

Editorial (April- June, 2026)

Declared by the United Nations, the year 2026 underscores the need for policy reforms, resource mobilisation, and strengthened global cooperation to support women in agriculture. The Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems, held during March 12–14, 2026, in New Delhi, emphasised technology-driven, climate-smart, and gender-responsive agricultural policies.

The Indian Union Budget projects agricultural expenditure at ₹1.5 lakh crore (a 5.4% increase), with a strong emphasis on technological advancement, including initiatives such as *Bharat VISTAAR*. Concurrently, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have escalated fuel and fertiliser prices, threatening 38% of global nitrate-based fertiliser supplies and 20% of phosphate fertilisers. This poses risks for India's agri-food exports—valued at over \$11 billion to the region—particularly tea, tobacco, and dairy fats, while also raising concerns about fertiliser availability for the upcoming monsoon planting season.

The agricultural outlook for 2026 indicates persistently high input costs and subdued demand, likely accelerating the adoption of automation and cost-efficient technologies. Greater emphasis is also expected on regional food security, climate resilience, and biologically based solutions for sustainable pest and soil management.

The Indian Society of Extension Education, New Delhi, organised its National Seminar 2026 in Goa (January 29–31) on “*Digital Technologies for Sustainable Food Systems and Atmanirbhar Bharat*,” bringing together over 350 professionals to deliberate on digital integration in extension systems and scalable livelihood models.

During the quarter, Dr. Gopal Ji Trivedi, a veteran agricultural extensionist, was conferred the Padma Shri Award (2026) for his distinguished contributions to agriculture.

This issue (April–June 2026) features 30 manuscripts, including six research tools, three research notes, and twenty-one full-length papers, with international contributions from Indonesia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Nigeria. The papers cover a wide spectrum of themes, including food security, digital agriculture, social and behavioural dimensions, climate adaptation, agricultural diversification, extension innovations, and farmer-centric institutions such as FPOs.

The journal's Scopus CiteScore (<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100846015>) has improved from 2.1 to 2.2 during the quarter.

On behalf of the editorial board, I extend sincere thanks to all reviewers, contributors, and members of the editorial and executive bodies for their continued support. We also acknowledge the publisher for maintaining timelines. Special appreciation is extended to Dr. U.S. Gautam, Dr. J.R. Mishra, Dr. Keshava, Dr. Basvaprabhu Jirli, and Dr. Bhanu P. Mishra for their valuable guidance.



(Manjeet Singh Nain)