



18th ANNUAL CONVOCATION

Friday March 3, 2023

Convocation Address



Shri R. C. Agrawal

**Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education)
of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**



DIKSHANT MANDAP
NEAR UNIVERSITY BHAVAN,
NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
Navsari-396 450 (Gujarat)

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Honourable Governor of Gujarat and the Chancellor Navsari Agricultural University, **Shri Acharya Devvratji**; Guest of Honor, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Cow-Breeding in Government of Gujarat **Shri. Raghavjibhai Hansrajbhai Patelji** , Vice-Chancellor of this University **Dr. Z. P. Patelji**; Registrat **Dr. H.V. Pandyaji**; eminent industrialist who is going to receive honorary doctorate degree in this convocation **Shri Sharadbhai Patel**, Vice-Chancellors of other Agricultural Universities; Members of the Board of Management and Academic Council; Officers, Teachers, Students and Staff members; Representatives of press and media; Ladies and Gentlemen.

I feel extremely honoured and fortunate in delivering convocation speech during the glorious 18th convocation of one of the most vibrant university of Gujarat.

I am particularly happy to be with you on perhaps one of the most memorable days of your lives. My heartiest congratulations to all the graduating students, gold medallists and awardees who have received their degrees and awards on this auspicious occasion. I whole heartedly appreciate the contribution of faculty members of the university in making all the students knowledgeable and skilled to face the challenges of

transforming agriculture. I am confident that the culture of this esteemed university where the national goal are priorities over personal achievement has been well inculcated in all of you to serve the nation through prosperity in agriculture. However, you are moving from the protected environment to challenging environment and will have to often take very difficult decision in the life. The education of this university will guide you to take the smart decision which may be tough and not yield fruit immediately, however, will be valued and proved worthy with the time comes. If you are willing to work hard, diligently and move the extra mile, there relay no horizon is too far to reach.

Today as you leave, yours biggest take away will not be your marks or your degree. They will be the experiences you had, the relationship you built and more than anything else, the things you learnt about yourself. You have learnt as much outside class room as you did in them. You have learnt not only from your professors, but also your peers and other around you. Cherish these bonds and friend are the end product of the combined efforts and contributions of your parents, your teachers from childhood till now, your friends and peers and the many others in your lives. You must acknowledge their contribution and always remember that no person is successful just by himself.

As you embark on this amazing journey through life, keep yourself on the part of continuous growth, keep working, keep learning and keep dreaming. Your

graduation is not end of your learning, but rather the start of a life long journey of continuous learning outside the class room, in the open enrolment programme called the word.

In all of this, I urge you to direct your skills and training towards solving the problems farming community for the upliftment of their socio-economic. Our nation is confronting a wide range of complex challenges and each and every one of us must contribute our bit towards meeting them in as economical, equitable, timely and sustainable manner as possible. The nation is looking to you for agri-innovation that is practically useful and commercially viable for the betterment of farmers.

I congratulate the University for shaping the young mind for the development of the agriculture and allied sector. I also came to know that all the colleges of the University have been accredited by the ICAR, New Delhi. Dear students, you must feel pride that you are completing your degree from a nationally accredited College and University.

Vision of the University and dedication of the faculty members towards nation is reflected by the progress report submitted by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Z. P. Patelji and deserve rich applause. The technologies developed by the university are percolating in the villages and farmers are getting advantages of these to sustain their agriculture. The Vice Chancellor's Conference organized by the University has been praised by everyone who attended it. It has loudly showcased the team work and

commitment of all the staff members of the University. Indeed, if the team is trained and committed, nothing is impossible for it. Bidirectional dialog by the Vice Chancellor of the University with its employees as “AAP KE MAAN KI BAAT KULPATI KE SAATH” indicates how keenly he is dedicated for the development of the University and I personally congratulate him for perceiving the idea and executing it successfully.

Dear students and faculty members, we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrut Mahostava. We need to work on translation of freedom fighters ideology pertaining to economic & social development based on village as a self-sufficient unit by taking necessary steps for implementing their thought, ideas & plans for advancement of rural India & treat this aspect as one of the principle missions of all of us.

This year we are celebrating International Year of Millets-23. The Government of India sponsored proposal for celebration was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly. Millets are nutritionally superior to wheat and rice owing to their higher protein levels and a more balanced amino acid profile. Millets also contain various phytochemicals which exert therapeutic properties owing to their anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidative properties. I am happy to learn that NAU, Navsari is actively participating in the celebration and efforts made the joint efforts of all the participating departments will help us in alleviating malnutrition in the nation.

India is hosting G20 Summit of the members representing around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. This indicates our strength and efforts to transform the India from the developing nation to developed nation.

Dear students, you were born in the developing India, but I am sure, soon you will live in the developed India. For the same, you also have to contribute sincerely and significantly.

Gujarat has been pioneer in the soil health card, which was the dream project of our **Hon Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**. The idea was conceived, planned and executed in Gujarat by him when he was Chief Minister of this state. After becoming Prime Minister, the same has been expanded in the entire country. So far more than 15 crore soil health cards have been distributed in the country. This has benefitted the farmers greatly as it has not only checked the injudicious use of chemical fertilizers by selecting proper fertilizers but also has contributed significantly in the enhancing farm income.

Dear students and faculty members, as you now the Global Warming is one of the serious issues. IPCC emissions scenario indicates that atmospheric carbon dioxide will reach 550 ppm by 2050, and this change along with increases in other “greenhouse” gases seems likely to create further perturbations in global weather patterns. By virtue of this, the climates of coming days will have warmer days and nights, fewer cold days, more

frequent hot days and nights, while it is likely that there will be larger areas affected by droughts. Current climate models suggest that annual rainfall will decline and annual mean surface temperatures will rise by 1-2°C. It will pose serious threat to the crop production and our dream to make the Green Revolution – into the Evergreen Revolution need more visionary dedication of scientific staff members.

For the same we need to work seriously on the enhancement of Input Use Efficiency so that the quantum of green house gas accumulation in the atmosphere is decreased. A small decision can make big difference. The central government has replaced simple urea with the cent percent neem coated urea. They have also launched nanourea, which is safe to the environment, indigenous and easy to handle and use. This has not only checked the use of subsidized urea in non agricultural use but also has increased the efficiency of urea and decreased the requirement of urea in the agriculture.

Another major contributor of green house gas especially Carbon Dioxide is C3 plants which need to be converted in to C4 plants. In addition to faster photosynthesis, C4 plants demand less water and less nitrogen. Overall, aim should be to introduce the characteristics of C4 into C3 crops. This would increase yield, reduce land area needed for cultivation, decrease irrigation, and limit fertiliser applications.

The water use efficiency also needs to be focused. Already we have drip and sprinkler irrigation system,

however, inspite of the technology, it has not reached to the end users and need to work in the direction. Gujarat again is pioneer in this and the slogan “Per Drop More Crop” need to be further expanded till it reaches to all the farmers.

There is the need to involve the under-employed adults in rural households in low-skilled non-crop activities that integrate output from these activities into the existing or future markets. Central to this approach is creating a market-place that supports a rural enterprise which is partly agricultural and partly non-agricultural.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendrabhai Modi** has always emphasized on marketing our education more practical, rather he advocates 'lab to land'. Accordingly New Education Policy-2020 was implemented. In continuation of the same, ICAR has given a face-lift to the syllabus and designing syllabus in a way that can be applicable to the end-users, whether they are farmers or industries or young students.

Education Portal-ICAR has been designed and developed under the Digital India programme of the Prime Minister of India and for the first time all the agricultural Universities have come on a single platform to disseminate the information for the benefits of the students and farming community. It will act as a single window platform for providing vital education information/announcements/ event schedules/e-learning resources from Agricultural Universities across the country to the rural youth in an easy and fast way on their doorsteps.

Dear students, now it your term to take the agriculture for the new height. You need to pay a critical role in the development of a rapidly developing India so that all can have happy and prosperous life.

Once again I congratulate and bless the students passing out today and expect that the knowledge acquired in the University will act as a path finder in the competitive and challenging world for the progress and prospective of the nation. Once again greetings and thanks to one and all present in the auditorium.

I record my heartfelt thanks to the authorities to this esteemed University for inviting me to the convention function.

Jai hind



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