

ICAR-IARI and IAA Organise Lecture on “The Making of a Breakthrough”

New Delhi, 14 October 2026: The IARI Alumni Association (IAA), in collaboration with ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), organised a lecture on “The Making of a Breakthrough” by Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB), at Dr. B.P. Auditorium, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi.

In his chairperson's remarks, Dr. R.S. Paroda, President, IAA, underscored the importance of sustained and dedicated efforts in achieving scientific breakthroughs. Referring to the pioneering research contributions of ICAR-IARI, he highlighted the need for new scientific approaches to address emerging challenges in agriculture and allied sectors.

Delivering the lecture, Dr. Sanjay Kumar emphasised that scientific breakthroughs do not follow a single path. He highlighted the importance of identifying unanswered questions, exploring new approaches and observing nature closely, describing nature as the first laboratory. He stressed that deep observation and innovative thinking are essential for developing solutions to emerging challenges. Sharing examples of scientific innovation, Dr. Kumar discussed efforts to promote ‘hing’ cultivation in Himachal Pradesh to reduce dependence on imports, the introduction of monk fruit as a sweetening agent in India, and the use of wild marigold as a source of essential oils. These examples illustrated how scientific inquiry and innovative approaches can translate into practical solutions with wider societal benefits.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-IARI and Chief Patron, IAA, welcomed the guests and speaker present and introduced the speaker by highlighting his significant contributions to scientific advancements and societal development, specifically in Hill Ecologies. Dr. Anil K. Singh, former Deputy Director General (Natural Resource Management), ICAR, and Secretary, IAA, delivered the welcome address and introduced the gathering about the series of IAA lectures.

An interactive session with faculty members and students followed the lecture, providing a platform for discussion on scientific research, innovation and the pursuit of breakthrough discoveries. The session was moderated by Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean and Joint Director (Education), ICAR-IARI. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Atul Kumar.

