

WELCOME ADDRESS

by

Prof. Bal BPS Goel

Director, IASRI and Secretary, ISAS

Hon'ble President of India, His Excellency, Dr. Shanker Dayal Shama ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra ji, Dr. Paroda, Prof. Rao, Dr. Pandey, distinguished guests, members of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics, delegates of the Conference, representatives of Press and Media, All India Radio and Doordarshan, ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a great pleasure and proud privilege for me to welcome you all, this morning, to the inaugural function of the Golden Jubilee Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics.

We are very grateful to the Hon'ble President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma ji for gracing this occasion in spite of his extremely busy schedule. A great parliamentarian, an able administrator and an eminent scholar, he is greatly admired and highly respected for his work particularly for the uplift of the farmers and rural poor of the country. Under his able guidance, the country has progressed much and occupies a leading position among developing countries of the world.

I have great pleasure in extending a warm welcome to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra ji. He is a freedom fighter, national leader, writer and policy maker. Sir, you have always encouraged the agricultural scientists on the relevance of their research to the needs of national development.

I also thank Dr. R. S. Paroda, President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics and Prof. J. N. K. Rao, Sessional President of the Society for their kind presence. On behalf of the scientists, staff and students of the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute as well as on my own behalf, I warmly welcome all of you.

The Golden Jubilee Conference of the Society organised by the Institute, is a memorable occasion. I would like to take this opportunity to review in brief the development and activities of the Institute and the Society. The Institute started as a small statistical section of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1930. During the past 66 years, it has grown in size, stature as well as in spectrum of its research and academic activities into an Institute of international repute. The outstanding leadership, untiring efforts and devotion

to the cause of agricultural statistics of distinguished statisticians like Prof. P.V. Sukhatme, Late Dr. V.G. Panse, Dr. G.R. Seth and many others have been the main force behind its development.

It is a premier Institute whose objective is to promote and conduct research and training in agricultural statistics and computer applications for improving the planning and evaluation of agricultural research and development. The Institute undertakes research in sampling methods, experimental designs, statistical genetics, computer applications and allied topics. Through its training programmes, the Institute has provided manpower in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Applications for strengthening Agricultural Statistics System in India and abroad. The Institute conducts degree courses leading to M.Sc. in Agricultural Statistics and Computer Application and Ph.D. in Agricultural Statistics. Short term In-service training courses and several international training courses are also conducted by the Institute from time to time.

The Institute has made a good headway in research in agricultural statistics and computer applications. An outstanding achievement has been the development of crop cutting survey methodology for estimating crop yields which is being used in India and several countries all over the world. There are several other break throughs made by the Institute but time does not permit me to mention them.

The Institute is venturing into new areas of research such as :

- Statistical applications of GIS and Remote Sensing techniques in agriculture
- Forecasting techniques in agricultural systems

Now I turn to the Society. The Society was founded on 3 January, 1947 and was fortunate to have Late Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Minister of Food and Agriculture, as its Founder President. He continued to guide the Society for sixteen years even after becoming the President of India. The Society had also the privilege of having as its Presidents Shri S. K. Patil, Shri C. Subramaniam, Shri Jagjivan Ram, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan and many other eminent persons. They took keen interest in the activities of the Society and were a source of great inspiration.

The Society organises symposia on topics of current national interest. This year two symposia on (a) Economic Reforms in Agriculture Sector - A Statistical Assessment and (b) Computer Intensive Techniques in Agricultural Research are being organised. The Society brings out its own Journal, JOURNAL OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS which has a

large number of subscribers both in India and abroad. It has so far published 43 volumes and a special issue (Volume 49) is being released at this Conference. The Hindi Supplement continues to be a special feature of the Journal. The number of members and subscribers during the year was 788 out of which 400 are life members. Two books: Sampling Theory of Surveys with Applications by P. V. Sukhatme and others and Statistical Methods in Animal Sciences by V. N. Ambale brought out by the Society are in great demand. The Society has a research unit which carries out investigations on problems of national interest under the guidance of a Research Direction Committee.

The Society honours eminent statisticians who have contributed significantly to the cause of agricultural statistics in India and abroad by giving them Sankhyiki Bhushan Award. For encouraging the young scientists, the Society has instituted a Young Scientist Award which is given every year at the Annual Conference of the Society. With a view to promoting research in Statistics and improving the standard of its Journal, the Society has introduced a scheme to award prizes for the best articles published in its Journal. The 49th Annual Conference of the Society was held at Lucknow from 22 to 23 February, 1996 on the invitation of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Moti Lal Vora, the then Governor of Uttar Pradesh and was a great success.

The work of the Society during the year was made possible through the advice and help of the members of the Executive Council of the Society, the Editorial Board and the Research Direction Committee.

With these words, I once again welcome you all to this function.

Thank you.

EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

14 December, 1996

Dear Dr. Goel,

I regret that I will not be able to come to Delhi to participate in the forthcoming Conference of the Society. I am aware that this is the Jubilee year but I am helpless. I am also cancelling my address that I am supposed to give at the Indian Social Congress on December 29 at Shanti Niketan but I am hoping that I will have another opportunity of making amends.

I leave the matter there hoping for the best. I wish the conference all success.

As advised by you I am sending herewith two passport size colour photographs.

It was a joy to work for the Society and to work in particular with the late Dr. Rajendra Prasad. I was looking forward to similar opportunity of profilling from the guidance of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and Dr. R.S.Paroda.

I am a great believer in Adhyatma and the natural forces within oneself working as true healer. I am continuing my practice of Yoga and chanting Mantras in the hope that it will bring me peace of mind. No science other than statistics can guarantee the relation between health and spirituality. The Vedic system was the first to bring this to our notice.

What we see around in India shows how statistics is related to politics. My hope is that we need at all times to be vigilant so that our effort will not suffer from political contamination. We need therefore to be vigilant at all times. It is this eternal vigilance that enables man to control the brain and action of the sense. The experimental and analytical methods can and one's thinking but it is only when we see the close connection between statistics and self control that we dare interpret the data.

I do not want to take more of your time but I am hoping that sometime next year I will be able to give a talk on the subject to show how we look at our problem and what we can do in education by directing it to the welfare of the human being and the whole world.

Sd/-

(P.V.SUKHATME)

14.12.96