



**Research Unit**  
Press Information Bureau  
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India



## G20 Series #53

### India's G20 Presidency

#### G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS)

(Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh - April 17 - 19, 2023)

(Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

May 23, 2023

*"Guided by the principle of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' and in line with our ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India's G20 Presidency has worked to further global good and create a better planet."*

-Prime Minister Narendra Modi

G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) was organized at Varanasi from April 17 - 19, 2023, by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. About 80 foreign delegates from G20 Member States; Invited Guest Countries, International Organizations and Special Invitees by India participated in the three-day meeting.

The [theme of the MACS 2023 is Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems for Healthy People and Planet](#). The various issues of agriculture research and development including food security and nutrition, Climate Smart Agriculture, Digital Agriculture, Public Private Partnership, etc. were included for discussion.

**With this meeting, India celebrated a key milestone in its G20 Presidency with the hosting of its 100th G20 meeting.**

#### **Day 1: April 17, 2023**

General (Dr.) V K Singh (Retd.), Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation, and Road Transport and Highways inaugurated the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Varanasi.

General (Dr.) Singh exhorted that bio-fortified crop varieties are the quicker solution to improve health and address nutrition issues of women and children. He urged the G-20 countries to look into diverse areas of sustainable practices that promote diversification of crop production systems, efficient utilization of water resources and fertilizers, assimilation of horticulture practices, soil, health management, and post-harvest management of crops,

among others. He said the emerging digital technologies should be utilized to usher in ease of farming across the G20 countries and the world.

He stated that the UN General Assembly, based on India's proposal, has declared 2023 as the International Year of the Millets which will help highlight the benefits of Millets to the world.



Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Secretary (DARE) & Director General (ICAR), and MACS Chair was also present and later led the proceedings of the Meeting.

Shri Sanjay Garg, Additional Secretary (DARE) & Secretary (ICAR) said that in view of the International Year of Millets 2023, India has proposed a G20 initiative on **Millets And otHer Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI)** for adoption by MACS.

Subsequently, discussions were held on the following themes:

- ❖ Innovations and Technological Interventions for Agri-Food Systems Transformation,
- ❖ Frontiers in Science and Technology for Achieving Food Security & Nutrition,
- ❖ Bio-fortification in Food Crops for Enhancing Nutritional Value,
- ❖ Tropical Seaweed Farming for nutrition and blue growth,
- ❖ Millets And otHer Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI),
- ❖ One Health as an Integrated and Unifying Approach: Partnerships and Strategies for coordinated action,
- ❖ Trans-boundary Pests and Diseases: R&D Priorities for resilient agri-food systems,
- ❖ Climate Resilient Technologies and Innovations for sustainable agri-food systems,
- ❖ Nature-Positive Agriculture: Science and Innovations for building resilient agri-food systems,
- ❖ Biological Nitrification Inhibition (BNI): Reducing GHS emissions and Increasing crop yields.

## **Day 2: April 18, 2023**

On the second day of the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) deliberations were held on **Digital Agriculture and Sustainable Agri Value Chain & Public-Private Partnership in Agricultural R&D**. MACS Communique was also discussed. Secretary

(DARE) & Director General (ICAR), Dr. Himanshu Pathak, who is also the MACS Chair, led the discussions.

The session's deliberations focused on:

- Digital Agriculture and Traceability;
- Digital Technological Solutions for Reducing Food Loss and Waste;
- Agri-tech Startup Ecosystem;
- Pluralistic Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (EAS): partnerships for improving lab-to-land and outreach,
- Smallholder and Family Farming: G20- Global South Cooperation for Agri-R&D,
- Public-private Agri-R&D for Public Goods: Experience in Generating and Accelerating Innovations.



Another session was conducted to discuss India's initiative on Millets and Other Ancient Grains International Research Initiative (MAHARISHI). The representatives of G20 Nations, Invited countries, and International Organisations supported the MAHARISHI Initiative and expressed those millets being climate a smart crop and super health food, the International Research cooperation is pivotal for its promotion and adoption.

A bilateral meeting with Food and Agricultural Organisation was also held on the second day regarding extension services in the agricultural sector.

### **Day 3: April 19, 2023**

The third day of the meeting focused on finalising the MACS Communiqué. The meeting adopted the Chair Summary cum Outcome Document focussing on major areas of cooperation in agricultural research and development for food security and nutrition, digital agriculture, resilient agri-food systems and public-private partnership in agricultural R&D. MACS 2023 also supported the launching of MAHARISHI which inter-alia will include:

- Establish mechanisms to connect researchers and institutions working on identified grain crops to enhance the dissemination of research findings, and identify research gaps and needs.



- Establish web platforms to connect researchers, exchange data, and share communication products and thematic briefs to encourage research and information sharing.
- Organize capacity-building activities and international workshops and conferences.
- Performance identification and recognition of scientists

MAHARISHI Secretariat shall be housed at the Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Hyderabad with technical support from ICRISAT, one CGIAR Centre, and other international organisations.

On the side-lines of G20 MACS, bilateral meetings were held with France, the United Kingdom, Argentina, and Germany for future collaboration in agriculture research.



### **India's Rich Cultural and Spiritual Heritage**

1. The state government and district administration made elaborate and grand arrangements to showcase the cultural heritage and local folks to the delegates.
2. The delegates were taken on a cruise ride to witness the scintillating view of Ganga Aarti followed by a welcome dinner and cultural program organized at Taj Ganges.
3. The delegates were also taken to Sarnath and were given a guided tour of ASI Museum and Buddha Stupa and also witnessed the Light and Sound show. Subsequently, the Cultural Performance for delegates was arranged in the serene surroundings of the Buddha Theme Park.
4. The delegates visited Trade Facilitation Centre on April 19, 2023, and got a glimpse of the textile history of the city along with live demonstrations of the local artisans making their products.
5. A small exhibition of leading institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agriculture Department, IRRI-SARC including other organisations such as NDDDB, and APEDA was also organized at TFC. The delegates were shown live preparations of millet dishes at the venue.
6. A Farewell Dinner and cultural performances were also organized.

**References:**

[100TH G20 MEETING DURING INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY](#)

[General \(Dr.\) V K Singh \(Retd.\) inaugurates the G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists \(MACS\)](#)

[Day 2: G20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists \(MACS\)](#)

[The 100th G20 Meeting under India's G20 Presidency, the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists \(MACS\) concludes successfully at Varanasi](#)

[Three day long G20 MACS Meeting begins in Varanasi tomorrow](#)

**Twitter Links:**

[MACS Outcome Document](#)

[Welcome to the City of Lights! The holy city is ready to host its 1<sup>st</sup> G20 Meeting.](#)

[India's G20 Presidency reaches its 100<sup>th</sup> event with Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists](#)

**NR/HP/RK/KG**