



Dr Shanti Kumar Sharma

President, The Indian Society of Agronomy: 2024 and 2025

**Dear Members,
Greetings and warm regards to each one of you.**

I am pleased to share that the new Executive Council of The Indian Society of Agronomy was set in action on 14th March, 2024. It is my privilege and honour to be the President of The Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA) for the year 2024 and 2025.

I would like to thank the outgoing President, ISA and outgoing Secretary, ISA and all Executive Council members for their significant contribution in steering the ISA towards improvement in various domains during throughout the past two years. I would also like to acknowledge the intensive efforts of all our former Presidents for their contributions towards growth and development of ISA.

As India undergoes a transformative phase Viksit Bharat@2047 and takes on a leading global role, ISA has the unique opportunity to act as a catalyst in bridging the gap between the technology requirements of industries and the research and development efforts of academic institutions through evolving educational policies.

The global and Indian agriculture is facing major sustainability challenges such as declining factor productivity, increasing GHG emissions, increasing water, carbon and nitrogen foot prints leading to resource endanger situation. Here, the vast knowledge base and field experience of ISA members becomes valuable. The ISA, through its several activities can proactively engage with all stake holders including Agronomists and multi-disciplinary scientists, industries and government institutes to develop sustainable practices, leveraging research and expertise to devise eco-friendly processes for resource conservation in crop production and by actively contributing to the formulation and implementation of sustainable practices. The ISA can help other global societies to attain its environmental goals and contribute to India's broader commitment to combat challenges of food and nutritional security as well as climate change.

To achieve this vision of co-creation and sharing knowledge, collaboration among research and educational institutions, industry stakeholders, and government bodies is paramount. Through joint organisation of different events, crop advisor certification programmes, new technology transfer initiatives (Use of AI in data driven Agronomy, automation in field operations, AR/VR/MR/ER for efficient learning, real time field data and decision making, Carbon credit trading and Green carbon initiatives, Community water banks, e-traceability, evaluation of regulating and supporting eco-system services, adaptive agronomy for resilient future etc.) and knowledge-sharing platforms, we can foster a vibrant ecosystem of innovation. This ecosystem will empower researchers, scientists, teachers, and entrepreneurs to translate cutting-edge ideas into practical solutions that benefit the agriculture fraternity and society. Further, ethics and values in research and academic excellence are noteworthy to be considered and promoted.

I am enthusiastic about working closely with my distinguished Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, as well as all the Council Members and Office Bearers of ISA, to continue the numerous initiatives started by my predecessors. As we push these initiatives - encompassing membership drives, improving performance and citations of ISA journal, improving ISA Newsletter, reenergizing and rerouting the ISA Chapters, the enrolment of younger members, and specialised training programs and many more - we recognize the pivotal role that proper vision, priorities and time line of action plan with diversity and inclusion of all members plays in driving innovation and progress in ISA. By promoting faith, hope and diversity of actions within the ISA, we foster an environment where ideas, experiences, and talents converge, propelling us towards novel solutions and new linkages.

Additionally, we aim to strengthen the ties of ISA with international societies like American Society of Agronomy, Australian Society of Agronomy, European Society for Agronomy (ESA), Crop Science Society of America, Weed Science Society of America and others also.

I eagerly look forward to your proactive support in our collective mission to establish ISA as a global Society of excellence for the education, research, extension and entrepreneurship in the field of Agronomy and allied sectors.

Regards,


(S. K. Sharma)