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ICAR and RIS Sign MoU to Strengthen Agricultural Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange Across the Global South

CHENNAI – 18 Nov, 2026 The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 17 November 2026 at New Delhi to strengthen agricultural cooperation and knowledge exchange across countries of the Global South. The MoU was exchanged by Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, and Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS. The partnership, facilitated through DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, will focus on sharing agricultural technologies, documenting best practices, knowledge exchange and capacity-building.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the High-Level Policy Dialogue on "Global South: Towards a New Strategic Partnership", Kirti Vardhan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, emphasised that the Global South must strengthen its collective voice in shaping global narratives, building economic resilience and ensuring equitable access to emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence. He called for stronger India–Africa partnerships, greater institutional collaboration and active engagement of young researchers and policymakers in translating knowledge into meaningful policy outcomes.

Recalling the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Second Voice of the Global South Summit in November 2023, the Minister highlighted the importance of developing common perspectives on shared challenges, strengthening economic resilience and promoting affordable, scalable and locally relevant development solutions. He emphasised the need to move beyond traditional development cooperation towards co-development and shared solutions.



Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, highlighted ICAR's role as a century-old apex organisation for agricultural research, education and extension, with 114 research institutions, 152 regional research centres and 731 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), while coordinating with nearly 80 agricultural universities. He informed that ICAR has 74 Memoranda of Understanding with different countries and institutions, of which nearly 60 per cent are with institutions from the Global South.