

# **Vice Chancellor's Report**

**31<sup>st</sup> Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri**

**Dr. K. P. Viswanatha**

Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2016**



**MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH**

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

**31<sup>ST</sup> CONVOCATION OF MPKV, RAHURI**  
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**Honorable** Minister for Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Maharashtra, Pro-Chancellor of this University and the Chairman of Maharashtra Council of Agricultural Education and Research, Pune, **Shri. Pandurangji Fundkar** who is presiding over 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.

**Esteemed** Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education and the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi and Chief Guest of 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation, **Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra**.

**Honorable** Minister of State for Agriculture, Horticulture and Marketing, Government of Maharashtra and the Guest of Honor, **Shri. Sadabhauji Khot**.

Honorable Members of the Executive Council, Members of the Academic Council; **current and past** Vice Chancellors of the agricultural universities in Maharashtra, officers from different development departments of Maharashtra, learned Faculties and Staff Members of the University; Progressive Farmers; Beloved Students; Dear 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 the auspicious occasion of 31<sup>st</sup> Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri. As all of you know that this University which was established in 1968 as the Maharashtra Agricultural University, and subsequently renamed as the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth in 1969 after the Great Social Reformer of the country “Mahatma Jyotiba Phule”.

I feel extremely honoured to welcome Honorable Shri. Pandurangji Fundkar, the Minister of Agriculture and Horticulture, Government of Maharashtra.

Honorable Shri. Pandurangji Fundkar was born in 1950 in Buldhana. He is predominantly known in Maharashtra as the people's representative who worked for the betterment of farmers. He was Volunteer of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh since Childhood, Activist of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad during college days, General Secretary of Youth Front, Janasangha in 1994. He was member of Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha from Khamgaon constituency in 1978 and 1980. He was leader of opposition in Maharashtra Legislative Council from April, 2005 to December, 2012. He was the member of 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha from Akola constituency. He was appointed as member on various parliamentary committees namely, Committee on External Affairs, Committee on Forest and Environment, Committee on Defence and Committee on Agriculture. Furthermore, he was the Director of Maharashtra Urban Federation and, Vanvasi Seva Samiti; Chief Administrator of Maharashtra Cotton Producers Confederation, Mumbai and the Coordinator of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, Mumbai.

He was also president of State Unit of Bharatiya Janata Party. In July, 2016 he was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister in Maharashtra Government. Sir, we are really very proud of you that through your several positions and responsibilities assigned to you from time to time, you were always on forefront to make the agriculture in the State sustainable and profitable.

**Friends, I feel proud and happy to welcome and introduce Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra** who is the Chief Guest of this convocation. He was born on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 1962 at village Kharibil of Cuttack district in Odisha and completed his B.Sc. in Agriculture from Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar in 1985, M.Sc. in Genetics from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1987 and Ph.D. in Genetics from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1992.

Earlier, Dr. Mohapatra was the Director of the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. He also worked as the Director of National Rice Research Institute formally known as CRRI, Cuttack. He served in as researcher and teacher for 20 years in National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology, IARI, New Delhi. I am pleased to tell that he is the scientist of global repute, working in the area of molecular genetics and genomics.

Dr. Mohapatra has published more than 145 research papers in national and international journals of repute and also wrote several book chapters. His prominent research accomplishments are development of the first high yielding Basmati rice variety, resistant to bacterial leaf blight through molecular marker assisted selection, and physical mapping and genome sequencing of rice and tomato.

He has the distinction of receiving several honors and awards in recognition of his excellent academic and research contributions including the INSA Young Scientist Award, Prof. LSS Kumar Memorial Award, NAAS-Tata Award, IARI BP Pal Award, DBT Bio-science Award and NASI-Reliance Industries Platinum Jubilee Award. He also got the recognition Award of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences during the biennium 2013-14 for significant contributions in Plant Improvement and Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Genetics Congress in recognition for outstanding contribution in the field of Plant Genetics.

He is a Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, National Academy of Sciences, India, Allahabad and the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi. We have such a great personality as the Chief Guest of this Convocation. Sir, we express our sincere gratitudes to you for accepting our invitation to deliver the Convocation address and visiting this University for the first time.

**Our Guest of Honour is Shri. Sadabhauji Khot** who is well known to Maharashtra for his strong grassroot connects to the farmers and always struggled for the cause of the farmers. We welcome you sir on this occasion and extend our sincere gratitude for accepting invitation and being with us as the Guest of Honor.

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 and pleased to present before you the salient accomplishments of this University.

This University has been adjudged as the Best Agricultural University in India and received “Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel Best Agriculture University” Award from ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi in 2002. Our university has been recognized as the Institution of Excellence in 2008 along with other two traditional universities and special provision of Rs. 100 crore had been made in the Union Budget of 2007-08 for this university to upgrade the infrastructural facilities to international level. I would like to state that this university is the only agricultural university in India to receive this award. To cap it all, according to Times of India Survey, this university ranks second in India in agricultural education next to IARI, New Delhi.

## **EDUCATION**

MPKV imparts education upto Doctoral level in the faculties of Agriculture Sciences and Agricultural Engineering. Bachelor degree programmes are conducted at College of Agriculture, Pune, Kolhapur, Dhule, Karad, Nandurbar, Muktainagar and Halgaon; Dr. Annasaheb Shinde College of Agricultural Engineering, Rahuri and College of Horticulture, Pune. Post graduate programmes are conducted at Rahuri, Kolhapur, Pune and Dhule campuses. Intake capacity of students from 9 constituent colleges is 844 and from 64 affiliated unaided colleges is 463, while of Masters degree programme is 404 and of Ph. D.

programmes is 78. Till today, including this convocation, 41939 students have been awarded Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees. Our University and all its constituent colleges are accredited by the Peer Review Team nominated by the Accreditation Board, ICAR, firstly for 2008-2013 and again peer review team visited for accreditation in the year 2014.

This University also admits International students under India-Africa and India-Afghanistan Fellowship programmes.

MPKV has started novel Bachelor degree programmes in collaboration with International Universities. These include: B. Sc. (Agriculture) 3 years at College of Agriculture, Baramati and one year at Van Hall Larenstein University, Netherland. On similar lines B. Sc. (Animal husbandry) with minor veterinary practices and B. B. A. (Agri.) 2 and 3 years, respectively at Baramati and last 2 and 1 year, respectively in the Netherland. In addition, Unified UG-PG course in Integrated Agribusiness Management programme wherein first 4 years at Baramati and last 1 year at Bangkok. All these are the innovative Agricultural degree programmes in the country.

We make all out efforts to attract the talent in the field of Agricultural Education and creating awareness of Agricultural Education and its perspective. Accordingly, the “Agricultural Education Day” was organized during 8<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 at the Constituent and Affiliated Colleges.

Lower Agricultural Education for 10<sup>th</sup> pass students is being imparted through 10 constituent, 30 unaided affiliated 2-year Agricultural Diploma Schools and 51 unaided affiliated 3-year Agricultural Polytechnics. Intake capacity of Lower Agricultural Education is 5460. Till today, 55,647 students completed this Lower Agricultural Education Diploma. Besides, 4024 students have successfully completed *Mali* (Gardener) Training Course.

The students of this University have the distinction of excelling at National level competitive examinations. During last four years 186 students excelled in JRF, 16 in SRF and 64 in NET, 17 in ARS and 7 in IIT-GATE Competitive examinations. We encourage faculties and students to upgrade their knowledge base and present their work on different platforms. Accordingly, 211 Faculty members have undergone various training programmes, and 208 students attended seminars and symposia during 2015-16.

In order to encourage the collaborative education and research programmes with partnership from National Institutes /Organizations and private industries, the University has developed linkages with them through MoUs.

We also continuously update and upgrade the course curricula so as to equip the students with the compatible knowledge and skills and market needs. Accordingly, this University has accepted Fifth Dean's Committee Report.

MPKV, Rahuri and NSS wing of Government of Maharashtra has jointly organized the Social and Cultural Competition *Utkarsha* – 2015-16 during Feb., 2016. The Government of Maharashtra has awarded NSS Best Co-ordinator award to the Student Welfare Officer and NSS Best Volunteer Award to the student of College of Agriculture, Pune during 2014-15. Post Graduate Institute, MPKV, Rahuri received Best Performance Award in the event of “Innovative Trends in Chemical, Physical and Biosciences” (ITCPB 2016).

The students of this University have the reputation of successfully getting selected in the State and Union Public Service Commission examinations and currently the students of this University has the sizable presence in the State administration.

Six Patents have been granted to the faculties of MPKV, Rahuri.



## RESEARCH

There are 27 research stations including 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. In all, MPKV have **76 non-plan schemes** funded by State Govt., **47 AICRPs** on different crops and plant sciences; **One 100% ICAR funded research project and one centrally Sponsored Research Scheme.**

Since inception, this university has developed and released **246 varieties, 32 farm implements, 4 IT applications** in agriculture and water management and **1371 recommendations** for the benefit of farmers. Amongst these, some varieties particularly in Pomegranate, Guava, Sweet Orange, Acid limes, Onion, Brinjal and Cucurbitaceous vegetables, flowers, Sugarcane, Sorghum, Gram, Rice, Groundnut and Safflower are widely adopted by the farmers at state and national levels and became a landmark in the Indian Agriculture. The adoption of these varieties by the farmers made huge impact on their livelihood and enhanced their economical and social status.

During this year, we have released **11 crop varieties** among which PCP 0306-1 cowpea variety, R.O.-11-1 oat variety and two cotton hybrids at national level and 9 varieties at state level. Of which chickpea variety, ***Phule Vikram*** is specially developed for mechanical harvesting and okra variety, ***Phule Vimukta*** is resistant to the virus disease i.e. Yellow Vein Mosaic. Furthermore, the university has released **3 farm implements, 2 IT application, 69 recommendations and 2 plant sources for biotic stress** in 44<sup>th</sup> Joint Agresco Meet – 2016.

More importantly, conversion of cotton hybrid, ***Phule Shwetambari*** into **Bt cotton** is in progress in collaboration with ***Mahabeej***, a state seed corporation and commercial cultivation of this Bt Hybrid will start from 2018.



Furthermore, I am glad to mention here that this University have developed the **Strategic Research Plan and Development Plan based on Agro-Climatic Zones** 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. Nevertheless this University also leads in seed production programme through revolving funds at University and Village farms.

We have initiated the activities as per the policies of the State and Central Governments in mission mode. These include: Cleaning campaign coupled with Natural Resource Management for Soil Health and Water use efficiency, Watershed Development Programme on university campus with the inputs from Shri. Popatraoji Pawar, *Hiware Bazar* model, Biodiversity and carbon credit project, Organic Farming, irrigation water management based on Automatic Weather Station and its IT applications.

The university has received **award for registration of maximum number of notified varieties (registered 36 crop varieties) from PPV & FRA, New Delhi** at the auspicious hands of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan.

The MPKV, Rahuri has received Rs. 10 crore funds for the establishment of State Level Gene Bank and Rs. 5 crore funds for establishment of Organic Farming Research and Training centre at MPKV, Rahuri from Govt. of Maharashtra.

On the occasion of International Pulse Year, the MPKV, Rahuri has been allotted Rs. 1.58 crore funds for Production of Breeder Seed of Pulses and Rs. 4.50 crore funds for Creation of Seed Hub of Pulses from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India for increasing pulse production and productivity in India. In this connection, 6950 q of quality seed of pulses will be produced through involvement of farming community in coming three years. This will be over and above our University seed production.

During 2015-16, a massive *rabi* Sorghum Seed Production Programme was implemented under **HOPE project** in Public-Public Partnership Mode in which a total of **14 thousand quintals seed of improved *rabi* sorghum varieties have been produced** on 2135 ha area of 512 farmers from 14 different villages of Pune, Ahmednagar, Solapur and Jalgaon districts. For the current year, 2016-17, we have set the target of producing of **60 thousand quintals seed** of improved *rabi* sorghum varieties.

Seed Testing Laboratory of Seed Technology Research Unit, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri has been notified by the Government of Maharashtra as a **State level Seed Laboratory** to carry out the analysis of the seeds of any notified kind or variety vide the notification published in Maharashtra Government Gazette.

## **EXTENSION EDUCATION**

MPKV is implementing manifold extension education activities. Regional and District Extension Centres in 10 districts of its jurisdiction have been started by MPKV, Rahuri. University has formulated 43 Farmers-Scientists Forum having 1650 registered farmer members to demonstrate and to educate the farmers about the technologies generated by the University.

The Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) is a single window delivery system of the University. The extension activities like field visits, replying the queries of the farmers and other stakeholders, diagnostic services in coordination with the other departments of University are being performed by the ATIC. Besides, the seed and seedlings, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, processed products and publications are also sold through ATIC to the end users.

The several Front Line Demonstrations have been conducted to demonstrate technologies developed by our University on farmers fields. *Shivar*

*pheries*, farmers rally, exhibitions, trainings, group discussions, result and method demonstrations were conducted through REC, DEC and KVKs.

Special Model Training programmes were organized by the Directorate of Extension Education this year for the officers of line departments on the topics *viz.*, Effective Communication for the Enhancement and Upliftment of Rural People, Integrated Crop Management Technologies etc. This University also organizes training programmes for the KVK SMSs on need based topics.

The REC, DEC and KVKs participated in *Krishi Jagruti Saptah* during July, 2016 and conducted 197 Interactive Lectures, 128 Farmers Rally, 53 Group Discussion, 24 Agril. Exhibitions and 36 *Shivar Pheri* on farmers field.

The KVKs under this University are acting as a bridge between University and farmers by implementing various extension activities on farmers field. Further, KVKs are implementing various technology demonstrations, assessment trials for betterment of farming community.

University brings out informative publications *viz.*, *Krishi Darshani* Annual Diary, *Shri Sugi*, MPKV Happenings, Periodicals, Booklets, Books, Folders and Bulletins for farmers. This year, in the era of digital India, we are launching *Krishi Darshani* Mobile App i.e. *Phule Krishi Darshani*.

ICAR, New Delhi has sanctioned funds of Rs. 98.47 lakhs under Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the project entitled, “Empowerment of Tribal Community of Nandurbar District of Maharashtra State through Vocational Training Demonstrations and Value Addition”. Under this project REC, Dhule had implemented FLDs of onion on 416 acres on Tribal Farmers field.

Further, MPKV is actively involved in integrated development of tribal village *Bhagdari*, of Nandurbar district adopted by the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. The university is showcasing various technology demonstrations for its better reach amongst the tribal farming community in the said village.

MPKV is implementing Farmer FIRST project under RKVY with total financial outlay of Rs. 5.90 crore. The **Farmer FIRST** is an initiative to move beyond the production and productivity and to privilege the complex, diverse and risk prone realities of majority of the farmers through enhancing farmers-scientists contact with multi stakeholder's participation. The project is implemented on cluster basis with field demonstrations, trainings, field visits, farmers rally, workshops as the main components of project. The collaboration of State Department of Agriculture and concerned agencies of that district are also taken for implementing the project effectively. The technologies being demonstrated on farmers field are Sugarcane + Vegetable Intercrops, Cotton based production technology, Groundnut based production technology, Gram based production technology, Bacterial Blight disease management in Pomegranate, Cigatoka disease management in Banana, Onion set planting (*Chingali Kanda*), Mole Plough technology for ill drained soil and Animal Component. In all 5550 experimentation on farmers field will be organized under this project along with capacity development including farmers training, officers training and farmers rallies. MPKV is pioneer in implementing Farmer FIRST project.

We are successfully implementing *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* programme in the University by adopting several measures. We also undertook huge tree plantation programme in the jurisdiction of University. In recognition of this I on behalf of this University received the Life Time Achievement Award by National Institute of Cleanliness Education and Research, New Delhi.

*Vanmahotsav-2016*, a massive tree plantation programme was launched by the University on the occasion of *Krishhi Din*. On this occasion more than 60,000 saplings of different species were planted in the College of Agriculture, Pune, Dhule and Kolhapur; and all affiliated Colleges and Agricultural Technical Schools along with the Agricultural Research Stations and Central Campus, Rahuri.

Dear friends, I congratulate all of you for crossing a milestone in your career and I wish all yours dreams of fulfillment come true. I urge all of you to be sincere and rigorous in your pursuit of agricultural knowledge and serve the humanity with dedication. You should play a catalytic role by blending the best of frontier technologies with traditional wisdom and bring fame to this university and your alma mater. The basic idea of acquiring education should be to see beyond obtaining degrees. You should develop within yourself discipline, humanity, truthfulness, respect for others, and spirit of service to the society and confidence and courage.

Before I end, I wish you very best for your future endeavor.

**Thank You All**

***Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan***

