

# **ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONVOCAATION**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2016

**CONVOCAATION ADDRESS BY  
CHIEF GUEST**



**Dr. C. D. Mayee**  
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NAVSARI AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

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NAVSARI 396 450

# **Eleventh Annual Convocation**

**Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari  
Convocation Address by**

**Dr. C. D. Mayee  
Former Chairman ASRB**

Honourable Governorshri of Gujarat and the Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, Shri O. P. Kohli, esteemed Vice-Chancellor of Navsari Agricultural University, Dr. C. J. Dangaria, Members of the Board of Management, Academic and Research Councils, invited guests, teachers, scientists, students, and the degree recipients, representatives of press and media, ladies and gentlemen.

I sincerely express my gratitude, for having invited to address today's auspicious ceremony of this prestigious University which has shown exemplary growth in the last few years. It has also been an opportunity to pay rich tributes to this great land of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Shri K. M. Munshiji and many such luminaries who have been the nation builders. I congratulate the degree recipients and also those who are receiving their honors and medals. I understand that nearly 216 students are graduating today and 176 are receiving their post graduate degrees including Ph.D. This is one of the most important events in one's professional career from where you can march ahead in life. This is also the beginning of a new era and an appropriate time for transformation or change. You will soon

realize what are the challenges of life that one has to mitigate based on the strength acquired during education. Dear Degree Recipients! You might stop education but please do not cease the process of learning. The sciences are fast growing and new branches such as Nanotechnology, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Nano-Biotechnology etc. are emerging. Learning is a continuous process to keep pace with advancement. The faculty of this University too deserves my compliments. They will feel happy when they will come to know that their students have excelled in all walks of life.

You will always remember the achievements of your parent institution, which has piloted the agrarian growth and development of this region. After having established on May 1, 2004, the University has made remarkable growth in its tripartite activities; Research, Education and Technology Transfer and also made substantial development in infrastructure and Human Resource Development. I remember to have visited this beautiful campus on the occasion of third convocation. Since then, the University has grown leaps and bound in every activity related to agriculture. Not only a series of polytechnic courses but also the centers of higher education in Agricultural Engineering, Fisheries, Veterinary Science, Agri-business Management, Agro-forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology have been added to the advantage of students of South Gujarat. With the background of an excellent college-base available at Navsari since 1965 the University is marching on the Dandi Road already made famous by the march and footprints of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation who said that "To the hungry man, god comes in the form of bread and let that be in every house". The University has

fully bloomed now with faculties, research stations and KVK's. Commendable work has been done in modernization of educational infrastructure, quality of education and reforms that suit to new sciences. The University students are excelling in academics and sports. The University has made a mark in research particularly in development of need based technologies for sustainable agriculture. It is a matter of pride to the scientists of the University who has excelled in research on post harvest technology of Banana. They have successfully developed the synthetic leather, cellulose powder, high quality paper and fibers from waste banana pseudostem. The remaining residual matter after harvest is efficiently used for making bio-fertilizer and manures. The Cotton Research Station at Surat is one of the oldest and is considered a pilgrimage centre by all cotton researchers like me in the country and abroad. It is here that Dr C. T. Patel , the Doyan of cotton, developed the world's first hybrid cotton, a technology till then unknown to the world. The University is also the first to convert their top class cotton hybrids in to new technology of Bt cotton. Research in traditional crop breeding to modern biology, horticulture to animal sciences and value addition to ancillary avenues of farm income has been overall recognized amongst the scientific community. Similarly, the University achieved grand success in technology transfer. It has created a positive impact on agricultural development of the state. Besides, this the University is achieving the technology transfer through their KVK's, ATIC, and SAMETI. They have developed series of training centers for imparting training in several areas targeting the skill development amongst the youth from tribal families.

On this occasion, I would like to draw your kind attention to present day agrarian scenario so that the collective wisdom shall be used to plan the future course of action in all the three functions of the University. The country achieved green, white, yellow, orange, blue revolutions now commonly called "Rainbow Revolution". We were able to mitigate shortages of food and build huge stocks of grains even after export but the current enigma of coexistence of high stockpiles and high prevalence of hunger and poverty is a serious matter of concern. These veritable asymmetries indicate the general neglect of farming and the farmers. We are an agriculturally important country where this sector contributes 13 % to the GDP and 52 % to employment. There are enumerable challenges for achieving the sustainability, productivity, profitability and social acceptance when the benefits of green revolution are waning. There are several issues confronting the Indian Agriculture today. Amongst them, ecological and environmental concerns of water deficiency and quality, soil health, biodiversity and climate change have attracted the attention of scientists world over. The dryland areas are yet to witness the so called green revolution as the intensive cultivation of wheat and rice promoted for food securities have contributed indirectly to decline of nutritional security. Pulses; the real protein plus of vegetarian population of the country have been pushed back to marginal lands and have seen negative growth over the past 50 years. Per caput consumption of the protein rich pulses has declined from 22kg/year in 1951 to 15kg/year in 2014 inducing protein malnutrition. Moreover, the country is importing 3-4 million tonnes of this commodity worth Rs. 30,000 crores. The same situation exists for oilseed crops. Edible oil import ranks third after petroleum and gold. We import nearly 7.6



million tonnes of edible oil worth Rs.90,000 crores. Now that the climate change is a reality, it is already predicted that the worst sufferer shall be the crop, animal and fish productivity. Small beginning has been made to develop strategies of adaptation and mitigation. The problem, however, is large and need attention of practically every institution in the country. As climate is ever changing, one time adaptation response is not enough. Continuous efforts would be needed. Genetic improvements, agronomic manipulations, integrated farming approach, use of balanced natural resources and timely intervention can be helpful. We may have to adopt new breeding technologies such as genetic transformation, gene editing, GMO's for quicker development of new cultivars that could adopt to changing climate. This may need public acceptance as it is not the producer alone but the consumer also is dictating the terms of research in today's social order.

To tackle such problems, we have to see that the education, research and TOT systems are not only locally relevant but also globally competitive. The graduates passing out today have to match the requirement of emerging markets. They must be equipped with recent advances in science and technologies including biotechnology, nanotechnology, information and communication technology (ICT), space sciences, high tech precision production and issues relating to international trade and intellectual property rights. I am sure the University will modify its own program to create inventions and innovations in this field. I firmly believe that only technology can deliver sustainable economic wealth to our farmers

and hence technology has to be backed by both invention and innovation.

Agriculture has become more market driven and therefore, farmers need orientation in production system, agri-business, marketing and establishing forward and backward linkages with numerous partners. Empowerment of farmers in knowledge and skill has become very vital.

Two areas that strike me most for imparting knowledge to farmers are related to soil and food processing. The soils over the years have become infertile as the carbon content has declined to 0.2-0.4 % and hence not responding to inorganic fertilizers causing the problem of factor productivity. It is essential to all of us educate the farmers to restore the soil health by balanced use of organic, biodynamic and inorganic matter uses. Another area of immediate concern is the value addition from the current 12% to 35% in next 10-15 years by adopting efficient agro-processing technologies. The sectors identified for expanding the level of processing on priority are food grains, fruits and vegetable and dairy. Current research portfolio need to be upgraded to develop innovative products, processes and machinery of globally competitive standards. Greater emphasis is required for Human Resource Development in the area of biosciences and engineering to meet the requirement of the expanding agro-processing activities in the country. Similarly, high-tech agriculture including precision agriculture and organic farming are seen to offer a vast potential to create productive, profitable and stable employment in agriculture.

The graduates and post graduates have a decisive role to play in bringing next green revolution. Young men and women like you, must actively and emotionally get involved and participate in this process to bring everlasting smile on the faces of our farmers. Once again, I congratulate the degree recipients and add few words of parting advise and wisdom, which I normally give in Convocation Address. You have taken education but be remain 'Educated' in life; you have learnt lessons of Agriculture Sciences, but be remain 'Learned' as will be approved by society; you are graduated but be remain ' Grateful' to parents, teachers and institution. You are now citizen thus be 'Civilized' for ever. Friends, degrees provides us an occasion to scan the scenario, reflect on where we wish to go and chart an action plan as stated in Upanishada,

***Krato smara I kleeve smara II krutum smara III***

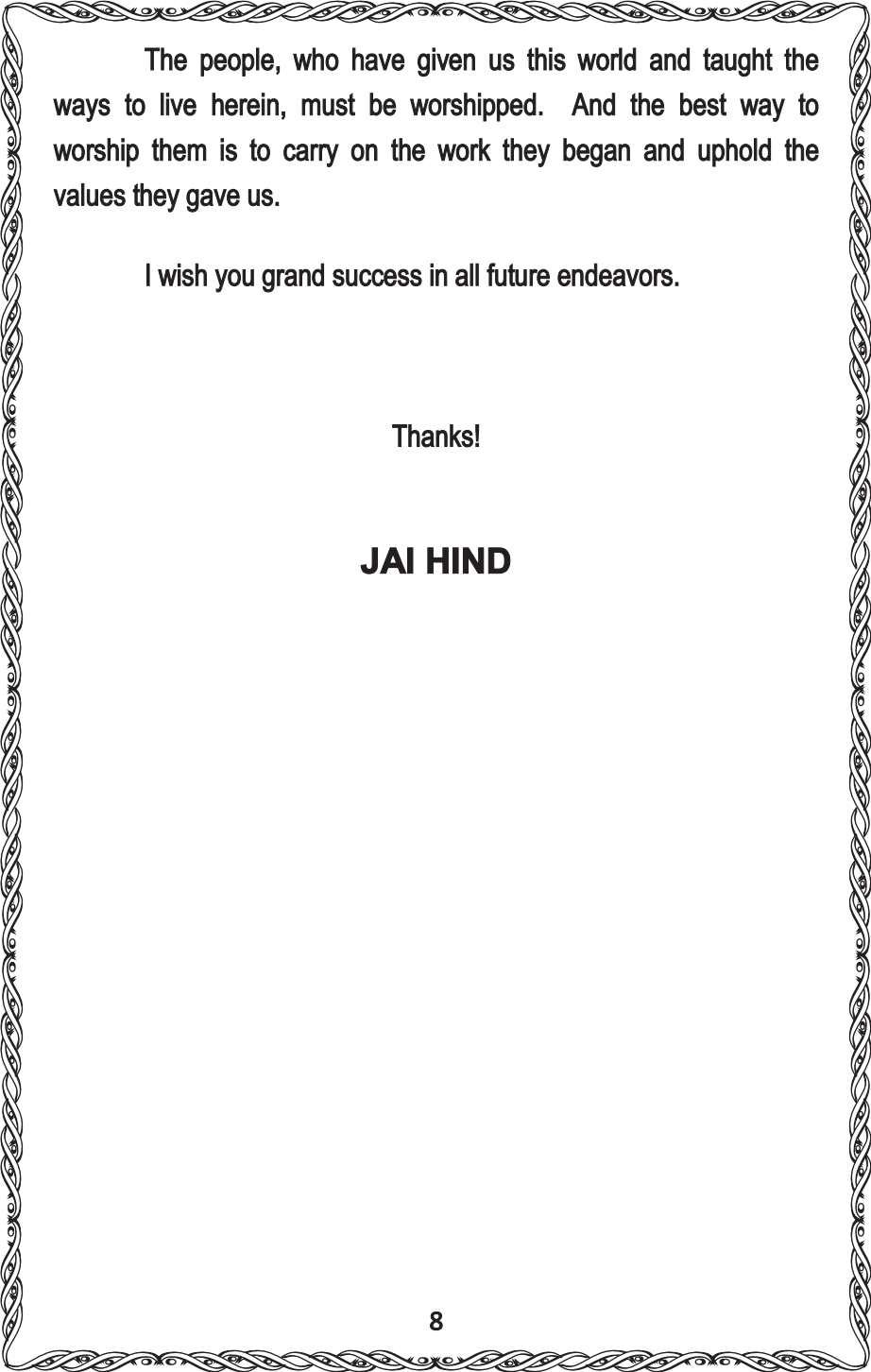
Let us recall what we have done, where we have erred and what has to be done now.

Please pay your respects to all those who have brought you up to here.

**As stated in Vedas:**

***Lokakritah pathikrito devanam yajamahe I***



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The people, who have given us this world and taught the ways to live herein, must be worshipped. And the best way to worship them is to carry on the work they began and uphold the values they gave us.

I wish you grand success in all future endeavors.

Thanks!

**JAI HIND**