

15TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION



19th DECEMBER, 2019, THURSDAY

Convocation Address



Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Kumar

Vice Chancellor,

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi (U.P.)



NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

: Venue :

DIKSHANT MANDAP

UNIVERSITY GROUND, NAU CAMPUS
NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Navsari-396 450 (Gujarat)

Convocation Address

Prof. (Dr.) Arvind Kumar

Vice Chancellor,

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University,
Jhansi during the Fifteenth Convocation
of Navsari Agricultural University held on
December 19, 2019

Honourable Governor of Gujarat and the Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, **Shri Acharya Devvratji**; Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development & Transport, **Shri R. C. Falduji**; Vice-Chancellor of this University **Dr. C.J. Dangariaji**; Registrar **Dr. V.A. Solankiji**; 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.

At the outset I express deep sense of gratitude towards the Vice-Chancellor of this University **Dr. C.J. Dangariaji** for inviting me and giving me an opportunity to deliver convocation speech during the glorious 15th convocation of one of the most vibrant university of Gujarat which fetched fourteenth position in the country among the different national institutes and state agricultural and veterinary universities as ranked by national accreditation body, ICAR, New Delhi and four star Institute in the category of Universities on the basis of comprehensive performance metrics as set out in the Gujarat State Institutional Ratings Framework (GSIRF) in 2019.

Dear students, this convocation is a significant milestone in your academic growth. The degrees and awards earned by all of you are a result of your relentless hard-work and immense dedication. I

wish to congratulate all pass out students, gold medalists 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 future agriculture.

I am confident that when you are moving from the protected environment of the learning in university to unprotected environment, learning of this university, will guide you to take the correct and smart decision. Your thrust for higher learning, which began in the portals of the college should remain continue throughout your professional life. Learning is a never ending process and the firm foundation provided to you by this university will empower you to explore new horizons.

Indian agriculture is ever transforming culture and always need much attention. The Government of India under the dynamic leadership of **Shri Narendra Modi**ji has set a target of doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. For the same Inter-Ministerial Committee has been setup which identified seven sources of income growth viz., improvement in crop productivity; improvement in livestock productivity; resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; increase in the cropping intensity; diversification towards high value crops; improvement in real prices received by farmers; and shift from farm to non-farm occupations.

Making progress on this “multiple tasks” is not impossible, if we dedicatedly and cumulatively make attempts.

Dear friends, presently we are celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of our father of nation Mahatma Gandhi. We need to work on translation of Gandhiji's ideology pertaining to economic & social development. Gandhian concept of rural development is that progress of the country lies in the development of its rural

youth. Realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development of the country, ICAR has initiated a programme on “Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture” (ARYA). The youth can be attracted to and retained in farming only if it becomes economically rewarding and intellectually satisfying. Financial supports to the farmers and youth remained as a major limiting factor for the initiating and implementing new ideology. PM KISAN scheme i.e. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, announced in the union budget of 2019, came as a great relief for all the categories of farmers. Under this PM KISAN initiative, 120 million small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares (4.9 acres) of landholding will get up to Rs 6,000 per year from the government as minimum income support. In the previous budget, the government had announced the extension of the Kisan Credit Card scheme (KCC) to Animal Husbandry and Fisheries farmers too. And from February 2019, the limit of collateral free agri loans was extended from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.6 lakh. Unfortunately, if the crop fails and farmers does not get any reward from the farm, attempts have been to ensure holistic risk management strategies for farmers under the auspice of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was launched which provides insurance at extremely nominal rates. This also covers risks even in cases of hailstorm in post-harvest losses, besides unseasonal and cyclonic rainfall.

These very attractive schemes will enhance the risk bearing capacity, experimentation by the farmers, eventually, adaption of newer agricultural technologies rapidly.

Accordingly we also need to keep ourselves well abreast with the recent development. Those who are in the field of development need to reorganize their efforts so that they can timely provide the required technologies after thoroughly testing their performance at various stages. Indiscriminate use of inputs without accounting for the adverse impacts on soil, water quantity & quality and

environment in recent years have led to several serious problems related to agriculture and environment.

Dear scientists and students, we need to enhance the efficiency of various inputs in the agriculture so that the cost of production is reduced and the income of the farmer is enhanced. Water is the most critical input in agriculture. Irrigation of agricultural crops comprises 70% of global water use. Water itself is not a serious problem for the agriculture, however, the distribution and improper handling of water has made it a scarce commodity. When rain comes, we don't have preparedness for their harvesting and recharging available source and huge amount of water goes and mixed in the soil rendering it unfit for any of the purpose. There is some area where the crop is lost due to excess water, at the same time in many area the soil is thirsty. NAU, has developed technologies for the drainage of excess water from the farm, water harvesting as well as of growing crop by using minimum water through subsurface irrigation.

The concept of “Per Drop More Crop” the brain child of Gujarat Government, now has become slogan of entire farming community of the nation. It is indeed role model and need to take with more enthusiasm till it is not used for its maximum level. Rigorous planning, developing, distributing and managing of each drop of the water can indeed can independently revolutionize the agriculture as a whole. To this effect ***Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)*** has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation '*Har Khet ko pani*' in a focused manner with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities. Seed is another important input and if is not selected properly, all other input will have no value. NAU, Navsari has developed more than 70 high yielding value added varieties of different crops and facilitating the seed replacement by the concept

of seed village. A linear growth in the seed replacement rate has been observed in the after implementation of the project by the different agricultural university of the Gujarat which need to be replicated.

Besides, leaps in genetic enhancement, innovations in precision agriculture, natural resource management, climate smart agriculture, mechanization, micro-irrigation, ICT, digital technology, farmer-market linkage, value chain and post-harvest management, renewable energy, price realization, and, of course, farmers net income are issues which need to be given more emphasis.

Gujarat economy has been well recognised as growth engine of India with its strong economic fundamentals. With only 4.99 per cent population share, Gujarat accounts for 7.6 per cent share to National GDP. The State agriculture has witnessed a shift towards high value crops like cotton, groundnut, fruits and vegetables and condiments and spices from low value cereals and other crops.

I am pleased to see that this Navsari Agricultural University, has contributed tremendously in the recognizing the agriculture sector at the national level.

KVK, Tapi, Small Millet Research Station, Waghai, Main Sugercane Research Station, Navsari, Tuber Crop Research Centre, Navsari has received the best performance award from the various nationally reputed organizations in their respective field during the last year. Not only these, Outstanding leadership in Agriculture Award 2018 was also conferred to the University. I wish to congratulate all the concerned scientists and staff members and hope that they will continue their sincere efforts to bring more laurels in their credit. Other staff members will also encouraged from these and will try to contribute sincerely for the development of agriculture and nation as a whole.

Our Hon'ble Prime minister **Shri Narendrabhai Modi ji** has always emphasized on marketing our education more practical, rather he advocates 'lab to land'. For that, ICAR has given a face-lift to the syllabus and art syllabus in a way that can be applicable to the end-users, whether they are farmers or industries or young students.

Under the flagship of Digital India programme of the Prime Minister of India, all the Agricultural Universities including the central 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, the time is not far where the situation of market will drive choice crop grown in the particular area and it will have direct impact on getting better return of their product. Therefore, proper information of the market and their linking is very essential. The central government has already initiated the linking of village market across the country under scheme like e-NAM. In addition to this, efforts are being made to link more than 22000 villages and wholesale markets with the global market. The government is also emphasizing on and encouraging the farm producer organizations (FPO). The farmers can very easily link their village market with big market by own by forming their small association.

Dear students, now it is your turn 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. The higher educational scenario in present times is influenced by forces of Globalization, emergences of new areas of specialization such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and World Trade Organization (WTO) and General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) related areas, cutting edge new beneficial

technologies like biotechnology, nanotechnology, precision agriculture, crop scouting, decision support System (DSS), Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in Agriculture etc. Agricultural graduates on completion of their studies must possess knowledge about all such new techniques. They must be able to handle the new challenges posed by globalized environment. The most important thing is that agricultural education should address the requirement of major stake holder i.e. Indian farmer.

In order to meet the future challenges in agriculture, there is need to improve the quality of Higher Agricultural Education. Although, the ICAR has recently revised undergraduate as per V Dean Committee and post graduate curricula is being revised for various disciplines in Agricultural and Allied sciences, needed infrastructure with higher investments in terms of trained teachers and well equipped laboratories are required. Adequate facilities for imparting practical education through experiential learning are necessary as per the recommendations made by the V Dean Committee. Most of the graduates coming out from Agricultural Universities are being employed by private sectors in a big way. However, meaningful interaction with the industrial sectors, many a times, indicate the need for introspection by faculty and University management to improve the quality of education, where development of skill occupy the center stage to come up to the expectations of the employers.

Guru Rabindranath Tagore has said that, “The higher education is that which does not merely give us information but make our life in Harmony with all existence”. Education is a purposeful activity. 'Rigveda' also says that, “Education is something, which makes a man self-reliant and self-less”. The perfection is the hallmark of the science,. Dear students, just remember that education is a lifetime process and graduation is a milestone in the journey of learning. As per, *Manusmriti* the pupil

obtains one quarter of his learning from the teachers, another quarter from his own intelligence, the third quarter from association with fellow colleagues, and the remaining quarter in course of time. Instead of learning to earn, you must try to earn for learning. I am sure that you will continue your quest for learning during your lifetime.

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. I pray that your continuing commitment to the cause of agriculture will be an inspiration and a matter of pride to the future generations.

I record my heartfelt thanks to the authorities to this esteemed University for inviting me to the convention function and also thanks one and all present here.

Jai hind !



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