

## PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

by

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Respected Rashtrapati ji, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Rao, Prof. Goel, Dr. Pandey, distinguished guests, delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, I on behalf of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, welcome you all to the Golden Jubilee Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics.

We are indeed grateful to our Chief Guest, His Excellency, the President of India for his gracious presence here this morning. His very presence amongst us today clearly reflects the importance which our Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji attaches to the Agriculture in general and Agricultural Statistics in particular.

Sir, your very presence here is a source of great encouragement to all of us. As President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics I profoundly thank you for having graced the occasion by your benign presence.

I also extend a warm welcome to our Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Shri Chaturanan Mishra ji and thank him for gracing the occasion. We know that he is always there to support the cause for the development of agriculture in this country. Sir, we welcome you to this Golden Jubilee Conference.

As already mentioned by Prof. Goel, this conference is a historic event in so far as the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics is concerned. The Society founded in 1947 had the fortune of having Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then Union Minister of Food and Agriculture and later as President of India, as its Founder President for a number of years. Nothing could be more encouraging to see that the present President has graced the inaugural function of the Golden Jubilee Conference of the Society which is a manifestation of his keen interest for the development of agricultural statistics as a discipline, so important for the agricultural transformation in our country.

ISAS is a well managed professional Society catering to the needs of the agricultural statisticians and scientists in the country. The Society has made valuable contributions in the past and has set excellent scientific traditions. The present function is a reflection of some such activities organised by this Society. Let me express my appreciation for the role our statisticians has played towards strengthening of agricultural research and planning in the country. We all know that soon after Sir R.A. Fisher had made his monumental contributions in

Agricultural Statistics, India became one of the first countries in the world to initiate and organise research and training programmes in agricultural statistics. Professor Mahalanobis, Professor Sukhatme and Dr. Panse are well known figures in this discipline recognised globally for their valuable contributions specially in the area of sample survey and experimental design. They effectively applied statistical theory for various solutions concerning agricultural and biological problems.

As early as 1930, ICAR has created a Statistical Section that later developed into a full-fledged Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI). Today, it is one of our premier institutions. It is indeed heartening that this Institute is hosting this Golden Jubilee Conference of Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics. Contributions of the Institute are enormous and Prof. Goel has already made a brief mention of some of those. Today, we have entered in an era of fast developing science and technology and we have to deal with complex agricultural research and experimentation problems. In fact we are all in the computer age. Computer simulation techniques, mathematical programming models and optimisation techniques are being increasingly adopted. On the other hand, the use of more complex experimental designs and more sophisticated tools are on an increase. There is also a demand to simplify experimental designs and techniques so that the same could be used effectively by a large number of agricultural scientists. It is quite evident that future advancements in the application of statistical techniques to agricultural research may not be possible unless steps are taken for greater integration and required compatibility between statistical approaches and biological objectives. This could be possible through required reorientation in our research and training programmes.

Today, for the growth of agriculture, what is needed is an overall understanding of the system that too in an intra-disciplinary manner. Science of agricultural statistics is in a unique position to perform this integrated role. Its contribution has been the most significant in crop surveys resulting in required data for price fixation and design of experiments used in agriculture and animal husbandry. Also, statisticians have made valuable contributions in the field of genetical statistics relating to both plants and animals. For that matter, we all know that no comparison among treatments is possible without the use of statistics. We are all aware that usefulness of data is lost if these are not processed, interpreted or utilised properly and in time. Lack of equipment for fast processing and analysing the data used to be one of the handicaps till recently. With the availability of fast data processing equipments in computer, it shall be possible in future to ensure timely utilisation of all available information so as to devise suitable system for research management, resource

management which is more crucial in today's context for sustainable agriculture and also the institutional management. I am sure all these related aspects would receive required attention during the Conference.

We are very fortunate to have with us this time the Sessional President Dr. J.N.K. Rao who has come all the way from Canada to present the Technical Address, Dr. Y.K. Alagh, a renowned Agricultural Economist to deliver the prestigious Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Lecture and Dr. G.R. Seth, a well known Statistician to later deliver the Dr. Panse Memorial Lecture.

Once again, I take this opportunity to thank our Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji, Shri Chaturanan Mishra ji and all of you for having graced this historic occasion of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics.

Thank you.