

# BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING FUTURES:

**Dr. HIMANSHU PATHAK**  
THE FIRST INDIAN TO LEAD ICRISAT



In a defining moment for Indian agricultural science, **Dr. Himanshu Pathak** has been appointed as the **Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)**—marking the first time an Indian has taken the helm of this globally significant research body. His appointment not only highlights his individual brilliance but also places India firmly at the center of global agricultural innovation.

## A JOURNEY ROOTED IN THE SOIL

Dr. Pathak's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education, dedication, and vision. Hailing from a background deeply connected with Indian agriculture, he began his academic pursuit at Banaras Hindu University, completing his in 1986. He earned his and PhD in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry from the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in 1988 and 1992, respectively.

Over the past three decades, he has held numerous key positions, including:

- Director, ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack
- Director, ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati
- Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, one of the world's largest agri-research systems

His global exposure includes research assignments in Germany, the UK, Ethiopia, Australia, and the Philippines, along with the prestigious Humboldt Fellowship.



# ICRISAT: AT THE HEART OF DRYLAND INNOVATION

Headquartered in Hyderabad, ICRISAT is the only CGIAR institute based in India and a leader in dryland agricultural research. Since its founding in 1972, ICRISAT has focused on crops vital to smallholder farmers in semi-arid regions, such as millets, groundnut, chickpea, and pigeonpea. The institute has played a crucial role in advancing:

- The world's first hybrid pigeonpea
- Biofortified pearl millet in Africa
- Solutions for soil health, climate resilience, and sustainable water use

Now under Dr. Pathak's leadership, ICRISAT aims to expand its reach and impact across Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.



## A VISION FOR RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Dr. Pathak's career reflects a strong commitment to climate-resilient agriculture, soil management, and sustainable systems. He has led over 50 research projects, authored 200+ scientific papers, and has actively aligned agricultural research with global sustainable development goals (SDGs).

His roadmap for ICRISAT is rooted in innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity:

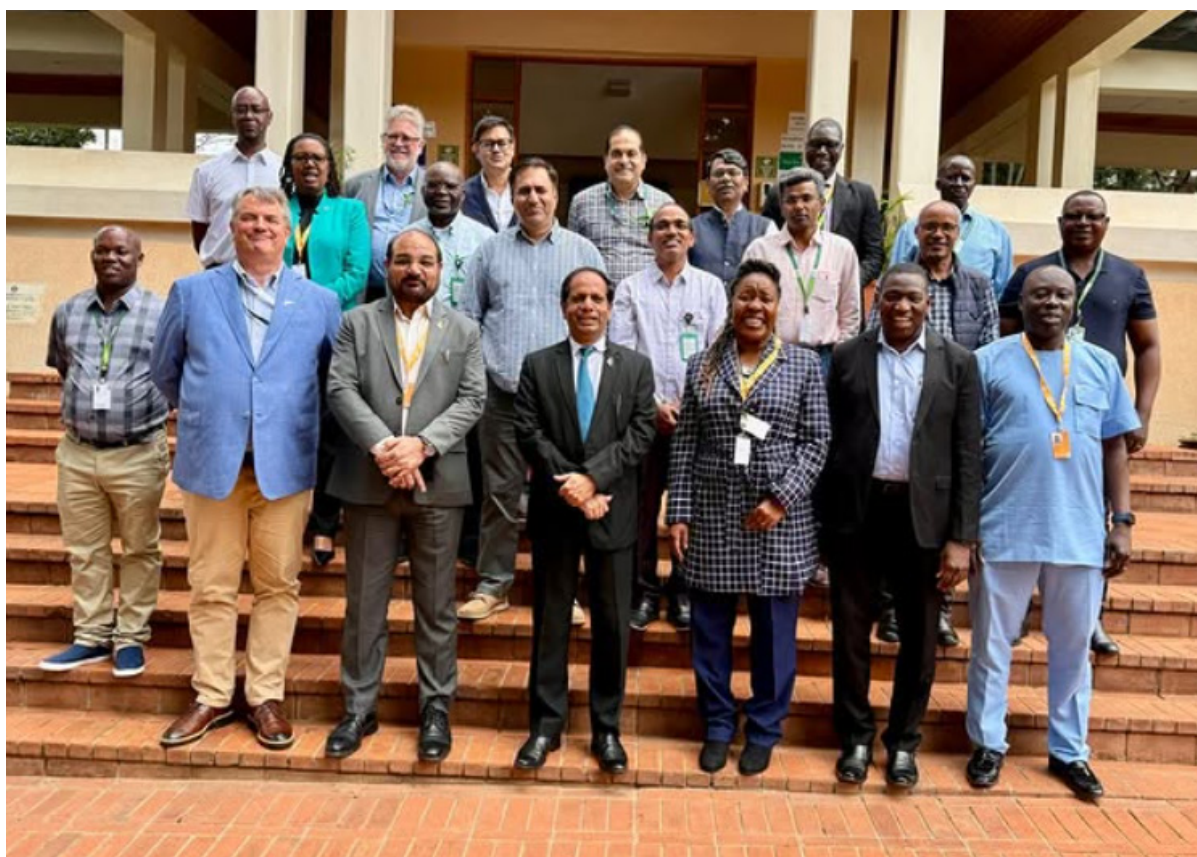
- Develop drought- and heat-tolerant crop varieties
- Integrate AI and data science into precision agriculture
- Enhance international partnerships and south-south cooperation
- Strengthen market access and livelihoods of smallholder farmers

# ACCOLADES AND LEADERSHIP

Throughout his illustrious career, Dr. Pathak has earned numerous awards:

## International Awards and Recognitions

1. Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Germany – 2004
2. BOYSCAST Fellowship, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India – 1996
3. Outstanding Administrative Support Award, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines – 2007



## National Awards and Recognitions

1. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, Indian Council of Agricultural Research – 2019
2. Dr. N.S. Randhawa Memorial Award, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) – 2021
3. Dr. R.V. Tamhane Memorial Lecture Award, Indian Society of Soil Science – 2021
4. Platinum Jubilee Lecture Award, Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) – 2018
5. Krushi Gourav Award, Orissa Krushak Samaj – 2017

6. Silver Jubilee Commemoration Medal, Indian National Science Academy (INSA) – 2016
7. Society of Agricultural Professional Excellence Award – 2016
8. Prof. S.K. Mukherjee Commemoration Award, ISCA – 2012
9. Recognition Award, NAAS, India – 2011
10. Dr. B.C. Deb Memorial Award, Indian Science Congress Association – 2001



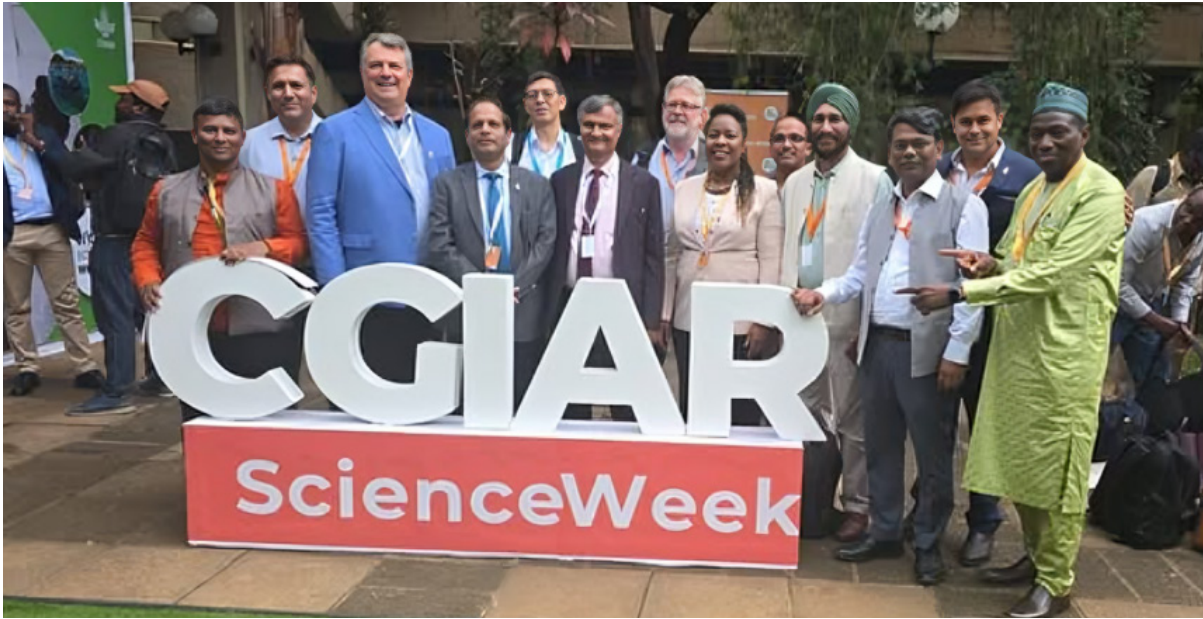
## A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR INDIA

Dr. Pathak is the first Indian and only the second individual of Indian origin—after Dr. M.S. Swaminathan at IRRI—to lead a CGIAR institute. His appointment is a proud milestone for Indian agriculture, science diplomacy, and leadership on the global stage.

Prof. Pingali, Chair of ICRISAT's Governing Board, remarked:

“Dr. Pathak's strategic vision and proven leadership will help ICRISAT set new benchmarks in agricultural innovation and global food security. We look forward to working closely with him.”





## CONCLUSION: LEADING THE WAY FORWARD

In the face of rising climate challenges, food insecurity, and sustainability concerns, Dr. Himanshu Pathak's leadership at ICRISAT arrives at a critical juncture. His scientific acumen, global perspective, and deep understanding of India's agricultural landscape are poised to redefine dryland agriculture.

As he steps into this historic role, the world watches with anticipation and hope—confident that under his stewardship, ICRISAT will empower millions of farmers and shape a more food-secure future for generations to come.



Editor's Note: Dr. Pathak's vision embodies the spirit of "Atmanirbhar Krishi" (self-reliant agriculture) on a global scale—blending Indian values with world-class research and innovation.