

81ST PLENARY MEETING

MUMBAI, INDIA

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Cotton Value Chain: “Local Innovations for Global Prosperity”



Dr CD Mayee

Dr CD Mayee is a renowned cotton scientist who currently serves as the President of the South Asia Biotechnology Centre (SABC), New Delhi and Indian Society for Cotton Improvement, Mumbai. Born into a farming family in Maharashtra, Dr Mayee obtained his agricultural degrees from Maharashtra and PhD in Plant Pathology from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). He commenced his career in plant pathology research at IARI and worked in various capacities at Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana; the Ford Foundation, Delhi; and Maharashtra Agricultural University (MAU), Parbhani. The research, teaching, and extension experience led him to work as Vice Chancellor-MAU, Parbhani; Director-Central Institute of Cotton Research (ICAR-CICR), Nagpur; and Agriculture Commissioner, Govt. of India, New Delhi; before retiring as the Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB). He was elected as fellow member of several scientific committees and associations including Vice President of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), and also invited as a member of international societies including the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications and African Biosafety Network of Expertise, Africa. During his scientific career, Dr Mayee promoted the production technologies of cotton in rainfed areas. Biotechnology is his passion and he was associated with the first commercial release of Bt cotton in India, from biosafety and bio-efficiency evaluation through its release by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). He has organised the International Cotton Genomic Initiative Conference and the 5th World Cotton Research Congress in Mumbai as Organising Secretary. Dr Mayee has been named the Alexander Humboldt Fellow of Germany and is the recipient of several honours and awards for agriculture development, including the Lifetime Achievement Award and honorary Doctorates of Philosophy from many Universities. Currently, Dr Mayee is a Member of the board of management of many organisations and universities.