



The
CONVOCATION

Monday, 10th June, 2024

**VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT
CONVOCATION ADDRESS
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PROFESSOR JAYASHANKAR TELANGANA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

**Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030, Telangana
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SIXTH CONVOCATION

Monday, 10th June, 2024

Welcome Address and Progress Report

Sri M. Raghunandan Rao, IAS

Vice Chancellor



Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and the Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Sri C. P. Radhakrishnan Garu; Distinguished Chief Guest Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty Garu; Managing Director, State Bank of India, Mumbai; Hon'ble Members of the Board of Management, University Officers, Members of Academic Council, Former Vice Chancellors and University Officers, Graduates of the Year and their parents, Invited Guests, Faculty members, Staff, Representatives of the Press and Media, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with immense pleasure and pride that I welcome you to the Sixth Convocation of the University. PJTSAU extends warm greetings to all those present here and to those from various parts of the State, joining us through the webcast of this convocation. Let me begin my report by extending heartiest congratulations to the graduating students and their family members and friends.

It is a great privilege and honour for me to welcome the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of the University, Sri C. P. Radhakrishnan *Garu*. Born on 4th May, 1957, Sri Radhakrishnan *Garu* is the Governor of Jharkhand since 2023. He is also officiating as the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana & Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry since 20th March, 2024. During his illustrious career, the Hon'ble Chancellor discharged duties in several key roles, which has strengthened the democratic fabric of the country. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore twice. The Hon'ble Governor was also member of Parliamentary delegation to the United Nations in 2004 and addressed the 58th session of the UN General Assembly during the visit. The Hon'ble Governor was chairman of Parliament Standing Committee for Textiles during 1998 to 2003. He was the Chairman of the All India Coir Board, which comes under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, from 2016 to 2019. He was a member of the Parliamentary Committee for Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), and during 1998 to 2004 he was a member of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Finance. He was also member of the Parliamentary Special Committee to investigate the stock exchange misdeeds. The Hon'ble Chancellor is one of the most respected and senior-most leaders from South India and pursuing research on Political Science with doctoral research on the topic "Fall of Communism".

With a sense of humility and honour, I welcome the Chief Guest, Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty *Garu*, Managing Director (International Banking, Global Markets & Technology), State Bank of India. It is a great coincidence and matter of pride that, Sri Setty is an alumnus of College of

Agriculture, Rajendranagar from 1982 batch of B.Sc. (Ag.). Sri Setty is on the Central Board of SBI as Managing Director since January 2020 and is currently heading International Banking, Global Markets & Technology wings of the Bank. Prior to the present assignment, Sri Setty headed Retail & Digital Banking vertical.

He has been passionate about supporting agriculture and rural finance as a part of his career and worked extensively both in strengthening the financial inclusion and promoting agricultural value chain financing. As Chairman of the working group constituted by the Government of India, he has been instrumental in laying down the scope and possibility for adoption and implementation of agriculture value chain finance in India and developing specific solutions including product specific financing to ensure easy finance for post-harvest management.

In the area of financial inclusion especially in respect of deepening the Business Correspondents (BC) channel that played stellar role in making the banking services accessible in the remote areas, Sri Setty played a significant role by heading the task forces and monitoring committees formed by the Government that worked on addressing the issues related to BCs. To make the credit linked Government sponsored schemes easily accessible to the common man, Government constituted a task force under the chairmanship of Sri Setty to design and implement a state of the art portal. The portal named "Jansamarth" was developed in a record time and was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in June 2022 and has since been operating as digital public infrastructure successfully. As head of international banking, Sri Setty manages largest overseas operations of an Indian bank with presence in 29 countries.

With the permission of the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Chancellor and the President of the Convocation, I take this opportunity to present the report of the University activities, for the period from 1st August, 2020 to 31st July, 2021.

The Board of Management, the apex body governing the PJTSAU held the statutory bimonthly meetings five times on 22nd July, 9th October and 7th December, 2020; 12th February and 5th June, 2021 to discuss and approve matters of academic, financial and administrative concern during the period under report.

Two Academic Council meetings were held on 15th December, 2020 and 20th May, 2021 to monitor academic progress across the faculties. The main endeavor of the administration has been to usher in reforms on sustainable basis that would improve the visibility, accountability and performance of all the Teaching, Research and Extension units of the University with the continuous support from the State administration and guidance of Gol through ICAR.

The University and its constituent colleges were accredited by the ICAR-National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board for a period of five years *i.e.* from 28th March, 2021 to 27th March, 2026 with overall Score of 3.59 equivalent to Grade 'A'. The PJTSAU continued its membership in reputed and recognized scientific bodies *viz.*, Indian Agricultural University Association (IAUA), New Delhi, Institutional Member of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), ICAR, New Delhi, TAAS Institution Member and Member of Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Bangkok, Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India (CHAI), Thailand, Association of the Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), Thailand and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Telangana and Current Science Association, Bengaluru.

The Research, Education and Extension efforts of the PJTSAU were recognized at the national level and the awards received for the year 2020-21 are ample testimony as given hereunder.

- ISO 9001:2015 Certification for University administrative office for quality policy to improve the efficiency, traceability of administration.

- 30th position in the ranking of Agricultural Universities in the country for the year 2020 by ICAR.
- 29th Rank during 2020 in INDIA TODAY survey of the Universities in the country.
- Krishi Siksha Samman Runner up Award by M/s Mahindra & Mahindra on 10th February, 2021 for facilitation and propagation of dry and wet methods in paddy among the farming community of the State.
- “Best Centre Award under the On-Station Main Centre Category” for AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems, Rajendranagar by ICAR – Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram.
- Accreditation by NABL as per ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard valid till July, 2022 for the AINP Pesticide Residues Laboratory.
- Accreditation by NABL for MFPI – Quality Control Laboratory as per ISO-IEC/17025 – 2017 up to October, 2021.
- Certificates of Appreciation to *Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)*, Palem, Adilabad, Wyra, Kampasagar, Bellampalli, Rudrur, Malyal, Kothagudem and Mancherial for their best performance at Annual Zonal Workshop.

Significant Activities under Teaching

New academic initiatives in line with emerging scenario have always been University's top priority and some of the initiatives of the University are given hereunder.

- All the Heads of Constituent Units were instructed to ensure academic services during the COVID 19 pandemic to mitigate probable exigencies.
- NSS student volunteers prepared knowledge material on COVID 19 safety measures and spread awareness through social media from their residences.
- The Department of Apparels and Textiles of Community Science faculty prepared cotton face masks on large scale and distributed to University staff including farm labour.
- All the constituent colleges of the University formed special grievance cells with a committee to address any issues related to academics, examinations and sanitation and precautionary measures in the light of COVID 19 pandemic.
- University has organized first ever online Convocation (4th Convocation) in the State on 27th August, 2020 at the University Auditorium, Rajendranagar in view of COVID 19 pandemic.
- Course wise WhatsApp groups were created and the teachers conducted classes through zoom, WhatsApp audio and video calls for M.Sc. and Ph.D. courses.
- Student READY programme was completed in respective villages in online mode.
- The undergraduate students of three faculties of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering & Technology and Community Science have registered online/offline and attended both online and offline classes (Theory + Practicals).
- The AELP programmes for skill development at the campus for final year students were conducted by following all COVID 19 protocols.

- The Fifth Convocation was held in virtual mode on 17th April, 2021, at the University Auditorium, Rajendranagar.
- The University has implemented for the first time the digital mode of examinations for semester final theory examinations for all the UG courses from first semester 2020-2021.

Admissions

Undergraduate Programmes

During the academic year 2020-21, the University has admitted 826 students into various Undergraduate Programmes 673 in B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture, 48 in B.Tech. (Ag. Engg.), 35 in B.Tech. (Food Technology) and 70 in B.Sc.(Hons.) Community Science.

Post Graduate Programmes

One hundred and sixty nine (169) students were admitted to various Postgraduate Programmes, (123 in M.Sc.(Ag.), 21 in M.Sc. (Community Science), 23 in MBA (ABM) and 02 in M.Tech. (Ag. Engg.). 51 students were admitted into Doctoral Programmes (42 Agriculture and 09 in Community Science).

Out Turn

Undergraduate Programmes

A total of 580 students passed out from various UG Programmes, (454 in B.Sc.(Hons.) Agriculture, 53 in B.Tech. (Ag. Engg.), 29 in B.Tech (Food Technology), 44 in B.Sc.(Hons.) Community Science).

Post Graduate Programmes

A total of 123 students passed out from various PG and Ph.D. Programmes, comprising 62 in M.Sc.(Ag.), 14 in MBA (ABM), 18 in M.Sc.(Community Science), 03 in M.Tech.(Ag. Engg.), 21 in Ph.D.(Ag.) and 05 in Ph.D.(Community Science).

Academic Excellence

Ten and Twenty four students of the University have secured Junior and Senior Research Fellowships respectively for the year 2020-21. Fifty three (53) students have got admission in M.Sc. (Ag.) programme at 21 different SAUs through ICAR - AIEEA (PG) – 2020 and respective SAU entrance examination in the disciplines of Agronomy, Social Sciences, Plant Sciences, Entomology and Soil Science. One student of College of Food Science & Technology, Rudrur qualified Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) and secured admission in to M.Tech. at National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Haryana during academic year 2020-21. Five students of College of Food Science & Technology, Rudrur secured 3, 4, 7, 9 and 13 ranks in Post Graduate Engineering Common Entrance Test (TS PGECET) and Telangana State Level Common Entrance Test for Admission into Regular PG Courses for the year 2020 and secured PG seats in Osmania University, Hyderabad. Three students of the College of Food Science & Technology, Rudrur secured 1, 7, 34 ranks in ICAR Entrance examination for PG admission and secured PG seats at NDRI, Karnal and at NIFTEM, Tanjavur for the academic year 2020-21.

NSS / NCC Activities

Civic engagement is an important aspect of our education and PJTSAU through its 25 NSS units in 09 constituent colleges and 01 Agricultural Engineering polytechnic fulfilled this

responsibility by enrolling 2500 students as NSS volunteers. Under sapling plantation programme, 20 programmes were conducted and 2882 saplings were planted involving 1151 volunteers. NSS volunteers (367) of different colleges were involved in pulse polio immunization programme at their native places. Two health camps were conducted by Agricultural College, Palem and Sircilla, 255 patients were benefitted in the camp by involving 90 volunteers. Under *Swachh Bharath* campaign, 15 programmes were conducted involving 690 volunteers.

Ms. A. Shivani Goud, B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering) final year student from College of Agricultural Engineering, Sangareddy was selected to attend the Pre RD parade camp at Anurag University, Ghatkesar held from 20th to 29th November, 2020.

All the NSS Units of the University received Certificates for Action Plan of SESREC (Social Entrepreneurship, *Swachhta* & Rural Engagement Cell) for the year 2020-21 submitted to Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education Government of India to practice *Swachhta* and Care for Environment and Resources in the campus and NSS adopted villages.

Five hundred NSS volunteers and Ten NSS programme officers of all the constituent colleges participated in a webinar on National Educational Policy - 2020 conducted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India to create awareness among community with the help of NSS/NCC/NYKS.

Ninety seven (97) NCC cadets from College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar attended two Cadre camps organized by 1(T) R&V Regt NCC, Rajendranagar. Sixty seven (67) and Thirty (30) students passed NCC 'B' and 'C' Certificate Examinations, respectively.

Student Placements

Student's counseling and Placement Cells are functioning in all the Colleges and Polytechnics of the University. A total of 97 students got placed in different public and private organizations.

Knowledge Management Centre (KMC)

KMC recorded a footfall of 21919 and played a vital role in supporting teaching, learning, research activities by providing rich collection of print and non-print documents which included 1,50,028 books, 275 foreign and Indian periodicals, 1756 e-books, 10 databases (CABI, Elsevier, CRC Netbase, e-journals, J-Gate, Agriculture and Biological Sciences (CeRA), *KrishiPrabha*, *Krishikosh*, DELNET, CMIE-Commodities, Indiatat.com available both offline/online). KMC continues to be partner in the World bank funded NAHEP project on "National Knowledge Management Centre for Agriculture Education and Research" and is 2nd in NARS Library system to implement EzProxy server after ICAR, New Delhi to provide e-Resource with User ID and Password without IP. KMC tagged about 35,000 books with RFID chip and also procured an RFID self-check system for hassle free circulation of books.

Significant Activities under Research

The University is committed to its mandate of delivering the research outcomes in tune with the emerging challenges of both biotic and abiotic stresses and yield improvement of mandatory crops as per the location specific needs of the farmers. Most of the research results were realized through multidisciplinary efforts.

- Three (3) improved crop varieties, two in rice (*Telangana vari 2* (WGL 697) and *Telangana vari 3* (JGL 21078) and one in redgram *Telangana kandi 2* (WRGE 121) developed by PJTSAU were notified by CVRC for release.

- Field level technologies in Natural Resource Management (21), Crop Protection (10) and Farm Mechanization (4) were highlighted for the benefit of stakeholders.
- A total of 28 Minikit entries developed at various research stations were evaluated during 2020-21 in farmer fields for their yield potential and pest / disease reaction.
- Groundnut oil extraction unit at RARS, Palem, Dal mill at ARS, Tandur and Sesame cold press oil unit at RARS, Jagtial were installed and test run was conducted successfully during the period under report.
- A value chain project on turmeric involving mechanization, post-harvest processing and value addition was started at RS&RRS, Rudrur on 6th July, 2020. The RS&RRS, College of Food Science & Technology, KVK, Rudrur and DAATTC, Nizamabad collaboratively took up this project with a targeted area of 220 acres under mechanization and 40 acres under manual planting for comparative demonstration.
- The University has executed MoAs with two firms during 2020-21 viz., M/s. Deccan Mudra and M/s. Mulakanur Cooperative society for branding and marketing Super fine Rice variety, Telangana Sona on a premium market brand leveraging its low Glycemic Index. The branding and marketing strategy with private companies assisted in exporting Telangana Sona rice to other countries also.
- Six MoUs were entered with the Farmer's Cooperative Societies and Private Seed companies for licensing towards production and marketing of University maize hybrid, DHM 121, in addition to the earlier 26 MoUs.

- Quality breeder seed of major crops to the extent of 2145.05 quintals was produced and supplied to seed producing agencies for multiplication and distribution. In addition, 6670.05 quintals foundation and 4824.71 quintals truthfully labeled / certified was also produced.
- Natural Dye Processing and Incubation Centre located at Rajendranagar produced natural dye paint of 6.4 tonnes (4 tonnes white and 2.4 tonnes of colours in fourteen shades) and were supplied to paint 17.80 lakh Ganesh clay idols of various sizes ranging from 8 inches to 6 feet, through Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB).
- Millet Processing and Incubation Centre at Rajendranagar produced value added millet products (*ragi* vermicelli, sorghum flour, multigrain flour, sorghum *rawa*, ragi flour, bajra flour, *jowar* bread and buns, sorghum biscuits etc.) and marketed under brand name of *Millet Plus*.

Significant Activities under Extension

Constituent Units of Extension led by DAATTCs and KVKs have assessed and refined the PJTSAU technologies through 101 on-farm trials, 214 front-line demonstrations related to field crops, horticulture, animal husbandry / fisheries and Community Science in the theme areas of crop varieties popularization, soil and nutrient management, weed and water management, crop protection, mechanization, value addition, drudgery reduction and fisheries. Real time agro-advisories were provided through 988 diagnostic field visits by the University personnel along with 668 visits in association with Department of Agriculture. The University also organized 37 *Kisan melas*, 14 *Rythu sadassus*, 122 method demonstrations, 164 group discussions, 397 training programmes including 41 skill trainings and 82 field days were conducted to create awareness and educate the farming community about the latest agriculture technologies. ICT tools were

effectively used for dissemination of weather, pest and market intelligence alerts through mobile text.

KVKs of the University were identified as partners for implementing certain farmer friendly projects in 2020-21.

- Interactive Information Dissemination Systems (IIDS) - *Annapurna Krishi Prasara Seva* in 8 KVKs (Malyal, Wyra, Kampasagar, Adilabad, Rudrur, Palem, Bellampalli and Kothagudem) and 9 DAATTCs (Sangareddy, Rangareddy, Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar, Warangal, Malthummeda, Mudhole and Tornala).
- ICAR – National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) – Demonstration of Climate Resilient technologies - KVK, Wyra, Khammam dist.
- ICAR, Gol - ARYA project to develop entrepreneurial skills in rural youth – KVK, Kampasagar and Malyal.

Six *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* (KVKs) of the University implemented the Tribal Sub Plan project and organized 51 technology demonstration programmes including 61 training programmes on various innovative technologies. A total of 4343 tribal farmers were benefitted with the various activities of the project.

Electronic Wing with its modern in-house production studio brought out a Video on the University profile apart from facilitating information transfer through the electronic media by way of phone-in-live programmes, recorded programmes (203) in various TV channels and 581 radio scripts for All India Radio. During the period under report, nine DVDs were produced and 70 video modules were uploaded in PJTSAU YouTube Channel for the benefit of farming community. In addition, one publication on *Vyavasaya Suchanalalu* (2020) were brought out by the Electronic Wing for the benefit of the farmers.

The Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) disseminated technology information and agro-advisories to around 523 farmers and stakeholders from different districts of Telangana.

Extension Education Institute (EEI) conducted a total of 45 online training programmes benefitting 1733 officers of Agriculture and Allied departments of Southern Region also conducted two online consultancy training programmes in collaboration with MANAGE benefitting 110 field level woman extension and officers.

Under *Chenukaburlu*, 52 programmes were broadcast every Wednesday from 1.30 to 2.00 p.m. entitled *Gruha Vignana Tarangini / Vyavasaya Vignana Tarangini* produced by the students of constituent colleges of the University during the period under report for the benefit of farmers and other stakeholders on important topics pertaining to Agriculture, Community Science and allied sectors.

Research Publications

Faculty members and research scholars of the University published 663 research papers (Teaching 299, Research 290 and Extension 74) in various peer reviewed National and International journals besides authoring chapters in books and publication of large number of popular articles.

Finance and Budget

The block grant approved in the budget for the year 2020-21 was Rs. 28625 lakhs, including salaries grant of Rs. 28000 lakhs and other grants-in-aid of Rs. 625 lakhs. The ICAR assistance was Rs. 3892.21 lakhs and the Government of India assistance was Rs. 1506.25 lakhs. During the year, an amount of Rs. 374.87 lakhs was received from other agencies and Rs. 47.60 lakhs for departmental sponsored schemes. Thus, the total budget of the University during the year 2020-21 was Rs. 59101.54 lakhs.

Inauguration of New buildings

- The new girl's hostel building at Agricultural Polytechnic, Jogipet on 4th July, 2020.
- The new office cum laboratory building of Agricultural Research Station, Karimnagar on 11th July, 2020.
- NSP modular seed godown, Lab cum office building, Agroforestry and main gate complex at Head quarter on 8th January, 2021.

Workshops / Webinars / Memorial lectures / Conventions

- Dr. P. V. Vara Prasad, Director, Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab, University Distinguished Professor, Crop Eco-Physiology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA delivered 6th Professor Jayashankar Commemorative address on “Humanity at cross roads with wicked problems of global pandemics, climate change and food security” on the eve of Sixth Foundation Day Celebrations of University.
- A two day workshop on “Envisioning Future for SABM” was organized for revamping the MBA (ABM) course presently being offered by School of Agribusiness Management (SABM), Rajendranagar by Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad.
- Sixth National Youth Convention on “Innovation and Agricultural Reforms for Farmer's Prosperity” was jointly organized by AIASA, ICAR and PJTSAU on 20th and 21st February, 2021 (online) at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad.
- A total of four webinars were organized in academic/ research areas of importance for the benefit of faculty and farmers.

Participation of Faculty in Overseas Programmes

Dr. A. Srijan, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Agricultural College, Warangal and Dr. K. B. Suneetha Devi, Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, Agricultural College, Jagtial presented research papers at the international virtual seminar and annual meetings titled "Translating visionary science into practice" to be organized by American Society of Agronomy & CSSA & SSS of America at Madison, Wisconsin, USA from 9th to 13th November, 2020.

Dr. P. Revathi, Scientist, Agronomy, RARS, Jagtial presented two research papers in the 2021 Annual International meeting of American Society of Agricultural Biological Engineers (ASAEB), USA held in virtual mode from 11th to 14th July, 2021.

Participation of Faculty in National level Programmes

Five staff members of Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of the University have participated in the International E-conference on "Advances on future outlook in Biotechnology and Crop improvement for sustainable productivity" from 24th to 27th November, 2020 held at Department of Biotechnology and Crop Improvement, College of Horticulture, Bengaluru and University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka.

Cooperative Agreements

The University signed and exchanged eleven (11) MoUs with various educational institutions, research labs and industrial establishments. Some of them being Information Technology, Electronics & Communication (ITE&C) Department, GoT, Hyderabad, Telangana, The Information Technology, Electronics & Communication (ITE&C) Department, GoT, Hyderabad, Telangana & Crop in Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (CROPIN), Bangalore, Karnataka, The Information

Technology, Electronics & Communication (ITE&C), GoT, Hyderabad, Telangana & Sat Sure Analytics India Pvt. Ltd. (Sat Sure), Bangalore, India, State Bank of India, Hyderabad Circle, Association of Indian Organic Industry (AIOI), New Delhi, Prathima Agri Services Private Limited (e-raithu), Hyderabad, Evergreen Energy Enterprises India, Hyderabad, Telangana, Bairisons Agro India Private Limited, Hyderabad, Telangana, Artificial Intelligence unit of National Entrepreneurship Network (Wadhvani AI), Bangalore and Department of Agriculture and Indian School of Business.

Extramural Research Projects

The teaching faculty executed fourteen externally funded research projects in the constituent colleges of the University while, the research faculty executed fifteen research projects at various research stations.

Awards and Honours

Six teaching staff members of the University were awarded the “Meritorious Teacher 2020” awards from Higher Education Department, Government of Telangana on the occasion of Teachers' Day. In addition, fifteen faculty members of the University have received awards from various organizations and institutes for presentation of research papers at conferences and webinars.

The Vice Chancellor of the University participated in several important meetings concerning the administrative, academic and research priorities of the University and offered technical support in implementation of Department of Agriculture and ICAR priorities and schemes. Notable among these are :

- MoU signing between Government of Telangana (Agril. Dept.), PJTSAU and ISB on “Branding and Marketing strategy for *Telangana Sona* rice variety” on 14th August, 2020 through Zoom webinar.
- NICRA Thematic Review Workshop 2020 – Natural Resource Management (NRM) & Agricultural Engineering on 17th August, 2020 through Webex meeting.
- Guest of honour for online launching of MOOCs under ICAR IG-NAHEP on 19th August, 2020.
- NAHEP, ICAR sponsored National webinar on Innovations, skills, Upscaling and linkages for transforming Agriculture in India on 24th August, 2020.
- One day webinar on “Innovations, Skills, Upscaling and linkages for transforming Agriculture in India” on 24th August, 2020 organized by MPUAT, Udaipur.
- Online meeting for discussion on Implementation of New Education Policy 2020 in Higher Agricultural Education on 26th August, 2020.
- ICAR-NAARM 45th Foundation Day on 1st September, 2020 through Zoom meeting.
- Video conference on “Role of National Education Policy 2020 in transforming high education” on 7th September, 2020 and first & second meetings of National Committee for Implementation of NEP on 19th & 26th September, 2020.
- First & second meetings of the CII Task Force on Digital Agriculture Research and Transformation (DART) on Agriculture on 9th & 28th September, 2020.

- Regional Advisory Group (RAG) of NABARD - First meeting of stakeholders for FY 2020-21 on 10th September, 2020 through video conference.
- National Level meeting on Natural Farming at NITI Aayog in the Technical Session-II - Principles and Practices of *Bharatiya Prakritik Krishi Paddhati* (BPKP) - Natural Farming: Telangana on 29th September, 2020.
- Gramodaya Chamber of Commerce and Technology Celebrations of 150th *Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi Utsav* from 1st to 3rd October, 2020 through online mode.
- Meeting of sub-groups for National Committee for implementation of NEP 2020 for Agriculture Education on 3rd October, 2020 through online mode.
- Standing Committee meeting of SC-ST cell on 5th October, 2020 through video conference.
- As invited speaker for the session “Building a Future ready Agriculture Supply Chain with AI” of the Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE 2020) virtual summit on 7th October, 2020.
- 48th Management Committee Meeting of EEI, Hyderabad on 7th October, 2020 through online.
- XXV meeting of the ICAR-Regional Committee-II comprising the States of West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 8th October, 2020 through Video Conference.

- Flair of VAIBHAV Summit Horizontal on Resource Conservation Technologies (V16H2S2) by ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi on 9th October, 2020 through Webex meeting.
- Discussion on Accreditation / ICAR Ranking document by National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB) of ICAR on 12th October, 2020 through Zoom meeting.
- General Body Meeting of Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) on 18th October, 2020 through Video Conference.
- World Economic Forum - AI4AI Working Group Launch on 22nd & 27th October, 2020.
- Delivered lecture on AI in agriculture to ARS Probationers of 111th Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) at ICAR-NAARM on 27th October, 2020 through Zoom meeting.
- National webinar on Integrated Farming System and Farmer's Income organized by MPUAT, Udaipur on 5th November, 2020 through Webex meeting.
- Indian Society of Agronomy – Hyderabad Chapter (ISA-HYD) webinar on Agronomic Research for Developing Climate – Resilient Technologies on 6th November, 2020 through online meeting.
- ISB-CBM Panel Discussion on Agricultural innovations and consumer markets: Benefits and challenges for *Telangana Sona* Rice on 26th November, 2020 on digital platform.
- Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Directors of ICAR Institutes on 4th December, 2020 through online meeting.

- PM Formalization of Micro Food Enterprises Scheme on 7th December, 2020 through online meeting.
- Webinar on “Stakeholder dialogue on strategies for safe and sustainable weed management: a way forward” on 9th December, 2020.
- 9th Board of Management Meeting of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University on 21st December, 2020 through virtual meeting.
- Executive Committee Meeting of IAUA on 19th December, 2020 by virtual mode.
- Executive Council Meeting of Indian Society of Agronomy on 14th December, 2020 through google meet.
- Suggestions for exploring potential areas for upcoming Budget 2021-22 in Agriculture Sector on 4th January, 2021 through zoom meeting.
- ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, Meerut - Interaction Meet on 7th January, 2021 through virtual meeting.
- Inauguration of new lab cum office building for AICRP on Agro-forestry, NSP Modular seed godown for SRTC and New gate complex for PJTSAU at Kurnool Road on 8th January, 2021.
- Chief Guest for the Dragon Fruit Book (*Sirijemmedu Pandu*) releasing ceremony at MANAGE, Rajendranagar on 8th January, 2021.
- International virtual seminar on “Artificial intelligence in Agriculture” organized by SVPUA&T, Meerut on 11th January, 2021 through online meeting as Eminent speaker.

- 16th NICRA Expert Committee meeting at CRIDA, Santoshnagar on 15th and 16th January, 2021 through virtual mode.
- Hyderabad Cluster Virtual Launch event at Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) on 8th January, 2021.
- Webinar on Agri AI grant challenge: Objective, process and expectations on 18th January, 2021 through online meeting as Panelist.
- National Dialogue – Indian Agriculture Towards 2030: Pathways for enhancing farmer's income, nutritional security and Sustainable food system from 19th to 22nd January, 2021 through google meet organized by FAO.
- Inauguration of Administrative building at Dr. Ramanaidu *Ekalavya* Foundation *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK), Tuniki on 23rd January, 2021 as Guest of honour.
- 14th General Council meeting for NIPHM on 28th January, 2021 through virtual mode.
- Video conferencing for the post of Director, ICAR-MGIFRI, Motihari, Bihar on 29th January, 2021 through virtual meeting.
- Visited TNAU, Coimbatore on 4th and 5th February, 2021 along with Director of Research for possible collaboration between two Universities in the areas of nano technology, Rhizotron and Insect Museum etc.
- Inauguration of the Central Instrumentation Cell and Bheemaiah Shanti Nilayam (B-Block), College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar on 8th February, 2021.

- Chairman of the Organizing Committee of “6th National Youth Convention on Innovation and Agricultural Reforms for Farmer's Prosperity” from 20th and 21st February, 2021 and participated in the inaugural session at University Auditorium, Rajendranagar.
- Agri Education Awards - 2021 event of the Agriculture Today on 27th February, 2021 through online mode.
- Awareness programme on Soil Health Management on 8th March, 2021 at ARS and DAATTC, Tornala.
- Jury meet – Agri Food – Empowering India Awards 2021 on 9th March, 2021 through Google meet.
- Steering Council Meeting of AI4AI (AI for Agriculture Innovation) on 10th March, 2021 through virtual mode.
- Online training programme on Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Cloud Computing in Agriculture at ICAR-NAARM, Rajendranagar on 15th March, 2021.
- Meeting at ICRISAT on Research collaborations, training capacity building, student exchange programmes etc. on 16th March, 2021.
- Indian Society of Agronomy – Hyderabad Chapter Webinar on “Food loss and waste reduction policies” on 20th March, 2021 through virtual meeting.
- World Water Day webinar on “Value of water with reference to rice cultivation” on 22nd March, 2021 through virtual mode.

- Global Conference on “Enhancing Water Productivity in Agriculture and Horticulture” on 4th April, 2021.
- First Convocation of Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Mulugu, Siddipet district on 7th April, 2021 at University Auditorium, PJTSAU, Rajendranagar.
- APAARI General Assembly Meeting on 8th and 9th April, 2021.
- Annual General Body Meeting of the Retired ICAR Employees' Association on 10th April, 2021.
- ICAR-IIRR, 56th Annual Rice Group Meeting on 19th and 20th April, 2021.
- Seminar on Implementation of National Education Policy 2020 in Higher Education in Telangana State on 20th April, 2021 at Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad.
- Inauguration and unveiling of the Platinum Jubilee Logo and flag in connection with the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar on 10th May, 2021.
- SLTP meetings of Research in the disciplines of Crop Improvement, Crop Production, Community Science, Social sciences and Crop Protection on 24th to 28th May, 2021.
- Online meeting on signing and exchange of MoUs between PJTSAU and Department of Agriculture, Department of Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Government of Telangana and Wadhvani Institute of AI, Mumbai, Bairisons Agro India Private Limited (BAIPL), Hyderabad and Evergreen Energy Enterprises India Private Limited, Hyderabad on 25th May, 2021.

It gives us great pleasure to realize that our efforts to impart knowledge and skills have succeeded to a great extent as reflected in the achievements of our students. I take pleasure in announcing the Postgraduate and Undergraduate Gold medals for the graduating students of 2020-21.

University Gold medals awarded to PG and UG students

Gold Medals for Postgraduates

- **Dr. Chintalapani Ravinder Reddy Gold Medal** is awarded to **Mr. Rajap Shiva Kumar** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in Ph.D. (Ag.) in the major field of Agronomy in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Neelamraju Gangaprasada Rao and N Kamala Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Ishwarya Lakshmi V. G.** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in Ph.D. (Ag.) in the major field of Genetics & Plant Breeding in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Professor Mohammed Taskeen Ali Niazee Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Deepika M.** of Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average across disciplines at the University level in M.Sc. (Ag.).
- **Syndicate Bank Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Deepika M.** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc. (Ag.) in the major field of Agricultural Economics in the Faculty of Agriculture.

- **PJTSAU Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Pullamolla Neeshma** of Agricultural College, Jagtial for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc.(Ag.) in the major field of Agronomy in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **PJTSAU Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Dori Bhavana** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc. (Ag.) in the major field of Entomology in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Sri Mandava Venkataramaiah Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Gaganashree K. P.** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc.(Ag.) in the major field of Genetics & Plant Breeding in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Dr. Alapati Appa Rao Memorial Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Gondhi Shravani** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc.(Ag.) in the major field of Plant Pathology in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Prof. V. V. Kumara Sastry Memorial Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Manjushree B. K.** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc. (Ag.) in the major field of Soil Science in the Faculty of Agriculture.
- **Dr. T. Goverdhan Reddy Memorial Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Sri Soundarya S.** of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in MBA (ABM) in the Faculty of Agriculture.

- **Bambino Agro Industries Limited Gold Medal** is awarded to **Ms. Pavuluri Ysaswini** of College of Community Science, Saifabad, Hyderabad for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in M.Sc.(H.Sc.) in the major field of Food and Nutrition in the Faculty of Community Science.
- **Prof. E. A. Siddiq Endowment Award** (carrying a cash prize of Rs. 25,000/-, certificate and citation) is awarded to **Ms. Divya Mishra** of Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar for Best Ph.D. Thesis in the area of Agril. Biosciences in the Faculty of Agriculture.

Gold Medals for Undergraduates

- **The PJTSAU Outstanding Student Gold Medal** for meritorious performance in academic and extra-curricular activities across all the faculties of the University is awarded to **Ms. Pasupuleti Sahithi** of Agricultural College, Aswaraopet.
- **The Agri–Horti-1983 Batch Rajendranagar Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture amongst all the Agricultural Colleges of the University; **The 79th Annual Convention of Indian Society of Soil Science Commemorative Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry; **AGRICOS 1980 Batch Rajendranagar Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of Agronomy; **Dr. B. H. Krishna Murthy Rao Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of Entomology; **Sri Rajaram Vengaldas Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of Plant Pathology; **RA/1982 AGRICOS - Rajendranagar Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of Genetics & Plant Breeding amongst all the Agricultural Colleges of the University is awarded to **Ms. Bajjuri Divya** of Agricultural College, Aswaraopet.

- **Pabbathi Subba Rao Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of Crop Physiology in B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture amongst all the Agricultural Colleges of the University is awarded to **Ms. Meharaj Begum** of Agricultural College, Palem.
- **Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average amongst the SC/ST students of all Agricultural Colleges of the University is awarded to **Ms. Golconda Maheshwari** of Agricultural College, Palem.
- **M/s. John Deere India Pvt. Ltd. Gold Medal, Agricultural Machinery Manufacturers Association of Telangana State Gold Medal, Prof. G. Ramana Reddy Gold Medal and Gundavaram Sathyavathi Srinivasa Rao Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering) of the University; **Sri Kurmaiah Gari Narayana Rao Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of SOWE/SWCE; **Smt. B. Pramila Bai & Sri B. Narsimha Rao Deshpande Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of APFE/PRFE is awarded to **Ms. Velichala Saipratyusha** of College of Agricultural Engineering, Kandi, Sangareddy.
- **Prof. R. Subramanyam Reddy Memorial Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Grade Point in the subject of FAMP/FMPE of B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering) is awarded to **Ms. Arukonda Laxmi Priyanka** of College of Agricultural Engineering, Kandi, Sangareddy.
- **24 Mantra Gold Medal and Yog Rishi Swami Ramdev Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in B.Tech. (Food Technology) of the University is awarded to **Mr. Chiluka Sriharsha** of College of Food Science and Technology, Rudrur, Nizamabad.

- **Sankalp Group Gold Medal** for having secured the Highest Overall Grade Point Average in B.Sc. (Hons.) Community Science of the University is awarded to **Ms. Amatur Rabb** of College of Community Science, Saifabad, Hyderabad.

Acknowledgement

Before I conclude, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to the Hon'ble Governor & Chancellor, Sri C. P. Radhakrishnan *Garu* and the Chief Guest Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty *Garu* and all the invitees for their gracious presence at this Convocation.

The University anticipates continued advice and wise counsel from the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and Chancellor of the University in its pursuit of achieving excellence in three mandated areas and to be truthful to its mission of serving the farmers of the State. I am indebted to the Hon'ble Chancellor for presiding over this Convocation ceremony.

I acknowledge the magnanimous support and direction received by the University from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Telangana; Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, Commissioners and Directors of all the line Departments.

I express my heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Members of the Board of Management and Members of Academic Council for their cooperation and support extended in the management of the University and also up holding the academic standards. It is with their guidance, cooperation and encouragement that the University is emerging as one of the foremost centres of learning, research and extension in farm sector in the State in particular and the country in general.

I express my sincere thanks to the Director General and other officials of ICAR for their whole hearted cooperation and support for the progress of the University.

I extend my thanks to all the Members from the Press and Media for their kind presence and coverage of the Convocation proceedings.

Dear graduates and medal winners, education is life time process. Graduation is not the end but a milestone in your journey of learning. Please remember that opportunities are awaiting you. It is for you make serious efforts. I take this opportunity to congratulate you for successfully completing your courses from the PJTSAU. I wish you all the very best and I pray to god for success in shaping your future career. Always remember that you shall always be an Indian and more so an alumnus of this University in all your future endeavors.

With immense pleasure, I now invite the Chief Guest, Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty *Garu* to address the Convocation.

Jai Hind



SIXTH CONVOCATION

Monday, 10th June, 2024

Convocation Address

Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

Managing Director, SBI, Mumbai



Honourable Governor of Telangana and Jharkhand, Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry and Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Sri C. P. RadhaKrishnan; Vice Chancellor of the University, Sri M. Raghunandan Rao; Members of the Board of Management and Academic Council; faculty, graduating students, staff members; representatives of electronic and print media; Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Hyderabad, for inviting me to participate in its 6th Convocation. It is a rare privilege to be invited as the Chief Guest at the convocation ceremony of one's alma mater and my mind races back 36 years to a time when I was a student like you on this campus.

Today's India and even the State of Telangana have undergone historic changes during this period. The fact that I am speaking to you from this platform is a testament to the tremendous opportunities for personal growth, career advancement, and leadership roles that our nation offers to all citizens, regardless of their origins.

I hail from Potulapadu, a small village in combined Mahabubnagar district in Telangana. My father used to run a grocery store in that village, and when I graduated in Agriculture, I never imagined that I would one day become the Managing Director (MD) of India's largest bank, in fact the first MD of SBI with a degree in Agriculture!

I mention this not as a personal achievement but as a proof of the opportunities our nation offers. Each of you can hope to shoulder responsibilities and contribute to nation-building in the years ahead. Our system is largely fair and open, encouraging hard work, talent, and merit. Under our democratic process and institutional independence, leadership positions in today's India are open to people from all backgrounds.

Our journey during the 77 years after Independence has been remarkable. We are meeting at a time when our country is set to be the world's third largest economy, after the US and China. The International Monetary Fund estimates that India will be the fourth largest economy by 2025 and the third largest by 2027.

This is an exciting phase in our nation's journey because the purpose and objective of our economic growth up to 2047 - the centenary of our Independence - would be to reach advanced country status with much higher per capita incomes.

Viksit Bharat by 2047 is both a national dream and an economic agenda. If the students of my generation had the opportunity to witness economic reforms of 1991 and partake of the phenomenal changes that have overtaken our country, the class of 2024 will be partners in India becoming a developed country in another 20 years' time.

Along with building on our trendline growth of 7-8%, one of our major challenges is how to increase our per capita incomes so that our living standards concomitantly can become comparable to those of the developed world. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic and rapid technological transformation have been both boon and bane. It is suggested by some studies that COVID-19 increased the dependency of population on agriculture. Further, the proposed technologies to boost agriculture productivity and make agriculture climate smart have potential to replace labour at a rate which may far exceed the absorption capacity of other sectors. Hence, inclusive growth and rise in incomes reaching all segments of society, is an imperative in our journey forward and it is here that the focus on agriculture and allied activities assumes great importance.

We all know that it is through the Green Revolution that India overcame a time of shortages of food grains during the early 1960s. Our food grain production is now consistently above 325 million tonnes a year and we are the second largest producer of rice and wheat in the world. We are also the largest producer of milk, thanks to the White Revolution.

In fact, we have drawn from all the colours of the rainbow to name the initiatives in the agricultural and allied sectors! We have had the Blue Revolution focused on fisheries, Yellow Revolution for improvement in the output of oilseeds and the Pink Revolution focusing on poultry and meat processing.

They have all yielded results. Not only have we been largely able to meet domestic demand, but we have also been able to export farm produce to other countries. In FY 2023-24, India exported about \$ 45 billion worth of agricultural products, and it is also the sector with almost zero borrowing in foreign currency.

However, with the benefit of the hindsight, we must also face the reality that these intensive forms of agriculture practices adopted in the past have been damaging to environment in many

geographics. With changing spatial patterns of monsoon, soil degradation, fall in water table and changing food habits, transmitting beneficial aspect of technology treadmill is becoming a challenging proposition for large section of farmers. Hence, there is an emerging trend of moving organic and adopting sustainable agriculture practices.

So, if country is to achieve the *Viksit Bharat* by 2047, the economic policy cannot ignore agriculture. The importance of this sector is evident from the fact that nearly 70% of our rural households depend on agriculture for their livelihood, with 82% of farmers being small and marginal. About 45-46% of our workforce is directly or indirectly employed in this sector for employment. It is also rarely appreciated that women form a very large share of labour force employed in agriculture and are instrumental in preserving seed varieties and diversifying genome pool of the major agriculture crops.

The agriculture and allied activities today contribute about 17-18% to the GDP, the share having consistently fallen over the years. This trend is in line with any country's developmental journey. It is proven that as a country grows, its contribution from agriculture to overall value added will wane. But persistent high dependence of population on agriculture remains a pressing policy issue with no easy solutions at sight. A large workforce in agriculture with declining contribution to GDP indicates disguised unemployment. Even as productivity gains improve farm incomes, there ought to be a parallel shift of workers from agriculture to manufacturing and services. The challenge for us will be to facilitate this tectonic shift of labour and make it smooth. Upskilling and training will have to be fashioned specifically for this outcome and thrust to allied activities outside agriculture like food processing is critical for increasing the value add from this sector.

The policy thrust is on augmenting farm gate infrastructure like warehouses, increasing the food processing capacity while expanding allocations to R&D, innovation and extension activities. To ensure that agriculture operations are conducted in sustainable manner, our R&D should focus

on developing climate-resilient seeds and sustainable agricultural practices that result in productivity gains as well as environmental conservation. We have to educate our farmers on the importance on taking advantage of carbon credits as alternate source of revenue. Very recently, a group of farmers in Anantapur, who are mostly dependent on rain for their crops, took advantage of carbon credit. In a six-month long pilot last year which covered 1,000 hectares, they earned €49 by selling carbon credits¹.

While reforms will lie in the arena of policy, technology, application of R&D for output improvement and innovation are within the domain of graduating students like you.

Here, startups and new ideas have a big role to play. It is heartening that the agri start-up space in the country is vibrant and robust. They are also helping the adoption of high value agriculture with digitalisation of processes, establishment of market linkages and modernising the whole agricultural value chain. The number of startups in agriculture and allied sectors has risen to over 7,000 in the last nine years due to a conducive business environment and government support, as per a report by Federation of All India Farmer Associations. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing the 'Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development' programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) from 2018-19 to promote innovation and agri-entrepreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing an incubation ecosystem.

There are also exciting possibilities for academics like you here. Banks led by SBI are opening exclusive start-up branches. We want agri-entrepreneurs or "agripreneurs" to emerge in large numbers. Over the next few years, I foresee financing agencies both in equity and debt,

¹<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/farmers-in-rainfed-anantapur-reap-a-golden-harvest-of-carbon-credits/article67776712.ece>

supporting such individuals. Youth should indeed aim to become job creators and not jobseekers. This is actually a part of the process of achieving developed country status. The more developed a country is the less will be the dependency on government/quasi-government jobs.

There are academic reports including by those of the RBI which point to the declining public investment in agriculture in the last four/five decades. Hearteningly, there is a trend reversal of late with emphasis being given to building up of agri infrastructure through the Rs 2 lakh crore Agri Infra Fund of the Government of India.

I have been personally involved in the implementation of this transformative scheme and I have seen many agri entrepreneurs, both individuals and collectives like FPOs/Cooperatives, utilising this scheme.

For those who are more research inclined, agriculture sector provides an exciting area for intellectual endeavours and lifelong learning. Country looks forward for domestic solution in ICT for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), blockchain for Supply Chain Traceability and Quality Assurance, reintroduction of traditional agricultural techniques and ecological wisdom. Further, Value-Chain approaches to sustainable agriculture including market linkages, farmer cooperatives and fair-trade initiatives, assess their impact on small holder livelihoods and rural development; rooftop and community gardens, vertical farming and Climate-smart Agriculture according to soil and weather can also attract their attention.

Alternatively, as food habits undergo change demanding better nutrition for all age groups, juxtaposed against erosion in nutritional value of soil, better harmony and equilibrium in agri practices needs to be explored through convergence of policy, regulation, market and village society at granular levels to seek the best way forward. Emerging areas like Organic and

hydroponics/vertical agriculture, climatic adaptation, adopting a mix of cash and traditional crops, converging core agri practices with allied agri, promoting SHGs and cooperative movement with better access to markets, diminishing information asymmetry through Business Correspondent (BC) network of banks, drone assisted monitoring system and finding incremental export avenues should augment India's atmanirbharta pitch.

In all, the foundational challenge for us in the immediate years ahead would be to manage a smooth structural transformation of this sector with higher incomes, adoption of technology and modernisation to increase output and improve efficiencies but with the least demographic and social disruption. This challenge is the opportunity for you. Irrespective of the way forward that you choose - go for research, get into industry, join the public service or my advice, become entrepreneurs - please reflect critically on the thoughts I shared with you now.

There will be tremendous satisfaction professionally - if you can conflate your role in future with the larger picture of India's exciting journey forward. Your work or job then will not merely be another profession, it would be a "calling".

In conclusion, I hope I have succeeded in setting you thinking of your future path as intrinsically linked to our country's journey forward, I shall consider our time together today to be well-spent.

My congratulations to all the students and more particularly those who have excelled in their academics in the graduating batch!

Thank you and Jai Hind



About the Orator

A Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from PJTSAU (1982 batch) and also, a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers, Sri Setty started his career with State Bank of India in 1988 as a Probationary Officer. Across a career spanning over three and half decades, he has worked in almost all areas of banking in SBI starting with branch operations, rural finance, SME lending, corporate credit, retail, digital, international banking, treasury and technology both in India and abroad.

Sri Setty is on the Central Board of SBI as Managing Director since January 2020 and is currently heading International Banking, Global Markets & Technology wings of the Bank. Prior to the present assignment, Sri Setty headed Retail & Digital Banking vertical.

He has been passionate about supporting agriculture and rural finance as a part of his career and worked extensively both in strengthening the financial inclusion and promoting agricultural value chain financing. As chairman of the working group constituted by the Government of India, he has been instrumental in laying down the scope and possibility for adoption and implementation of agriculture value chain finance in India and developing specific solutions including product specific financing to ensure easy finance for post harvest management.



In the area of financial inclusion especially in respect of deepening the Business Correspondents (BC) channel that played stellar role in making the banking services accessible in the remote areas, Sri Setty played a significant role by heading the task forces and monitoring committees formed by the Government that worked on addressing the issues related to BCs.

To make the credit linked government sponsored schemes easily accessible to the common man, Government constituted a task force under the chairmanship of Sri Setty to design and implement a state of the art portal. The portal named "Jansamarth" was developed in a record time and was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in June 2022 and has since been operating as digital public infrastructure successfully.

While heading stressed asset resolution group of SBI, he played a critical role in adoption of the newly enacted Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in the Bank and also provided the industry leadership in resolving some of the largest stressed assets in the banking system. He was also part of the Cross Border Insolvency Rules/Regulations Committee formed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

During the Covid period, Sri Setty helmed the retail banking vertical of SBI, the largest retail banking operations in the country and ensured that the banking services were provided without any disruption. He has actively worked with the Government of India in designing and implementing the hugely appreciated Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) that helped MSMEs to successfully handle the economic distress caused by the Covid pandemic.

As head of international banking, Sri Setty manages largest overseas operations of an Indian bank with presence in 29 countries. He travels extensively both in India and abroad to share his experiences and expertise in digital banking at national and international fora.



Aerial view of College of Agriculture, Rajendranagar

SIXTH CONVOCATION

Monday, 10th June, 2024

Chancellor's Address

Sri C. P. RadhaKrishnan

Hon'ble Governor of Telangana and
Jharkhand & Lt. Governor of Puducherry
and Chancellor of the University



Distinguished Chief Guest of the Convocation, Sri Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Managing Director, State Bank of India, Sri M Raghunandan Rao, IAS, Vice Chancellor, Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, Esteemed Members of the Board of Management, Members of the Academic Council, Former Vice Chancellors, University Officers, Directors of ICAR Institutes, Graduate and Post Graduate students passing out today and their family members, Invited guests, Faculty members, staff, dear students of the University, Friends from media, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First and foremost, I humbly pay my respect and salute to the holy feet of our Bharat Mata, the most powerful and most merciful mother.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulation to all the graduating students who are receiving their well-deserved degrees, medals and awards today on this auspicious 6th Convocation ceremony of the Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University.

I also complement the faculty and supporting staff who had nurtured, groomed and prepared these graduates with competence and equipped them as the crusaders to transform modern day agriculture in to a lucrative and the most sought after livelihood profession.

As we all know, Convocation is a very important event in the academic calendar of any University. It reflects a wonderful occasion to celebrate the intellectual and academic achievements of the students with family, friends and well-wishers and reorient towards the next phase of professional career.

I deem it a great privilege to be presiding over the 6th Convocation of Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, a leading and outstanding Agricultural University of the country named in the honour of Professor Jayashankar, an eminent educationist and an passionate Telangana ideologue, and the only Farm University of the Telangana State.

Dear students, I take this opportunity to pay tributes to the doyen of Telangana movement, Prof. Jayashankar. Professor Jayashankar is credited with taking the first step in this monumental movement. He also made significant contributions to the development of Kakatiya University during his tenure as Vice Chancellor from 1991 to 1994. Under his leadership, Kakatiya University achieved several milestones. Professor Jayashankar's influence extended beyond Kakatiya University, as he was also associated with and guided various educational institutions across the state.

The well-regarded Indian scholar and educationist, Bharat Ratna Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, said that **"the University is not merely an examining body, but it is primarily a *"Nursery of good citizens"***. Which capable of producing graduates prepared for the real world. This philosophy emphasizes the University's role in equipping students to address challenges like

those faced by resource-poor farmers, fostering societal relevance, and designing solutions for agricultural constraints.

I consider this Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University is one such **“Nursery of good citizens”**. I have no doubt in saying that this Institution has been successful in main streaming the academic, research and extension progress in tune with the State needs and initiatives in the field of Agriculture.

While addressing this august gathering, I would like to quote our Former President Dr A P J Abdul kalam Ji, Who said,

“Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, and knowledge makes you great”. This continuous cycle fuels progress and innovation, allowing us to solve problems and shape a brighter future. And I'm confident that this prestigious Agriculture university working in the same direction.

The economic benefits from agricultural sector exert considerable pressure on fragile environment and natural resources in the process of crop production. As the challenges for 21st century unfold – sustaining food and nutrition security concurrently ensuring farm profitability will get tougher.

Like the saying goes, ***“when the going gets tough, the tough gets going”***, we as a Agriculture country should face this challenge by centralizing our vision through adaptation and mitigation of climate change hazards and sustainable use of declining farm resources such as water, energy and land for gainful future.

As we are reimagining and reorienting Indian Agriculture, several long-term priorities also need to be set. India has several international commitments such as carbon neutrality, land degradation neutrality, biodiversity conservation, regional agricultural development etc. In compliance to SDGs, India has successfully reduced the emission intensity vis-à-vis it's GDP by 33% between 2005 and 2019, thus achieving the initial Nationally Determined Commitments target for 2030, 11 years ahead of the scheduled time.

I would like to emphasize that, India's food processing sector is expanding manifold in response to the changing demographics and dietary preferences. Capital ventures by reputed local and international food brands have become common today.

The food processing sector has registered a growth rate of 10% on an average. It is envisaged that processing of perishable agriculture commodities would be enhancing value addition from 20 to 35 per cent.

Food processing market systems are to be destined to transform into demand driven, vertically-monitored systems, ensuring profits to all the stake holders including primary producers in the value chain.

With all these initiatives put in place at national level in a time bound manner, it is anticipated that well-trained and informed farmer-cum-entrepreneurs will be at the helm of producing agricultural produce heralding the phenomenon of new age Farming.

Subsistence kind of agriculture would rapidly metamorphose into commercial ventures operating in high end technological environments. Small holders would amalgamate into Farmer Producer Organizations pumping dynamism into the markets.

This would result in localized agriculture supply chain systems aimed at augmenting agricultural income besides generating employment opportunities.

For a country in pursuit of sustainable agricultural growth, greater endeavors are needed from the prospective States. I strongly believe Telangana is one such State contributing enormously to Agricultural prosperity of the country.

In 2022-23, the economic output of the Telangana State as measured by Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) was Rs. 13.27 lakh crores.

The resilience of the State's economy was led by the agriculture and allied sectors and naturally contributed higher share to overall GSDP. Per capita income in the state continues to be higher than the national level.

My dear students let us not forget the fact that, Telangana is known as the '**Seed bowl of India**' due to conducive nature of the state's soils, climate and the concerted efforts of the Government to promote seed production. The state currently fulfills 65% of the country's requirement of seed of various kinds, such as paddy, pulses, oil seeds, fibre crops, vegetables and green manure. Availability of quality seed would encourage the farmers to diversify crops based on the demands of the market.

It gives me immense pleasure to state that this institution could develop and release 69 varieties of mandate crops (Rice:29, Pulses:11, Maize:5, Millets:8, Oilseeds:5, Soyabean:2, Cotton:1 and Fodder:8) within a short span of time which is a testimony to its commitment to the welfare of farming community.

These crop varieties are climate resilient and efficient in resource use particularly with respect to irrigation water, thus making them popular not only in the State but PAN India. The seed of released varieties is made available to the farmers on a regular basis through production of large quantities of quality Breeder, Foundation and Certified seed, besides distribution through "**Annual Seed Mela**" at the Head Quarters and Constituent Research Stations.

Another creditable achievement of the University has been the partnership with Farmers Producer Organization. Famous Tandur Red Gram of Telangana was awarded Geographical Registration Tag(GI) in favor of Yalal Farmers Producers Company Limited, an FPO. The GI Registration process was facilitated by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University by providing guidance, research, and technical data required for the application.

It is also gratifying to note that, the University has prioritized the issue of protecting the technologies developed in various fields. In this direction, the University has submitted 11 Patent Applications, of which, 4 Patents have been published and equal number have been granted Patents. It is an ample testimony to the quality of research being carried out in the University.

The University did exemplary work in branding and commercializing some of its technological outputs like rice variety Telangana Sona, Maize hybrids, Turmeric powder, various edible oils, millet products and natural colours /dyes produced on the Research campuses.

On the momentous occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Country's first **Krishi Vigyan Kendra** (KVK) let me assert that the contribution of this University in performing Frontline Extension has been exemplary in outreaching the unreached and better reaching the already reached clientele through KVK's and District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centres spread across the State of Telangana.

As ambassadors of this University, I call upon each one of you to take a pledge to make the full use of your knowledge and expertise in agriculture and allied fields for the benefit of the farmers, society and humanity at large.

Graduates of today and tomorrow, we hope that the quality, relevance and breadth of knowledge gained here at Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University will help you in a rewarding career and satisfying service opportunity to on motherland.

May your affection for your Alma-mater and your interest in learning be a constant inspiration. Once again, I wish you all the very best in the endeavors you pursue and achievements you attain and pray God to bless you in realizing your goals!

Dear students, while leaving the portals of this University you must take pride of your great culture and civilization. I once again congratulate you all on this Convocation Day and I wish very well in your future career and life.

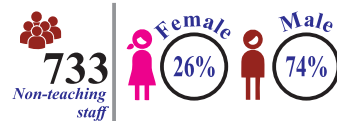
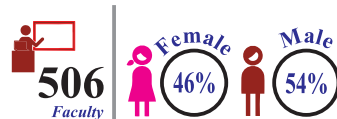
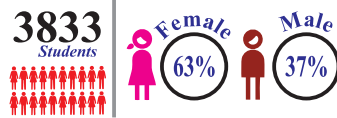
Remember Padma Vibushan Prof. M. S. Swaminathan words, who said: **“If Agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right”**. So, it is our absolute duty to respond to the emerging challenges and take the country on the path of sustainability.

Thank You!

JAI HIND!



People



Students



Schools



Research



Extension



International Collaborations



National Collaborations



Rankings



Recognition, Accreditation & Memberships





EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES

-  Agricultural Colleges
Rajendranagar, Aswaraopet, Jagtial, Palem, Warangal, Sircilla
-  Agril. Engg. & Technology Colleges
Kandi, Rudrur
-  College of Community Science
Saifabad
-  Polytechnics
Palem, Jagtial, Kampassagar, Basanthpur, Madhira, Sangupet, Jammikunta, Malthummeda, Tomala, Rudrur, Kandi

RESEARCH STATIONS

-  Regional Agricultural Research Stations
Palem, Jagtial, Warangal
-  Agricultural Research Stations
PJTSAU Main Campus, Kampassagar, Tandur, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Mudhole, Kunaram, Rudrur, Madhira, Basanthpur, Tomala, Nathnailpally

EXTENSION CENTRES

-  Krishi Vigyan Kendras
Matyal, Rudrur, Wyr, Adilabad, Kampassagar, Palem, Garimellapadu, Budakalan
-  DAATT Centres
Mudhole, Karimnagar, Malthummeda, Warangal, Tomala, Sangupet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Tandur, Palem
-  Specialised Centres
Extension Education Institute
Agricultural Information & Communication Centre and PJTSAU Press
Agricultural Technology Information Centre
Electronic Media Wing

9 Colleges | 11 Polytechnics | 15 Research Stations | 21 Extension Centres



Bird's eye view of PJTSAU main campus



**Glimpses of
Fifth Convocation**
Saturday, 17th April, 2021



