

# THE HEROES OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE FELICITATED WITH PADMA SHRI

Ms. Soumya Nigam<sup>1</sup> & Chetan Kapri<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Integral University, Lucknow, India

<sup>2</sup>Lovely Professional University, Punjab, India

## INTRODUCTION

Indian citizens are honoured with highly Civilian awards for their outstanding contribution to the country. Furthermore, the prize is shared by the President of India with a total of 119 Padma Awardees in the year 2021.

As we know, Agriculture is an important sector of the Indian economy and contributes about 17% to the total GDP and provides employment to over 60% of the population.

It is a very special and proud moment for all agriculture enthusiasts that this year the Agriculture sector received Padma Shri Awards for their immense and commendable contribution to agriculture which took the Agriculture of India to new heights.

The government of India recognized these citizens by honouring them with one of the highest honours- "Padmashree".

## FELICITATIONS OF AWARDEES

Various agricultural brave and strong-willed gems were awarded who are dedicated and selfless people with a special place in our hearts. They are continued to help and heal the society with the very little means that they had, and which they decided to use efficiently are:

### 1. HAREKALA HAJABBA

Harekala Hajabba, a hardworking common man who has been selling oranges at Mangalore bus depot since 1977. He earned an amount of 150 rupees per day through his hard work throughout the years. He never went to school but his contributions include educating poor children in his village of Newpadapu through his organization for over a decade.



On Monday, he received the Padma Shri award from President Ram Nath Kovind for his unparalleled efforts in the field of social work

### 2. TULSI GOWDA

Tulsi Gowda is a 72-year-old Indian environmentalist from the Honalli Village a member of the Halakki Vokkalu tribal community in the state of Karnataka. She is now also popularly known as the "Encyclopedia of the Forest".

She is an environmentalist from Karnataka who has planted more than 30,000 saplings and has been involved in environmental conservation activities for the past six decades. She has actively participated and shared her vast storehouse of knowledge of plants, herbs and trees with the younger generation, so as to make them aware of the importance of conservation at this very point in our lives.

For her relentless, decades-long efforts to protect forests, Presented Kovind presents Padma Shri to Smt.Tulsi Gowda for Social Work.



### 3. PAPPAMMAL

Coimbatore's Grandma R. Pappammal, an organic farmer owns a 2.5-acre farm in her village and continues to organically cultivate millets, pulses, and vegetables.

She would travel alone to their many farmers' meets and implement all that she learned. She never allowed age to slow her down.

At the age of 105, this enthusiastic grandma received her Padma Shree award from President Kovind for her commendable and heart-winning work in the field of agriculture.



### 4. MARACHI SUBBURAMAN

Marachi Subburaman, the founder of the Society for Community Organisation and People's Education (SCOPE), works with the objective of helping women build income through activities like tailoring, mat-weaving, and agriculture. In 1996, SCOPE decided to focus solely on improving sustainable sanitation for the community. Soon, Subburaman developed a series of toilets called Ecosan that separate waste to use for farming.



### 5. RAHIBAI SOMA POPERE

Born in 1964, Rahibai Soma Popere is a Mahadeo Koli tribal farmer from Komblne village in Maharashtra is an Indian farmer and conservationist. She was unable to attend school owing to poverty, so she began working in agricultural labour and cow rearing to support her family when she was ten years old. She helps other farmers return to native varieties of crops, preparing hyacinth beans for SHG's. She is among three Indians on the BBC list of "100 Women 2018".



Popularly known as the "seed mother" for conserving the indigenous seeds, Rahibai has achieved remarkable feat by designing her own water harvesting structures, including a farm pond and a traditional Jalkund. She has been conferred with the meritorious Padma Shree award.

### 6. RAJNIKANT DEVIDAS SHROFF

"King of crop protection" Shri Rajnikant Devidas Shroff [Chairman of UPL Ltd.] was born in the family of an entrepreneur in a small village of Kutch, India. Following his love of Chemistry, he graduated in chemistry from the University of Bombay. He was ranked as the 93rd richest person in India, with a net worth of \$1.5 billion, according to Forbes.

Motivated to make a real difference, Shri Rajnikant believes that the prosperity of his company must be shared with not just the stakeholders, but the society at large, too. His wholehearted support encourages all UPL to contribute to various social activities and actively work towards the betterment of the lives of the people!

He was awarded the prestigious Padma Shree award for his benchmark work in the field of Trade and Industry as recognition for his contribution to the agriculture sector.



### 7. SHRI BATA KRUSHNA SAHOO

Shri Sahoo is a retired clerk and a grow-out culture farmer from Sarakana Village, Khordha District, Odisha. Started aquaculture in the late 1980s. Shri Sahoo is an innovative aquaculture farmer who is experimenting with new aquaculture methods. For Crop breeding, seed production, brood rearing, and grow-out culture, he employed scientific technology packages.

Due to his pioneering work in aquaculture and livestock, he received the Padma Shri award for his commendable work.



## 8. ALI MANIKFAN

Muraiduganduar Ali Manikfan, born in 1938, Lakshadweep is an Indian marine researcher, ecologist, shipbuilder, and polyglot. He is noted for his research skills in the marine, ecology, and agricultural fields. While working, Manikfan discovered a new fish species, called the species *Abudefduf manikfani*.

Not holding any formal educational qualification, and for promoting a life of simplicity. The Government of India honoured him with the Padma Shri.



## 9. NANADRO B MARAK

"Shri Nanadro B Marak, an organic black pepper Farmer from West Garo Hills District, Meghalaya. His unique method includes growing pepper alongside an areca-nut plantation that has optimized the pepper output in his farm. The 61-year-old was a pioneering farmer in the West Garo Hills, who first planted the Karimunda variety of black pepper, which gives medium-sized, chestnut-black coloured grains.



Marak also received the International Award for his innovative approach to pepper cultivation, at the International Pepper Conference Vietnam, 2018. He has been honoured with the Padma Shri Award for his black pepper farming to boost the state's agriculture.

## 10. PREM CHANDRA SHARMA

Prem Chand Sharma, a 63-year-old farmer, contributed to high-yield fruit and vegetable production using organic methods without the use of chemicals in Uttarakhand's remote Hatal-Sainj hilly village. He is a school dropout and has been interested in agriculture since his childhood. He has been focusing on diversifying farming in the state by growing high-quality fruits, vegetables, and grains in a completely organic way.



Mr Sharma received the meritorious Padma Shree award for his excellent work in the field of agriculture and became an inspiration for many youths!

## CONCLUSION

"The brave spirit and kind thinking for the society is what makes these brave-hearted respected people different from the society."

These exemplary people are living examples in front of all of us that Age, poverty, illiteracy, gender and other uncountable barriers don't stop them from being extraordinary in the field of Agriculture. It was an auspicious and proud moment for all The agrarians. These people with their remarkable works give goosebumps and inspiration to many youngsters that "Nothing is Impossible"!