

## Robotics and AI Laboratory inaugurated at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

**New Delhi, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026:** The Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, recently established at the Division of Agricultural Engineering, ICAR–Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), was inaugurated by Dr. M. L. Jat, Hon'ble Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, on 06 February 2026. The inauguration took place in the gracious presence of Dr. D. K. Yadava, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, and Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI.

During the visit, Dr. M. L. Jat interacted with scientists and students working in the areas of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence and congratulated them on creating such a state-of-the-art facility. In his address, he emphasized the importance of farmer-centric technology development and encouraged researchers to ensure that innovations reach farmers' fields. He also highlighted the need for large-scale commercialization of technologies developed by the Engineering Division. Stressing mechanization efficiency, he suggested the development of automated systems for straight-line sowing to promote effective mechanical weeding operations. He further underlined the importance of capacity building and recommended organizing a series of training programmes on advanced technologies for farmers and students.

Dr Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director ICAR-IARI informed that the newly established laboratory is equipped with advanced facilities for design, rapid prototyping, and laboratory-scale testing of agricultural robots and automated systems. He stated that the primary focus of the laboratory is to research and develop automated and intelligent solutions for various farm operations, conducting capacity-building and skill-development for farmers, students, and professionals. Dr Rao further highlighted the importance of scientific advancements in robotics and artificial intelligence in the changing climatic and socio-economic scenario, emphasizing that such technologies will play a crucial role in improving efficiency, reducing labour drudgery, and enhancing the sustainability and resilience of agricultural systems.

The inaugural programme was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean & Joint Director (Education), Dr. Vishwanathan Chinnusamy (Research), Dr. R.N. Padaria, Jt. Director (Extension). The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. P. K. Sahoo, who expressed his sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble dignitaries, guests, scientists, students, and staff members for their valuable presence and active participation in the inaugural programme. He also acknowledged the collective efforts of the team involved in establishing the Robotics and AI Laboratory. The establishment of the Robotics and AI Laboratory marks a significant step towards strengthening smart mechanization, automation, and digital agriculture research at ICAR-IARI.



