# Visit of Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda, Former Secretary (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, to ICAR–NBAIR, Bengaluru

Padma Bhushan Dr. R. S. Paroda, Former Secretary, (Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), visited ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (NBAIR), Bengaluru, on 23rd November 2026. He was accompanied by Dr. A. Sahoo, Director, ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (ICAR-NAINP), Bengaluru.

During the visit, Dr. Paroda toured the National Insect Museum (NIM) facility at ICAR-NBAIR and appreciated the institute's efforts in establishing and developing this important facility for the conservation, documentation and display of insect diversity. He emphasised the need to give wider publicity to the museum to enhance its visibility and promote greater awareness among students, researchers and the general public. He highlighted the importance of encouraging student visits and educational outreach activities to familiarise young learners with insect diversity, its ecological significance and its role in agriculture and the environment.

Dr. Paroda subsequently visited the Live Insect Rearing Unit (LIRU), where he was briefed on the maintenance and conservation of live insect cultures and their utilisation in research, biological control and technology development. He appreciated the dedicated efforts of the scientists in maintaining 137 live insect cultures and commended the institute for its continued efforts in conserving and utilising insect resources for agricultural applications. He stressed the importance of popularising these biological control agents across the country and facilitating their wider adoption for sustainable insect pest management.

He also visited the exhibits showcasing various Biocontrol and Biocontrol compatible technologies developed by ICAR-NBAIR. During his visit to the research laboratories, including the Insect Biosafety Laboratory (IBSL-2), he appreciated the research activities being undertaken by the institute in the field of RNAi and gene editing in insects and commended the scientists for their contributions towards advancing scientific research and developing innovative technologies for sustainable agricultural pest management.

The visit was followed by an interaction with the scientists of ICAR-NBAIR. During the interaction, Dr. T. Venkatesan, Director (A), ICAR-NBAIR, made a brief presentation highlighting the institute's major achievements, significant research contributions, technological innovations and ongoing initiatives in agricultural insect resource management, biological control sustainable pest management and future programs towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

In his address, Dr. Paroda appreciated the institute's efforts in developing innovative, science-based technologies to address the emerging needs and challenges faced by farmers. He acknowledged the important role of ICAR-NBAIR in harnessing insect resources, developing biological control solutions and promoting environmentally sustainable approaches to crop protection. He emphasised that research activities should be closely aligned with farmers' needs and emerging agricultural challenges to ensure that scientific innovations translate into tangible benefits at the field level.

Dr. Paroda particularly highlighted the importance of expanding insect exploration and collection activities across a wider geographical area to further strengthen and enrich the National Insect Museum collections. He emphasised that systematic exploration, collection, documentation and preservation of insect diversity are essential for building a comprehensive national repository of insect resources and for supporting future research in taxonomy, biosystematics, biodiversity conservation, biological control and other applied areas of agricultural entomology.

He further underscored the need for periodic review of the institute's mandate in the context of emerging agricultural challenges, changing research priorities and the evolving needs of the farming community. He advised the scientists to identify strategic and focused research priorities that would enhance the relevance, impact and effectiveness of the institute's research programmes and deliver greater benefits to farmers.

Highlighting the growing challenges posed by invasive alien species, Dr. Paroda suggested that biological control of invasive aquatic and terrestrial weeds should be accorded high priority. In particular, he identified water hyacinth and parthenium as important targets for focused research and technology development. He emphasised the need to strengthen national and international collaborations, facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge and expertise, and undertake coordinated research efforts to develop effective, sustainable and environmentally compatible biological control strategies for the management of these invasive weeds.

The visit and interaction provided valuable guidance, encouragement and strategic direction to the scientists of ICAR-NBAIR.










CRISPR Gene Editing Workflow in insects




Padma Bhushan
Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda
Former Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR)
New Delhi
23.11.2026
Dr. T. Venkatesan
Dr. R.S. Paroda
Former Secretary (DARE) &
Director General (ICAR), New Delhi
Dr. Artabandhu Sahoo
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ICAR-NBAIR Heartily Welcomes
Padma Bhushan
Dr. Rajendra Singh Paroda
New Delhi
23.11.2026
ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources, Bengaluru


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