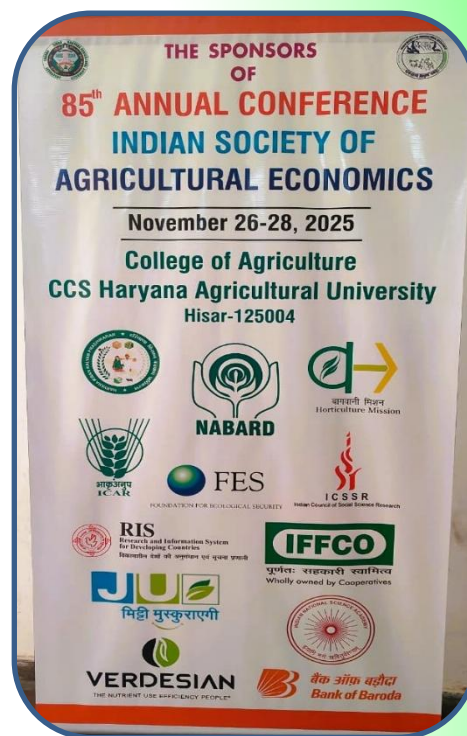


CCSHAU Hisar Hosts the 85th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) in Collaboration with Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran

The 85th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (ISAE) was successfully organized at the College of Agriculture, CCS Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar, from 26–28 November 2025, in collaboration with the Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (HKKP). Dr. R. S. Chauhan, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. Vandana, Research Fellow, HKKP, actively contributed to and participated in the conference, representing the organization's commitment to strengthening policy dialogue and sectoral development. The association of HKKP brought a strong policy and farmer-welfare perspective to the conference, aligning with the State's priorities on rural transformation, diversification, sustainable agriculture and governance reforms. Senior officials, including the CEO of HKKP, participated actively and contributed to key discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions.



Inaugural Ceremony Sets an Academic Tone

The conference commenced on 26th November 2025 with an inaugural ceremony graced by Prof. B.R. Kamboj, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CCSHAU, along with Prof. Dinesh K. Marothia (President, ISAE), Dr. Kamal Vatta (Hon. Secretary, ISAE) and Dr. S.K. Pahuja (Organising Secretary). The session included the release of several publications and an inspiring Presidential Address by Dr. H. R. Sharma, Former Pro Vice Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh. Senior dignitaries highlighted the need for policy reform, rural diversification and strengthening research-policy linkages to address emerging challenges in the agricultural sector.

Special Session on WTO Followed by Keynote Address of CEO, HKKP

During the session on **“WTO, Economic Growth & Environmental Sustainability: Navigating the Intersection”**, participants discussed the growing challenges faced by India in balancing domestic agricultural support with international trade obligations. Speakers highlighted that while subsidies and MSP are essential for safeguarding farmer incomes and ensuring food security, these measures often face scrutiny under WTO rules. The discussion underlined that developed countries continue to provide far higher subsidies, creating structural inequities in global trade. Experts also stressed that India must enhance its competitiveness by reducing leakages in value chains, improving market efficiency and addressing issues related to excessive regulatory control over key inputs. The panel emphasized aligning agricultural trade policies with the three pillars of sustainability—economic, social and environmental, especially as global supply chains increasingly require compliance with stringent environmental standards. It was collectively noted that India needs a



strategic approach that protects farmers, supports sustainable agriculture and strengthens its negotiating capacity in multilateral and bilateral trade forums.

The session on **“Reimagining the Commons and Governance”** focused on the need to strengthen community-led management of natural resources such as land, water, forests and grazing commons. Speakers highlighted that traditional commons are increasingly under pressure due to population growth, land-use change and competing economic demands. The discussion stressed that effective governance of commons requires institutional innovations, participatory decision-making and locally adapted regulatory mechanisms.

Experts emphasized that centralized or top-down governance models often fail to address ground realities, leading to resource degradation and inequitable access. They underscored the importance of empowering local communities, improving collective action and creating transparent systems for monitoring and benefit sharing. Global examples of successful commons governance were shared to illustrate how inclusive institutions can enhance sustainability, strengthen livelihoods and reduce conflicts. The session concluded that reimagining the governance of commons is crucial for ensuring long-term ecological security and supporting rural development.



After the special session on “WTO, Economic Growth & Environmental Sustainability”, a keynote address was delivered by the Dr. R. S. Chauhan, Chief Executive Officer, Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran (HKKP). Drawing upon insights from ongoing research conducted by the Pradhikaran, the CEO highlighted the urgent need for rural transformation through peri-urban agriculture, poultry development and institutional innovations in Haryana.



He emphasized that peri-urban agriculture is emerging as a high-potential driver of inclusive growth, supported by increasing demand from rapidly expanding urban centres such as Gurugram and Faridabad. He noted that farmers in peri-urban belts can significantly enhance incomes through direct market linkages, reduced transportation costs and diversified agri-enterprises. The CEO also underlined the potential of the poultry sector, where small-scale, backyard and contract farming models can generate returns far higher than traditional crops, especially for rural women and youth.

In line with the Pradhikaran’s Vision 2047, he urged the need for farmer-centric institutional innovations, integrated farming systems, simplified regulatory frameworks for small poultry farmers, digital transparency and convergence of departmental schemes. The address emphasized that sustainable rural transformation requires balancing immediate relief measures with long-term resilience-building strategies.

Following his keynote, the CEO was formally honored by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, CCSHAU, in recognition of his contribution to policy research and farmer-welfare initiatives in Haryana.

Keynote Addresses by Eminent Academicians

Earlier in the day, distinguished scholars delivered three keynote addresses:

- Prof. Sukhpal Singh (IIM Ahmedabad) on rural transformation and inclusive development
- Prof. Sudarshan Iyengar (Foundation for Ecological Security) on governance of commons
- Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma (RIS, New Delhi) on evolving trade regimes and agricultural trade challenges

Their presentations provided deep policy insights and set the foundation for further academic deliberations.

Technical Sessions and Parallel Presentations

The second day of the conference witnessed extensive paper presentations across thematic sessions on:

- Rural Transformation and Inclusive Development
- Institutional Innovations and Governance of Commons
- Agricultural Trade, WTO and Sustainability
- Ph.D. Scholar Presentation Series

Academicians and researchers presented a wide range of studies covering farm-level data, policy analyses, sustainability concerns and institutional challenges. The sessions facilitated rich discussions and knowledge exchange among participants.



Plenary Session

The plenary session held on 28 November 2025 consolidated recommendations from all technical tracks. Experts emphasized strengthening sustainable farming practices, improving institutional frameworks, diversifying rural livelihoods and enhancing India's preparedness for multilateral trade negotiations.

Valedictory Session Marks Grand Conclusion

The valedictory session featured concluding remarks by senior ISAE office-bearers, with the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, CCSHAU, addressing the gathering. Awards were presented for outstanding papers and contributions.

Conclusion

The 85th Annual Conference of ISAE at CCSHAU Hisar provided a vibrant platform for academic exchange, policy dialogue and collaborative research engagement. The active participation of experts, scholars and policy practitioners contributed substantially to the evolving discourse on sustainable agricultural development in India. The conference reaffirmed the role of research-led governance and institutional innovation in ensuring prosperity and resilience for India's farming communities.

