

Vice Chancellor's Report

34th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri

Dr. K. P. Viswanatha

Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri

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MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH

Rahuri - 413 722, Dist. Ahmednagar, Maharashtra (India)

34th CONVOCATION OF MPKV, RAHURI VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

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Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Respected Chancellor of the University who is presiding over this 34th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri **Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshiyariji.**

Distinguished Chief Guest **Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member of NITI Aayog** and a renowned Indian agricultural economist and a policy maker of repute in the Government of India who will deliver convocation address today.

Hon'ble Members of Executive Council, Members of Academic Council; Present and Former Vice Chancellors of the Agril. Universities of Maharashtra, learned faculty, teaching and non teaching staff members of the University; progressive farmers; students; graduates taking degrees today; proud parents; representatives of the press and media, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my proud privilege to extend a very warm welcome to all of you on this auspicious occasion of 34th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri – a pioneer Agriculture University of Maharashtra, established in 1968 as the Maharashtra Agricultural University, which was renamed as the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth in 1969 after the Great Social Reformer of the country “Mahatma Jyotiba Phule” and celebrated Golden Jubilee Year during 2018-19.

I deem it as a proud privilege and great honor to extend a hearty and cordial welcome to our Chancellor and distinguished Chief Guest for the 34th convocation of this University.

Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshyari ji, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, born on 17th June, 1942 to Gopal Singh Koshyari and Motima Devi at Palanadhura Chetabgarh, Bageshwar District, Uttarakhand.

Shri. Koshyari holds a master's degree in English and studied at Almora College, was also a general secretary of the students' union between 1961-62. He has also represented the Executive Council of Kumaon University, during 1979-82, 1982-85 and 1988-91.

He had a successful career as a teacher and journalist. Shri. Koshyari is a founder and managing editor of Parvat Piyush, a weekly published from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand since 1975. He has also published two books, *Uttaranchal Pradesh Kyun?* and *Uttaranchal Sangharsh Evam Samadhan*.

Shri. Koshyari served as National Vice President of BJP and party's 1st State president for Uttarakhand. He also served as 2nd Chief Minister of Uttarakhand (formerly Uttaranchal) from 2001 to 2002 and thereafter, he was the leader of the opposition in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly from 2002 to 2003. He served as MP in Rajya Sabha from 2008 to 2014 from Uttarakhand and then MP in the 16th Lok Sabha from Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar constituency, earning him the distinction of being elected in both houses of State Legislature and both houses of National Parliament, respectively.

On behalf of members of Executive council, Academic council, staff and students of MPKV, I heartily welcome you Sir.

I am extremely happy to welcome our Chief Guest **Prof. Ramesh Chand, Hon'ble Member of NITI Aayog and Fifteenth Finance Commission of India, New Delhi**. He is a

renowned Indian agricultural economist and a policy maker of repute.

He has a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. He is Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Indian Society of Agricultural Economics. Prof. Chand has over three decades of experience in research and teaching in the field of agricultural economics and policy. He has been involved in policy formulation for agriculture sector for the last two decades. Prior to joining NITI Aayog, he was Director of National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi.

In addition, Prof. Ramesh Chand is also Member of :

- Board of Trustees (BOT) of CIMMYT (International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center), Mexico.
- The Policy Advisory Council (PAC) of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Canberra, Australia

In the past, Prof. Ramesh Chand has worked in senior academic positions as ICAR National Professor; Professor and Head, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi University; and Professor at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Prof. Chand has been Visiting Professor at University of Wollongong, NSW, Australia and at Institute of Developing Economies, Chiba Shi, Japan. He has also been Consultant with international organizations such as FAO, UNDP, ESCAP, UNCTAD, Commonwealth and World Bank.

Prof. Chand has chaired important committees on Food and Agricultural Policy set up by various Ministries of Government of India. He has served as India's nodal officer for agriculture for SAARC for 7 years and represented India in meetings of G20, UNESCAP.

Prof. Chand has authored seven books and published more than 150 research papers in reputed national and international journals in the areas of agriculture – production, growth, development policy, farmers' issues, markets and trade.

Prof. Chand has been presented Jawaharlal Nehru Award (1984) and Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Award (2006) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. He was President of the 2016 Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics held at Mumbai, India. He was President of the Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA) held at NDRI, Karnal, India. He is the President-elect of the Indian Economic Association, 2019.

I welcome you Sir, on behalf of members of Executive Council, Academic Council, MPKV staff, students and all our graduates and on my personal behalf.

I welcome all the Executive Council and Academic Council members, present and Former Vice Chancellors, faculty, teaching and non teaching staff, graduates and their parents, friends from press and media for this convocation.

Friends, today I feel great honor to represent Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri which is the leading Agricultural University in education, research and extension at state and national levels which was recognized by Sardar Patel outstanding ICAR Institution Award in 2002 and Institute of Excellence award in 2007-08 and pleased to present before you the salient accomplishments of this University.

EDUCATION

MPKV offers various educational programmes viz., Bachelors degree programme in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Food Technology, Agri Business Management, Biotechnology, Animal Husbandry, Diploma in Agriculture Technology and Polytechnics and Masters degree programme in 21 disciplines of Agriculture and 04 disciplines of Agriculture Engineering and Doctoral degree programme in 18 disciplines of Agriculture and 04 disciplines of Agriculture Engineering.

University has nine Under Graduate Constituent Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 844 students and 63 affiliated unaided Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 4730 students. Similarly, we have intake capacity of 372 for Master and 84 for Doctoral programmes every year. Since inception, University has awarded degrees to 1,10,302 candidates.

During the academic year 2019-20, 4 international students have been admitted in the University for Under graduate and Post graduate degree programmes.

University has International Collaborative Programmes with Van Hall Larenstein University, Netherland for B.Sc. (Agri.) 3+1, B.Sc. (AH) 2+2 and BBA (Agri.) 2+2 courses, Experiential Learning Programme in Agri. Business Management and Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok for the Unified 4+1 UG-PG Agribusiness Management, Experiential Learning Programme in Horticulture.

University has developed National Linkages with Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Jalgaon, Mahindra and Mahindra Tractors, Mumbai, Indian Institute of Soil Science (IISS), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra State *Draksh*

Bagaitdar Sangh, Pune, Maharashtra Rajya Marathi Vishwakosh Nirmiti Mandal, Mumbai, National Research Center on Camel, Bikaner, Rajasthan, Bayer CropScience Limited, Pune, Finolex Industries Ltd., Pune and Prime Datamatics LLP (PRIME), Pune for education.

Golden Jubilee Celebration was organized on 25th, 26th and 27th March, 2019 at College of Agriculture, Dhule, Pune and Kolhapur, respectively. University Foundation Day and Golden Jubilee Celebration of the University was organized on 29th March, 2019 at Central Campus, MPKV, Rahuri. Dr. A. K. Mishra, Hon. Chairman, Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board, New Delhi was the Chief Guest for the function. The university publication Souvenir on “50 Years Journey of MPKV” was released at the auspicious hands of dignitaries. On this occasion, all former Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors, Associate Deans, Head of Departments, Professors and Scientists were felicitated for their contribution in over all development of the University. ICAR Best Teacher Awards were bestowed to six teachers.

Other activities viz., Republic day, Mahatma Phule Jayanti, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti, Maharashtra Din and International Labour Day, Independence Day and Teacher’s Day were celebrated. Fifth International Yoga Day was organized at central campus and constituent colleges under the ambit of University. Massive Tree Plantation programme was conducted on 1st July as *Krishidin* at all constituent colleges under the jurisdiction of University.

MBA (Agri.) programme at College of Agriculture, Pune and Agricultural Technical School, Solapur achieved ISO: 9001: 2015 Certification for its Quality Management System for the period of three years (2019 to 2022).

The component of Student READY has been included in the UG syllabus for developing skill and confidence in the graduates. An utmost effort has been made to improve and maintain high technology standards in education. CET has been started from the academic year 2018-19 for admission to Under Graduate Programme.

Government of Maharashtra declared undergraduate courses B. Sc. (Hons) (Agriculture), B. Sc. (Hons) (Horticulture), B. Tech. (Agril. Engg.), B. Tech. (Food Technology), B. Tech. (Biotechnology) as professional courses.

The Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) of the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), ICAR, New Delhi has sanctioned CAAST sub-project entitled "Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management" under the NAHEP amounting to Rs. 19.90 crores for the period of four years starting 2017-18 and ending 2020-21. Post Doctoral programme and Post Graduate Diploma in Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management is going to start under this project.

Students of this University have achieved good success at the national level exams. Twenty four students have achieved success in SRF, 31 in JRF, 56 in NET and 4 in GATE exams during the year 2018-19.

The students excelled in various sports competition viz., Inter Agricultural University Sports Meet (Agri Unisport), Gold Medal for Kho-Kho team (Women), Silver Medal for Kabaddi team (Men) and Table Tennis Women team secured Bronze Medal. MPKV Team has secured two prizes in State Level *Avishkar*-2018-19 held at Gondwana University, Gadchiroli.

University students are involved in Hon. Prime Ministers mission of Doubling the Farmers Income by 2022. The baseline survey of parents of our agril. students is under way. *SWACHHA BHARAT ABHIYAN* is being taken at various constituent and affiliated colleges under the jurisdiction of University with core objective to keep campus clean with healthy atmosphere.

University has submitted proposals to both ICAR and State Government for establishment of Incubation Centres for skill development and to encourage for start-ups for the students as agri – entrepreneurs.

RESEARCH

For conducting the research on crop improvement, soil, climate, cropping system, livestock and other aspects of farming business, the university has a network of research stations spread in different agro climatic zones. In all, there are 27 research stations excluding Central Campus spread in 5 agro climatic zones. There are four Zonal Agricultural Research Stations located in 4 Agro Climatic Zones and 18 sub-Research Stations for verification of research work and to take up the research programmes. In addition to this, the State level Crop Specialists are placed for Oilseeds at Jalgaon, Sugarcane at Padegaon, Wheat at Niphad and Soil Scientists at Solapur. At present, MPKV have 82 non-plan schemes funded by State Govt., 44 AICRPs on different crops and plant sciences and one centrally Sponsored Research Scheme.

Since inception, this university has developed and released 263 varieties, 36 farm implements & machineries and 1518 recommendations for the benefit of farmers. Among these, some varieties particularly in Pomegranate, Guava, Sweet Orange, Acid limes, Onion, Brinjal and Cucurbitaceous vegetables, Flowers, Sugarcane, Sorghum, Gram, Rice,

Groundnut, Soybean and Safflower are widely adopted by the farmers at state and national level and became a landmark in the Indian Agriculture.

The adoption of these varieties by the famers made huge impact on their livelihood and enhanced their economical and social status. It was estimated that the overall impact of Rs. 94,839 crores from 8 crops viz., Sugarcane, Pomegranate, Chickpea, Rabi Sorghum, Onion, Paddy, Acid Lime, Pearl Millet was observed for the last 38 years. I am happy to say that Hon. Finance Minister of Maharashtra has declared Rs. 151 crores as an additional grant to our university as against our demand of Rs.101 crores during *Magova* – 2018.

During this year, we have released 6 crop varieties which are *Phule Chetana* of Cotton, *Phule Vikrant* of Chickpea, *Phule Pride* of Banana which is dwarf, *Phule Vijaya* of Papaya and *Phule Jayshree* of Cherry tomato and VSI sugarcane variety VSI 12121.

Research on new crops viz., Bamboo, Dragon fruit, Spineless Cactus for fodder, Quinoa, Litchi and Date palm have been initiated in the University.

Further, I am glad to mention here that this University has prepared and submitted the action plan report for Doubling Farmers Income by 2022 by prioritizing its research and extension activities on biotic and abiotic stress management, precision farming, processing and mechanical harvesting, bio-pesticides and fertilizers, nutritional and quality parameters. Also the university has revised the district wise crop contingency plan.

EXTENSION EDUCATION

Agricultural extension plays a crucial role in boosting agricultural productivity, increasing food security, improving rural livelihoods and promoting agriculture as an engine of pro-poor economic growth. The university extension education activities includes capacity development of all stakeholders including farmers in different agro-eco situations, assessment and refinement of the latest agricultural technologies through on farm trials for location specific applications, demonstration of the improved technology on the farmer's fields, showcasing the advantages and benefits of improved technology.

The Directorate of Extension Education performs various extension activities through its various units *viz.*, Agricultural Technology Information Centre (01), Regional Extension Centres (04), District Extension Centres (05), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (18) and College Extension Blocks performs this pivotal activity by organizing on campus and off campus extension programmes *viz.*, Training programmes, FLDs, Farmers Rallies, Field Visits, Diagnostic Team Visits, On Farm Trials, Exhibitions, Field days etc. for transfer of technologies and getting feed back.

Besides, the University is making efforts for generating self employment opportunities for farmers, farm women and farm youth through capacity building programmes. For this purpose 17 Krishi Vigyan Kendras of university jurisdiction are engaged in organizing training programmes for self employment on various aspects like Organic Farming, nursery management, seed production, vegetable cultivation, Hi-tech floriculture, poultry, drip and sprinkler irrigation, soil and water testing, vermicompost, mushroom production, turmeric processing and post harvest technology.

The Research-Extension linkage between the University and various line departments is implemented through Joint Agresco, Zonal Agricultural Research and Extension Advisory Committee (ZAREAC), Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), Monthly District Workshops, Training Programmes and Diagnostic Team Visits etc.

Further, the university is addressing the priority issue in agriculture viz., Fall Army Worm in Maize, Pink Bollworm in Cotton, White Grub in Sugarcane and given talukawise scientists in all 112 talukas under university jurisdiction for implementation of massive campaigns for the same.

A massive tree plantation programme *Vanmohotsav* - 2019 and *Krishidin* was organized on July 8, 2019 at MPKV, Rahuri. On this occasion saplings of different species were planted in the College of Agriculture, Pune, Dhule, Nandurbar, Muktainagar and Kolhapur; and all affiliated Colleges and Agricultural Technical Schools along with the Agricultural Research Stations and Central Campus, Rahuri.

Kisan Aadhar Sammelan-2019 was organized at the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri during October 25-26, 2019 in collaboration with Department of Agriculture for showcasing our university technologies. The event comprised of live crop demonstrations on 100 acre of 56 different crops and 145 varieties. Similarly, *Shetkari Melava* was organized in Pune, Dhule and Jalgaon campuses also.

I congratulate all the graduates who are taking their degrees both in person and in absentia and the winners of the various medals, prizes and awards at this convocation. Remember the words of John Kennedy who said that a society, that cannot help many who are poor, cannot save the few who are rich. Your betterment lies in the betterment of

the entire society. Therefore, please contribute to bring smile to the poorer sections of the society around you, especially farming community.

I wish you take the pledge to serve the farmers of this country directly or indirectly in whatever field you choose. I appeal each one of you to take part in the countries agricultural development and farmers welfare. Wherever you go remember your alma mater and contribute for its growth and development.

Before I end, I wish all of you a bright future in your further educational and professional career.

Thank you one and all.

Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan