

Vice Chancellor's Report

35th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri



Dr. P. G. Patil

Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri

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MAHATMA PHULE KRISHI VIDYAPEETH

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

35TH CONVOCATION OF MPKV, RAHURI VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Respected Chancellor of the University who is presiding over this 35th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri **Shri. Bhagat Singh Koshiyarijee.**

Respected Pro-Chancellor of the university **Shri. Dadajee Bhuse**, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Govt. of Maharashtra,

Respected **Shri. Sharadjee Pawar**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Respected **Shri. Nitinjee Gadkari**, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India,

Distinguished Chief Guest **Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur who will deliver convocation address today,

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 attending in person as well as through online mode.

It is my proud privilege to extend a very warm welcome to all of you on this auspicious occasion of 35th Convocation of MPKV, Rahuri.

It is a great honour to extend a hearty welcome to our Hon'ble Chancellor and Chairman of the 35th Convocation Ceremony of this university.

Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari jee, 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.

Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari jee 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. Shri 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 **Shri.Dadajee Bhuse**, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Govt. of Maharashtra.

He is a member of the 13th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. He represents the Malegaon Outer Assembly Constituency. In 2004, he was elected to the State Legislative Assembly for the first time and thereafter reelected during 2009, 2014 and 2019. During 2014-2016, he was Minister of State for Co-operation in Maharashtra State Government. During 2014-2019, he was Guardian minister of Dhule District. During 2016-2019 he was Minister of State for Rural Development in Maharashtra State Government. He is also the Guardian Minister of the Palghar district.

Since taking over the charge of the Agriculture Minister, he has initiated several farmer friendly schemes in the state and innovative concept of “Vikel te Pikel”. To increase the farm income of the farmers, he is also emphasizing on making Maharashtra as a brand of Food Processing Industry.

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 **Dr. Narendra Singh Rathore**, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur.

Dr. Rathore is a B.E. (Agril. Engg. from Udaipur University), M.Tech. (Energy Studies from IIT Delhi) and Ph.D. in FMP (from RAU, Bikaner).

He has over thirty eight years of experience in teaching, research and research management positions. He served as Deputy Director General (Education, ICAR) Founder Vice Chancellor Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner; Dy. Director General (Engg)- ICAR; Dean, College of Dairy and Food Science Technology, Dean (Student Welfare), Dean, College of Technology and Engineering in MPUAT Udaipur. Besides this, he has also worked as National Director in World Bank Sponsored NAHEP during August 2017 to May 2019. He joined as Vice-Chancellor, Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur on 24th August, 2019.

His area of research is Agricultural engineering with specialization in Renewable Energy Technologies, FMP and he has handled 51 R&D projects and 3 International projects and commercialized various technologies. He has published large number of books and research articles in journals of international repute. He has been bestowed with 33 different Awards & fellowships. He has been a Chairman/member of different committees at the state and national level.

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 in person as well as through online mode 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 and was recognized by Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award in 2002 among many more and Institute of Excellence Award in 2007-08 and celebrated golden jubilee in 2019. 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 and Diploma in Agriculture Technology. The Masters degree programme are offered in 21 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 ten Under Graduate Constituent Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 884 students and 62 affiliated unaided Agriculture and Allied Colleges with intake capacity of 4700 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 an intake capacity of 373 for Masters and 82 for Doctoral programmes every year. Since inception, University has awarded degrees to 1, 15, 349 students.

University has International Collaborative Programmes with Van Hall Larenstein University, Netherland for B.Sc. (Agri.), B.Sc. (AH) and BBA (Agri.) courses, Experiential Learning Programme in Agri.

Business Management and Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok for the Unified UG-PG Agribusiness Management, Experiential Learning Programme in Horticulture.

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 among the graduates. In addition, NCC has also been introduced as a credit course at the UG level.

Under COVID-19 pandemic situation, in order to avoid the educational loss of the students, the study material of all courses in the form of PPT as well as notes in PDF format were provided to all UG and PG students through emails and whatsapp. The virtual classes were organized for UG and PG students at various constituent and affiliated colleges. The UG and PG exams were conducted timely in online mode and results were declared timely.

Students of this University have achieved good success at the national level exams. Thirty students have achieved success in JRF, 4 in SRF, 81 in NET, 10 in GATE, 9 in CAT and 2 in ARS exams during the period under report. During 2019-20, the students excelled in various sports competition viz., Inter Agricultural University Sports Meet (Agri. Unisport), Gold Medal for

Kho-Kho team (Women), Gold Medal for Volleyball team (Men), Silver Medal for Basketball team (Men) and Table Tennis Women team and Bronze Medal for Kabaddi Men team.

International Yoga Day was organized at central campus and constituent colleges under the ambit of University. Massive Tree Plantation programme and Organ Donation Awareness Week were organized at all constituent colleges under the jurisdiction of University.

The National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB) 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).

Government of Maharashtra has declared undergraduate courses offered by university such as B. Sc. (Agriculture/ Horticulture/ ABM) and B. Tech. (Agril. Engg., Food Technology, Biotechnology) as the professional educational courses.

ICAR, New Delhi has awarded the Certificate of Appreciation to University for valuable contribution to Krishikosh for achieving a milestone for submitting more than 850 theses in digital repository. University ranked first in registration of online e-courses in India. 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).

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). This Centre has started the Post Doctoral programme and will soon start the Post Graduate Diploma in Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management. The Project Phule Robo-Orchard Spraying Rover received First Prize in Agri India Hackathon 2020 organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and ICAR, New Delhi. Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management Project received Team Award for Recommendable Contribution in Digital Technology from ICAR under NAHEP.

First time in the history of the university twenty students of PG and Ph.D. programme of Faculty of Agriculture and Agril. Engineering attended International Training entitled “Drones, AI and Geo-informatics for Climate Smart Agriculture and Water Management” during 14th October 2019 to 13th November, 2019 at Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand under CAAST-CSAWM Project.

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. This Centre has established Climate Smart Villages at Buchkewadi, Tal. Junnar, Dist. Pune and Bamburdi Ghumat, Tal. & Dist. Ahmednagar by implementing digital technologies. This Centre has developed various instruments such as Automatic Double Ring Infiltrometer, Web based and Mobile based Spatial Evapo-Transpiration (ET) calculator and Phule SANMAN Software and mobile app to access the need of mechanization and available network solutions. Now University is dreaming for establishment of Incubation Centres for skill development and encourages Start-ups for the students.

The lockdown in India started from the last week of March 2020 due to Covid 19 situation. However, the CAAST project immediately shifted to online mode. During the last week of March 2020, the CAAST project developed the online learning model and methodology for organizing multisession online training programmes. Accordingly, it declared the first online national training programme in India in the first week of April 2020. The CAAST project was one of the first in India to shift to online mode quickly, since then, the project has organized 164 online programmes in the form of trainings, workshops, webinars and certificate courses

consisting of 923 technical sessions of one and half to three hours durations benefiting 24,011 students; 20,718 faculties and scientists; and 4,445 farmers all over India.

RESEARCH

The University has a well established network of research stations comprising of 5 agroclimatic zones of Maharashtra for formulating and executing the research on soil sustainability, developing varieties and hybrids, climate resilient agriculture, innovative cropping systems, rearing of farm animals and overall upliftment of farming community. There are four Zonal Agricultural Research Stations and 18 Sub-Research Stations for verification and taking new research work. In addition to this, four State level Crop Specialists are placed for Oilseeds at Jalgaon, Sugarcane at Padegaon, Wheat at Niphad and Soil at Solapur. At present, MPKV has 159 schemes including 45 AICRPs on different crops in operation.

The university has released **270 varieties** of field and fruit crops, **39** tractor drawn and manually operated farm implements and machineries and **1577** research recommendations for benefit of the farming society since the inception. Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri is the only university in India doing research on 126 crops. The improved varieties and hybrids in cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cash crops and horticultural crops are ruling in State as well as at National level. These varieties of the crops became a landmark in Indian Agriculture.

The University has also registered three patent on technology developed in the field of agriculture.

During the last year, university have released **9** crop varieties which are Phule Vishwaraj of Chickpea, Phule Satwik of Wheat, Phule Bhivra and Phule Nira of Safflower, Phule Sonali of Cowpea, Phule Chetak of Green gram, Phule Sarita of Mothbean, Manjari Shama and Manjari Medica of Grape, **3** farm implements, **2** stress resistance sources and **63** recommendations based on research and technology developed. Wingedbean variety PWB 11-2 (Phule Chardhari Wal), Pigeonpea variety Pule Tur-723-1-2-3 and Soybean variety Phule Durva are released at National level.

It is proud moment for the University, the sweet Sorghum variety CSH- 47 having high biomass hybrid suitable for ethanol, biofuel and silage making and Winged bean variety PWB 11-2 (Phule Chardhari Wal) having high pod yield and protein content were dedicated to the Nation last month by Hon. Prime Minister of India on 28 September, 2021.

During current year the University has potential to release 7 crop varieties of cereals, pulses and cash crops, 4 varieties of horticultural crops and 57 research recommendations at state level.

I would like to mention some crop varieties which had significant impact in field of agriculture. The area

under sugarcane variety CO- 86032 (Nira) is 45-50 %, CoM- 0265 (Phule 265) is 30-35 % in the State. One of the farmer from the Satara district acknowledge this variety by giving the name “८६०३२ ची कृपा” to his newly constructed bungalow. In the true scene, this is the real acknowledgement of university research work carried out for the betterment of the farming community.

The Department of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra had sanctioned Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – RAFTAAR Project on “Development of Master Trainers on Carbon Management in Sugarcane Soils for Better Productivity, Soil Health and Mitigation of Climate Change” for the years 2019-20 to 2021-22. Three state level training programmes of ten days, each were conducted for development of Master Trainers on Carbon Management in Sugarcane Soils. This has resulted in capacity building of more than 1500 Master Trainers from the work force of state Agriculture Department and Sugar Industry within the sugarcane bowl area of Maharashtra state. This shall help to enhance sugarcane productivity while improving organic carbon status and soil health under climate change scenario.

Similarly, in Pomegranate MPKV, Rahuri has released highly popular pomegranate varieties viz., Bhagwa (2003) and Phule Bhagwa Super (2013) which contributes more than 90 % area of the state.

In chickpea MPKV has released 14 chickpea varieties which are resistant to Fusarium wilt and drought tolerant with a high yield potential. Hence these varieties have highest indent for nucleus and breeder seed of about 15% at the National level.

In sorghum , MPKV, Rahuri has released varieties on the basis of soil types viz.; 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, Rahuri contributes 25 % rabi sorghum area of the State. During the year 2020-21, in crop competition Shri. Sahebrao Chickne from Sonegaon village of Satara district had harvested record yield of 101 quintal per ha of Phule Revati variety of sorghum released by the University. He was felicitated at the hands of Hon. Chief Minister and Agricultural Minister of Maharashtra.

Recently, Bajra Research Scheme, Dhule received the Best ICAR Center Award for 2020-21.

MPKV, Rahuri 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 field and fruit crop varieties released by the university had a significant impact on the agriculture economy of the State as well as the Nation. The varieties of eight crops viz., sugarcane, pomegranate, chickpea, rabi sorghum, onion, rice, citrus and pearl millet

released by university had contribution in gross revenue of Rs. 2,40,188 Cr. and net revenue contribution of Rs.32,206 Cr. Out of this, two sugarcane varieties (Co 86032 and CoM 0265) had share in gross revenue generated of Rs. 1,32,469 Cr. and net revenue generated Rs. 13,274 Cr.

At the Interfaculty Department of Irrigation Water Management the facility of 'IRRIGATION PARK' depicting all advanced methods of irrigation like online, inline drip; micro-sprinklers; micro-jets; overhead sprinklers; landscape irrigation methods; anti lead foggers and raingun on automation have been installed on an area of 3000 sq.m. This facility has become centre of attraction not only for farmers but also for students, staff and officers of the Universities and Government bodies.

United Nations (U.N.) General Assembly recently adopted a resolution, sponsored by India declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets. MPKV Rahuri has also planned several activities for this. The Department of Food Technology of our university has developed several Nutri-Cereal and Medicinal food products involving use of Finger millet, Kodo millet, Brown top millet, Little millet, Barnyard millet, Proso millet, Foxtail millet, Pearl millet, as well as Shatavari, Ashwagandha, Aonla, Pudina and Behada Cookies and Biscuits to increase public awareness on the health benefits of millets, medicinal plants and betterment of human health.

The university has also prepared next 10 years research roadmap regarding development of improved crop varieties and farm implements and machinery. Furthermore, the University is prioritizing its research on biotic and abiotic stress management, precision farming, processing and mechanical harvesting, bio-pesticides and fertilizers, nutritional and quality parameters. We have initiated the 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 robotic technology in the field of agriculture, use of nano technology, irrigation water management based on automatic weather station at its IT applications.

Recently Government of Maharashtra has sanctioned 'Indigenous (Desi) Cattle Research cum Training Centre' (ICRTC) to Division of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Science, College of Agriculture Pune. Under this project demonstration unit of 05 desi milking breeds *viz.*, Sahiwal, Gir, Red Sindhi, Rathi and Tharparkar will be established. These breeds can survive under the changing climatic situation of Maharashtra. The comparative study of production and reproduction of these five breeds will be studied under this project. Further, 150 embryo transfer at college farm and at farmers door steps will also be carried out. Farmers in Maharashtra will be 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. This will be one of the first of kind demonstration units in India.

At present the University has 31 externally funded projects having total cost of Rs. 62.8 Cr. University has generated Rs. 42.50 Cr. as a revenue receipts. Every year the university is implementing massive Seed Production Programme. During the last year MPKV has implemented seed production of 30,000 quintals seed and sold 11.9 lakh nursery grafts/plantlets during 2020-21. Till date total 416 MoUs has been signed with private seed companies and FPO's for product testing and supply of breeders seed.

EXTENSION

The role of extension services especially for technology transfer is most crucial for the farmers to realize the gains from technological innovations. Our University is a pioneer institute in extending research at grass root level.

The Govt. of India is emphasizing on Doubling Farmers Income by 2022. For achieving such targets, the role of university extension services especially for technology application is most crucial for the farmers to realize the gains from improved technological innovations.

Sir, the University is implementing manifold extension education activities. 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 (17) 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 collecting feedback.

The university has implemented different novel initiatives for farm technology application through adaptive research and implemented different projects viz., Climate Change Knowledge Network-Indian Agriculture (CCKN-IA) Project for increasing reach of our university technologies to the farming community and Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security (ProSoil) Project under German collaboration.

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.

During Covid period, University has also established a state-of-art demonstration plot at Central Campus of twelve fruit crops on an area of 15 acres as a Showcase of Good Agricultural Practices and to develop the confidence among the farmers for new interventions in horticultural fruit crops under irrigated and dry land conditions.

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. Further, 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 was also started during 2020.

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.

National level project funded by ICAR under Farmer FIRST programme is in operation at Chinchvhire, Kangar, Tambhere and Kanadgaon villages of the Ahmednagar district for enhancing the farmer's income.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic situation our university extension scientists organized various virtual webinars, training programmes, workshops for farmers and other stakeholders on different themes viz., digital marketing, precision farming, post-harvest technologies, crop production, livestock production etc., and are available on social media network. In all more than 415 programmes were organized with participation of 25000 + various stakeholders along with farmers.

University brings out informative publications *viz.*, Krishidarshani, Shri Sugi, MPKV Happenings, e-varta, Periodicals, Booklets, Books, Folders and Bulletins for farmers. In the era of digital India, we have launched Mobile Apps i.e Phule Krishidarshani, Phule Jal, Phule Irrigation Scheduler, Location Spatial ETr, Phule Pest and Disease management, Phule SAM, Phule SANMAN and Phule Auto PIS for the benefit of farmers.

Further, this university is actively involved as Knowledge Partner for Digital Soybean Shetishala-initiative by PANNI Foundation which is participated by more than 75000 farmers.

A tree plantation programme Vanmohotsav-2020 and 2021 and Krishidin was organized at MPKV, Rahuri. On this occasion saplings of different species were planted in all university affiliated Colleges and Agricultural Technical Schools along with the Agricultural Research Stations and Central Campus, Rahuri. In all during 2016 to 2021 we have planted more than 4 lakh saplings of different plants including horticultural crops with 80 per cent survival rate.

University in its jurisdiction has formulated 54 Farmers-Scientists Forum to demonstrate and to educate the farmers about the technologies generated by the University at different locations. Thus, these farmers are serving as farm-leaders to disseminate the technologies. 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 for technological backstopping.

Sir, for showcasing of university technologies in selected villages, our university is implementing an innovative approach of '*Krishi Parayan*' for the farming community. This will bridge the gap between common farmers and university.

Sir, during this convocation, 11468 numbers of graduates are being conferred with different degrees, which include 10736 Under Graduates and 732 post graduate students.

I congratulate all the graduates who are receiving their degrees both in person, through online mode and in absentia and the winners of the various medals, prizes and awards at this convocation.

While, convocation marks the end of the degree programme, learning is a continuous process and you should explore the enormous possibilities that are available for you. Make best use of your knowledge so that rather than becoming job seeker, you become an entrepreneur and ultimately the job creator. That will be the great service to the nation.

Dear students, always remember Swami Vivekananda's sermon: "Take up one idea, live in it, leave all other ideas, arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached". Dear student friends, please inculcate this sermon in yourself so that you can reach the desired goal which you have planned in your life. As a student of Agricultural University, you should take a pledge to contribute to the welfare of not only the farming community, but also the entire society in whatsoever role you play in your professional life and become responsible citizens of the country.

I wish all of you a bright future and best luck for the new beginning.

Thank you one and all.

Jai Hind! Jai Maharashtra!

