

17th AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2026

Wednesday, 8th JULY 2026
New Delhi

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 varieties 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
- 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.

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

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