

Dr. A.R. Rao



Born on January 15, 1968, Dr. Atmakuri Ramakrishna Rao obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics from ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1993 and 1997, respectively and MCA from IGNOU while in service. He acquired Post-Doctoral experience in Bioinformatics from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY and University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

Dr. Rao started his research career in 1997 as a Scientist and then served as Senior Scientist and Principal Scientist at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, New Delhi. Recently, he served as Assistant Director General at ICAR HQs (2020-2025) and led the Plan Implementation and Monitoring Section of ICAR, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi. He also served as Professor (Bioinformatics) at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi during 2016-2020.

Dr. Rao has made significant research contributions in agriculture and allied sciences and published more than 160 research papers in national and international journals. His research areas of interest are Computational Biology and Statistical applications in agriculture. More specifically, he worked on AI & Machine Learning applications in domains such as Genomics, Biotechnology, Breeding & Genetics of plants and animals. He has conducted 22 research projects of various funding agencies such as DBT, DST, National Agricultural Science Fund (ICAR), National Agricultural Innovation Project (NAIP) & National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) of ICAR-World Bank funded projects.

Dr. Rao has efficiently translated lab-based research findings to breeders and biotechnologists working in genomics and breeding programmes through development of large number of databases and web application servers. He has got 21 copyrighted software.

As a Faculty and Research Guide, he was involved in teaching Multivariate Analysis, Statistical Methods, Statistical Genetics, Computational Biology, Data Structure and Algorithms, etc., during last 25 years to the post graduate students of IARI in the disciplines of Agricultural Statistics, Bioinformatics, Computer Applications and Genetics.

He was research guide for 07 M.Sc. and 09 Ph.D. students of IARI in Agricultural Statistics and Bioinformatics.

Dr. Rao has imparted trainings in Bioinformatics and Agricultural Statistics to scientific and teaching staff of National Agricultural Research Education System (NARES) as Course Director of summer/winter schools/CAFT programmes.

Dr Rao has been conferred with ICAR-National Award "Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award", Outstanding Teacher of ICAR, Best Teacher Award in Agricultural Higher Education by IARI, Prof. P.V. Sukhatme Gold Medal, Overseas Associateship (Long Term) by DBT. He is Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Society for Applied Biotechnology. He is Senior Editorial Board Member, Scientific Reports, Nature Publishing Group.

Member, Special Task Force on *Theoretical and Computational Biology*, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), MoST, Gol; Member, Work Group, Biosafety Support Unit (BSU), DBT, MoST, Gol; Member, R&D Working Group on Industrial Applications of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY); Member, National Steering Committee (NSC) on "National programme on Electronics and ICT Applications in Agriculture and Environment (AgriEnIcs)", MeitY.

Acted as Inter-Departmental Nodal Officer at ICAR for NITI Aayog, MoF, MoTA, MoSJ&E, MoS&PI, MoWCD, etc and dealt various sub-plans: SC, ST, NEH at ICAR.