

## ADDRESS OF WELCOME

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Mr. Sengupta, Professor Kapur, Professor Prem Narain, Professor Bose, delegates and friends!

It is a privilege to welcome you all to this 38th Annual Session of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics. I need hardly emphasize to this particular audience the importance of agricultural statistics. But you will permit me to recall that in the history of the development of statistical theory and methods agriculture has played an extremely important role. Indeed, agriculture is one of the fields where some of the most imaginative and fruitful applications of statistics have been made. And conversely, the problems of agriculture have led to advances in the methodology of statistics. I need mention here the development of the methodology of design of experiments which came about largely through the interaction of agriculture and statistics in the work of pioneers like Fisher, Yates and others at the Rothamsted Experimental Station. In our own country, Professor Mahalanobis and Professor Sukhatme pioneered the applications of statistics to agriculture in his study of the estimation of the yield and acreage of crops. The Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics has a very distinguished record in this country in nurturing this mutual development of the disciplines. Its journal—The Indian Journal of Agricultural Statistics, is known throughout the world and contains several very important contributions to agricultural statistics. On the other hand, in the Indian Statistical Institute, due to the efforts of Professor Mahalanobis and his disciples agriculture and statistics and the interaction between the two have been developed over the years. We have in the Institute, as you very well know, a group of people working in agriculture and plant sciences who have collaborated with the statisticians in the mutual development of the two subjects. It is therefore a matter of great satisfaction to me that our two organizations have come together in holding this conference.