

## INAUGURAL ADDRESS\*

BY

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Mr. President, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Sukhatme, Dr. Singh, distinguished delegates and friends:

It gives me great pleasure to inaugurate the 29th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics at Jaipur today, the 26th December, 1975. I am very happy to extend my hearty welcome to all the distinguished participants and guests to this historic pink city of India.

As all of you are aware, the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics completes 29 years of useful service in promoting the study of and research in Statistical theory and its applications to agriculture, animal husbandry, agricultural economics and allied sciences. I know that the Society was fortunate to have the late Dr. Rajendra Prasad as its founder President and eminent statisticians like late Dr. V. G. Panse, Dr. P. V. Sukhatme as the founder members. Now the Society is working under the stewardship of Dr. Swaminathan as its President and Dr. P. V. Sukhatme as its Executive President. I am confident that under their scholarly leadership and your able support the Society will prosper in promoting the aims of the Society.

The organisation of annual conferences, symposia and seminars on the topics of current interest by the Society with the active support

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of the Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics is to be highly appreciated. The publication of the Journal by the Society also serves the research workers and contributes well to statistical literature. I am informed that the Society has also published books on Statistical Methods for Agricultural and Animal Science workers, Contributions in Statistics and Agricultural Sciences and Report of Symposia on Measurement of Impact of Green Revolution and Statistical Assessment of Intensive Cattle Development Programme. I understand that the Society also undertakes some independent research projects and offers scholarships for the award of Ph. D. degree in Agricultural Statistics.

This Annual Conference of the Society is an excellent meeting ground for Central, State and University Statisticians to exchange views and ideas regarding current problems in agricultural statistics and the manner in which the problems should be tackled and solved. I am sure, this conference programme which includes a technical address, reading of contributed papers and two interesting symposia on '1970 Agricultural Census' and 'Sampling from Dynamic Populations' will give new light to the workers. I hope the views and experiences of Dr. Sukhatme, the Ex-Director of Statistics Division, F.A.O., Rome and Dr. Daroga Singh, Director, I.A.R.S., New Delhi, who were associated with the Census will be very enlightening to for agricultural development. Although I am not a statistician, I am told that Statistics as a broad discipline includes both theory and applications to various biological, physical and social sciences and provides tools for collection of data, its analysis and interpretation in any field of enquiry. Sometimes statistics is categorized as number three among lies, i.e. lies, damned lies and statistics due to sheer ignorance or unreliable statistics. However, I believe that the agricultural statistics collected are fairly well reliable for planning purposes.

The Statistical Wing of I.C.A.R., which has now grown into Institute of Agricultural Research Statistics has done considerable work in obtaining reliable area and production statistics through

appropriate sampling methods in last forties. Later the techniques have also been developed for collecting other agricultural statistics of production.

The participation by India in the decennial F.A.O. World Agricultural Census from 1950 onward provides basic statistics in respect of the number of farms, their characteristics like the tenure, land utilization, farm employment, machinery, inputs and pattern of cultivation. I have been told that now the responsibility of collecting agricultural statistics on the nationwide scale is taken over by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

Concerted action by Central and State agencies has resulted in all round improvement in agricultural statistics for planning and development. There may be need for further refinements and improvements in agricultural statistics. For example the development of suitable sampling methods for reliable preharvest production estimates using biometrical observations on standing crops and other relevant measurements will be very useful for policy makers. I understand that a suitable statistical methodology is being evolved by I.A.R.S. on crops like rice, wheat, jowar, cotton, tobacco and sugarcane. The success of the methodology will be a useful contribution by statisticians. Such studies may be supplemented with meteorological observations before forecast, the occurrence of pests and diseases etc.

The soil test and crop response studies under Coordinated Agronomic Research Project, and analysis of data from Irrigation Experiments should provide very useful information. This will help in optimising the use of available fertilizers and water for irrigation. Losses in the production on account of various diseases and pests in field and during storage may be estimated, in collaboration with plant protection scientists. Studies on cost of production, marketing and farm management etc., should be undertaken in collaboration with agricultural economists.

These are a few examples I have taken from Plant Sciences. Examples from animal sciences, where statisticians can play an important role in obtaining useful information from research experiments or survey techniques, could also be taken. This remark is specially pertinent to Rajasthan where cattle is an important wealth.

In the end I would like to comment that Indian Statisticians have done commendable research work in the field of sample survey theory, design and analysis of field and animal experiments, statistical genetics in plant and animal breeding. I am proud to say that India has a prominent place on the Statistical map of the world. I am sure statisticians in collaboration with the other agricultural scientists would continue to do useful work for planners, policy makers and help in assessing and evaluating the various development programmes for the public.

With these remarks I inaugurate this Conference and welcome you all for participating in this Conference.