

# Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Meet the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), set up in 1929 – India's top body for agricultural science! It reports directly to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education under the **Ministry of Agriculture**, with the Union Minister of Agriculture serving as its president. ICAR leads the way in farming research, education, and helping farmers put new ideas into practice. It is, in fact, the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world. Their main goal is to use scientific breakthroughs to benefit society. They team up with farmers, businesses, and even us, the consumers, to face huge challenges like feeding a growing population and adapting to climate change, aiming for a future with abundant, healthy food.



## Guiding Principles and Key Achievements

ICAR's core objectives drive its mission:

- **Promoting Agricultural Research:** Conducting vital research across crop science, horticulture, animal science, fisheries, and more.

- **Strengthening Education:** Enhancing agricultural education quality through support, guidance, and fellowships.
- **Fostering Innovation:** Developing and transferring new technologies directly to farmers.
- **Ensuring Food Security:** Researching to enhance crop yield and quality for diverse, nutritious food sources.

ICAR's contributions have been monumental, transforming India from a food-deficient nation to a food-surplus one. They significantly supported the Green Revolution by developing over 5,000 improved crop varieties, including high-yielding, drought-resistant, and biofortified crops. ICAR also advanced animal husbandry and fisheries (making India the second-largest global fish producer) and promoted low-cost farm mechanisation. A vast network of **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** across districts facilitates direct technology transfer and advice to farmers.

## Collaborations and Recognition

ICAR collaborates extensively with global bodies like FAO and CGIAR, and national institutions, including State Agricultural Universities and various ministries. This network enhances research, training, and policy development. ICAR recognises excellence through numerous annual awards like the **Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award** and the **Jawaharlal Nehru Award**, highlighting its commitment to fostering agricultural innovation and securing India's sustainable food future.