

Convocation Address

35th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri



Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore

Vice Chancellor

Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology
Udaipur, Rajasthan

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MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH

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

CONVOCATION ADDRESS

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Hon'ble Governor, Maharashtra state and Chancellor, MPKV Rahuri Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshyari jee, Shri Dadajee Bhuse, Hon'ble Pro Chancellor and Minister Agriculture and Ex Serviceman Welfare, Govt. of Maharashtra, Shri. Sharadjee Pawar, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri. Nitinjee Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India, Dr P.G. Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, MPKV Rahuri, Registrar, Dean and Directors, Members of Executive Council and Academic Council, Faculty members, officials and staff of the MPKV Rahuri, distinguished guests, representatives of press and media, dear students, ladies and gentlemen.

I feel honored to be amongst this august gathering for the 35th Convocation of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri and to share some of my views and thoughts about Indian Agriculture Education. At the very outset, I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations to the students on being conferred which richly deserved degrees and awards for their academic accomplishments. I was told that today total 11468 students of Agriculture and allied science will be awarded degrees.

I also congratulate the faculty members who gave their best to impart quality education, knowledge, skills and human values to the students. It is a matter of pleasure to see new initiatives made by the MPKV Rahuri for excellence in higher education, research and outreach education programs in the field of agriculture and allied sciences, for which Dr P.G. Patil, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University and all authorities deserve appreciation.

Education is not only responsible for creating awareness in the mindset of different stakeholders but also awakening policy makers for broadening scope of work and bridging the gap between demand and supply. Education is also meant for documentation of different basics, fundamentals, theory and practices of subject matter and disseminating it properly among all stakeholders. It provides a set of cyclopedia for extension or technology outreach and capacity building and appropriate training.

Education is meant for energizing all masses with full set of empowerment so that they will enable students to generate their livelihood. For academic institutions first step is to reform for quality assurance and simultaneously perform different activities for overall transformation of system to new heights.

In present context, Education is needed for

- Quality assurance as per standard and guidelines and to meet stake holder's expectations.

- Concentrate on employability, market demands, industrial needs, entrepreneurship and for meeting global competitiveness.
- Develop Programs for meeting new challenges of climate change, increased productivity and profitability with lesser inputs by increasing the efficiency of input use, Processing and value addition, quality of produce to meet international standards
- Strong Industry-Institute Partnership for global competitiveness.
- Attracting talented students, Competent Faculty and state of the art infrastructure.
- Quality Human Resource Development
- Maintaining global standards and enhancing competitiveness.
- Student READY Program (Experiential Learning, Hands-on training, Inplant training and Industrial attachment and Rural Agriculture Work Experience).
- Stressing more on four components of Education ie. Class room instructions, Laboratory instructions, Experiential learning and Leadership development.
- Improving quality of teaching- learning with digital technologies and Technology enabled learning system (Reform, refine and fine-tune of course etc).

The word TREE in present context of Agriculture education refers as teaching, research, extension (technology outreach) and entrepreneurship development. Which means teaching for human resources

development, research including basic research for knowledge development and applied research for development of technology, devices and system etc, extension or technology outreach education for technology transfer and finally entrepreneurship development at students ends. All these four pillars are there in most of state agriculture universities. System of capacity development, training, certification, testing, consultancy & technology outreach are existing in universities but in light of new NEP-2020, we need to see the changes for enhancing the productivity & profitability in the different sector from the perspectives of present education system.

For Teachers, it is their positive attitudes and passion for work and bringing perfection in teaching methodology so that timely action with trouble free approach in teaching learning system with full transparency shall be maintained.

Promoting Digital learning in teaching and assessment procedure should be given priority. Practical aspects of education in value chain should be integrated in the vocational courses. New areas like artificial intelligence, block chain technology, smart city should be thought of in designing of new curriculum at different levels in education system.

SWAYAM "Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds" is an Indian Massive open online

course has been launched & integration of technology in education has to go in big for development. We should emphasize on learn to click, how, when & where for knowledge, information & innovations to make each University a global University. Already MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) and PROCool (Promoting Cooperative Learning System) Learning (any time, any one and any where concept) are available in agriculture education field.

For quality assurance, university should move for national and international ranking. Internationalization of education through call for international community for coming in India and stressing more on unique courses like Community science, AI, REE, DS, Block chain technology and Food Nutrients & Dietetics etc. Motivating, attracting and retaining foreign students in some of unique courses should be priority in order to initiate internationalization of our education. Internationalization describes designing our courses in a way that it may be readily consumed across multiple countries. This process should be strengthened by our universities looking to expand their global footprint beyond their own domestic sectors and understanding stakeholders abroad, which may have different requirement and prospectus.

Promoting higher quality research is need of hour for higher education institutes. Establishment of a National Research Foundation to fund outstanding peer-

reviewed research and to actively seed research in universities and colleges is also priority of New Education Policy.

Research in Universities will have to focus on research on a formula known as FAITH i.e. (1) Frontier areas of research (2) Greater Academic- industry linkages (3) Innovation by setting up start-up Incubation centers (4) Technology development centers and (5) Humanities and Social Sciences Interdisciplinary research.

Emphasis should be given on research and its social relevance on local problems. For this, dual programs should be taken up with foreign institutes. Respond, Reset and Rebound concept for converting research output into business outcome should be our priority.

Academia-industry interaction in our education system is very weak & therefore now through new education policy, there is a need of greater emphasis on industry based vocational & specialized courses like in USA and Canada. Hub for industrial R & D with corporate engaging academia on a collaborative relationship model rather than on a transactional model should be emphasized.

The design of present agriculture education will shift towards developing professionals with the ability to understand and use local knowledge, traditional

knowledge, and emerging technologies while being cognizant of critical issues such as declining land productivity, climate change, food sufficiency for our growing population, GDP enhancement etc. All courses should be designed to incorporate Traditional knowledge, Present technologies, Increasing talent and Federating students into trading or business.

At UG level, some interdisciplinary courses like Communication Skills and Personality Development, Comprehension & Communication Skills in English, Human Values & Ethics, Environmental Studies and Disaster Management etc. are being taught. Institutions offering education must benefit the local community directly; one approach could be to set up Technology Parks to promote technology incubation and dissemination and promote sustainable methodologies.

The five-point arrangement viz., Accessibility, Equity, Affordability, Quality and Accountability will have to be followed in the present education system.

Multiple exit and entry system i.e. Ist Certificate, IInd year Diploma, IIIrd year Degree and IVth year Degree plus research proficiency. Multiple exit system will create many job opportunities for students. Present society has a need of multi-skilling and good entrepreneurship skills. The slogan of study should be “Job provider not the job seeker” and it should be made practical.

Entrepreneurs are the new freedom fighters in India in present context. Only they can free the country from joblessness and social stigmas and can bring right stage of livelihood in the society. Therefore, fostering innovation and creativity in our higher educational institutes needs to be driven with the same missionary zeal as elimination of poverty or illiteracy in the society.

In order to articulate sense of entrepreneurship, it is expected that students should be exposed with proper blending of knowledge, skill, ability and experience. Knowledge includes basic, fundamental, theory and practices and essentially meant to impart what to do, where as Skill means how to do after acquiring self confidence, proper knowledge, having sense of innovation and creativity, with learning aptitudes and with full of leadership qualities. Similarly ability means how to simplify operations and mould up in existing conditions, and sharing Experience means how to minimize losses and increase efficiency. Sharing Experiences is a Stepping Stone to extend Learning in the Workplace. A powerful learning strategy that creates an environment of learning is through sharing experiences.

For becoming good entrepreneur candidates must have proper attitudes, boldness to face problems, commitment for doing something extra and full dedication for achieving desired goals.

For starting entrepreneurship a general RSTU rule is essential to understand, which include proper blending of understanding of Raw material, Skill, Trading and Utilities etc. Understanding raw material means when to purchase, how much to purchase, quality of raw material and their means of procurement and storage and at what price it should be purchased ? Similarly skilling means how to do and trading means identifying new avenues for marketing i.e. new opportunities in marketing and its penetration and simultaneously its development.

For getting success in entrepreneurship, start loving with your work, increase your quality, document your achievement, learn from your failure, identity a good mentor for your growth, hire people other than your quality for getting expertise etc.

Developing new models of effective technology transfer to farmers for bridging the wide gap between the potential and realized productivity, Ensuring farmer first approach in evolving effective mechanism for technology transfer and adoption and KVK to work as centre of TADA-CB should be given priority for extension activities.

The role of ICT and digital technologies need to be promoted in all extension programmes for faster, accurate and timely dissemination of knowledge of not only technology but marketing intelligence as well then

only the objectives of e national platforms like e-NAAM would be fulfilled. Extension functionary should understand digitalization as a transformative force in agricultural production systems, value chains and food systems. It should be realized that digitalization comprises phenomena and technologies such as big data, internet of things (IoT), virtual, augmented & mixed realities, robotics, sensors, 3D printing, system integration, ubiquitous connectivity, artificial intelligence, machine learning, digital twins, and block chain technology etc.

Let us introduce concept of 4P's and 4 C's in the extension activities i.e. planning purposefully for enhancing production, productivity and profitability, preparing proportionately, proceeding positively and finally pursuing persistently.

Whereas 4C's is convergence of different appropriate and efficient technologies, exploring possibilities of active collaboration, cooperation, coordination and networking, Collective action through farmers, government machineries, NGO and line R&D department etc and finally capacity building to farmers, growers and entrepreneurs for more remuneration.

Dear students ! Today is certainly a historic moment for university and especially of all of students who have received their hard earned degrees and awards. This is also an occasion for us to introspect the course of

our journey, what have we achieved? What were the failures? Where and how we need to improve? From now onwards you would be starting a new life and certainly you would be opting for diverse careers. I have no doubt that with the wealth of knowledge, understanding, values and competence you have acquired here will help you to perform well in your life. But never forget that the degrees and awards that have been conferred on you are the fruits of your hard work, and are only stepping stones for future journey. I would like to urge that always work hard, learn more and expect less, these are three important points for success of life. I wish you all the best in your future venture.

I express my sincere thanks to the authorities of this esteemed University for inviting me to the convocation function.

'Jai Hind'

