



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REDEFINING ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRI FOOD SYSTEMS: EXTENSION STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



**April 9-11, 2026**



**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University  
Pusa, Samastipur-848125, Bihar**

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## Organizers

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**Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar  
International Society of Extension Education (INSEE)**

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## Knowledge Partners

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Agriculture has long been the backbone of Indian economy, supporting and improving the livelihood of the population. The sector also ensures food and nutritional security of the country. In the recent decades, agriculture has evolved in many different ways from traditional practices to modern, technology-driven systems in crop production, horticulture, livestock, poultry, fisheries, and allied activities. This transformation has been supported by scientific advancements, progressive policies, and farmer-focused innovations that have strengthened the position of India as a global leader in agriculture.

At the centre of this progress stand women in agriculture - the silent yet powerful drivers of rural and agricultural development. Women contribute significantly across the entire agri-food value chain in seed selection, sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, processing, storage, livestock and poultry management, natural farming, and resource conservation. They play a pivotal role as farmers, labourers, entrepreneurs, and custodians of traditional knowledge, making them indispensable to the sustainability of Indian agriculture.

However, despite their critical involvement and contribution of women often remains under-valued and under-recognized. Limited access to land, credit, inputs, technology, markets, and extension services continue to hinder their productivity and decision-making power. These systemic challenges restrict their opportunities for growth and prevent the sector from realizing its full potential.

To address these concerns, the Government of India has introduced several gender-responsive initiatives, women-friendly tools and technologies, capacity-building programmes, enhanced credit and market access, support for Women-led Farmer Producer Organizations (WFPOs), and dedicated platforms for women agripreneurs and innovators.

In this backdrop, this national conference aims to highlight and celebrate contribution of women in agriculture, discuss emerging challenges, and explore innovative models to strengthen their participation and leadership in the agri-food system. The conference provides a platform for researchers, policymakers, practitioners, academicians, and other stakeholders to chart a forward-looking roadmap for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable agricultural development by encouraging cross-learning from diverse regions and successful models that have empowered women through collective action, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

## **Women in Agriculture: Why their role matters now more than ever?**

Indian agriculture is undergoing rapid transformation driven by commercialization, digital agriculture, climate variability, and diversification into high-value sectors. It has become increasingly important to ensure that women are not left behind in this transition. Though their participation in agriculture is longstanding, emerging opportunities in agri-startups, value addition, processing, agri-tourism, processing, and digital market platforms require new skills, improved institutional support, and stronger network



that many women currently do not have access to. The changing labour dynamics in the rural areas, with men migrating to non-farm work, have also placed greater responsibility on women to manage farms, finances, and household food systems. These roles demand targeted interventions, updated policies, and platforms that encourage knowledge transmission and collective problem-solving. Conducting a national conference is therefore vital to understand these realities, identify priority areas for support, and pave way for women to emerge as leaders, innovators, and key drivers of future agriculture.

## **What are the Challenges Faced by Women in Agriculture?**

Women are vital contributors to Indian agriculture, and yet they face numerous challenges that limit their productivity, empowerment, and economic potential. Majority of them lack ownership or tenure rights, restricted access to credit, government schemes, and agricultural inputs. Limited access to financial services, modern tools, quality seeds, and technology further increase their workload and reduce their efficiency. Opportunities for training, capacity building, and extension services are often inaccessible, leaving women less informed about innovative practices, climate-resilient techniques, and value-added enterprises. Market participation is also constrained, with

women relying on intermediaries and receiving lower price for their produce. Added to this is the dual burden of farm work and household responsibilities, compounded by social and cultural barriers that restrict mobility, decision-making, and leadership roles. Addressing these challenges is essential for improving agricultural productivity, women empowerment, and inclusive rural development.

## **Why this National Conference?**

National conference on “Redefining Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems: Extension Strategies for Sustainable Agricultural Development” is organized to address the evolving opportunities and challenges in modern agriculture, where women play a critical yet often overlooked role. With rapid changes in the sector, it is essential to create platforms that highlight women-led innovations, entrepreneurial initiatives, and effective community practices. This conference offers a space for knowledge exchange, networking, and collaborative problem-solving among researchers, policymakers, industry professionals, and grassroots organizations. By presenting success stories, sharing experiences, and identifying scalable solutions, the conference aims to promote inclusive participation, strengthen women leadership, and support strategic interventions that enhance





productivity, sustainability, and resilience in agriculture. It is an important step toward recognizing and empowering women as key contributors to Indian agricultural transformation and rural development.

## Call for Papers/ Abstracts

National Conference on “Redefining Role of Women in Agri-Food Systems: Extension Strategies for Sustainable Agricultural

Development” invites researchers, academicians, practitioners, and policymakers to submit original research articles, review papers, concept papers, working papers, policy papers, case studies, and success stories highlighting contributions, challenges, innovations, and policy interventions related to women in agriculture. Submissions may focus on, but are not limited to, the following themes:

## Themes

### Theme 1: Women as Change Agents in Sustainable Agri-Food Systems

#### Sub-themes:

- i. Evolving roles of women across agri-food value chains
- ii. Women led sustainable farming and food production models
- iii. Gender responsive extension approaches for sustainability
- iv. Indigenous knowledge and women's contribution to agro ecological resilience
- v. Women's leadership in climate resilient and regenerative agriculture
- vi. Case studies of successful women farmer collectives and FPOs

### Theme 2: Gender-Responsive Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

#### Sub-themes:

- I. Redefining extension paradigms for inclusive agricultural development
- ii. ICT enabled and digital extension services for women farmers
- iii. Participatory extension models empowering rural women
- iv. Capacity building, skill development, and lifelong learning for women in agriculture
- v. Role of women extension professionals and para extension workers
- vi. Behavioural change communication and social mobilization strategies

### Theme 3: Women, Innovation, and Technology in Agri-Food Systems

#### Sub-themes:

- i. Access and adoption of climate-smart and precision technologies by women
- ii. Women-centric design of agricultural tools and machinery
- iii. Artificial intelligence, IoT, and decision-support systems for women farmers



- iv. Digital literacy and bridging the gender digital divide
- v. Women innovators, start-ups, and agri-tech entrepreneurship
- vi. Technology dissemination through women-led extension networks

#### **Theme 4: Women's Economic Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Value Addition**

##### **Sub-themes:**

- i. Women's role in agri-processing, value addition, and post-harvest management
- ii. Strengthening women led SHGs, FPOs, and agri enterprises
- iii. Market access, branding, and e-commerce opportunities for women
- iv. Financial inclusion, credit access, and risk management tools
- v. Enhancing income, employment, and livelihood security through women-led enterprises
- vi. Public private partnerships supporting women agripreneurs

#### **Theme 5: Policy, Institutions, and Social Innovations for Women-Centric Agri-Food Systems**

##### **Sub-themes:**

- i. Gender mainstreaming in agricultural and extension policies
- ii. Institutional reforms for inclusive agri food governance
- iii. Role of NGOs, KVKs, ICAR institutions, and universities in women empowerment
- iv. Social norms, equity, and empowerment indicators in agriculture
- v. Convergence of schemes and programs for women farmers
- vi. Monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment of women-focused interventions

#### **Submission Guidelines**

- ✓ The abstracts followed by full length papers of the accepted abstracts related to the themes will form the main content of the conference.
- ✓ Abstracts should not exceed the word limit of 300 words, and should include title, author(s), affiliation, and keywords.
- ✓ The content should be typed in MS Word documents in Times New Roman font style with a font size of 12.
- ✓ All submissions must be original and unpublished.
- ✓ Selected papers will be presented during the conference.

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: 10.03.2026**

**Submit to: [inseeconference2026@gmail.com](mailto:inseeconference2026@gmail.com)**



## Publication

The selected articles will be published in peer reviewed, NAAS rated & UGC care listed “International Journal of Extension Education” published by International Society of Extension Education, Nagpur in the special issue.

## Guidelines for Presentation

Follow the guidelines to make an effective and engaging poster presentation:

### Poster Content

- Title:** Clearly display the title at the top of the poster. It should be concise and informative
- Authors & Affiliations:** Include the names of authors and their respective institutions or organizations
- Introduction:** Provide a brief background and objectives of the study or topic
- Methods/Approach:** Summarize the methodology or techniques used
- Results & Discussion:** Present key findings with supporting visuals such as graphs, charts, or tables
- Conclusion & Recommendations:** Highlight the main take aways and possible future implications

- References & Acknowledgements:** Cite key sources and acknowledge contributors or funding bodies

### Poster Design

- Size & Layout:** Follow the prescribed poster size (36” x 48” in portrait orientation). Use a structured layout with clear sections
- Font & Readability:** Use large, readable fonts (Title: 85 pt, Headings: 36-48 pt, Text: 24-30 pt)
- Visuals & Graphics:** Use high-quality images, charts, and infographics to enhance understanding
- Colour Scheme:** Choose a professional, visually appealing colour scheme with good contrast
- Minimal Text:** Keep text concise, use bullet points and short paragraphs

### Important Dates

**Submission of Abstract: 10.03.2026**

**Acceptance of Abstract: 15.03.2026**

**Submission of Full Paper: 28.03.2026**

**Last Date for Registration: 02.04.2026**





## Registration

- **Scan for Registration**
- **Registration Fee**



SCAN ME!

Category	Registration Fee (in INR)	Registration Fee (in \$)
Faculty/Scientists/SMS	5,000	
Corporate Delegates/NGO/INGO	10,000	
International Delegates		100
Retired Faculty/Scientists	3,000	
Students/Startups/Farmers	1,500	

### • Account Details

Name: National Conference INSEE  
IFSC: PUNB0451200

Account No.: 4512000100149115  
Bank: Punjab National Bank, RAU, Pusa



SCAN ME!

## Awards

Best paper presentations (Oral & Poster) during the conference will be recognized with awards. The number of awards including Lifetime Achievement Award, Young Extension Professional Award will be decided by a jury of experts. “Young Extension Professional Award” for those who are below the age of 45 years will also be presented. Certificate of Participation will be issued to all the registered participants. Certificate of Presentation will be issued only to the presenting authors.

### INSEE Life-Time Achievement Award

This activity of INSEE is in line with the objectives of the Society. This award is presented to a Senior extension professionals who has contributed significantly in the field of Extension Education throughout his life. The contribution may be in the form of Education, Research or Field Extension Work. His work should be appreciated and accepted in the discipline. He/she should be a well-known person in the discipline and should have wide recognition. The felicitation of such a senior person/s will be an inspiration for the young person to achieve that excellence in life. He/she should be a “Path Maker” and become light and should set an example for others to follow. It is a felicitation of devoted and dedicated person in the field of Extension Education. This award is presented on the occasion of Conference/Seminar organized by INSEE. The nature of award is Citation, Memento and Bouquet.

Nomination for Lifetime Achievement awards in the area of Agricultural Extension Education are shortlisted, scrutinized and finalized on above criteria by a committee formulated for this purpose under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Extension Specialist and Former Vice Chancellor U.A.S., Bangalore and President, INSEE.



## **INSEE Young Extension Professional Award**

Applications are invited for awarding Young Extension Professional Award to be given during the above National conference. The young extension professionals who are 45 years and below and working in Agriculture related Farm Universities, ICAR Institutions and KVKs involved in extension teaching, research and field extension in India and abroad are eligible to apply. The candidates must possess minimum of M.Sc. (Agri.) degree in Agricultural Extension/ Extension Education are eligible. The applications received for Young Extension Professional Award will be scrutinized and finalized by the committee formulated for this purpose under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, Extension Specialist and Former Vice Chancellor U.A.S., Bangalore and President, INSEE. This award is given on the occasion of National Conference organized by INSEE.

## **INSEE Young Innovative Women Farmer Award**

This Award has been sponsored by Professor Dr. Rajguru, an Eminent Extension Scientist of Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, (OUAT) Bhubaneswar. This is to recognize contribution of innovative woman farmers for initiatives in development, dissemination of farm technologies and adoption of improved technology and practices for increased income with sustainability. Entries for this award are invited from the place / state where the National Conference is held. The selection of the farmer will be done according to the criteria laid down by the committee formulated for this award. This award is given on the occasion of Conference organized by INSEE. The nature of award is Citation, Memento and Bouquet.

## **INSEE Young Innovative Farmer Award**

This Award has been sponsored by Late Dr. R. Dwarakinath Former Vice-Chancellor U.A.S. Bangalore, former FAO Expert and Ex. Founder President of INSEE. This is to recognize contribution of innovative farmers for initiatives in development, dissemination of farm technologies and adoption of improved technology and practices for increased income with sustainability. Entries for this award are invited from the place / state where the National Conference is held. The selection of the farmer will be done according to the criteria laid down by the committee formulated for this award. The nature of award is Citation, Memento and Bouquet.

## **Dr YK Karki Game Changer INSEE Award**

This award is sponsored by Dr. Yogendra Kumar Karki, Former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Government of Nepal, and an eminent extension expert. The Game Changer Award aims to acknowledge and reward young agriculture extension scientists, officers, NGO professionals, or entrepreneurs aged 35 years or below who are working at the international or national level and have made significant contributions to innovation in agricultural extension and the application of Artificial Intelligence in agriculture and allied fields. The selection of the awardee will be carried out in accordance with the criteria established by the committee constituted for this award by the host institution where the conference or seminar is held. The award consists of a citation, a memento, and a bouquet. The awardee is required to attend the award function at their own expense. The award will be conferred exclusively during a conference or seminar.



## **Late Dr. R R Sinha INSEE Best KVK Award (Regional)**

Late Dr. R. R. Sinha, born on 2 November 1935, was a proud associate of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, former Director of Extension Education at Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, and the founder of the Indian Society of Extension Education. He was a great visionary and an eminent extension professional, internationally acclaimed as an Extension Education scientist who devoted his entire life to nurturing and strengthening the spirit of agricultural extension.

Under his dynamic leadership and unwavering commitment, the Indian Society of Extension Education was established four decades ago. He also initiated the internationally acclaimed International Journal of Extension Education. This prestigious award has been instituted in the beloved memory of Dr. R. R. Sinha and is conferred upon a Krishi Vigyan Kendra for exemplary work carried out in the respective Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute zone of the region in which the conference is being held.

**Note : All the eligible candidates are requested to submit their application to  
[inseeconference2026@gmail.com](mailto:inseeconference2026@gmail.com)**

## **About the Organizers**

### **About Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University**

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (RPCAU), Pusa, stands as an Institute of National Importance in the field of agricultural education and research. The University's origin traces back to the historic establishment of the Agricultural Research Institute and College at Pusa in 1905, a landmark initiative of the British Government to address recurring food scarcity and to institutionalize agricultural research and education in India.

Building on this legacy, the Government of Bihar upgraded the institution to Rajendra Agricultural University in 1970, granting it the status of a State Agricultural University. Later, recognizing the long-standing contributions to agricultural development, the Government of India elevated it as Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in the year 2016.





RPCAU has since then evolved into a multicampus university, functioning across Pusa (Samastipur), Dholi (Muzaffarpur), and Piplkothi (East Champaran). The academic framework comprises 8 constituent colleges, offering 10 undergraduate programmes, 31 postgraduate programmes, and 22 doctoral programmes. The University encompasses a diverse ecosystem, including farms, wetlands, and green landscapes that support extensive research and training activities.

In alignment with the National Education Policy, the University has introduced 8 certificate programmes and 3 postgraduate diploma courses to develop skilled manpower for the agriculture and allied sectors. On the research front, RPCAU has released 18 improved crop varieties, undertaken 32 All India Coordinated Research Projects, 3 international projects, and more than 100 university-funded projects. It has also established several Centres of Excellence focusing on Water Management, Climate Change, Food Processing, Embryo Transfer Technology, Mushroom Technology, Indigenous Cattle Conservation, and Waste-to-Wealth initiatives.

Through its Directorate of Extension and a network of 18 Krishi Vigyan Kendras, the University continues to deliver training, demonstrations, on-farm trials, and farmer-oriented programmes, thereby strengthening technology dissemination and contributing to rural transformation.

## **School of Agribusiness and Rural Management (SAB&RM)**

School of Agribusiness and Rural Management (SAB&RM) at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University has emerged as a leading centre for management education grounded in agribusiness and rural development. Established in 2006 with the launch of MBA in Agribusiness Management, the College expanded its academic portfolio in 2018 by introducing another post graduate degree programme in MBA Rural Management. Both the programmes are thoughtfully structured to meet evolving industry requirements, integrating immersive field exposure with rigorous, practice-oriented learning.





A major milestone was achieved in 2020, when the College's state-of-the-art building was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

In alignment with the National Education Policy, the College has also introduced 3 postgraduate diploma programmes in Agricultural Journalism & Mass Communication, Agri-Tourism Management, and Digital Marketing, each curated to equip graduates with emerging competencies in rural communication, agri-tourism, and digital engagement.



## **International Society of Extension Education (ISEE), Nagpur**

INSEE was established in 1983 by visionary Extensionist Dr. R. R. Sinha, Director Extension Education, Dr. PDKV, Akola with the aim of promoting the development of Extension Education. The society brings together extension scientists, researchers, policymakers, administrators, farmers, and development workers to collaborate and address global issues in extension education. INSEE organizes conferences, seminars, workshops, and training programs to facilitate research and knowledge exchange in the field. The society publishes the International Journal of Extension Education and Newsletter which serves as a platform for disseminating research findings and important events of Extension in the country and abroad. INSEE also takes lead in suggesting policy matters to the Government. Over the years, INSEE has been led by esteemed presidents, including Dr. R. Dwarakinath and Dr. A. G. Sawant, who have played pivotal roles in advancing the society's mission.

## **Bihar Agriculture Sciences Academy (BASA)**

Bihar Agricultural Science Academy (BASA), established in 2021, has emerged as a pivotal institution dedicated to advancing scientific agriculture and fostering sustainable rural development across Bihar. Since its inception, BASA has contributed significantly to transforming agricultural practices by enhancing crop productivity, improving livestock management, and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Guided by its vision to evolve as a leading think-tank for science-based agricultural growth and improved rural livelihoods, the academy upholds the values of innovation, collaboration, and integrity in all its initiatives. Through its research-driven efforts and commitment to responsible agricultural development, BASA continues to empower farmers, strengthen food security, and shape a resilient and progressive agricultural landscape for the state.



## Conference Venue

### About Pusa

Pusa is a birthplace of agricultural education & research and played an important role in the development of agriculture in India. Its fertile soils and favourable climate support diverse cropping patterns, making it a prominent centre for crop cultivation.

Pusa is also noted for its cultural and historical significance. The town's traditions, festivals, and local practices reflect the rich heritage of Bihar, while its environment offers a glimpse into the simplicity and rhythm of rural life. Its calm and verdant surroundings, along with its connection to the regional agricultural legacy, make visiting Pusa an authentic experience.

### How to Reach Pusa



Jayprakash Narayan International Airport, Patna 95 km distance which will take 2.5 hr via NH 3  
Darbhanga airport, Darbhanga 50 km away which will take 1 hr 10 min by road via NH 27.



The nearest railway stations are Samastipur Jn (SPJ) 16 km away and Muzaffarpur Jn (MFP) 35 km away, where all major trains stop.



The Pusa campus can be reached by road through National Highway No. 28 and NH 27, NH 322 by hiring taxi or by buses.

### Accommodation and Transport

Accommodation will be arranged upon request on payment basis at the guest houses on first-come, first-served basis.

- ❖ **Dr. S.P. Singh**, Associate Professor, Incharge University Guest House  
(Contact No. 6203256542)
- ❖ **Dr. Nagendra Kumar**, Associate Professor, PGCA  
(Contact No. 9661449785)





## Organizing Committee

### Chief Patron

**Dr. M.L. Jat**, Secretary DARE and Director General ICAR

### Patrons

- **Dr. P.S. Pandey**, Vice Chancellor, RPCAU, Pusa
- **Dr. K. Narayana Gowda**, President, INSEE and Former Vice Chancellor, UAS, Bangalore
- **Padma Shri Dr. G. Trivedi**, Former Vice Chancellor, RAU, Pusa
- **Dr. Anupam Mishra**, Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal
- **Dr. A.K. Singh**, Vice Chancellor, RLBCAU, Jhansi
- **Dr. Ashok Dalwai**, Former CEO, NRAA, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare GOI
- **Dr. H.P. Singh**, Former, DDG (Hort) ICAR, New Delhi
- **Dr. S.N. Jha**, DDG (Agricultural Engineering), ICAR, New Delhi & President BASA
- **Dr. Rajbir Singh**, Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension), ICAR
- **Dr. J.P. Sharma**, Former Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu, J&K
- **Dr. P. Chandra Shekara**, Director General, CIRDAP, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Former Director General, MANAGE, Hyderabad and Vice President, INSEE
- **Dr. Yogendra Kumar Karki**, Former Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of Nepal & Vice President, INSEE

### Co-Patrons

- **Dr. V.V. Sadamate**, Former Advisor Agriculture, Planning Commission, GOI & Vice President, INSEE
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- **Dr. M.M. Adhikary**, Former VC, BCKV
- **Dr. Randhir Singh**, Former ADG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR
- **Dr. Mahesh Gathala**, Systems Agronomist and Lead Science, CIMMYT

### Chairman

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- **Capt. Dr. L.B. Kalantri**, Secretary General, INSEE, Nagpur, Maharashtra
- **Dr. Anjani Kumar**, Senior Research Fellow, IFPRI



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- **Dr. M. K. Rathod**, Treasurer & Editor INSEE and Professor, Agricultural Extension Education, CoA, Nagpur, (Dr. PDKV, Akola), Maharashtra

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- **Dr. Kalyan Ghadei**, Head, Department of Extension Education, IAS, BHU, Varanasi
- **Dr. Rajiv B. Kale**, Senior Scientist, ICAR-DOGR, Pune

## Local Organizing Committee

### Convenor

- **Dr. Usha Singh**, Dean, College of Community Science, RPCAU, Pusa  
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### Organizing Secretary

- **Dr. Ram Datt**, Professor & Head, Agricultural Extension Education & Director, School of Agribusiness and Rural Management, RPCAU, Pusa  
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### Co-Organizing Secretaries

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