

Vice Chancellor's Report

36th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri



Dr. P. G. Patil

Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri

Friday, 6th January, 2023



MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH
(Agricultural University)

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

**36th CONVOCAATION OF MPKV, RAHURI
VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri

Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and
Respected Chancellor of the University who is
presiding over this 36th Convocation of MPKV,
Rahuri **Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshyari ji,**

Respected Pro-Chancellor of the university
Sh. Abdul Sattar ji, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture,
Govt. of Maharashtra,

Respected **Sh. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil ji,**
Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Govt. of Maharashtra,
and the Guardian Minister of Ahmednagar district,

Distinguished Chief Guest Padma Vibhushan
Dr. Anil Kakodkar, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi
Science and Technology Commission, Govt. of
Maharashtra and Former Chairman, Atomic Energy
Commission, Govt. of India who will deliver
convocation address today.

Distinguished **Dr. C. D. Mayee,** Former
Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment
Board, New Delhi and Padmashri **Sh. Popatrao
Pawar,** Chairman, *Adarsh Gaon Yojana,*

Maharashtra State, who are being conferred with Honorary Doctor of Science,

Hon'ble Members of the **Executive Council** and **Academic Council; former Vice Chancellors** of MPKV Rahuri, present Vice Chancellors of the SAUs, learned faculty, teaching and non-teaching staff members of the university; students; graduates taking degrees today; proud parents; farmers; entrepreneurs; 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 36th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri.

It is a great honour to extend a hearty welcome to our Hon'ble Chancellor and Chairman of the 36th Convocation Ceremony of this university.

Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshyari ji, Hon'ble Chancellor of this university assumed the office of the Governor of Maharashtra on 5th September 2019 and brings with him a vast and varied experience of academic, political and social service. He is born in Palanadhura Chetabgarh, Bageshwar District, Uttarakhand on 17th June 1942, He was elected as the General Secretary of the Student's Union while

studying at Almora College between 1961-62. Subsequently, he also represented the Executive Council of Kumaon University during 1979-82, 1982-85 and 1988-91.

Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshiyari ji had a passion for teaching and worked as a lecturer at the Raja Inter College, Raja Ka Rampur, Etah district, Uttar Pradesh for a few years. He possesses a flair for journalism and writing and Founder and Managing Editor of 'Parvat Piyush', a weekly published from Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand since 1975.

After the formation of the State of Uttarakhand, he has served as Minister of Energy, Irrigation, Law and Legislative Affairs. Then he has served as the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand from 2001-02. He also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly from 2002 to 2007. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttarakhand in November 2008 and held the position till 2014. As Chairman of the 'Committee on Petitions' of the Rajya Sabha, he gave a report on 'One Rank One Pension'; 'Railway Network in Himalayan States'; besides several other important social issues.

In 2014, he was elected as the Member to the 16th Lok Sabha from the Nainital – Udham Singh Nagar constituency. Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshyari has tremendous grassroots presence and is known in the entire State of Uttarakhand as a people's leader. He has published two books 'Uttaranchal Pradesh Kyun?' and 'Uttaranchal: Sangharsh Evam Samadhan'. He also held additional charge of the Governor of Goa between 19th August, 2020 to 14th July 2021.

Sir, on behalf of the members of the Executive Council, Academic Council, staff and students of MPKV, Rahuri, I heartily welcome you.

I am extremely happy to welcome Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor of our university **Sh. Abdul Sattar ji**, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Maharashtra.

He is a member of the 14th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. He represents the Sillod Assembly Constituency. In 2001, he was elected to the State Legislative Council. In 2009, he was elected to the State Legislative Assembly for the first time and thereafter reelected during 2014 and 2019. During 2014-2016, he was Minister of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairy Development. In

2019 he was appointed minister of state for Revenue, Rural Development, Ports, Khar land Development and Special Assistance. For a brief period he was also the Guardian minister of Dhule District. At present he is Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Maharashtra as well as Guardian Minister of Hingoli district.

Sir, on behalf of the members of the Executive Council, Academic Council, staff and students of MPKV, Rahuri, I heartily welcome you.

I am delighted to welcome **Sh. Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil ji**, Hon'ble Revenue Minister of the state and the Guardian Minister of the Ahmednagar District. He is a 7 time MLA from the Shirdi Assembly Constituency. During his long stint as the member of the state assembly, he has handled important portfolios in the state cabinet and is a learned personality.

Sir, on behalf of the members of the Executive Council, Academic Council, staff and students of MPKV, Rahuri, I heartily welcome you.

I feel proud and privileged to welcome our beloved Chief Guest **Padma Vibhushan Dr. Anil Kakodkar**, Chairman, Rajiv Gandhi Science and

Technology Commission, Govt. of Maharashtra and Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Govt. of India.

Dr. Anil Kakodkar (born on 11th November, 1943) joined the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in 1964, following the one year post graduate Training with top rank in Nuclear Science and Technology in the then Atomic Energy Establishment. He became the Director of BARC in the year 1996 and was the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy, during the years 2000 -2009. He was DAE Homi Bhabha Chair Professor during January 2010 to January 2015 and INAE Satish Dhawan Chair of Engineering Eminence during January 2015 to January 2017. Currently he is AICTE Distinguished Chair Professor.

Dr. Kakodkar obtained his BE (Mech. Engineering) degree from the Bombay University in 1963 and M.Sc. in the Experimental Stress Analysis from the Nottingham University in 1969. He has worked for the development of the atomic energy programme in India throughout his professional life. Focus of his work has been on self-reliant

development of nuclear reactor systems to address the Indian programme requirements. He has been a key contributor to India's strategic programme. He was amongst the chosen few involved in the first successful Peaceful Nuclear Explosion Experiment that India conducted on May 18, 1974 at Pokhran. Later, he played a key role in the series of successful Nuclear Tests conducted during May 1998, again at Pokhran. India also demonstrated nuclear submarine powerpack technology under his leadership.

He has been bestowed with large number of honours and awards at the national and international level including honorary doctorates by more than 20 institutions in the country, Fellowships by the Academies, Highest Civilian Awards of the Country- Padmashri (1998), Padma Bhushan (1999) and the Padma Vibhushan (2009).

Sir, on behalf of the members of the Executive Council, Academic Council, staff and students of MPKV, Rahuri, I heartily welcome you.

I welcome all the members of the **Executive Council** and **Academic Council**, present and **former Vice Chancellors**, faculty, teaching and non-teaching staff; students; graduates taking

degrees today; proud parents; farmers, entrepreneurs, representatives of the press and media; who are present for this convocation.

Today, I feel honoured to represent Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, a pioneer Agricultural University of Maharashtra having jurisdiction of 10 districts. The university was 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”. MPKV, Rahuri is the leading agricultural university in education, research and extension at the state as well as national level. University has developed several National and International Linkages with Institutes and Organizations of repute. I am pleased to present before you the salient accomplishments of this university.

EDUCATION

MPKV offers various educational programmes viz., Bachelors degree programme in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Food Technology, Agri. Business Management, Biotechnology, Animal Husbandry, Diploma in Agricultural Technology and Polytechnics. The

Masters degree programme is offered in 20 disciplines of Agriculture, and 04 disciplines of Agricultural Engineering. While, Doctoral degree programme in 17 disciplines of Agriculture and 04 disciplines of Agricultural Engineering.

University has fourteen Under Graduate Constituent Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 1104 students and 62 affiliated unaided Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 5080 students. The University has the Post Graduate Institute at its central campus, Rahuri. Similarly, Post Graduate programme is also offered at College of Agriculture, Pune, Dhule, Kolhapur and Dr. A S College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Rahuri. University has intake capacity of 363 for Masters and 82 for Doctoral degree programmes every year. Since inception, University has awarded degrees to 1,26,762 students.

University has International linkages with Van Hall Larenstein University, Netherland; Washington University, Pullman, USA; Mississippi University, USA; International Water Management Institute, Colombo, Sri Lanka; Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok; Murdoch University, Murdoch, Australia;

ECOCERT, France and Ministry of Tourism, Israel for mutual cooperation in research, exchange of students and faculties for research studies, trainings, study tours and upgradation of faculties.

University has developed National Linkages with Bayer Crop Science Limited, Pune; Finolex Industries Ltd., Pune; National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal; National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati; Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research, Lucknow and FMC India Private Limited, Mumbai for education.

University is implementing the under graduate syllabus as per the recommendations of the V Dean's Committee of the ICAR, New Delhi from the academic year 2017-18. The component of Student READY has been included in the UG syllabus for developing skill and confidence in the graduates. Revised Post-graduate curriculum as per the recommendations of the BSMA Committee of the ICAR, New Delhi is implemented from the academic year 2022-23. An utmost effort has been made to improve and maintain high technology standards in education. University has developed Mobile App for Teachers evaluation by students to improve

educational quality. Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj College of Agriculture, Kolhapur has developed www.agrio.es.in web based examination portal and conducted semester end online examinations of university successfully during the year 2021-22.

Students of this University have achieved good success at the national level exams. Eighteen students have achieved success in JRF, 9 in SRF, 131 in NET and 15 in ARS Pre-exams during the period under report.

During the year 2021-22, the students excelled in various sports competition *viz.*, All India University Sport-2022, National Management Competition-2022, TIFAN-2022, Indradhanushya-2022.

University has organized MPKV Alumni Carnival of Leaders of Industry and Entrepreneurs Meet and Exhibition (CLIMEX) from December 20-22, 2022 at the central campus. The event comprised of mega alumni meet of MPKV alumni, motivational speeches of successful entrepreneurs and industry leaders for students on campus, technical sessions for farmers, exhibition of various industries and job fair. This is an attempt to bring all

alumni, entrepreneurs, industry leaders, policy makers, students and farmers together and give recognition to the services of MPKV alumni entrepreneurs. This mega event was first of its kind in the history of MPKV which was sponsored by Alumni entrepreneurs and industry leaders.

Upon the recommendations of the ICAR Peer Review Committee and Education Division, and meeting the accreditation criteria, the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEB) has granted accreditation to MPKV, Rahuri and its constituent colleges (College of Agriculture, Pune / Dhule / Kolhapur/Nandurbar, Dr. ASCAET/PGI, MPKV, Rahuri) for the period of five years (2018-19 to 2022-23).

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries Department, Government of Maharashtra vide notification declared undergraduate courses offered by university such as B. Sc. (Hons) (Agriculture), B. Sc. (Hons) (Horticulture), B. Tech. (Agril. Engg.), B. Tech. (Food Technology), B. Tech. (Biotechnology) and B. Sc. (Hons) Agri. Business Management as professional educational courses.

MBA (Agri.) Programme at College of Agriculture, Pune, Agricultural Technical School, Solapur and Dispensary at College of Agriculture, Pune achieved ISO: 9001: 2015 Certification for its Quality Management System for the period of three years (2019 to 2022). ICAR, New Delhi honored University Library for the Best Profile Registration Award for Western Region for active promotion and usage of the J-Gate and CeRA platform (2021). Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is third Agricultural University in the country to receive recognition from All India Council for Technical Education, New Delhi to B. Tech. (Agril. Engg.) degree programme offered at Dr. A S College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, Rahuri.

Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, has recently authorized the University as RPTO for conducting "Remote Pilot Training Certificate Course". The MPKV is the first agricultural university in India to be recognized as RPTO and one of the few to offer training on spraying by drone.

Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri received the prestigious World Bank aided Project of Indian Council of Agricultural Research under

National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) entitled “Centre for Advanced Agricultural Science and Technology for Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management” (CAAST-CSAWM) with a total budget of Rs. 20.00 Cr. This Centre has started the Post Doctoral programme from 2021-22.

This Centre has developed Climate Smart Agriculture Blocks for research, experimentation and demonstration related to climate smart agriculture and water management and Village Level Contingency Crop Plan for seven adopted villages of Akole Block, Maharashtra. The CAAST project has successfully implemented Climate Smart Village concept at Buchkewadi, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune and Bamburdi Ghumat, Tal. & Dist. Ahmednagar by applying digital technologies exclusively developed by the project. The project has conducted 181 online training programmes and 29648 students, 24798 scientists/ faculties and 4680 farmers were benefitted. The project has developed 10 IoT & sensor based technologies and 54 mobile & web based applications which are being used in the field of agriculture. This is one of the widely acknowledged project of the University, at National level. The centre was ranked first among all CAAST

projects of National Agricultural Higher Education Project in India (2021-22).

University has submitted proposals for establishment of Incubation Centres for skill development and encourages Start-ups for the students.

RESEARCH

The jurisdiction of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is spread over 10 districts of Western Maharashtra viz., Ahmednagar, Pune, Solapur, Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur, Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nandurbar; and divided into five agro-climatic zones namely Western Ghat, Sub-montane, Plain, Scarcity and Centre plateau.

The university has well established network of 27 research stations located in five agro-climatic zones for conducting the research on cropping system, soils, weather, livestock, plant protection, machinery and equipment and other aspects of farming such as natural resources management, dryland and irrigated agriculture, organic farming. The State level Crop Specialists are located at Jalgaon (Oilseeds), Padegaon (Sugarcane), Niphad (Wheat) and Solapur (Soils), in addition to 4 Zonal

Agricultural Research Stations at Igatpuri, Pune, Kolhapur and Solapur. The university has 18 sub-research stations (Agril. Research Stations-ARS), where mainly verification of research work is performed to test the technologies developed by the University and conduct the research programmes based on feedbacks received from the farmers. Currently 82 non-plan schemes funded by State Govt., 45 All India Coordinated Research Projects and 39 Externally Funded Research Projects are functioning in MPKV over its jurisdiction.

The University has focused its attention mainly on location specific and need based research activities in order to cater the needs of all types of farmers and farming groups. The University has so far released **290** high yielding varieties of cereals, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, sugarcane, fruits, flowers and other cash crops and **44** implements and farm machineries since its establishment. The **1705** appropriate agro techniques for enhancing agricultural production and productivity of different crops have also been passed on to the farmers. In addition to this **1080** genetic resources have been preserved. The contribution of University in natural resource management and especially soil and water management is significant. The research on micro

propagation, dryland horticulture, integrated pest and nutrient management including biofertilizers, mushroom production, digital agriculture is also worth mentioning.

During the last year the University has released **5** crop varieties of cereals, pulses and cash crops, **1** variety of horticultural crop, **2** stress resistance sources and **68** research recommendations at state level, **4** crop varieties at the national level and **4** agricultural implements & machinery for the benefit of farming community. The released varieties include Phule Purva of Rabi Sorghum, Phule Suvarn of Mungbean, Phule Rajan of Udadbean, Phule Viraj of Rajma, Phule Sugarcane 15012 of Sugarcane, Phule Trupti and Phule Kaveri of Pigeonpea, Phule Shubhra and Phule Satpuda of Cotton and Phule Haridra of Turmeric. The farm implements and machinery include Tractor operated Phule manure spreader, Tractor operated Phule two row forward-reverse rotavator, Tractor operated Phule banana stem shredder and Phule Juice Extractor.

Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is conducting research on 126 crops. The improved varieties and hybrids in cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cash crops and horticultural crops are ruling not

only at State but at National level too. Some of the crop varieties became a landmark in Indian Agriculture.

Many crop varieties had significant impact on the local agri-based economy. The area under sugarcane variety CO-86032 (Nira) is 45-50 %, CoM-0265 (Phule 265) is 30-35 % in the State. Similarly, in Pomegranate MPKV, Rahuri has released highly popular varieties *viz.*, Bhagwa (2003) and Phule Bhagwa Super (2013) that contribute to more than 90 % area of the country. In chickpea MPKV has released 14 pea varieties which are resistant to Fusarium wilt and drought tolerant with a high yield potential. These varieties have highest indent for nucleus and breeder seed of about 15% at the National level. MPKV has released sorghum varieties on the basis of soil types. These are Phule Anuradha for shallow soil, Phule Suchitra for medium soil and Phule Revati for deep soil and rainfed condition while Phule Vasudha for protective irrigation. Rabi sorghum varieties of MPKV contributes 25 % rabi sorghum area of the State. MPKV has released Phule Samarth variety of onion which is highly popular in Maharashtra. Around 40 % area of kharif onion cultivation is under this particular variety. The 23 varieties of eight crops *viz.*, sugarcane,

pomegranate, chickpea, rabi sorghum, onion, rice, citrus and pearl millet released by the university had contribution of Rs. 2,40,188 Cr. in term of gross revenue and Rs. 32,206 Cr. in terms of net revenue. The crop production technologies developed by MPKV enabled the farmers to use natural resources and agri-inputs optimally and sustainably. The micro-irrigation technologies developed by the University for various crops enabled their adoption over 19.26 lakh ha area in the state thus efficiently using scarce water resources.

The University has also prepared next 10 years research roadmap regarding development of improved crop varieties and farm implements and machinery. The university has also started the studies on newly introduced crops *viz.*, Bamboo, Lichi, Dragon Fruit, Forage Cactus, Date palm, Quinoa. The technique of Phule Mole Plough and Subsurface Drainage System developed by MPKV, Rahuri is popular among the farmers from salt affected area for reclaiming these lands especially from Sangli and Kolhapur districts.

Furthermore, the University has prioritized its research on biotic and abiotic stress management, precision farming, processing and mechanical

harvesting, bio-pesticides and fertilizers. The MPKV focus on research activities as per the policies of the state and central governments in mission mode. These includes natural resource management for soil health and water use efficiency, development of IoT drone and robotic technology in the field of agriculture, use of nano technology, irrigation water management based on automatic weather station and sensors; and IT applications in agriculture.

The patent on 'Process of preparation of cookies' was granted to the University by the patent office, Government of India for 20 years. The university has also registered 28 copyrights and 79 university crop varieties at PPV & FRA. In addition to that 15 proposals of patent, 3 proposals of copyrights and 26 proposals of crop varieties have been submitted to the respective authorities to register IPR.

The University is recognized as best performing centre (SAU category) in Quality Seed Production under AICRP on Seed (Crops) for the year 2021-22. The university has also started ranking all the research stations functioning in the jurisdiction and awarding the best performing centres with certificate on occasion of university foundation day

(29th March), as a part of strengthening the research activities.

MPKV also focuses on revenue generation to strengthen the research and provide the University developed products to the farming community. Every year the university is implementing massive Seed Production Programme. During the last year MPKV has produced and sold 21000 q seed, 13 lakhs nursery grafts/plantlets, 860 q solid biopesticides, 885 L liquid biopesticides, 45 t biofertilizers, 10334 L liquid biofertilizers, 50000 L Phule liquid micrograde II. Online onion seed sell facility was made available for farmers through 'Phule Agromart Application'. University also sold 1093 farm implements last year. Till date total 944 MoUs has been signed with private seed companies and FPO's for product testing and supply of breeders seed.

The watershed development project was recently started at the central campus with the financial assistance through "Aadarsh Gaon Yojana", Government of Maharashtra. The watershed is being developed and training is being imparted to the students. The studies on carbon sequestration by various conservation techniques will be conducted.

'Indigenous (Desi) Cattle Research cum Training Centre' (ICRTC) is functioning at College of Agriculture, Pune with the financial support of State Government. Under this project demonstration unit of 05 desi milking breeds *viz.*, Sahiwal, Gir, Red Sindhi, Rathi and Tharparkar has been established. The comparative study of production and reproduction of these five breeds is undertaken at the project research farm. The cross breed cows have produced 35 desi calves by embryo transfer technique at college farm and at farmers door steps. The farmers in Maharashtra are being trained with demonstrations by setting up demonstration units for indigenous cow rearing, embryo transplantation, fodder production, silage, dung and cow urine processing, vermicompost, solar and biogas project, modern tractor operated fodder harvester etc.

United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. MPKV, Rahuri has planned several activities to celebrate the year and created awareness about millets by developing millet based cookies and biscuits.

EXTENSION

Agricultural extension remains one of the master keys of agricultural development. It lies in transferring updated knowledge to farmers as well as policy directions into action. The extension also provides an opportunity for the researchers to assess and refine the technologies. Our University is a pioneer institute in extending research up to grassroot level.

For achieving the target of Doubling Farmers Income, the role of university extension services especially for technology application plays crucial role to realize the improved technological innovations.

The Directorate of Extension Education performs various extension activities through its various wings *viz.*, Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) (01), Regional Extension Centres (REC) (04), District Extension Centres (DEC) (05), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) (17) and College Extension Blocks 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 collecting feedback.

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.

The Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) is a single window delivery system of the University. The extension activities like field visits, 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 circulated through ATIC to the end users. In addition to this, the university has started 27 sale counters under university jurisdiction for making available all university produced inputs to the farming community. The services of Phule Agromart – an online platform for purchase of university produced seeds/inputs has also been started since 2020.

The university has completed more than fifty years and many alumni have now become successful entrepreneurs and industry leaders. These MPKV alumni are contributing significantly to the society. In addition there are progressive farmers who are successfully adopting innovative technologies, university varieties and technologies on their farm. They are brand ambassadors of this university for transfer of technologies. Thus, an attempt is being made to project the accomplishments of these MPKV alumni and progressive farmers in the form of MPKV IDOL. The work of this MPKV IDOL is displayed every month at key locations in the university, Agricultural Colleges, Agricultural Research Stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras with the sole objective to motivate the students, rural youths and farmers. The MPKV IDOL concept started in November 2021 and till now success stories of 14 MPKV alumni entrepreneurs and 14 progressive farmers were displayed.

MPKV, Rahuri and State Department of Agriculture have collaboratively organized a programme on '*Majha ek diwas majhya balirajasathi*' during month of September to November 2022. All Agriculture Colleges, Agriculture Research Stations, Regional Extension

Centers, District Extension Centers and KVKs had participated in the said programme. During this all MPKV scientists had visited 105 villages and 1559 farmers through this programme.

From last year, this university has started an innovative and new extension programme by the name '*Krishi Tantragyan Parayan*' in 10 villages in MPKV jurisdiction through Regional/ District Extension Centers and KVKs. In these programmes lectures on crop improvement technology were organized on first day and field visits on farmers field on second day. University released technology is being implemented in these villages.

Sir, in this year all Regional/ District extension centers and all KVKs have adopted one village to transfer university technologies. Activities like group discussion, training programmes, field visits etc. are going to be implemented in these selected villages.

The university has organized Go-Palak gathering and "*Godhan*"-first ever exhibition of Indigenous Cattle-cum-Live Demo at Indigenous Cattle Research-cum-Training Centre (ICRTC) Project, Pune in collaboration with Sakal- Agrowon Media during 27-29, May 2022.

A programme on “Retrospection” is regularly organized by the University for depicting the significant activities of the university related to education, research and extension education. On this occasion the university publication “Krishi Darshani” is released every year. This innovative programme has been started from 1992. During Retrospection-2021 Phule Krishidarshani-2022 was released for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders.

National level project funded by ICAR under Farmer FIRST programme is presently in operation at Chinchvhire, Kangar, Tambhere and Kanadgaon villages of the Ahmednagar district. The university is implementing the Integrated Farming System (IFS) model for enhancing the farmer’s income. This comprises of crop based module, horticulture based module, livestock based module and other activities like dal mill processing for SHGs and farm pond fishery. The project is now covering 1150 farm families and conducted 750 technology demonstrations so far *viz.*, Seed production technologies, backyard poultry, IFS model, fish farming, dairy and goatary.

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Our university extension scientists organized various Rallies, Seminars, training programmes, workshops, Field demonstrations and various extension education activities for farmers and other stakeholders on different themes *viz.*, digital marketing, precision farming, post-harvest technologies, crop production, livestock production. The University is making efforts for the up-liftment of farming community. In all more than 4881 programmes were organized with participation of 75000 + various stakeholders alongwith farmers. These programmes are also available right now through various social media platforms of university *viz.*, YouTube, Facebook for the farming community.

The university is providing continuous technological backstopping to the different stakeholders including KVKs through organizing various need based capacity development programmes, Zonal Agricultural Research and Extension Advisory Committee (ZAREAC) meetings, Pre Kharif meetings and other such programmes. An Annual Action Plan Workshop for KVKs was also organized for seventeen KVKs.

The tree plantation programme '*Vanmohotsav*' -2022 and *Krishidin* was organized in university jurisdiction. Saplings of different species were

planted all over the university jurisdiction. In all during 2016 to 2022 we have planted more than 4.5 lakh trees of different plants including horticultural crops with 80 per cent survival rate.

University in its jurisdiction has formulated 54 Farmers-Scientists Forum (1668 farmers have been registered as the members) at different locations to demonstrate and to educate the farmers about the technologies generated by the University. The farmer members of these Farmers-Scientists Forums are involved as a model for the village and thus, these farmers are serving as farm-leaders to disseminate the technologies. Participatory research model is being promoted through this forum. Further, to address the emerging issues in agriculture a team of university scientists in 112 blocks/tahsils (2 scientists in each tahsil) were deputed and are working with Dept. of Agriculture as a technological backstopping.

Sir, during this convocation, 6832 numbers of graduates are being conferred with different degrees, which include 6388 Under Graduates, 382 Masters students and 62 Doctoral students.

I congratulate all the graduates who are receiving their degrees both in person and in

absentia and the winners of the various medals, prizes and awards at this convocation.

Dear students, education is a continuous process. Strive hard to learn new things in life and make best use of your knowledge for the benefit of the society and the nation.

Finally, I would like to conclude with a verse from Hitopadesha.

विद्या ददाति विनयं विनयाद् याति पात्रताम्।
पात्रत्वाद् धनमाप्नोति धनाद्धर्मं ततः सुखम्॥

(Knowledge gives humility, from humility, one attains character; from character, one acquires wealth; from wealth, good deeds (righteousness) follow and then happiness)

I wish all of you a bright future and best luck.

Thank you one and all.

Jai Hind! Jai Maharashtra!

