



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
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विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



## RIS 44<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day Conference

# **Strengthening India-Africa Partnership for Agricultural Transformation**

10:00 AM | Saturday, 30 May 2026

Jacaranda, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi (Hybrid)

### Tentative Agenda

Time	Details
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM  (Venue: Jacaranda Hall @ IHC)	<b><u>Inaugural Session</u></b>  <i>Welcome Remarks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma</b>, Director General, RIS, New Delhi</li></ul> <i>Inaugural Address:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shri Pabitra Margherita</b>, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs of India</li></ul> <i>Foundation Day Lecture:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Ramesh Chand</b>, Former Member, NITI Aayog, New Delhi.</li></ul> <i>Special Remarks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Aparna Ray</b>, Joint Secretary (PP&amp;R), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India</li></ul> <i>Closing Remarks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Seshadri Chari</b>, Member, Governing Council, RIS, New Delhi</li></ul> <i>Vote of Thanks:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr. Prabir De</b>, Professor, RIS, New Delhi</li></ul>
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>

<b>Conference on ‘Strengthening India - Africa Partnership for Agricultural Transformation’</b>	
<p><b>11:45 AM - 1:45 PM</b></p> <p><b>(Venue: Jacaranda Hall @ IHC)</b></p>	<p><b>Technical Session I: Models for Sustainable Farming Systems</b></p> <p><b>Co-Chair: Dr. Meenesh Shah</b>, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)</p> <p><b>Co-Chair: Dr. A K Nayak</b>, Deputy Director General, Natural Resource Management, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)</p> <p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Dairy Cooperatives for Inclusive Livestock Development</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. V. Sridhar</b>, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Anand</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Climate-Resilient Landscape Systems</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Ramesh Singh</b>, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Experiences of National Innovations for Climate Resilient Agriculture</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. M Prabhakar</b>, Director, Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Bengaluru.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Integrated Farming Systems</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Sunil Kumar</b>, Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research (ICAR-IIFSR), Meerut</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Agrivoltaics and Solar-Powered Irrigation</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. P S Brahmanand</b>, Water Technology Centre (WTC), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Community Seed Systems</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Pratheepa C. M.</b> and <b>Mr Prajeesh, P., M. S.</b> Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Q &amp; A</i></b></p>
<p><b>1:45 PM - 2:30 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
<p><b>2:30 PM - 4:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>(Venue: Jacaranda Hall @ IHC)</b></p>	<p><b>Technical Session II: Digital Public Infrastructure and Agri – Start - up Ecosystems</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Mr. Sanjay Agarwal</b>, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad</p>

	<p><b><u>Speakers:</u></b></p> <p><b><i>From Farm to Exports: The Sahyadri Model</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Pankaj Nathe</b>, HOD – Farms, R&amp;D &amp; QA, Sahyadri Farms, Nasik</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Farmer Producer Organizations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Deepak Subhash Gorphade</b>, General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Mumbai</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Research – Extension –Farmer Linkages: Role of KVKs</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Rajbir Singh</b>, Deputy Director General (Extension), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Digital Innovations in Agricultural Extension</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Shaik N. Meera</b>, Director, Agriculture Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Hyderabad,</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Digitalization of Agricultural Marketing Systems</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Dushyant Tyagi</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Farmgate Technologies, Hyderabad</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Digital Soil Health Systems</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Rajat Vardhan</b>, Chief Executive Officer, ScaNxt Technologies, Noida</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Q &amp; A</i></b></p>
<b>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM</b>	<b>High Tea @ G. Parthasarathi Hall, RIS, Core 4B, IHC</b>
<b>5:30 PM - 7:00 PM</b>  (Venue: G. P. Hall@ RIS)	<p><b>Panel Discussion: Way Forward for India-Africa Agricultural Cooperation</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Dr. P K Joshi</b>, Vice President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna</b>, Coordinator, DAKSHIN</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sagar Kaushik</b>, Chairman, Fame</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Deepak Pareek</b>, Founder, HnyB.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Ram Singh</b>, Director, Delhi School of Economics</li> <li>• <b>Professor C. S. C. Shekhar</b>, Professor and Head AERU, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Seema Bathla</b>, Professor, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Q &amp; A</i></b></p>
<b>7:00 PM onwards</b>	<b>Dinner at Margosa Lawns, India Habitat Centre</b>