable production, and resilient agri-food systems. He also underlined the role of stronger bilateral linkages in supporting farmer prosperity, trade, and inclusive rural development.

Dr. Waiel S.H. Awwad, Secretary-General of the India and Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (IACCIA), emphasized the growing importance of India-Arab collaboration in agriculture, food security, and sustainable investment. His address highlighted the potential of stronger institutional linkages, knowledge exchange, and commercial partnerships to create new opportunities for farmers and agribusinesses. He underlined the role of closer cooperation in promoting innovation, expanding market access,





and deepening economic engagement across regions for mutual benefit.

Mr. Roberto Carlos Razera Papa, Agricultural Attaché, Embassy of Brazil, highlighted the growing importance of India-Brazil cooperation in agriculture, trade, and innovation, noting the strong potential for mutual learning and collaboration. He emphasized the need to deepen institutional linkages, expand agricultural partnerships, and promote sustainable, technology-driven growth. He also underlined the value of closer engagement between the two countries in advancing farmer welfare, improving market opportunities, and strengthening the broader agri-food sector.

SESSION 3: POLICY REFORMS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Dr Tarun Shridhar, Former Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, moderated the session. He stressed the need for integrated approaches that strengthen farm productivity, improve livestock systems, and support resilient rural livelihoods. He highlighted the importance of cooperative institutions, evidence-based policymaking, and stronger public systems in ensuring inclusive growth. He

also emphasized that sustainability and food security must go hand in hand with farmer empowerment and institutional efficiency.

Dr. Purvi Mehta, Senior Advisor, International Livestock Research Institute, highlighted the need for nutrition-sensitive agriculture, climate-resilient food systems, and stronger links between research, policy, and practice. Her address highlighted how inclusive value chains, cooperative models, and innovation can improve productivity while also advancing livelihoods, food security, and sustainable rural development. She underscored the need for collaborative, evidence-based approaches that place farmers, nutrition outcomes, and long-term sustainability at the centre of agricultural transformation.

Mr. R.K. Chitkara, Country Director (UAE), World Agriculture Forum, emphasized the importance of global partnerships, innovation, and market linkages in strengthening agricultural systems and improving farmer livelihoods. His spoke of the need for collaborative models that connect policy, technology, and enterprise to build more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready food systems. He also underlined the value of international cooperation and shared learning in expanding opportunities for sustainable agricultural growth and long-term food security.

Mr. Sanjiv Kanwar, Managing Director, YARA South Asia, spoke on the importance of balanced crop nutrition, soil health, and science-led solutions in building a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector. His address highlighted the need for innovation, responsible input use, and stronger collaboration across the value chain to support farmer prosperity. He also underlined how efficient nutrient management can improve yields, protect resources, and contribute to long-term agricultural resilience and food security.

Sh. Pankaj Kumar Bansal, IAS, Managing Director, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), highlighted the pivotal role of cooperatives in strengthening agricultural development and rural livelihoods. His address emphasized the need to deepen institutional support, expand access to credit, and build stronger cooperative ecosystems that empower farmers at the grassroots. He also underscored how cooperatives can drive inclusive growth, enhance value addition, and create more resilient and self-reliant agricultural communities.

Mr. Sanjeev K Chadha, former MD, NAFED and a distinguished bureaucrat and administrator, highlighted the importance of strengthening farmer institutions, improving market access, and building efficient value chains to sup-



port agricultural growth. His address emphasized the need for coordinated action across the public and private sectors to enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and ensure better returns for farmers. He also underlined how innovation and collaboration can help create a more resilient and sustainable agri-marketing ecosystem.

SESSION 4: INVESTMENT, CREDIT & RISK MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Mr. Gaurav Sharma, Global Agribusiness Research Lead, Accenture moderated the session. He highlighted the growing importance of data-driven decision-making, digital innovation, and risk analytics in agriculture. He emphasized how technology can improve access to finance, strengthen resilience against market and climate uncertainties, and support smarter investment strategies. He also underlined the need for integrated, future-ready solutions that help farmers, lenders, and agribusinesses manage risk more effectively and sustainably.

Mr. Saurabh Khanna, Managing Director & CEO, National E-Repository Limited (NeRL), highlighted the importance of digital infrastructure in transforming agricultural finance, trade, and risk management. His address emphasized

how reliable e-repository systems can improve transparency, strengthen collateral management, and enhance trust across the value chain. He also underlined the role of technology-enabled platforms in expanding credit access, reducing transaction risks, and creating a more efficient and resilient ecosystem for farmers, lenders, and agri-business stakeholders.

Ms. Mini George, Executive Director, Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC), highlighted the critical role of crop insurance in safeguarding farmers against climate, weather, and market-related uncertainties. Her address emphasized the need for wider insurance coverage, faster claim settlement, and stronger awareness among farmers to improve financial security. She also underlined how effective risk transfer mechanisms can support agricultural resilience, protect livelihoods, and encourage greater investment in farming with confidence.

Dr. Kumar Neel Lohit, Executive Director, IDBI Bank, highlighted the importance of strengthening financial inclusion and improving access to timely credit for the agriculture sector. His address emphasized the need for innovative banking solutions, better risk assessment, and stronger collaboration between financial institutions and agri-stakeholders to support sustainable

growth. He also underlined how responsive credit systems can help farmers manage uncertainty, invest in productivity, and build greater resilience in an evolving agricultural landscape.

Mr. Deepak Pareek, Founder, HnyB Tech Incubations Pvt. Ltd., spoke of the significance of innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-driven solutions in addressing key challenges in agriculture. His address emphasized the role of incubation and start-up ecosystems in creating scalable models that support farmers, improve efficiency, and unlock new opportunities across the value chain. He also underlined how collaboration between innovators, industry, and institutions can accelerate practical solutions for a more resilient and future-ready agricultural sector.

SESSION 5: CEOS PANEL ON FEEDING THE FUTURE

Mr. Sanjay Sethi, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Indian Chamber of Food & Agriculture (ICFA), moderated the session with a sharp focus on the intersection of investment, credit, and risk management in agriculture. He guided the discussion around strengthening financial access, improving risk mitigation frameworks, and enabling greater confidence for farmers and agribusinesses. His moderation helped bring out practical insights on building a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready agricultural ecosystem.

Mr. Simon Wiebusch, Vice Chairman, Managing Director & CEO, Bayer Crop Science Limited, spoke of the significance of innovation, scientific advancement, and sustainable crop protection in feeding a growing population. His address emphasized the need to combine productivity with environmental responsibility through modern agricultural solutions, stronger farmer support, and improved resilience across food systems. He also underlined how collaboration, research, and technology can help secure a more productive and sustainable future for agriculture.



Mr Soundararadjane S, Chief Executive Officer, HyFarm, highlighted the importance of innovation, integrated value chains, and technology-led solutions in building a stronger and more sustainable agricultural future. His address emphasized the need to improve efficiency, support farmer profitability, and strengthen linkages between production, processing, and markets. He also underlined how scalable agri-business models can enhance resilience, reduce waste, and contribute to feeding a growing population in a more responsible and future-ready way.

Mr. Prasad Karumanchi, Chairman, Founder & Managing Director, Prasad Seeds Private Limited, spoke about seed innovation, quality genetics, and farmer-centric solutions in ensuring agricultural productivity and long-term food security. His address emphasized the need for resilient seed systems that can support higher yields, better climate adaptability, and improved farm profitability. He also underlined how research, trust, and innovation together can help farmers meet future challenges and contribute to a more sustainable agricultural ecosystem.

Mr. Ravi Mathur, President – Sales & Marketing, Tirth Agro Technology Pvt. Ltd. (Shaktiman), highlighted the importance of mechanization, innovation,

and efficient farm solutions in improving agricultural productivity and operational ease. His address emphasized the need for technologies that help farmers save time, reduce costs, and enhance field efficiency across diverse farming operations. He also underlined how stronger market access, practical innovation, and farmer-focused design can support a more productive, resilient, and future-ready agricultural ecosystem.

Dr. Durgesh Chandra, Secretary General, CropLife India, highlighted the importance of science-based crop protection, innovation, and responsible agri-input use in building a stronger and more

sustainable food system. His address emphasized the need for policies that support farmer productivity, environmental stewardship, and long-term agricultural resilience. He also underlined how collaboration among industry, institutions, and farmers can help advance safer, more efficient, and future-ready solutions for agriculture.

PRESENTATION OF AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2026

The ATG Agriculture Leadership Awards were instituted in 2008 to recognize excellence and leadership demonstrated by individuals, organizations, and institutions contributing to the development





of Indian agriculture and rural prosperity. These awards are presented annually to honor outstanding efforts that have strengthened agriculture, livestock, social development, and rural livelihoods, while positively impacting the lives of millions of farmers. The Awards Jury continues to uphold the spirit of recognizing meaningful contributions that inspire innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth in the agri-sector.

At the grand awards presentation ceremony of the 17th Agriculture Today Group (ATG) Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards 2026, Union Defence

Minister Shri Rajnath Singh delivered a powerful address on the future of Indian agriculture. He stressed that the nation's agri-growth vision must go beyond "Produce More" and embrace the principles of "Produce Better, Produce Greener, Produce Smarter, and Produce Healthier," highlighting the need for sustainable, innovation-led, and nutrition-focused farming.

Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India lauded the Modi government's steadfast commitment to farmer welfare, noting the transformative impact of initiatives aimed at im-

proving income security, access to technology, and rural prosperity. He highlighted how sustained policy support, infrastructure development, and innovation-driven reforms have strengthened Indian agriculture and empowered farmers to become more resilient and self-reliant.

Recognized as one of the most prestigious honours in Indian agriculture, the ATG Awards celebrate transformative leadership across states, institutions, and individuals. Shri Rajnath Singh conferred awards on eminent personalities and institutions for their outstanding contributions to agriculture and rural development. Uttar Pradesh was named Best Agriculture State, Gujarat received the Best Horticulture State award, and Shri Deepak Shah, Chairman & Managing Director of Sulphur Mills Limited, was felicitated with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work in sustainable agri-inputs and farmer empowerment.

Sh. Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, highlighted the vital role of agriculture in driving rural prosperity and strengthening the nation's economic foundation. His address emphasized the importance of farmer welfare, sustainable practices, and continued efforts to improve productivity



and resilience in the agricultural sector. He also appreciated the contribution of farmers, institutions, and policymakers in advancing inclusive growth and ensuring that agriculture remains a pillar of development and food security.

Sh. Surya Pratap Shahi, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Uttar Pradesh, highlighted the state's commitment to agricultural growth through progressive policies, farmer-centric initiatives, and sustained support for innovation and productivity. His address emphasized the importance of improving irrigation, market access, and technology adoption to strengthen rural livelihoods. He also noted the need for coordinated efforts to make agriculture more resilient, profitable, and future-ready for farmers across Uttar Pradesh.

Sh. Jitubhai Vaghani, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Gujarat, highlighted the state's progressive approach to agriculture through innovation, horticulture development, and farmer-focused governance. His address emphasized the importance of policy support, efficient resource use, and technology adoption in improving productivity and resilience.

He also noted that Gujarat's agricultural success is built on strong institutions, coordinated planning, and continued efforts to enhance farmer income and rural prosperity.

Hon'ble Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice of India and Chair of the National Awards Committee, brought a distinguished perspective to the ATG Agriculture Leadership Awards 2026. His leadership of the jury reflected the credibility and integrity of the awards process, which recognized outstanding contributions across Indian agriculture. He also reinforced the importance of honouring excellence that advances rural prosperity, innovation, and inclusive growth in the sector.

Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, Agriculture Today Group, highlighted the Group's long-standing commitment to knowledge-driven growth in Indian agriculture. His address reflected a vision of strengthening the farm sector through information, innovation, and meaningful engagement with stakeholders across the value chain. He noted that the ATG Agriculture Leadership Awards are among the first

of their kind in the country, created to celebrate excellence, leadership, and transformative contributions to agriculture, while recognizing the individuals and institutions shaping the sector's future.

Uttar Pradesh was honoured as the Best Agriculture State, with the award received by Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Minister of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh. Gujarat was conferred the Best Horticulture State award, received by Shri Jitubhai Vaghani, Minister of Agriculture, Gujarat. In addition to state recognitions, the 17th ATG Agriculture Leadership Awards were conferred across 18 categories to honour institutions, corporate groups and individuals for their transformative contributions to agriculture.

The ATG Agriculture Leadership Awards celebrate excellence, innovation, and leadership that have strengthened the sector and advanced rural prosperity. They also recognized impactful efforts that continue to shape a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready agricultural landscape.



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*Hon'ble Agriculture Minister,
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Day Two : 9th July 2026

Day 2 of the Conclave featured five high-level panel discussions on critical and forward-looking themes including international trade and cooperation, agri-startups and innovation ecosystems, smart agriculture, policy innovation, and agri-business development. These sessions brought together eminent policymakers, scientists, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and farmer representatives for rigorous and insightful dialogue on the challenges, opportunities, and emerging pathways shaping the future of Indian agriculture. The discussions reflected a shared commitment to building a more sustainable, technology-driven, market-oriented, and farmer-centric agricultural ecosystem in India.



Session 1 : Strengthening Farmer-Industry - Institutional Linkages

Mr. Deepak Pareek, Founder, HnyB Tech Incubations Pvt. Ltd., moderated the session with a strong focus on fostering meaningful dialogue between farmers, industry leaders, and institutions. He guided the discussion around innovation, collaboration, and practical solutions that can strengthen agricultural ecosystems. His moderation helped draw attention to the importance of shared knowledge, entrepreneurial thinking, and coordinated action in creating a more resilient and opportunity-driven future for agriculture.

Dr. R.G. Aggarwal, Chairman Emeritus, Dhanuka Agritech, focused on the growing challenge of spurious agricultural inputs and their harmful impact on farmer productivity, soil health, and trust

in the agri-value chain. He emphasized the need for stricter regulation, greater awareness, and stronger farmer-industry-institutional cooperation to ensure access to genuine products. He also underlined that safeguarding input quality is essential for improving yields, reducing losses, and building a more reliable and resilient agricultural ecosystem.

Sh. Kanwal Singh Chouhan, Padma Shri Awardee & Progressive Farmer, highlighted the importance of innovation, crop diversification, and farmer-led entrepreneurship in building a more resilient agricultural sector. His address reflected the spirit of practical experimentation, value addition, and market-oriented farming that can enhance farmer incomes and inspire others. He also emphasized the need for continuous learning and adaptive practices to help Indian agriculture remain sustainable, profitable, and future-ready.

Mr. Mithilesh Desai, Chairman, Jackfruitking Agro Producer Company Limited, highlighted the importance of farmer collectives, value addition, and market-driven enterprise in strengthening rural livelihoods. His address emphasized how organized producer companies can help farmers improve income, reduce dependency on middlemen, and build stronger market linkages. He also underlined the potential of innovative agri-business models to create sustainable opportunities, enhance resilience, and promote inclusive growth in the agricultural sector.

Mr. Puneet Singh Thind, Founder & Director, Northern Farmers Federation, highlighted the importance of collective action, farmer empowerment, and stronger institutional support in advancing agricultural development. His address emphasized the need to build robust farmer networks that can improve

access to knowledge, resources, and market opportunities. He also underlined that collaboration, advocacy, and grassroots engagement are essential for creating a more resilient, inclusive, and farmer-centric agricultural ecosystem.

Session 2: Agri-Startups & Innovation Ecosystem: Driving the Future of Agriculture

Mr. Akshay Khobragade, Chief Operating Officer, Salam Kisan, moderated the session with a sharp focus on the role of entrepreneurship, technology, and scalable solutions in transforming the sector. He steered the discussion toward how startups can address key challenges in farming, improve efficiency, and create new opportunities across the value chain. His moderation highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and ecosystem support in shaping the future of agriculture.

Mr. Santosh Sahu, Director, Co-founder & CEO, Gogreen Warehouses Pvt. Limited, highlighted the critical role of modern storage infrastructure in reducing post-harvest losses and strengthening the agri-supply chain. His address emphasized how efficient warehousing solutions can improve price realization for farmers, enhance market efficiency,

and support better credit access against stored produce. He also underlined the importance of technology-enabled logistics in building a more resilient, transparent, and farmer-friendly agricultural ecosystem.

Mr. Sharad Ramdas Kale, Founder, Shoption, highlighted the importance of technology-led innovation in transforming agri-input supply chains and improving farmer access to quality products. His address emphasized how digital platforms can reduce procurement costs, improve efficiency for retailers, and create better market linkages for farmers. He also underlined the need for scalable, farmer-centric solutions that strengthen the agricultural ecosystem and support more productive, resilient, and future-ready farming.

Mr. Ankit Jain, Co-Founder, EF Polymer Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the importance of innovation in creating sustainable solutions for modern agriculture. His address emphasized the role of water-efficient technologies, eco-friendly inputs, and startup-led approaches in improving farm productivity while conserving natural resources. He also underlined the need for scalable, farmer-friendly innovations that can strengthen resilience, reduce dependency on conventional in-

puts, and contribute to a more sustainable agricultural future.

Dr. Prafull Gadge, Chief Executive Director, Biome Technologies, highlighted the importance of innovative and science-backed solutions in advancing sustainable agriculture. His address emphasized the role of biotechnology, resource efficiency, and technology adoption in improving productivity while reducing environmental impact. He also underlined the need for farmer-centric, scalable approaches that can strengthen resilience, enhance soil health, and support the long-term transformation of Indian agriculture.

Mr. Deepak Pareek, Founder, HnyB Tech Incubations Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship, innovation, and incubation support in building a stronger agri-startup ecosystem. His address emphasized how technology-led ventures can address key challenges in agriculture, create scalable solutions for farmers, and open new opportunities across the value chain. He also underlined the need for collaboration between innovators, industry, and institutions to accelerate practical and sustainable change in the sector.





Session 3: Bridging Research and Farm-Level Impact

Mr. Sanjay Chaudhary, Vice President – Strategic & Corporate Affairs, Indogulf Cropsciences Limited, moderated the session with a strong focus on translating scientific knowledge into practical benefits for farmers. He guided the discussion around the need for closer coordination between research institutions, industry, and field-level stakeholders to ensure that innovations reach farms effectively. His moderation highlighted the importance of actionable solutions, collaboration, and measurable impact in driving agricultural progress.

Mr. Salhat Khan, Director – Fresh, Flipkart, highlighted the growing importance of efficient supply chains, quality assurance, and technology-driven market access in strengthening the agri and fresh produce ecosystem. His address emphasized how digital commerce can improve price discovery, reduce wastage, and connect farmers more effectively with consumers and institutional buyers. He also underlined the need for scalable, customer-focused solutions

that enhance transparency, reliability, and growth across the fresh value chain.

Dr. Suchitra S, Sr. Consultant, Alternative Medicine and Natural Treatments, highlighted the importance of holistic health, natural healing, and the growing relevance of preventive well-being in today's lifestyle. Her address emphasized the value of integrating traditional wisdom with modern understanding to promote healthier living. She also underlined the need to increase awareness about natural treatments and their role in supporting balanced, sustainable, and more mindful approaches to health and wellness.

Mr. Mayank Yadav, Vice President, Bayer Crop Science, highlighted the importance of innovation, scientific advancement, and sustainable crop protection in supporting the future of agriculture. His address emphasized the need for solutions that improve productivity while safeguarding natural resources and strengthening farmer resilience. He also underlined how research-driven technologies and collaborative approaches can help build a more efficient, sustainable, and future-ready agricultural ecosystem.

Dr. Vibha Dhawan, Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), highlighted the crucial role of sustainability, research, and innovation in shaping the future of agriculture and rural development. Her address emphasized the need for climate-resilient practices, efficient resource management, and science-based solutions that can strengthen food systems while protecting the environment. She also underlined the importance of collaboration across institutions, industry, and policy-makers to drive long-term, inclusive, and sustainable growth.

Ms. Jyoti Jha, Advisory Lead, Harvest-Plus Solutions, highlighted the importance of nutrition-sensitive agriculture in improving both farm productivity and public health. Her address emphasized the role of biofortification, innovation, and evidence-based interventions in addressing hidden hunger and strengthening food and nutrition security. She also underlined the need for collaborative approaches that connect agriculture, health, and development outcomes to create a more resilient and inclusive food system.

Session 4: Smart Agriculture: Technology, AI & Precision Farming

Dr. Kalyan Goswami, Director General, Agro Chem Federation of India, moderated the session with a focus on the role of digital innovation in transforming Indian agriculture. He guided the discussion around how AI, data-driven tools, and precision technologies can improve productivity, optimize resource use, and support more informed farm decisions. His moderation highlighted the need for smart, scalable solutions that make agriculture more efficient, resilient, and future-ready.

Mr. Navneet Ravikar, Chairman & Managing Director, Leads Connect Services Private Limited, highlighted the growing role of technology, analytics, and risk management in transforming agriculture. His address emphasized how data-driven solutions can improve yield estimation, strengthen climate resilience, and support better decision-making for farmers and institutions. He also underlined the importance of innovative, farmer-centric models that connect agriculture with insurance, finance, and sustainability to build a more secure and future-ready agri-ecosystem.

Mr. Sachin Kamra, Executive Leader – Digital, Data & AI Transformation (AMEA), Syngenta Group, highlighted the transformative potential of digital technologies in modern agriculture. His address emphasized how AI, data, and enterprise innovation can improve decision-making, enhance operational efficiency, and support more sustainable farming practices. He also underlined the importance of scaling smart solutions that connect technology with real farm needs, helping build a more resilient, productive, and future-ready agricultural ecosystem.

Mr. Dushyant Tyagi, Chief Executive Officer, Farmgate Technologies Pvt. Ltd., highlighted the importance of technology-enabled solutions in improving farm operations, market access, and supply chain efficiency. His address emphasized how digital innovation can help farmers and agri-businesses overcome logistical challenges, reduce inefficiencies, and make better decisions. He also underlined the need for scalable, farmer-centric platforms that can strengthen transparency, improve profitability, and support a more connected and future-ready agricultural ecosystem.

Mr. R.K. Goyal, Managing Director, Verdesian Life Sciences, highlighted the importance of science-led and sustainable solutions in improving agricultural productivity and soil health. His address emphasized the need for innovative crop nutrition and resource-efficient practices that can help farmers achieve better yields while protecting the environment. He also underlined how responsible agri-input technologies can support a more resilient, efficient, and future-ready agricultural system.

Ms. Sonali Singh, Head Strategy and Planning, Annam.AI IIT Ropar, highlighted the transformative role of artificial intelligence in advancing smarter and more efficient agriculture. Her address emphasized how data-driven innovation can improve decision-making, support precision farming, and create practical solutions for real farm challenges. She also underlined the importance of strong strategy, collaboration, and technology adoption in building a more sustainable, resilient, and future-ready agricultural ecosystem.





Session 5: Leadership Panel on Driving the Next Generation of Agribusiness

Mr. Debabrata Sarkar, President – Asia Pacific, AlgaEnergy, moderated the session with a focus on visionary leadership, collaboration, and innovation. He guided the discussion around building a stronger agribusiness ecosystem that can respond to evolving market needs and sectoral challenges. His moderation highlighted the importance of sustainable growth, strategic partnerships, and future-ready thinking in shaping the next generation of agribusiness.

Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal, Managing Director of Insecticides (India) Ltd, centred his address on the role of strong agribusiness leadership in transforming Indian agriculture through modern crop protection and technology-driven solutions. He emphasized how innovative, responsible pesticides and emerging systems like hydroponics can help farmers improve productivity and incomes while safeguarding sustainability for the next generation of agribusiness.

Mr. Rakesh Swami, Group President & Head – Corporate Affairs, Godrej Industries Group, brought a policy and advocacy lens to the leadership panel on driving the next generation of agribusiness. He focused on how enabling, stable regulations and constructive

engagement with policymakers can unlock private investment, innovation, and scale in agriculture. He underlined that future-ready agribusiness requires industry to work closely with government and communities for inclusive, sustainable growth.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute, centred his address on science-led, climate-resilient agriculture and the need for a new wave of innovation to secure India's food and nutritional security. He emphasized strengthening research on sustainable farming, soil health, and resource-efficient technologies, and urged agribusiness leaders to collaborate closely with national agricultural research systems to drive the next generation of resilient, farmer-centric growth.

Mr. Divyansh Agarwal, Director, Krishi Rasayan Exports Pvt. Ltd., represented the perspective of a younger generation of agribusiness leadership. His address can be framed around retail and agribusiness strategies, with emphasis on innovation, market responsiveness, and building stronger farmer connect. He likely highlighted how modern agro-chemical businesses must combine distribution strength, technology adoption, and customer understanding to stay competitive while supporting sustainable growth in Indian agriculture.

Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, Managing Director of Clover Organics Pvt. Ltd., spoke from a nature-led and sustainability-focused perspective. His address likely emphasized creating development that works with nature rather than against it, reflecting Clover's focus on ecological solutions across agriculture and related sectors. He also highlighted innovation, sustainability, and practical collaboration with stakeholders to build scalable, environmentally responsible agribusiness models for the future.

Concluding Function and The Outstanding Professional Awards 2026

The concluding function of the 17th ATG Agriculture Leadership Awards and Conclave, organized by Agriculture Today Group on July 8–9, brought the two-day



event to a graceful close on a high note. The glittering awards ceremony on July 9 celebrated excellence in agriculture by honouring 27 Outstanding Professionals for their remarkable contributions to the sector.

The chief guest for the occasion was Smt. Anupriya Patel, Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. The other eminent guests at the concluding function included Justice P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Former Chief Justice of India and Chairman of the National Awards Committee; H.E. Mr. Christopher Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada; Sh. O.P. Dhankar, Former Agriculture Minister, Government of Haryana; Sh. Pasha Patel, Chairman, Maharashtra Agri Price Commission; and Dr. M.J. Khan, Founder Chairman, Agriculture Today Group. Their presence added stature and significance to the celebration, underscoring the importance of leadership, innovation, and collaboration in shaping the future of Indian agriculture. The conclave concluded with a shared commitment to advancing sustainable growth and recognizing excellence across the agri-sector.

Smt. Anupriya Patel Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India. underscored the critical need for stronger policy support, inno-



vation, and coordinated action to transform Indian agriculture. She stressed that the future of the sector depends on empowering farmers, improving access to quality inputs, and building resilient systems through close government-industry partnership. Her address strongly reinforced the importance of sustainable growth, farmer welfare, and a more competitive, future-ready agri-economy.

H.E. Mr. Christopher Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada, brought an international perspective to the ATG Leadership Conclave. Drawing on his extensive diplomatic experience, he highlighted the importance of stronger India-Canada cooperation in agriculture, trade, innovation, and sustainable development. His presence underscored the value

of global partnerships in addressing shared challenges and creating new opportunities for farmers, agri-businesses, and technology-driven growth in the sector.

Shri O.P. Dhankar, Former Agriculture Minister, Government of Haryana, brought a strong policy and grassroots perspective to the conclave. He emphasized the importance of farmer-centric governance, better market support, and practical reforms that can improve rural livelihoods. His address reflected deep concern for agriculture's long-term strength, while stressing the need for leadership that connects policy with field realities and drives meaningful, sustainable growth in the sector.



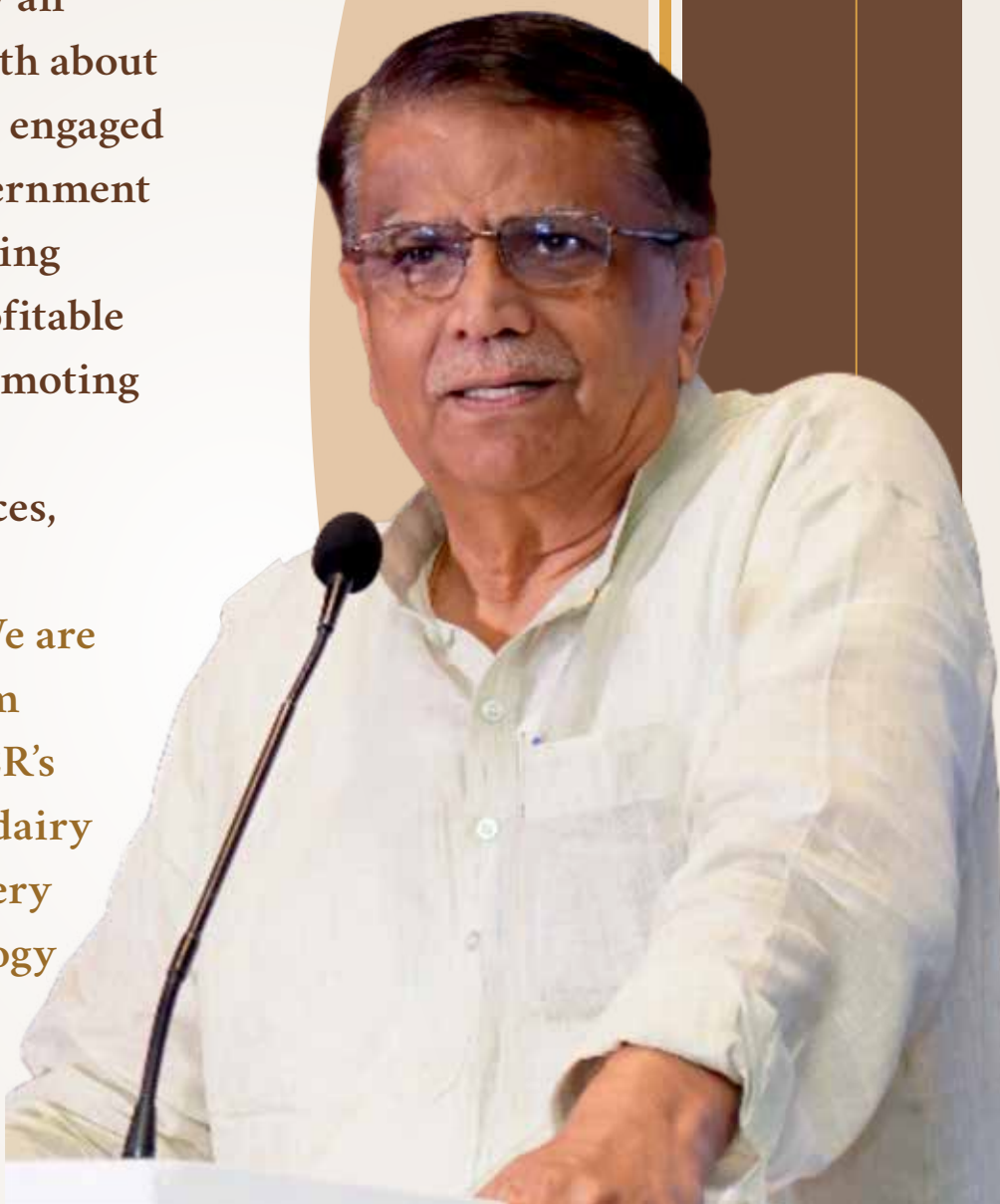
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Sh. O.P. Dhankar

*Former Agriculture Minister,
Government of Haryana*



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- ✓ State Excellence Awards 2026
- ✓ CEOs Round Table on Agriculture
- ✓ B2B Business Meetings
- ✓ National Co-operatives Convention
- ✓ Thematic Seminars
- ✓ Farmers Workshops
- ✓ ACABCs Meet



Focus Areas



Agricultural
Technology



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Mechanization



Agri-Innovation



Food Systems



Agribusiness Investment



Rural Development



Sustainable Agriculture

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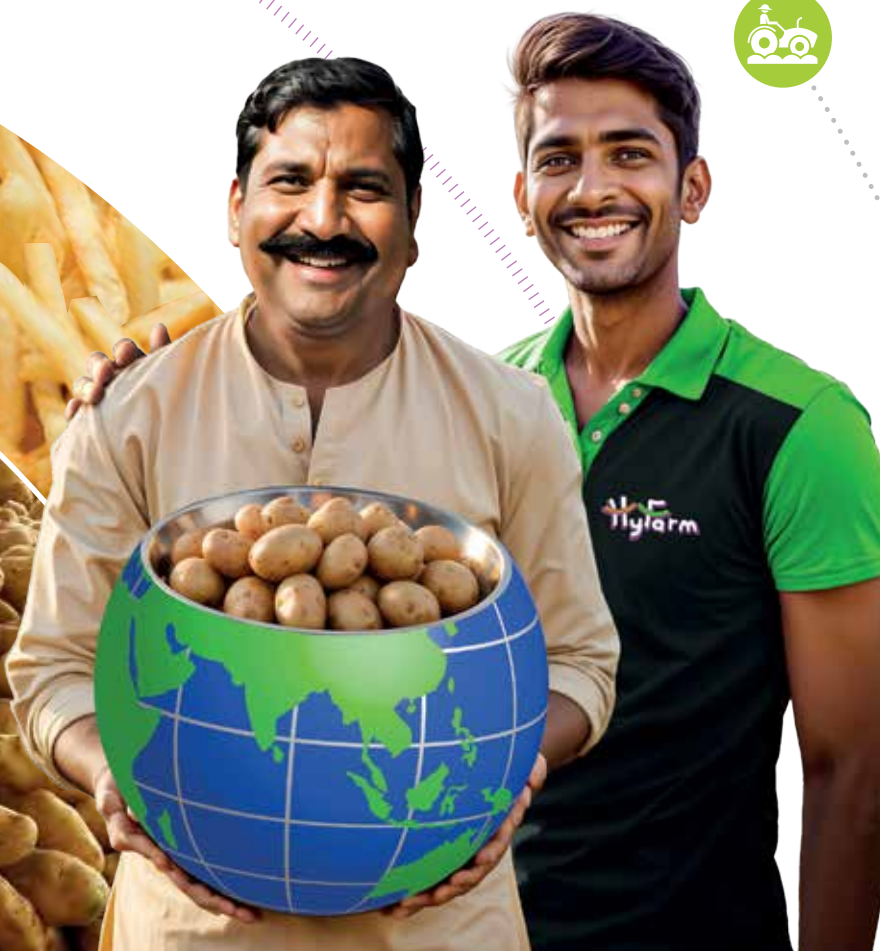
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President- Asia Pacific at
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Mr. Sanjiv Kanwar

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Mr. Navneet Ravikar

Chairman & Managing Director,
Leads Connect Services
Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Yogesh Diwedi

Chief Executive Officer
Madhya Bharat Consortium of
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Dr. Prafull Gadge

Founder & CEO,
Biome Technologies



Dr . K. Keshavulu

ISTA Immediate Past President and
Special Officer, Telangana Agriculture
& Farmers Welfare Commission,
Government of Telangana



Mr. Soundararadjane S.

Chief Executive Officer,
HyFarm



Mr. Rajesh Aggarwal

Managing Director
Insecticides (India) Limited



Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao

Director,
Indian Agricultural Research
Institute



Mr. Akshay Khobragade

Founder & Chief Operating Officer,
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Mr. Rakesh K Chitkara

Country Director UAE,
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Mr. Ankit Jain

Co-Founder & CBD0
EF Polymer Pvt. Ltd



Mr. Mithilesh Desai

Chairman,
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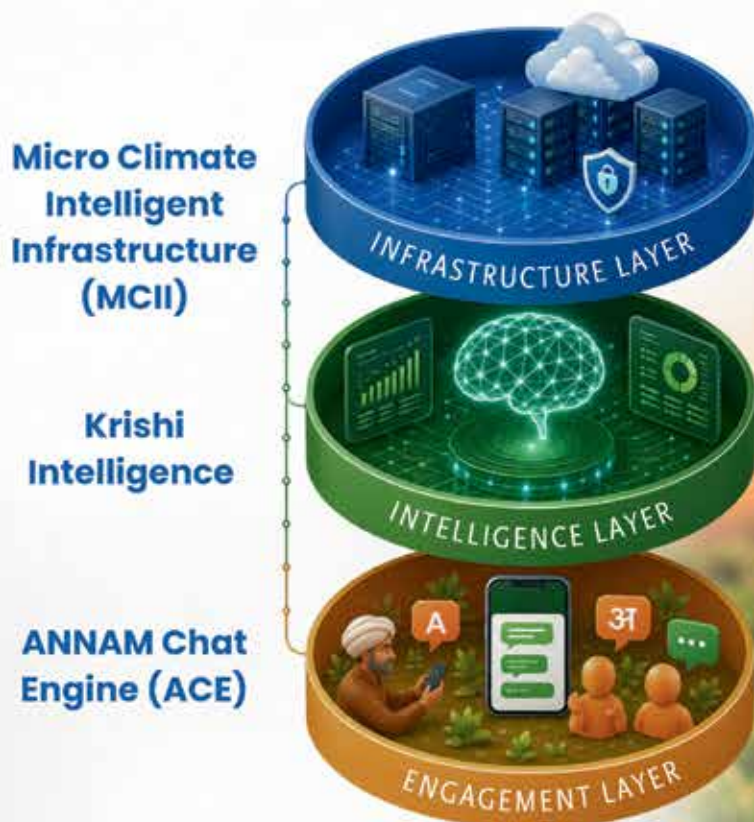
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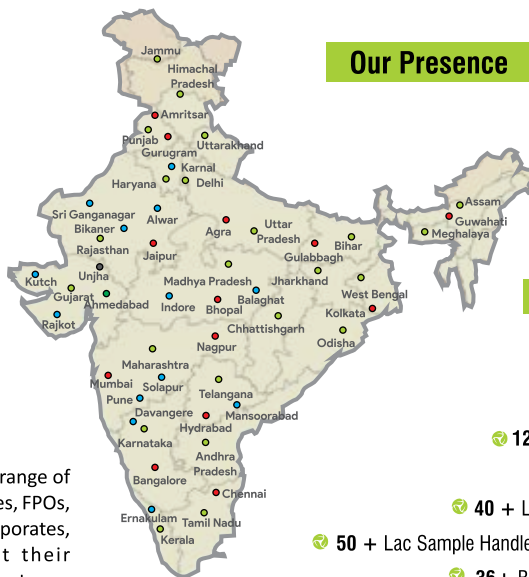
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