

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ICAE 2024 Curtain Raiser Event: Setting the Stage for a Landmark Conference**

**New Delhi, July 30, 2024** — The upcoming 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) has made a promising start in the nation's capital today with a successful curtain raiser event held at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (ICAR-NIAP). This pivotal event set the stage for the main conference, scheduled for August 2-7, 2024, in New Delhi.

As the flagship event of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (IAAE) since 1929, ICAE has long been a cornerstone for advancing agricultural economics and addressing global agricultural and food systems challenges. The conference marked a return to India 65 years after the 10<sup>th</sup> ICAE was held in Mysore in 1958.

Talking about the conference, **Prof. Ramesh Chand**, Member, NITI Aayog and Chair, Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the ICAE 2024 said, "The present India that will welcome the conference delegates in 2024 is different from India of 1958. This time round, the global delegation will go back with India's agricultural transformation as a successful case study. This conference will also be an excellent opportunity for our young researchers to learn and network with the global experts attending the event and for the entire community to explore and exchange new ideas, technologies and tools."

The theme for ICAE 2024, "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems," was introduced during the curtain raiser, emphasizing the urgent need for sustainable agricultural practices in the face of global challenges such as climate change, land degradation, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and rising production costs. This preview highlighted key research areas and discussions that will be central to the main conference, including innovations in farming systems, natural farming, digitalization, drones, and nutrition security.

**Dr. P.K. Joshi**, President, Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA-India), shared about the inception of the ICAE conference in 1929 by Professor Leonard K. Elmhirst. "The ICAE began as a modest conference with participants from 11 countries in 1929. It has since grown into a premier triennial gathering of agricultural economists from around the world. India is poised to play a major role in the agri-food system transformation, ensuring healthy, safe, and affordable food for all."

The curtain raiser is jointly organized by the ICAR-NIAP, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA - India), the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE). The success of the curtain raiser reflected the strong interest and high expectations for the upcoming conference from the partners and its organizing members, many of whom are globally renowned senior researchers in the field.

**Dr. Himanshu Pathak**, Director General, ICAR and Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) said, "The theme of the conference aligns with the larger goals of ICAR where



sustainability is a major parameter in our research. We have worked on the development of biofortified and climate resilient varieties and this conference is a great platform for our researchers to engage and exchange ideas with the global community. We are looking forward to initiating new partnerships and programs which can eventually contribute to a strong roadmap towards a sustainable and resilient *Viksit Bharat@2047*.”

**Dr. P. S. Birthal**, Director, ICAR-NIAP said, “The curtain raiser was a perfect introduction to the depth and breadth of ICAE 2024, showcasing the comprehensive scope and significance of the upcoming conference.” He emphasized the relevance of “enabling policies in bringing technology to the field, realigning incentives and navigating trade-offs in policy making.”

**Dr. Shahidur Rashid**, Director-South Asia, IFPRI added, “This event underscored ICAE 2024’s critical role in advancing sustainable agri-food systems amidst global challenges that transcend geopolitical borders and through this conference, we can look at cooperative solutions and exchange ideas to support sustainable agri-food systems transformation.”

**Dr. Smita Sirohi**, the Organizing Secretary for ICAE 2024 and Principal Scientist, ICAR, remarked that, “Over 925 delegates, of which 45% are women, have registered from 75 countries to attend the conference, with the organizers supporting the attendance of many young researchers from the country. There will also be exhibitions showcasing India’s Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and other agribusinesses.”

The ICAE 2024 conference, commencing on August 2, will continue the momentum generated by the curtain raiser, featuring a comprehensive program of plenary sessions, expert panels, workshops, and networking opportunities. The conference will see presentations on innovative research, sharing of best practices, and fostering collaborations to influence policymaking on national, regional and global scales by developing evidence-based policies that promote sustainable agricultural transformation.

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For more information about ICAE 2024, please visit the [ICAE 2024 Official Website](#).

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## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

### IAAE

The IAAE is a worldwide professional membership association of agricultural economists, whose mission is to promote the common professional interests of scientists who study the economics of agriculture and the food system. For more information, visit: [iaae-agecon.org](http://iaae-agecon.org).

### ICAR-NIAP

ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (ICAR-NIAP) was established by ICAR in March 1991 to strengthen agricultural economics and policy research in the national agricultural research system. Application of principles of economics in planning and evaluation of agricultural R&D and policy research to promote science-led agricultural and rural development have been the main goals of ICAR-NIAP. For more information visit: <https://niap.icar.gov.in/>

### IFPRI

The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) provides research-based policy solutions to sustainably reduce poverty and end hunger and malnutrition. IFPRI's strategic research aims to identify and analyze alternative international and country-led strategies and policies for meeting food and nutrition needs in low- and middle-income countries, with particular emphasis on poor and vulnerable groups in those countries, gender equity, and sustainability. It is a research center of CGIAR, a worldwide partnership engaged in agricultural research for development. Visit the global website at [www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org) and the regional website <http://southasia.ifpri.info/> for more information.

### AERA-India

The Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), a registered society, came into being in 1987, and on date has more than 1000 life members, 110 ordinary members, 122 institutional members and 33 honorary life members from India and abroad. Through its journal, Agricultural Economics Research Review, the Association contributes to improving quality of research in agricultural economics & policy analysis and rural development. For more information visit: <http://aeraindia.in/>

### NAAS

The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), established in 1990, is among the youngest of the Science Academies in India. The Academy focuses on the broad field of agricultural sciences including crop husbandry, animal husbandry, fisheries, agro-forestry and interface between agriculture and agro-industry. The Academy's role is to provide a forum to Agricultural Scientists to deliberate on important issues of agricultural research, education and extension and present views of the scientific community as policy inputs to planners, decision/opinion makers at various levels. For more information visit: <https://naas.org.in/>

### IGIDR

Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) is an advanced research institute established and fully funded by the Reserve Bank of India for carrying out research on development issues from a multi-disciplinary point of view. Starting as a purely research institution, it rapidly developed into a full-fledged teaching cum research organisation when it launched a Ph.D. program in the field of development studies in 1990. At present the Institute has about 150 employees and students that include about 26 full time faculty





members, 24 non-academic staff and about 90 M.Sc./M.Phil/Ph.D students. For more information visit: <http://www.igidr.ac.in/>

### **ISAE**

The establishment of the Society in December 1939 constituted a landmark in the progress in the study of agricultural economics in India. In its establishment a notable role was played by the late Lord L.K. Elmhirst, the founder-President of the International Conference (now Association) of Agricultural Economists and by Dr. T.G. Shirname. For more information visit: <https://isaeindia.org/>

