



Message of the Hon'ble Governor & Chancellor ANGRAU,  
**Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan**  
on the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation of  
Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University  
at Sri Venkateswara Agricultural College, Tirupati

I extend warm welcome to today's Chief Guest Sri Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Vice Chancellor of ANGRAU, Members of the Board of Management, Member of Academic Council, learned Faculty, Officials & Staff of ANGRAU, Students, Parents, representatives of Press and Media, other dignitaries, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Good Afternoon to you all.

I am happy to learn that today Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation.

Earning a degree from a prestigious university is indeed a great feeling and Convocation is the culmination of the dedication, perseverance, committed efforts made by the students, parents, guardians on this prestigious day.

I congratulate each and every outgoing student, winners of gold medals, awards, and distinctions on this occasion and appreciate their efforts in achieving success. In fact, these students form a new set of true ambassadors of this University.

The University with three major faculties in the field of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering & Technology and Community Science (formerly known as Home science), with 5 agricultural colleges, two agricultural engineering colleges, two food science & technology colleges, one home science college, one advanced post graduate centre, and one agri business management college spread across the state of Andhra Pradesh, imparting the best education and skills among undergraduate, post-graduate and doctoral students. ANGRAU is one of the best Agricultural Universities in the Country and is an Institute of National Importance.

In addition to college education, ANGRAU has made first-of-its-kind initiative to train the High school pass-out students in agricultural and allied sciences through Diploma in Agricultural Polytechnic.

During the academic year 2016-17, a total of 552 undergraduates, 113 in Masters Programme and 18 in Doctorate Programme have passed in the Faculty of Agriculture. About 388 students obtained their Diploma in Agriculture and 20 students completed diploma course in Seed Technology from constituent colleges. Altogether, a total of 1094 students in the Faculty of Agriculture and 72 students in Seed Technology have qualified for receiving diplomas.

In the Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, about 105 Undergraduates, 6 Post Graduates, one student in Doctorate Programme and 44 Diploma students have passed out from constituent colleges and 152 students have qualified for receiving diploma during 2016-17.

Altogether, 50 students from the University had qualified in various competitive examinations including Junior Research Fellowship exam of the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR)

I congratulate Vice Chancellor, Dr. A. Vishnuvardhan Reddy and his team at ANGRAU for achieving 13<sup>th</sup> rank among National Agricultural Universities for the year 2019 by the ICAR. The State Agricultural Universities have to play a stellar role in imparting skill development to different stakeholders, developing improved crop varieties, technologies related to crop production and protection, offering solutions to farm problems and improving farm livelihoods. For this to happen, and to make rapid strides in teaching, research and extension, ANGRAU has to transform itself into a world class Agricultural University.

The skills of teaching faculty have to be upgraded from time to time, to achieve excellence in research by allowing academic freedom, providing well equipped facilities for teaching, research, extension and administration.

This University has pioneered several initiatives in academics that are adopted by other State Agricultural Universities. The Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) to final year undergraduate students for understanding rural farm situations; the Agricultural Experiential Learning Programme (AELP) for developing competence through knowledge and skills in enterprise management; "Agri carnival", a festival of agriculture is celebrated in all constituent and affiliated Colleges of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering & Technology and Community Science, to bring out innate talents, inculcate inquisitiveness and innovativeness among students.

Taking up projects under Public-private-partnership (PPP) mode with agro-industries will help Agricultural Universities to achieve synergy in solving field problems and will benefit the students in terms of increased employability, fellowships, curriculum revision, collaborative research by students, increased entrepreneurial skills, sharing of resources etc.

Developing sustainable, low cost, easily adaptable, climate smart agricultural technologies is need of the hour for Indian Agriculture. Going by the demand for food security at national level, there is a need to boost crop productivity especially when the scope of cultivable land expansion is meager. For this, release of crop varieties from time to time, with high yield potential, resistant to pests and diseases and other desirable traits is important.

During the year 2016-17, ANGRAU has made remarkable progress in this direction and released eight new crop varieties such as "*Bheema, Tarangini, Samruddhi* and *Nandyala Sona*" in rice; the blackgram variety, "*Tirupati*

*Minumu*"; the Bengal gram variety "*Nandyal Sanaga*"; the groundnut variety, "*Kadiri Amaravathi*"; the sunflower variety, "*Prabhat*". Both Food and Nutritional Security are the important issues that come to my mind in the context of ever growing human population.

Recently, ANGRAU has released 19 crop varieties during 2020 and has bagged two patents on "*A process for preparing dehydrated fruit bar from prickly pear*" in collaboration with Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati and another one on "*Machinery & Process of manufacturing of cane jaggery in crystal form*".

According to recent statistics of Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), our Nation holds largest undernourished population in the world. About 14% of our population is undernourished. About 20% of our children under 5 years are underweight, 34.7% of them are stunted, and 51.4% of women in reproductive age are anaemic. There is every need to overcome malnourishment and Agricultural Universities have to do good research on bio-fortification of crops, which is a cost-effective and a sustainable way to overcome the problem of malnutrition.

I appreciate the efforts of ANGRAU in developing "Fortified Finger Millet Variety, CFMV-1" that was released by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, in October 2020. ANGRAU also has a "Startup Unit in Food Processing and Value Addition" at Guntur managed by Faculty of Community Science that standardizes value-added millet products and generates consumer-friendly products under brand name of "ANGRAU PRODUCTS".

The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has iterated its policy towards developing agriculture and allied sectors and ensuring farmers' welfare in the State. Towards achieving sustainability, the Govt. is also setting up go-downs, cold storage units, collection centres, custom hiring centres, assaying equipment

for determining quality of produce, drying platforms, Janata Bazars, primary processing centres, bulk milk cooling units, procurement centres, cattle sheds and infrastructure for aqua farmers.

In order to realize the goal of doubling of farm income, it is essential to carry out research in lines of Integrated Farming Systems, Farm Mechanization; Food Processing, Water Conservation Technologies, improving crop yields, enhancing linkages between agriculture and non-agricultural sector etc.

Research on Integrated Farming System should be focused more and more for reaping benefits of enhanced crop productivity, recycling of resources, reduction in production costs, effective resource utilization, reduced risks due to crop diversification, enhanced farm income and finally improvement in standard of living.

I am happy that ANGRAU is effectively implementing several National Initiatives through ICAR, Govt. of India and other national organizations.

Innovative Extension Methods are essential for effective dissemination of agricultural technologies. ANGRAU has some novel extension strategies and recently has introduced "Massive Open Online Courses" through "Open and Distance Learning Centre" (ODLC). Certificate courses are offered in Organic Farming, Terrace Gardening, Bee Keeping, Mushroom Production, Millet Promotion and Agricultural Journalism etc.

ANGRAU has been in the forefront in the country in addressing the challenges in Farm Management in a comprehensive manner.

One important suggestion to the students is to maintain integrity in research. Honesty and ethics are the two issues to be borne in mind while reporting and publishing the research results. Plagiarism should be avoided by the students

at all stages and I suggest you to not to choose shortcuts in academics as well as in every sphere of life. I suggest ANGRAU to bring a comprehensive policy on curbing plagiarism in all constituent and affiliated colleges for promoting integrity in academics and research.

Convocation is a special day for the outgoing students, who are aspiring to kick-start their career. A wide range of opportunities are available in agriculture sector and I suggest you to choose a path that gives you satisfaction and ample scope to contribute to the society and the nation. I also advice the students to inculcate the habit of acquiring knowledge on a continuous basis in whatever specialized field of career chosen by you.

Once again, I congratulate all the students who are graduating today and wish you all a bright future.

JAI HIND