

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE



— **Dr. M. Channa Reddy**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

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Speech delivered by Dr.M.Channa Reddy,
Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, on the occasion of Silver
Jubilee of the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, at
Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad on December 28, 1989.

Research Scholars, Students, teachers and friends!

It is a matter of great pride and privilege to have this opportunity of delivering the valedictory address on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of this great University. Silver Jubilee in an individual's life or a institution's life is a big occasion which assumes more importance when it is judged from the past performance and achievements. Agricultural University of Andhra Pradesh can rightly, as the Vice-Chancellor stated in detail, talk about its achievements and particularly against the background of the hard and difficult circumstances they had to face by not getting the full support financially or otherwise from the concerned. It was in 1956 when the very idea of Agricultural University was conceived by the Government of India, I was the Minister of Agriculture of erstwhile Hyderabad State. With my conviction, that agriculture has great economic potentialities of not only individuals, not only families, but the entire country, I jumped at that idea. I had written a letter as Minister for Agriculture welcoming the idea and appealing to the Government of

India to sanction it immediately. Unfortunately it took 10 long years to give shape to this idea of Agricultural University. I also remember, how in 1952, a year after becoming Agricultural Minister, I had an occasion to participate in the students' annual function of the Agricultural College in the Osmania University campus. I had then a very strong statement to make, may be not palatable to the students and the University authorities. I said if this College was to be administered in this manner, it was almost like a Post Office with Postal tuitions, then I would ask my own department not to entertain any agricultural graduates coming from this College unless standards were improved. We set the ball in motion.

It was the great man, the Vice-President of India, Dr. Radhakrishnan, whom I invited here laid the foundation stone of this Agricultural College in this present University Campus at Rajendranagar. Rajendranagar was then known as Himayatsagar. But we changed it when Dr. Rajendra Prasad came here as a guest to the Kidwai Cottage in this campus. I told him convincingly that I would like to have his permission to name this as Rajendranagar after him. This was done as he was

the first Agricultural Minister of free India. With the few institutions that we tried to develop here, including the Panchayat Raj Training Institute, Village Level Officers Training Centre, which we were able to make stable, gradually and steadily the building activity increased here. And I am glad that scores of All India Institutions have come to this place. I am proud as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister to have them with us in such large numbers. It has been found to be a congenial, cosmopolitan place and most convenient place where not only the North and South meet but perhaps the West and East also meet. We have thus a very important, vital cultural and also agricultural centre. I am very much reminded of the remark made in a very fond manner by Dr. Radhakrishnan whether I was a Minister of Agriculture or a Minister of Culture. I was both. In fact, this country and the world got its very culture from the agriculture and culture has flown into agriculture; and has made this beautiful country as it is.

In spite of poverty, illiteracy and backwardness, we have made a long journey. I had opportunities of sitting with Pandit Jawharlal Nehru in Planning Commission

meetings and observe the way he used to apply his mind, the way he had struggled to get a grain of food from foreign countries on all kinds of terms through all kinds of schemes. He had made development possible by promoting a chain of laboratories all over the country and also gave considerable importance to agriculture. Today we look back with great pride and satisfaction that this great man, great statesman, great politician and great fighter was responsible for evolving what is known now as the green revolution. Today, we not only do not depend on other countries, but we are in a position to export food grains and other agricultural produce to all other countries including the so-called well developed countries. Mrs. Gandhi had also continued this process of agricultural green" revolution and had ushered in what you call White Revolution" in the dairy field.

It is not the question of extent of land or size of the land but it is the sensible way of using the land and growing all that is necessary; today we find in our midst the fruits of the great white revolution and its spread. This and many more things are part of the achievements of this University.

When I brought Sri Kidwai, the then Union Agriculture Minister to lay foundation stone of a very small Research Centre at Rajendranagar, he was visibly disappointed that it was small. Scientists used to work hard no doubt— but he said that this building should be ready soon. I can recall how in a record time of six months, both engineers and scientists together managed to build up the building and the institution. Once again, he came for inauguration of the laboratory. Today it was grown much bigger and perhaps in years to come it has to grow much more. But what was then started stands as a great monument of the conviction and confidence about the future of agriculture and the future of the kisans all over the State. They are very poor, technologically very backward, but they have wonderful and practical ideals. They have to be shown and convinced. They have to see what you are doing for their benefit. They may be illiterate but the great scientists and others may learn something here something there from their practical field work. This Kidwai Garden stands as a monument of work and zeal and agricultural scientists can volunteer to work here. That will be wonderful. A piece of slushy land, with unkempt field and with limited and unseemly surroundings, it has turned into a

beautiful place.

An agriculturist is always a creator. He creates grains and food stuffs of all varieties and that is our strength. But we have yet to develop. I am sure this University under the capable leadership of the Vice-Chancellors past and present, can do wonderful things. Mr. Appa Rao, the Vice-Chancellor is really devoted scientist in this field and I believe that a scientist and agriculturist only can be entrusted with responsibilities in the field of agriculture. I know you do not like an administrator to take all the responsibility. But with the experience of administration, I can tell you they also can come up to your expectations. Many I.A.S. Officers have been associated with it and they have done very well but Mr.Appa Rao has given a scientific approach and a scientific turn to the development of this Agricultural University.

In between Mr. Raghotham Reddy, who was second man in the country to have become a Vice-Chancellor without being a graduate himself. The first being Ravindranath Tagore. But I am glad of his performance of five years; he has done wonderful work. And he had risen

to the expectations that I had of him. And I congratulate him on this particular occasion. His unstinted and continued interest and cooperation, his dedication to the cause of agriculture knows no bounds. He has been a strong pillar of this University. Everyone knows that even after he had retired from the Vice-Chancellor ship, it was to his credit that he had donated a big farm worth atleast 50 lakhs of rupees for which a trust was formed and I have the honour of being President of the Trust. To-day it stands as an outstanding horticulture research farm in Warangal District doing useful work. I am just now told and I am very happy to say that its gross income is seven lakhs, with expenditure of 4 lakhs, still saving 3 lakhs. And this particular farm was donated by Mr. Raghotham Reddy in the name of his father in whose name extension lectures have been arranged under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor of this University. I would like this kind of gesture to be emulated by many people to enrich the Agricultural University, agriculture institutions in general. In Rajendranagar, there are many other institutions doing research work. I congratulate all the scientists. They have made good contributions for the development of agriculture. Whether in the matter of

hybrid varieties of seeds or other varieties, they work hard and revolutionise agriculture, in this particular part of the country. I acknowledge that we have not done enough and have not given fair treatment to the Agriculture University as we should have done. I wish these celebrations came some time later, when I would have time to take full stock of the situation. The finances of the State Government are notoriously bankrupt. We are left in a big soup with number of problems, with maladministration, demoralised to the core and a confused state of affairs. I do not mean to blame anybody for this but historically during the last seven years situations have so conspired that today we stand at a great disadvantage. Otherwise I would have assured you that the present allocation for horticulture would be doubled. I still believe that more investment in such useful activities is necessary. Mr. Janardhana Reddy proposed some kind of auditorium in this University. There was also another feeling that the auditorium may not be that important as some other scientific requirements. And I declare atleast a minimum of 40 lakhs rupees as donation for this purpose. It is a minimum that we could do at present.

I have certainly some more things in mind which concern the people of the State. At the moment, we are in a very bad position with regard to law and order. There is the problem of Naxalites. As Chief Minister of the State, I have the responsibility to give all due weight and consideration to the views of the people, whoever they are and whatever they are, irrespective of their loyalty, irrespective of the party they pay allegiance to. As the Chief Minister, it is my responsibility to appreciate the feelings of others. I want to state that I appreciate the feelings of the naxalites that way. I do not just condemn them. I want them to adopt certain other methods in the interest of themselves and in the interest of the people and the issues for which they are fighting. I want these to go home to them and to all concerned and to the people. When we are trying to create a congenial atmosphere all over the State, no political vengeance, no other bitter feelings should intervene. They have said that when a political MLA was kidnapped, we were indifferent. It is absurd to imagine like that. It is insulting to think that any Government worth the name would have that kind of a mean attitude. We have shown our concern and most of you must have been aware

that the MLA has been released. They had kidnapped one more MLA and two Mandal Praja Parishad Presidents. It is time now for the Naxalites to think. I would appeal that our intention is entirely friendly in the sense that they become good citizens of the State. It is also in the sense that they should contribute to the good of the country. We are going about as democratic Ministers and Chief Minister. The monopoly days of the kings are gone. And I do not believe in monopolies of Ministers or political leaders including the Naxalites. So I welcome them in that sense and I want to impress upon them that if any repressive measures are not found good, the repressive measures indulged in by others are also not good. Let us abide by all such things. We will take all the measures in Non-violent ways in accordance with the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. That is our way. We want the country to progress. Therefore, I appeal to them and to all the people to see that a congenial atmosphere is created in the State. And it is in the fitness of things that Agriculture, which is our prime concern, our National concern, is not confined to merely laboratories. Let there be a peaceful atmosphere all over. This government wants to achieve certain things with your blessings. If all people

cooperate, this will be possible. I extend a warm welcome to all such efforts and to all such people. Without Law and order, there is no development. One has to maintain Law and order for further development. So we have to create congenial atmosphere with such harmonious combination of different elements and factors, so that we ultimately become the great India of the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, of the imagination of Jawaharlal Nehru, of late Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Sastry. So, on this occasion, our greatest contribution to this University would be to give peace to all of you to the cultivators particularly, and each one of the students who are here who can have peaceful pursuit in scientific research, in the interest of our development. I wish well each one of them not merely scientists who have established their place but even the young scientists to become greater representatives of Andhra Pradesh State, and greater representatives of modern science and technology, so that they can go ahead not only in this State but in the entire country and the world. I wish them all success. I once again congratulate Madam, the Chancellor on this happy occasion of Silver Jubilee. And my congratulations to the Vice-Chancellor, Students and the other Members of the Staff who worked hard. I wish them all success.

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JAIHIND

PUBLICATION

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Hyderabad .

FEBRUARY 1990