

# 17<sup>th</sup> AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2026



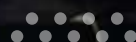
8 July 2026 | Taj Palace, New Delhi

## Important Dates

<i>Call for entries</i>	-	<i>Apr 01 2026</i>
<i>Last date for receiving entries</i>	-	<i>June 25 2026</i>
<i>Announcement of Names</i>	-	<i>June 30 2026</i>
<i>Presentation of Awards</i>	-	<i>July 08, 2026</i>



[www.agriculturetoday.in/conclave](http://www.agriculturetoday.in/conclave)



# Agriculture Leadership Awards 2026

Agriculture in India has come a long way since green revolution. There is a revolution taking place in agriculture sector, driven by the hard work of farmers, progressive government policies, sustained interventions by institutions and corporates and the innovative solutions by startups and individuals. The role of these stakeholders in driving the growth and value-added transformation of India's farm sector is commendable and needs to be recognised and felicitated. Responding to the needs at the national level to recognise the contributions of various stakeholders in agriculture, the magazine took a step forward to reward and motivate individuals and organisations for playing leadership roles in agriculture. The institution of Agriculture Leadership Awards in 2008 was the first step in this direction.

The Awards are presented annually in different categories to individuals and organisations, who have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields. The National Awards Committee is headed by Justice P Sathasivam, with a dozen persons of national eminence as its members. The selection of awardees is done through a two-tier system. The awards sub-committees will be headed by a member of the national committee. All the applications and nominations received by the Awards Secretariat will be put up to the respective sub-committees, which will in turn recommend names to the National Committee for the final selection.

The awards function will be held on **July 8, 2026** at New Delhi. The details can be visited at [www.agriculturetoday.in](http://www.agriculturetoday.in).



## Awards Categories

- |                          |                               |                                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ○ Policy Leadership      | ○ Academic Leadership         | ○ Best Agriculture State         |
| ○ Development Leadership | ○ Entrepreneur Leadership     | ○ Lifetime Achievements          |
| ○ Industry Leadership    | ○ International Agriculture   | ○ Programme Leadership Award     |
| ○ Research Leadership    | ○ Young Scientist Award       | ○ Best State for Innovations     |
| ○ Farming Leadership     | ○ Women in Agriculture        | ○ Best Fisheries State           |
| ○ CSR Leadership         | ○ Best Animal Husbandry State | ○ Best State for Food Processing |
| ○ Corporate Leadership   | ○ Best Horticulture State     | ○ CEO of the Year                |

Kindly send nominations/ applications before **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Online applications / nominations are preferred

Please mail the entries to : [zaman.almas@agriculturetoday.in](mailto:zaman.almas@agriculturetoday.in)

## Outstanding Professional Awards

The Outstanding Professional Awards recognize exceptional middle management professionals in India's food and agribusiness sector who have demonstrated rapid career advancement and made significant contributions to their organizations. These awards celebrate sector leaders who drive innovation, deliver measurable business results, and inspire excellence within their teams and the broader industry.



Professionals meeting the criteria below are invited to submit a concise write-up by email for consideration by the Jury.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Possess a technical or professional qualification from a top-ranked institution in India or abroad.
- Have 7 to 21 years of professional experience, with at least 5 promotions reflecting consistent career growth.
- Have successfully led the launch of new products, technologies, programs, or business models that achieved high market acceptance.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver a minimum of 10% growth in business, sales portfolio, or the performance of launched products/programs.
- Exhibit strong leadership, fostering a culture of knowledge sharing, mentorship, and inspiration among peers and teams.
- Uphold organizational values, demonstrate agility, and contribute to building a positive and innovative work environment.

### AWARDS CATEGORIES

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ○ <b>Seeds and Biotechnology</b>         | ○ <b>Poultry</b>                       |
| ○ <b>Crop Protection</b>                 | ○ <b>Fisheries</b>                     |
| ○ <b>Soil Health and Plant Nutrition</b> | ○ <b>Horticulture</b>                  |
| ○ <b>Farm Machinery</b>                  | ○ <b>Cold Chain and Infrastructure</b> |
| ○ <b>Irrigation</b>                      | ○ <b>Food Processing</b>               |
| ○ <b>IT and Farm Automation</b>          | ○ <b>Banking</b>                       |
| ○ <b>Animal Health</b>                   | ○ <b>Development</b>                   |
| ○ <b>Dairy</b>                           |  |



# Jury Members



**CHAIRMAN**

**Hon'ble Mr. Justice P. Sathasivam**

Former Chief Justice of India  
Former Governor of Kerala



**CO-CHAIR**

**Dr. Ashok Dalwai**

Chairman,  
Karnataka State Agriculture Price Commission,  
Chairman, CDAC, SEBI, Mumbai,



**Dr. Tarun Shridhar**

Director General  
Indian Chamber of Food  
& Agriculture



**Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**

Chairperson,  
MS Swaminathan  
Research Foundation



**Mr. Minhaj Alam**

Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Food  
Processing Industries



**Sh. Samuel Praveen**

Joint Secretary  
(Extension, Investment &  
Price Support)  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Farmers Welfare



**Dr. H K Bhanwala**

Chairman  
MCX India



**Mr. R.S Sodhi**

President  
Indian Dairy Association



**Mr. Siraj Chaudhry**

Chairman  
SAT India



**Dr. Meenesh Shah**

Chairman,  
National Dairy  
Development Board



**Mr. Rajvir Rathi**

Director  
Agricultural Affairs &  
Policy  
Bayer CropScience



**Dr. Balvinder Shukla**

Vice Chancellor  
Amity University,  
NOIDA



**Dr. Vibha Dhawan**

Director General,  
The Energy and Resources  
Institute (TERI)



**Mr. Navneet Ravikar**

Chairman &  
Managing Director  
LeadsConnect



**Amb. C Rajsekhar**

Officer on Special Duty  
(States),  
Ministry of External  
Affairs, GOI



**Mr. K.C Ravi**

Chief Sustainability  
Officer  
Syngenta India Limited



**Ms. Komal Shah**

Director  
SML Limited



**Dr. H.P Singh**

Chairman,  
Confederation of Horti  
Associations of India



**Dr. MJ Khan**

President  
Agriculture Today  
Group



**Mr. Haris KHAN**

Chief Executive  
Officer  
Agriculture Today Group

## PAST AWARDEES



**Prof. PS Dhumal**  
Chief Minister of Himachal



**Dr. Balram Jhakar**  
Governor of MP



**Sh. Prakash S. Badal**  
Chief Minister of Punjab



**Shivraj Singh Chouhan**  
Chief Minister of MP



**Sh. Sharad Pawar**  
Union Agriculture Minister



**Dr. AR Kidwai**  
Governor of Haryana



**Dr. Raman Singh**  
Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh



**Amb. Kenneth M. Quinn**  
President Emeritus  
The World Food Prize Foundation



**Late Dr. V. Kurien**  
Pioneer of White Revolution



**H.E. Alphonsus Stoelinga**  
Ambassador of Netherlands



**Sh. Akhilesh Yadav**  
Chief Minister of UP



**Prof. MS Swaminathan**  
Chairman, MSSRF

## Institutions And Banks



NDDB



NIRD



MSSRF



Amul



Indian Oil



ICRISAT



State Bank of India



CWC



APEDA



NCCD



E TV



AIC



MANAGE



CIMMYT



IIT



IRMA



TERI



NABARD

## Universities and Research Institutes



Central Agriculture University



Punjab Agriculture University



NIFTEM



Tamil Nadu Agriculture University



Assam Agriculture University



NAARM



NBGR



IARI



NDRI



BAIF Development Foundation

## States



Government of Andhra Pradesh



Government of Gujarat



Government of Maharashtra



Government of Sikkim



Government of Madhya Pradesh



Government of Uttarakhand



Government of Rajasthan



Government of Kerala



Government of Odisha

## Industry



## Top Official



**Prof. R B Singh,**  
Chancellor, Central Agriculture University



**Dr. RS Paroda**  
Chairman, TAAS US



**Amb. Islam Siddiqui**  
Chief Agriculture Negotiator,



**Dr. Amrita Patel**  
Chairperson, NDDB



**Dr. SK Malhotra**  
Agriculture Commissioner, Gol



**Dr. Thomas Lumpkin**  
DG, CIMMYT, Mexico



**Mr. Salil Singhal**  
MD, PI Industries Ltd.



**Prof. Panjab Singh**  
Vice Chancellor, BHU



**Mr. Rajju D. Shroff**  
Chairman, UPL Group



**Dr. William Dar**  
DG, ICRISAT



**Dr. S. Ayyappan**  
Director General, ICAR



**Dr. D. P. Singh**  
Vice-Chancellor of BHU



## Glimpses of Past Awards Celebrations







# Categories and Criteria

***Entries are invited from individuals and organizations assuming leadership roles for development of agriculture and allied fields***

## **Policy Leadership Award**

Agriculture / allied department's Heads (Ministers / Secretaries / Commissioners, current or former) of the Centre or any State and/or parliamentarians / legislators / Chairman of any Board or Commission, who have made noticeable contribution through formulation and introduction of path-breaking policies, addressing the issues of farmers and other stakeholders proactively, which have made substantial difference in the lives of farmers / common man and/or growth of agriculture / agribusiness sector.

## **Development Leadership Award**

- a. An NGO / Extension Agency / Co-operative body / CSR division / financial / development institution or any individual, which have made noticeable contribution for public good through innovative policies/schemes/programs/efforts
- b. Introduction of innovative / high-tech methods of extension/ development and the reach, effectiveness of the programs and the impact created
- c. A media/development/agribusiness professional or head of an institution, who have contributed to the knowledge, physical or professional growth in the domain of agriculture and allied subjects.

## **Industry Leadership Award**

- a. An organisation in food / agriculture /rural business fields, which has made a Notable contribution in growth of business and introduction of new products /schemes/ programs etc. and have enhanced financial / marketing size of the industry.
- b. Innovations in business/development strategies and impact on the industry/ farming/ agribusiness / rural employment / value addition/ agri exports etc.
- c. Contribution in extension, social and community services & benefit to farmers and corporate social responsibility.
- d. Innovative management practices applied to the business and propagation of ethical practices. The financial and marketing performance of the company and impact on the industry

## **Research Leadership Award**

- a. Head of research / technology / academic institution or research program, including private sector, who have made noticeable contribution by his/her research achievements.
- b. New technology innovation and or introduction of new research varieties / products or having solved any complex problem by research offerings.
- c. Have made noticeable contribution in terms of new

varietals releases / research achievements, touching the lives of masses.

- d. Heads of research policy programs, who initiated innovative research policies, generated resources and established networks, which accelerated the pace of research activities in that sphere.

## **Farming Leadership Award**

- a. Progressive farmers, who have adopted latest technologies, diversified and integrated farming, income per unit and innovations at farming.
  - b. Perfected farming systems / models with innovative approaches, resources saving and record level of productivity etc. and created impact in the area..
  - c. Achieved record income per unit, established integrated farming systems, marketing linkages, value addition etc.
- OR
- e. Organised or lead farmers movement for their rights and or influenced Government policies towards large scale benefit of farmers and rural masses.

## **CSR Leadership Award**

- a. A company, development organisation or Government institution, who have taken up one or more projects under the Corporate Social Responsibility in one or more states with a sizeable presence and having positively impacted at least one lac poor people.
- b. The CSR project should not be linked to the business interest promotion. The CSR project should be funded by the company/organisation's own resources and not merely channelise resources of any other organisations.
- c. The projects funded should be aimed at poorer sections of the society, working preferably in rural areas for poverty alleviation, employment generation, entrepreneurship promotion, farm productivity improvement, market linkage, knowledge empowerment and rural development.

## **Corporate Leadership Award**

- a. Any corporate entity or individual, heading a professional company, who have made significant contribution to the growth of the company / industry or the advancement of the society through offerings of innovative products / services
- b. Demonstrated a rare commitment to consistency and quality, and a model for the successful organisations and advanced human development.
- c. Effective support of total organisation's learning by addressing the larger view of industry and marketplace trends, and the organisation's own competitive edge
- d. Corporate entity or individual – MD/CEO who have achieved substantial growth and financial performance in



the preceding last three years or having pioneered innovative community / customer outreach programs and created welfare measures for employees and business stake-holders.

e. Setting new standards of business ethics, environmental concerns and community care as well as enhanced value of all the stake-holders, including shareholders by maximising their wealth by significant business growth

#### **Academic Leadership Award**

a. An academic institute/ university or any individual heading a large institution or group of institutions, who have made noticeable contribution and remarkable performance in the preceeding three years by launching new courses, programs or have substantially improved the overall performance of the institution or set higher standards of learning and teaching.

b. Have established a sustained and varied record of teaching excellence in the area of agriculture & allied sciences and made teaching and learning, an easy, lucid one-to-one process to students and other group of learners

c. Individual or institution having done innovative work and developed teaching methods and courses to improve teaching i.e., design and delivery of the lectures or any other remarkable achievements / growth in setting up new colleges, departments, off campus centres, new activities, programs, which helped set higher standards in academics at regional or national level

#### **Entrepreneur Leadership Award**

a. Individuals/organisations who have gained extraordinary achievements with out of the box thinking in the areas of agriculture and allied sector and are active in a profitable business registered and operating in India for a minimum duration of three years from the date of notification

b. Must have set up innovative enterprise and achieved remarkable sustained growth and offering high quality products and services benefiting the society

c. The technology/ enterprise has left a significant impact over the larger section of the society and created more employment and have helped in the development of entrepreneurship.

d. Proved to be a leader with the unflinching abilities of growth and serving the society through innovation and industry, thus can be a role model for the prospective entrepreneurs

#### **International Agriculture Award**

a. This award recognises an outstanding business company in food and agri sector functional at international level or an individual leading it. The leadership qualities are reflected on the organisation's positive financial results, annual growth and increased shareholder value.

b. The recipient should hold sound management skills, good corporate governance, demonstrated innovation, quality assurance, best business practices and

accountability. Also must possess intangible qualities such as high integrity and future vision in business.

c. Distinguished contribution in the growth of business and introduction of new products / services and have led to an expansion in size of the industry with significant share in exports market.

#### **Young Scientist Award**

a. A young bureaucrat, scientist, Government official or corporate executive (below 40 years of age) in areas of agriculture and allied sector who have made significant contribution to the growth of the organisation / industry /sector or the department/business unit he/she is heading.

b. Demonstrated creative thinking, conceptualisation and communication to further the interests of the organisation affiliated to or created high impact in social, business, research/academic/administration/corporate sector.

c. Created recognisable impact through innovation, hard work, integrity, loyalty and commitment to the attached cause and impacted the stakeholders positively

d. Shown a keen sense of enthusiasm in executing his duties in official capacity and personal commitment and integrity to the job in hand.

#### **Women in Agriculture Award**

a. Women who have made exceptional contributions in areas of agriculture and allied sectors and aided in the growth of the organisation/industry/sector or the department /business unit she is heading

b. Exhibited brilliant creative thinking and leadership in steering the organisation towards targeted objectives and creating high impact in social, business or corporate sector

c. Created a lasting influence over the organization and the society and be a role model for women in agriculture.

#### **Best Animal Husbandry State Award**

a. State who have introduced popular production oriented animal husbandry schemes and breeding programs, which impacted the animal husbandry farmers in the state.

b. Made a mark with infrastructural and entrepreneurship development for enhancing the production and quality of milk marketing and processing.

c. Made remarkable achievements in animal health management with immunisation drive, artificial insemination services and quality of health of animals.

d. Taken up the cause of farmers and thus made a considerable level of difference in their daily livelihood with marketing revamp, and launch of new programs, resulting into higher GDP from dairy, poultry, fisheries, goatary etc.

#### **Best Horticulture State Award**

a. States who have introduced popular production oriented horticulture based schemes and programs, which has had impacted large number of livelihood of the

horticulture farmers in the region / state.

b. Provided the export incentives / support to the progressive / innovative farmers.

c. Made a mark with infrastructural development for enhancing the ultimate production efficiency and quality of the produce.

d. Made remarkable achievements in the productivity and production of horticultural crops with due technological interventions.

e. Ensured a place of pride in horticultural production at the national level

f. Taken up the cause of farmers and thus made a considerable level of difference in their daily livelihood with marketing revamp, land reforms and other sort of necessary changes at the policy front.

#### **Best Agriculture State Award**

a. States who have launch of innovative and popular policies, giving new growth and direction to agriculture and touching the lives of millions of farmers.

b. Catalysing growth in agriculture through policy initiative, investment promotion, institutions building and inviting corporates etc.

c. Achieved growth in over all production in agriculture and increase in quality and productivity per unit of land.

d. Reduced rural indebtedness and enhanced prosperity through policy initiatives, better yields, market prices, support and incentives.

e. Made significant improvement in diversification, market linkages, extension, research activities and farmers reach out programs.

#### **Lifetime Achievements Award**

a. Any scientist, academician, policy maker or a pioneer in agriculture

and rural development in any capacity, who have made noticeable contribution in the past for at least, three decades.

b. The person should be recognised by at least two national level bodies or by at least one international body for his/her services to agri sector.

c. The person should be credited with pioneer work in his/her field and have contributed to the body of knowledge or to the growth of the agriculture.

d. The person should be widely known throughout the nation and is well acclaimed for his/her remarkable contribution in the field of agriculture.

#### **Program Leadership Award**

a. For visionary leadership and significant contribution to a vital area of the larger agriculture sector

b. Protected interests and created value addition for all stakeholders

c. Held in high regard by peers and juniors for outstanding performance

d. Iconic leader with illustrious career in the agri sector.

#### **Best State For Innovations**

a. Any state or UT that has made noticeable contribution through

formulation and introduction of path-breaking policies

b. Has addressing the issues of farmers and other stakeholders pro-actively

c. Has made a substantial difference in the lives of farmers/common man for the growth of any vital agriculture sector

d. Has effectively addressed the need to increase farmer incomes, and

maximise gains for diverse stakeholders.

#### **Best Performance in Food Processing Sector**

a. Visionary leadership, outstanding contribution to food processing sector.

b. Significantly contributed to minimizing crop losses, created infrastructure at grassroots level to increase shelf life and usability.

c. Engaged large groups of farmers in providing low cost solutions for food processing, created value addition for all stakeholders.

d. Has impacted food and beverage industry by engineering excellence and innovation.

#### **Best Agri Tech Start-Up Award**

a. An agri-tech startup less than seven years old offering innovative solutions to demonstrate tangible improvement in farm productivity and/or output

b. Demonstrated ability to increase crop yield, decrease use of crop protection measures

c. Has improved business efficiency in any sector of agriculture, contributed to significant gains. Farm business efficiency enhancement through lower use of chemicals, lower cost of animal health care, optimizing nutrition for livestock etc

d. Strong social impact of agri-tech solution such as improved resource management, better time management

#### **CEO of the Year**

a. Visionary leadership, significant contribution to any vital agriculture sector

b. Has maximized the gains and created value addition for diverse shareholders

c. Has consistently led the organization on the path of sustained growth and development

d. Held in high regard by peers and juniors for outstanding performance

e. Has provided leadership for unremitting focus on farmers

f. Iconic leader with illustrious career in any vital agriculture sector



## HOW TO ENTER

- Choose a category: Check to make sure that you enter in the correct category. Ensure that entry forms are complete in all respects.
- You may fill in the forms in English or in Hindi.
- You may send your nomination separately for each category and type (individual /institutional).
- Please send your entry, preferably in 2 - 4 pages only. 1 - 2 page of general biodata and 1 - 2 pages about the significant achievements. The committee may seek additional information, if necessary.
- Each entry should be attached with the correct category label and a title.
- A person may send his entry as well as sponsor names for any number of categories with brief notes of each sponsored names.
- Please attach a cover note mentioning all the entries and categories in the package.



## RULES FOR ENTRY

- Entries must be sent to the Conclave Secretariat, New Delhi.
- Entrants are advised to familiarise themselves with the criteria before entry and to comply with the requirements of the entry rules as strictly as possible.
- Each category will comprise of one or more awards for individual or institution/ organisation.4. Individuals/institutes/organisations/companies submitting entries in different categories will have to submit applications in duplicate copies.
- No individual or organisation will be considered for an award in consecutive years.
- The judges and the organisers reserve the right to reject the entries they feel do not comply with the spirit of the awards.
- The awardees will be chosen solely at the discretion of the judges, no feedback or correspondence will be entertained about the results, and decision of the judges' will be final.
- Entries will not be returned. After judging, all entries will be retained by the Agriculture Today in its archives.
- The selected entries will be notified by the due date.
- ATG reserves the right to make copies of the entries for publication in various forms.
- The winners names will be announced as per the date mentioned.
- The awards should be received by the Awardee himself/herself in individual cases and in cases of organisations/industries by the head of the organisation.

**For more details, please contact**

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