



Dr. A.R. Sharma joined as the first Director Research, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi on 23 July, 2018. He possesses an unparalleled academic record throughout, and made outstanding achievements in the field of agronomic research and teaching over the last more than 3 decades of his professional career.

Born on 13th April 1960 at Galore, Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, Dr. A.R. Sharma completed his school education (1977) from the local Government Higher Secondary School, securing 5th rank in H.P. School Education Board. He obtained B.Sc. Agri. (1981) with a first position from HPKVV, Palampur; M.Sc. Agronomy (1983) with a first rank in his batch from PAU, Ludhiana; and Ph.D. (1988) from IIT, Kharagpur.

Dr. Sharma served as Scientist (1987-96) at CRRI, Cuttack; Agronomist at PAU, Ludhiana (1996-98), Senior Scientist (1998-2001) at CSWCRTI, Dehradun; Principal Scientist (2001-2009 & 2017-18) and Professor & Head (2009-2012), Division of Agronomy, IARI, New Delhi; Director, ICAR-Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. He has a large number of publications to his credit: (i) research papers (130), (ii) review papers (25), (iii) book chapters (35), (iv) popular articles (30), (v) books (12), (vi) manuals (20), proceedings (25), and papers presented in seminars/symposia (>100). Dr. Sharma has guided 2 students for M.Sc. and 7 students for Ph.D. degree.

He was conferred Jawaharlal Nehru Award (1989) of ICAR for best Ph.D. thesis; KRIBHCO Award for Outstanding Research (1991); Pran Vohra Young Scientist Award (1994-95) of ISCA, Best Worker Award (1995) of CRRI, Cuttack; Hooker Award (1997-98) of IARI; and Dhiru Morarji Memorial Awards of FAI (1990, 1994 and 2002). He was conferred the prestigious Fellowship of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi in 2004. He also received Fellow (2012) and Gold Medal (2016) of Indian Society of Agronomy; and Fellow (2011), Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists. He served as Secretary, Indian Society of Agronomy (2007-08); and Secretary, Indian Society of Weed Science (2013-16).

Dr. Sharma's specialized areas of research are: nutrient management, weed management, and conservation agriculture. He made outstanding research contributions on management of acid lateritic soils, flood-prone lowlands, soil and moisture conservation in rainfed ecosystem, nitrogen economy through legumes, weed management and conservation agriculture in the alluvial soils as well as vertisols in the diverse ecologies throughout the country. His findings suggested that acid infertility of lateritic soils in eastern India can be overcome by organic manuring; productivity of rice in flood-prone lowlands in eastern India can be increased and stabilized through innovative agronomic practices; natural resources of soil, water and nutrients can be conserved through optimizing tillage and mulching in the western Himalayan region; and soil fertility and productivity of cereal dominant cropping system can be sustained through introduction of legumes in the north-western plain zone. Dr. Sharma did pioneering work on conservation agriculture for improving resource-use efficiency in the alluvial soils of north-western India, and was the first to develop and promote these technologies on large scale in the vertisols of central India. He was responsible for adopting CA-based technologies at the research farm of the Directorate of Weed Research, Jabalpur fully and developed it as a model in the NARES. These technologies have the potential to utilize vast areas of rice fallow lands and revolutionize crop production in many regions of the country.