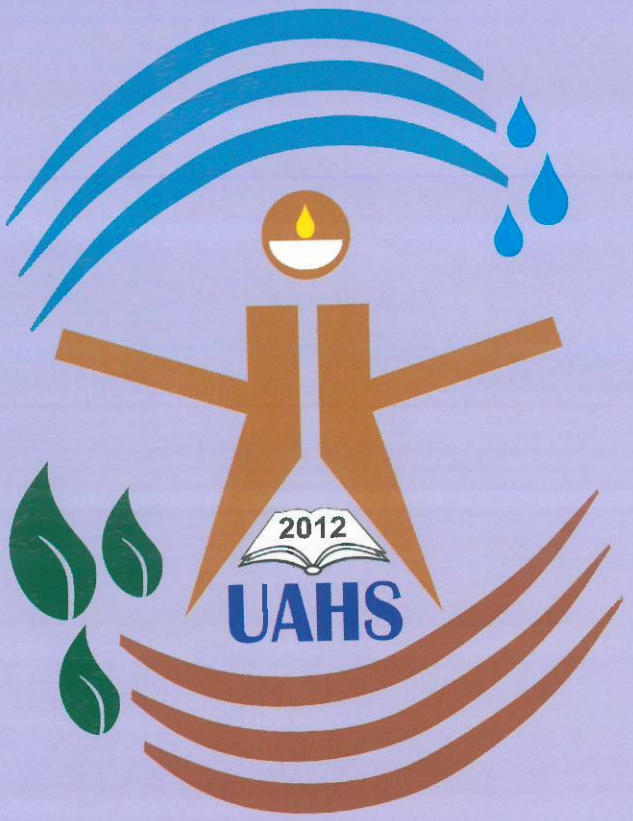


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University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga

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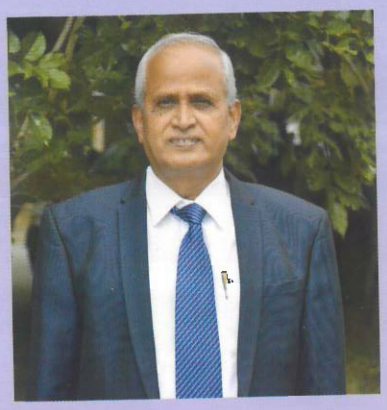
# THIRD CONVOCATION

**21-12-2017**

# CONVOCATION ADDRESS




**Dr. C. Vasudevappa**

Vice Chancellor, National Institute of Food Technology
Entreprenurship and Management,
Sonepat, Haryana

## C. Vasudevappa

His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka and the Chancellor of the University of Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences, Shri. VajubhaiValaji; Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka and Pro Chancellor, Shri. Krishna Byre Gowdaji, Distinguished Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Narayanaswamy, Members of Board of Management and Academic Council; Esteemed Guests; Farmer friends, Deans, Learned Faculty and Staff; Students; Representatives of Press and Media; Ladies and Gentlemen,

I deem it a great honour to be here for the Convocation of University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga and would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency the Governor of Karnataka and the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka, and the University administration. I convey my hearty congratulations to the students on their successful completion of their academic programs and being conferred with their hard earned degrees and awards. It is a day to rejoice and celebrate for students and their parents. I wish them all success in their future endeavors. I also wish to convey my greetings to the learned faculty and the administration for their untiring efforts in providing quality education to the students.

University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga has the unique status of being the first Integrated

University in the state of Karnataka which has both agricultural, horticultural and forestry sciences under its purview. This assumes greater significance in the context of Doubling Farmers' Income and ensuring safe food through the production and processing chains, which requires diversification for enhancing net farm output, technological interventions and value addition through processing/ preservation for achieving the goal. The University has the necessary institutional capacity in terms of Colleges, Agricultural Research Stations, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and AICRPs to holistically address these aspects of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry, in the mandated seven districts of the State.I am happy to express that I was part of the University as the First Vice Chancellor of the University and it gives me lot of satisfaction to see the clear road map that the university has laid out in the path to progress.

It gives me immense happiness and pleasure to inform that this is the youngest university to get ICAR accreditation in less than 5 years' period and wish to congratulate all the teachers and students for achieving this land mark development. My request in all concerned is only that, please reap the benefits of this accreditation without losing focus to become an institution of National importance. I also wish to acknowledge the support rendered in establishing the new campus of this university by Honble Chief Minister of Karnataka Sri Siddaramaiahji, Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Sri Krishna Byregowdaji, Hon'ble Revenue Minister Sri. KagoduThimmappaji, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and Former Chief Minister Sri. Yadyurappaji Hon'ble Speaker of Legislative Council Sri D H Shankaramurthyji and all the sitting and past MLAs and MLCs of the district in conceptualizing and helping the university to lay the foundation for establishing the new University campus at Iruvakki village Sagar Taluk during

June 2017 which I wish will shape up to become a green International Institution of par excellence.

The University represents a unique mix of agro-climatic zones with all kinds of farming situations involving field crops (rice, maize,sugarcane, pulses, oil seeds, cotton *etc*), horticultural crops (plantation crops, fruits and vegetables crops), animal husbandry (dairy, sheep, poultry), agro-forestry and fisheries. The crop range that the University has released or demonstrated such as the rice variety, KPR-1, KKP-5 (IET 24250) and KHP-13 (IET 21479) for low hilly region, high yielding var of Maidan Local Areca, onion varieties, Bhima Super and Satara Garva; groundnut KCG-6; hybrid castor HCH-6; cardamom Mudigere-1, 2 & 3; Cashew Ullal-1, 2, 3 & 4; Customized farm machinery such as Brahmavar and Hiriyur models paddy weeder, Single and Double row *Karavali* weeder, Modified bullock drawn multipurpose cultivator, Power Tiller operated groundnut Seed drill and Power tiller operated Dozer, Spot Applicator, Areca dehusker, tray nursery seedling machine, Modified hand operated Maize Sheller and many more have been well received by the farming community.

It is a happy moment to note that the University is addressing important issues such as the integrated farming system approach, Climate resilient agriculture, Organic farming, Sustainable forestry, Western Ghats Biodiversity, Dryland and irrigated horticulture & Aeroponics, seed production of different cereals, pulses, oil seeds and vegetables, production of quality planting material production, large scale Custom Hire Service Centres, Centre for pesticide analysis, FMTTI Centre, Apiculture and processing unit, centre for cashew and coconut

development, bakery, Farmers Communication Channel *etc.*, to address the regional needs. I would like to compliment the Vice Chancellor and the faculty for their effort in innovating and addressing the regional needs.

Despite good efforts of scientists and committed farming community, farming is increasingly getting stressed. The challenge, now and in future, are climate variability, declining and degrading state of natural resources, sub-optimal input use efficiency, emergence of new biotic and abiotic stresses, post-harvest losses, access to a good marketing system, adequate supply of energy and its management; knowledge lag, enhancing farm profitability and above all, an ever increasing food-feed-fuel demand. While there is a need to focus on sustaining the productivity gains in the irrigated agriculture, the major emphasis should, however, be on the development of rainfed agriculture, promotion of integrated farming, high value agriculture, secondary and specialty agriculture. Anticipatory and strategic research on genomics, quality seed and planting material, precision farming, conservation agriculture, dry land agriculture, protected cultivation, farm mechanization, alternative sources of energy, biosensors, health foods, feed and fodder for doubling the farm and family income need to be accorded high priority.

Another area of concern is resource use efficiency with regard to water, energy, fertilizers, pesticides, feeds and fodders, which is rather low and results in increased cost of production. There is enormous scope to improve the productivity and efficiency of farming through technological interventions and ensuring timely availability of adequate supplies of quality inputs at affordable prices to

farmers for achieving higher agricultural productivity and production..

Productive soils are being diverted to non-agricultural uses leading to shrinkage in land availability. The soils are getting further degraded leading to improper nutrient use efficiency. This not only increases the cost of production but leads to severe environmental consequences. The nutrient status of soils determines the quality of farm produce and their importance is best summed up in the words of Dr M.S. Swaminathan, ***'Soil anaemia also breeds human anaemia. Micronutrient deficiency in the soil results in micronutrient malnutrition in people, since crops grown on such soils tend to be deficient in the nutrients needed to fight hidden hunger'***. I should complement the efforts of Government of Karnataka for undertaking soil health analysis on a campaign mode and comprehensively implementing the Krishi Bhagya Yojana. Enabling the farmers with appropriate climate based adaptation strategies and promoting efficient use of natural resources would bring sustainability to farm production and improve farmer's income. Such a move to usher climate smart agriculture coupled with vulnerability assessment (through remote sensing, GIS or Decision support system) and providing standardized methodologies for soil testing, weather observations would bring resilience to agriculture.

Diversification holds promise by shifting agriculture towards high value crops and intensive cultivation with better and effective water use efficiency. The success would depend largely on improving the marketing efficiency by attracting investment. Creating markets, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, transport and cold chain for agriculture

produce, organized retails should be promoted to link small holders to the market through a group / cluster approach. The family farming demands besides economics, continuous upgradation of knowledge levels, entrepreneurship and benefits to the environment. The need is to make agriculture more exciting and rewarding for family farms so that self-employed workers in agriculture are not pushed to move out to non-agriculture activities under distress.

Crop diversification is an important risk minimizing strategy for drought proofing in the scarce rainfall zones and also in paddy growing areas with greater emphasis on contingency planning. However, availability and access to farm implements for taking up the intercropping systems is to be ensured for wider adoption. In this context, Hobli / village level custom hiring service centers for making available farm implements can help increase the adoption by small and marginal farmers. ***Krishi Yantra dhare*** initiated by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister as a flagship programme has provided good capacitation in this direction. Indian agriculture is becoming increasingly energy-intensive and hence there is a need for introducing energy-efficient farm machinery and irrigation systems, areas that are also relevant to the 'Make in India initiative. In order to meet the growing demand for energy in agriculture, use of non-conventional and renewable sources of energy would be imperative.

The recent FAO State of Food and Agriculture states that people living in poverty and extreme poverty *i.e.* with per day income of US$ 2 and less, number over two billion inspite of poverty decline over the past three decades. The report also mentions that the incidence of extreme poverty is disproportionately concentrated in rural areas, and the rural

poor are more likely to rely on agriculture than other rural households and that makes agriculture a key to poverty and hunger alleviation intervention. Hence, enhancing the productivity and incomes of small holder family farmers is key to progress.

The growing population, expanding urbanization and rising incomes have raised a wide range of important issues linked to national food-security, including dietary preferences, especially higher demand for livestock products and consumption of more processed foods. In our efforts to address the complete paradigm of food and nutritional security - by connecting Agriculture-Food-Health-Nutrition-Environment-Employment appropriately- it has become imperative that we look at the health and quality status of the produce from *Seed to Plate, Pond to Palate* - and *Farm to Fork.* This would also reduce the burden on health care systems in the society. It is just to emphasize the fact that anything that is done smartly, rightly and timely at the farm level would result in a better quality and safety which will also improve the farm income.

Entrepreneurship development for students of the University and their placement and also progressive farm youth has to be given top priority to promote more scientific and innovative technologies for better economic returns to bring in sustainability. The success of EDP depends on the competency in skills and managerial capabilities. We should understand that today's requirement is more focused towards quality than quantity concerns, safety for better health, and profits for continued sustainability. The students should venture in to start up programmes through student innovations which really requires the suitable technology

incubation facility in all Universities. The agri professionals should become job providers rather than job seekers. This is the theme on which NIFTEM, the University currently I am heading, is working and it requires comprehensive knowledge and conceptualization of a profitable business model with clear understanding of the market needs. I welcome UAHS Shivamogga to have collaboration with NIFTEM in terms of entrepreneurship management in agriculture or food processing and the importance of incubation facilities could be better visualized.

Post-harvest losses are very high (6-18%) amounting to about Rs. 95,000 crore annually, particularly in perishable commodities like fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, fish etc. Sufficient infrastructure for storage and transportation holds the key with effective backward and forward integration of farm operation, processing and marketing. The MOFPI GoI has come up with many schemes which requires a serious effort by the Government and by the farming clusters. The concepts of farmers associations, farmers clusters, farmer producers organizations/companies, primary processing centres, transport infrastructure, mini and mega food parks including packaging and mass and quality management needs good investments. Besides the potentialities for agro-based or bio-based industries have not been realized due to lack of infrastructure. Recently, agro-industrial potentialities of crops like maize, soybean, potato, litchi, *etc*. have been recognized. Tuber crops such as yams, sweet potato, taro, tapioca *etc*. can be used as source of carbohydrate, starch and protein not only for human consumption, but also to sustain the traditional animal husbandry practices. Besides, sericulture, mushrooms, floriculture, apiculture, natural gum and resins open great

scope for widening of agro-based enterprises. Agro-waste such as paddy husk, rice bran, rice straw, sugarcane bagasse, press mud, vermicompost, *etc.* can be good materials that require urgent consideration for development. Keeping these facts in view, there is ample opportunity in developing secondary agriculture, primary processing, value addition and increasing shelf-life of farm produce.

India has adopted a comprehensive system of agricultural education, consisting a network of 63 State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), two central Agricultural Universities (CAU), five Institutes having Deemed-to-be-Universities (DUs) status and four Central Universities (CUs) with Agriculture faculty having about 330 constituent colleges. They have embraced education, innovation and outreach as integral to their functioning and have contributed a great deal in propelling agricultural growth in the country. The AUs impart education in 11 major disciplines at undergraduate and about 95 subjects at post-graduate level. In higher agricultural education, about 55% students are from rural background and, on an average, 40% are girl students. Privatization of education, problems of Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and food, *etc.* put greater stress on agricultural education. It will be necessary to efficiently employ Active Learning & Teaching in Education and Research (ALTER) in agriculture education which would ultimately translate to ALTER agriculture education. Deployment of such modern techniques in agriculture education would orient education in a manner that it measures up to several ***"Es"*** of the expectations of all stakeholders *viz.*, ***Employability*** for students, ***Enablement of*** farming community with Livelihood security,

***Empowerment of*** newer knowledge and innovations for farming, and ***Econmic growth*** for the country through sustainable development. I would like to highlight here a few quotes from some world leaders – "It is no coincidence that in countries where agriculture has taken off, there have been **large investments in research and infrastructure.**" – ***Span KanayoNwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)***

**We need to strengthen research for efficiently produced, healthy food, while ensuring the availability of food at affordable prices. This includes improving logistics, infrastructure, and transportation systems to ensure those who need food are supplied with it."**– ***Paul Bulcke, CEO of Nestlé***

I am sure UAHS, Shivamogga would stand among its peer institutions and be counted in the years to come. I wish that the research, education and extension activities of this University will serve the needy and help farmers across various agricultural activities.

I know quality education is the priority of this university and because of this the students of UAHS are doing well in all spheres of agriculture development. You are well nurtured and groomed both in curricular and co-curricular activities, by the learned faculty which is well reflected by the Vice Chancellors report.

Swami Vivekananda says, ***'So long as the millions live in hunger and ignorance, I hold every person a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the***

***least heed to them!'. And further, 'They alone live who live for others, rest are more dead than alive'. Let us stand up and be counted among those who would not only be accepted, but respected.***

I take pride in congratulating all the graduating students and award winners and wish you all the best in all your future endeavors.

**God bless you all and thank you.**