

**Foundation Day Address by the Vice-Chancellor in the eve of
Golden Jubilee commemoration**

01.06.2021

சுழன்றும் ஏர்ப் பின்னது உலகம் அதனால்
உழந்தும் உழவே தலை

Thiruvalluvar, a well celebrated Tamil poet who has authored Thirukkural, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economical matters, and love has given 10 couplets for Farming which justifies the importance of farming and agriculture in feeding the country.

Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of Government of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Hon'ble Director General, ICAR and Secretary, DARE, Dr. V. Irai Anbu, I.A.S., Distinguished alumnus of TNAU and Chief Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Th. C. Samayamoorthy, I.A.S., Agrl. Production Commissioner and Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu, Former Vice-Chancellors of TNAU, Members of Board of Management, Academic, Research and Extension Education Councils of this University, Special invitees Th. O.V.R. Somasundaram, Progressive Farmer, Dr. M. Ramasami, Chairman, Rasi Seeds, scientific fraternity, soldiers who shouldered so far this University, students, non-teaching staff, ladies and gentlemen.

A very good morning to one and all available both online and on venue. I am given with 15 minutes to crystallize 50 years of monumental work done at TNAU for which I will do justice.

- This University, as a School, started its beginning as early as 1868 at Saidapet, Madras and later moved to Coimbatore during 1906. It was affiliated to Madras University by 1920.
- This School has progressively grown up as an Institute and later transformed as a State Agricultural University on 01.06.1971.
- This is one of the strongest Universities in the country with a total research area exceeding 4600 acres including all the seven agroclimatic zones of Tamil Nadu.
- During these 50 years, TNAU has grown in all dimensions and has become a University of Global Eminence.
- University has attained in the last five decades expansion in the Colleges, Research Stations, KVKs horizontally and with a blow in knowledge, skill, attitude, behavior and wisdom of the scientists and students in vertical dimension.
- This University started with two Colleges during 1971 has now grown and has 14 constituent Colleges, 39 Research Stations and 14 KVKs.
- TNAU offers 10 Under Graduate Programmes, 35 Master's and 29 Doctoral Programmes in various Disciplines. The overall student's strength is about 7000 at a time.
- TNAU has so far developed 26,101 Under Graduate, 10897 Master's and 3324 Doctoral Graduates who serve the country and globe in

various spheres in various capacities. Besides, this University caters education at Diploma level as well.

- This University was the first among the 63 SAUs in introducing PG courses in cutting edge sciences namely Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Bioinformatics, Geoinformatics, Food process engineering, Environmental Sciences etc., to cater to the growing demand. One of the Master's Program with offering Dual Degree with Cornell University, Ithaca, USA introduced during 2008 had been appreciated by ICAR as well.
- Online application and scrutiny, single window counseling and sliding, spot admissions and entrance exam based admissions for PG programmes are some of the key features in the entire process of admission to various programmes which remain transparent.
- Apart from regular TNAU PG entrance, students for the post graduate programs are also enrolled through ICAR, DBT supported GAT B program, Study in India program, DARE scholarships etc. to enhance the student's diversity.
- A total of 58 foreign students have enrolled their PG / Ph.D programme at TNAU since 2009-10.
- At present, five foreign students are continuing their studies.

- Uniform academic calendar is maintained across the University for various programmes. Perhaps, this University is pioneer to go paperless even 15 years before to have a transparency in dealings with improved implementation.
- This University also served as a role model for the entire country in preparing the e-learning materials, Reusable Learning Objects (RLO) and the ways of digitizing Agriculture for the betterment of farmers.
- TNAU has developed e-content for Agricultural education in India by hosting e-learning resource materials for 381 courses.
- For honing the skill of Post Graduate Students, this University started organizing "Agricultural Graduate Students' Conference (AGSC)" annually which is like by and for the post graduate students to improve their leadership skill. Six such conferences are over.
- TNAU is equally recognized for the varieties and technologies released for supporting the livelihood of farmers of not only Tamil Nadu, but also in India and the Globe.
- This University has released 581 crop varieties and 57 agricultural implements and machineries and perfected more than 1500 crop production technologies since the formation of University.
- These varieties are occupying nearly 50 % of the cultivable area in our State. Some notable contribution from the University include the

prominent selection TKM 6 rice which had acclaimed the status of International donor for stem borer.

- Many more improved varieties of TNAU viz., CO2 Papaya, PKM 1 Drumstick, Cumbu Napier Hybrid crossed the National borders owing to their superiority.
- Varieties have been developed for enhancing the nutrition, yield, to minimize post harvest losses, improved saving of water and resources and with endurance to pest and diseases.
- This University had been pioneer among the SAUs in establishing a Gene Bank which presently hold 22,000 plant genetic resources.
- The concept of pruning to improve productivity in mango, an evergreen tree, was introduced by TNAU Horticulturalists as early as 1976.
- Conferment of Krishi Karman Award five times in a period of seven years to this State stands as a testimony of the combined efforts of the University with the State Agriculture Department in enabling the State's requirement in terms of foodgrains, pulses, cereal and oilseeds production.
- This University had been the pioneer in the development and utilization of Biological control principles in containing the pests and diseases.

- Nearly, 169 firms have purchased the mother culture of *Trichoderma viride* and around 134 firms all over India have purchased the mother culture of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* / *Bacillus subtilis* for their mass production which underscores the hefty research being undertaken in this University and the faith of companies in transferring the technologies.
- With separate Pesticide Testing Laboratory established as early as 1973, Toxicology Unit became a part of the national network and provided data to the national register.
- This laboratory was accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratory (NABL) during the year 2011 and obtained 'Z' score in International Proficiency Program for its technical competency in pesticide residue analysis. This is an ISO 2017 certified laboratory.
- The TNAU-Insect Museum is one of the landmarks and is catering to the needs of researchers, public, students and farmers of the country. It has an excellent collection of insects (>1.0 lakhs) and many of them are rare.
- Unparalleled research undertaken by this University in Integrated Farming System approach, Contingent cropping plans, Integrated Water, Nutrient and Weed Management, Complete mechanization with the concept of "Machine maximum, man minimum", Integrated

Pest and Disease Management, Bio inputs and Bio mineralizers, Waste water and solid waste management, various composting principles, etc. speaks about the contributions made in these domains over the years.

- Crop boosters developed by this University had a welcome factor all over the country.
- So far, TNAU distributed coconut tonic to an area of 1,48,245 acres, Pulse wonder for 1,98,068 acres, Groundnut Rich and, Cotton Plus for about 10,000 acres each.
- Forest College and Research Institute of TNAU has so far produced 111 IFS Officers serving at various parts of country.
- This College has established more than 80000 ha of organized agroforestry plantation and helped to meet 38 to 40% of the raw material requirement of domestic and industrial demand through its Business Incubation.
- Besides regular research, cutting edge research being undertaken in Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Remote Sensing etc. helped in alleviating several problems.
- Release of Marker Assisted Selection bred rice variety, sub 1 introgressed lines, development of herbicide tolerant rice, carotene rich and low phytate maize, nano fertilizers, nano stickers for slow

release, nano sanitizers, satellite imagery based crop loss assessment and assistance in crop insurance claims are few on the offing.

- The Directorate of Open and Distance Learning was established during April 2005, a pioneering attempt among the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) with a prime objective of imparting technical knowledge to the various segments of learners who lack opportunity in campus based Agricultural education.
- So far, 13461 candidates have successfully completed in various skill oriented ODL courses.
- In the extension front, I am happy to record that TNAU established its first Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Sirugamani, Trichy during the year 1977 and now a total of 14 KVKs are under the command of TNAU.
- The voluminous data containing TNAU Agritech Portal serves as a resource base for the farmers, entrepreneurs, students and staff for learning and doing Agriculture.
- Directorate of Extension Education which propels the transfer of technologies have ventured in other transmission pathways like Youtube, Uzhavarin Valarum Velanmai, Community Radio etc.
- KVKs of this University work with the concept of "Reach to Teach" the latest know-hows, do-hows to fill the warehouses.

- To recollect down in the memory lane, this is one and perhaps the only University which was sanctioned with four Centre of Advanced Studies (CAS) by ICAR in Plant Breeding and Genetics, Agronomy, Agril. Microbiology and Agril. Entomology by ICAR during 1990s considering TNAU's contribution, infrastructure, manpower and resources.
- Similarly, DBT has sanctioned unique programme like University Innovation Cluster to this University considering its merits.
- This University was recognized by ICAR for Sardal Patel Award for outstanding Institution during 2010 along with IARI, New Delhi which exemplifies the contributions made by this University which is unparalleled.

I make few quick submissions to ICAR for considering the potential available in TNAU:

1. Inclusion of TNAU in ICAR's flagship programmes like genome sequencing projects, phenomics and speed breeding
2. Initiation of new AICRP on crop biotechnology
3. Establishing a Centre of Excellence in AgroForestry
4. Regularizing the release of improved crop varieties developed through genome editing (SDN I and SDN II)
5. Establishing a mirror site of NBPGR in one of the TNAU campuses

6. Special ICAR Development grant (Rs.15 Crores) to establish a new **"Students Amenity Centre"** in Commemoration with the Golden Jubilee year of TNAU

Similarly, my appeal to Government of Tamil Nadu is to sanction a sum of Rs. 30 Crores for establishing "Golden Jubilee Building Complex" to house three Directorates.

We had been number one in several areas and we wish to continue the same with the support of Central and State Governments. I fondly recollect the foundation laid by my predecessors at various points of time which made this University to grow and we assure that we will keep up its serenity, sanctity and sincerity in all the spheres in the years to come.

Thanks to one and all.