

USDA Delegation Visits ICAR-IARI to Explore Opportunities for Collaboration



A delegation from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) visited ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi, on 14 October 2026 for a meeting held at the ZTM & BPD Unit. The meeting aimed to explore potential avenues for collaboration in agricultural research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The USDA APHIS delegation comprised Dr. Kate Fiedler, Agricultural Attaché and Area Director and Mr. Vipul Shah, Agricultural Specialist. The ICAR-IARI delegation included Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director; Dr. C. Viswanathan, Joint Director (Research); Dr. Akriti Sharma, CEO, Pusa Krishi; the senior management team of Pusa Krishi and the PME In-Charge.

The meeting began with an introduction to ICAR-IARI and an overview of Pusa Krishi's initiatives in agricultural innovation and startup incubation, presented by Dr. Akriti Sharma. This was followed by a floral welcome and opening remarks by Dr. C. Viswanathan, who highlighted the institute's strategic international collaborations.



An interactive discussion between the Director, ICAR-IARI and the USDA APHIS representatives focused on identifying potential areas of mutual interest and strengthening institutional engagement. Dr. Akriti Sharma also delivered a detailed presentation on Pusa Krishi's incubation framework, key initiatives and activities, highlighting its role in fostering agricultural entrepreneurship and facilitating the translation of research into practical, market-oriented solutions.

The visit concluded with a guided tour of the IFS and Plant Phenomics Centre and the startup incubation facilities, coordinated by the Pusa Krishi team and the PME In-Charge. It provided an opportunity to showcase ICAR–IARI’s research infrastructure and innovation ecosystem while exploring prospects for future cooperation in agricultural research, innovation and technology development.