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Academic & Professional Profile

Prof. Hulas Pathak is a distinguished academic and accomplished professional, **currently serving as Professor and Head of the Department of Agri-Business & Rural Management,** where he provides academic and strategic leadership in agribusiness education, research, and entrepreneurship development. His work in the ABM domain focuses on agribusiness management, agricultural marketing, value chain development, incubation management, and the promotion of agripreneurship, significantly contributing to industry-oriented academic programs and capacity building initiatives. In addition, **he is also serving as Professor and Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics,** leading teaching, research, and policy-oriented studies in agricultural economics. He has made sustained and impactful contributions to applied agricultural economics, resource and environmental economics, biodiversity conservation, and intellectual property rights in agriculture.

With over **three decades of diverse and impactful experience** spanning academia, agri-economic research, and agribusiness incubation, **Prof. Hulas Pathak** has made significant contributions to the fields of **Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Marketing, Agribusiness Entrepreneurship, Incubation Management, Economics of Biodiversity Conservation, and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in agriculture**. He has successfully **guided and mentored many doctoral and postgraduate students**, including international scholars, across diverse areas of agricultural economics and agribusiness management research. His scholarly output is extensive and well-recognized, comprising **numerous research papers, books, book chapters, manuals, technical bulletins, policy briefs, and scientific as well as extension publications**, published in **reputed national and international scientific journals**. Prof. Pathak has delivered **hundreds of invited lectures, keynote addresses, and expert talks** at academic institutions, policy forums, industry platforms, and capacity-building programs, contributing meaningfully to academic discourse, policy development, and industry practices. His work aligns closely with global priorities related to **sustainable food systems, inclusive agricultural growth, agripreneurship, and innovation-led rural transformation**.

Prof. Pathak actively contributes to academic leadership, governance, and policy advisory roles at both regional and national levels. He serves as a **Council Member and Member of the Board of Studies of reputed academic institutions, including Nagaland University; as Vice President of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA), New Delhi; and as a Visiting Professor and Member of the Board of Studies at the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM),** an institute established under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India. He has also contributed to research- and policy-oriented projects of the **State NITI Aayog, Government of Chhattisgarh.** Through these diverse engagements, he plays a significant role in enhancing research quality, strengthening policy analysis, advancing professional academic networks, and fostering institutional innovation at both regional and national levels.

Since **2019**, Prof. Pathak has been serving as **Head and Principal Investigator–Chief Executive Officer (PI–CEO)** of the **RKVY RAFTAAR Agri-Business Incubator (IGKV R-ABI)**. Under his leadership, the incubator has emerged as **one of India's leading public-sector agribusiness incubation centers**, supporting **more than 350 agribusiness startups**, with **129 startups receiving grant-in-aid support totaling around ₹ 15 crore**. The incubated ventures span **agri-tech, food processing, bio-inputs, rural enterprises, and sustainability-driven innovations**, offering valuable international insights into **publicly funded incubation models, entrepreneurship promotion in developing economies, and innovation systems for agriculture**.

Most notably, in recognition to his contributions to agriculture, education, research and to the startup ecosystem in Chhattisgarh and India, Prof. Pathak was conferred with the following awards:

- **Conferred Visiting Professorship by Denov Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy Denov, Uzbekistan** on 3rd March 2026, in recognition of academic excellence, leadership in higher education, and contributions to international collaboration.
- **Krishi Ratna Chhattisgarh Award,** Raipur, Chhattisgarh (2025)
- **Vibhuti Alankaran Samman,** Raipur, Chhattisgarh (2025)
- **Mentor of the Year Award** by the Young Indian Foundation, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- **Outstanding Professional Award** at the 15th Agriculture Leadership Conclave and Awards, organized by the Agriculture Today Group, New Delhi (2024). **This distinguished honor, presented by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary, in New Delhi**, recognizes his exemplary contributions to fostering agri-economics research, agripreneurship and strengthening the startup ecosystem in the country.

(Hulas Pathak)