



Dr V K R V Rao Memorial Lecture (January 19, 2018)



The 47th Dr VKRV Rao memorial lecture was delivered on the ISEC Founders Day on Jan 19 2018, by Honorable Shri M Venkaiah Naidu ji, the Vice President of India. It was presided over by the Honorable Governor of Karnataka, His Excellency Shri Vaju Bhai Vala with guest speech from Shri Ananthkumar, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, chemicals and fertilizers, Govt of India. The Chairman Dr A Ravindra welcomed the dignitaries and guests. The Vice President inaugurated the ISEC facility center housing State Bank of India and the Post Office and planted the Ficus glomerata (Audumbara) sapling.



In his Foundation day lecture, the Honorable Vice President recollected that former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajapayee not only brought the road connectivity through the Golden quadrilateral, but also brought connectivity of political parties, positions, tele-connectivity and political connectivity. He highlighted that use of quality seeds, balanced use of organic and inorganic fertilizers

and nutrients, timely institutional credit, diversification to dairy, fishery, poultry, processing farm produce through time tested methods, soil health card are crucial for enhancing farm incomes. Emphasizing on reform, perform and transform of agriculture, the Vice President focused on protecting nature and promoting culture to protect the future. The Vice President suggested that every agricultural student should be given practical exposure for at least six months with farmers. Recollecting Mahathma Gandhi, the Vice President advised 'back to the village', and we should not show our back to the village. He stressed that in order to attain a 4 per cent agricultural growth, higher investment in agriculture is required both from public and private sector. Further he emphasized on balanced use of nutrients for raising agricultural productivity. Institutional innovations in integrated farming systems are to be adopted through agricultural extension systems. As 70 percent of irrigation is provided by groundwater, as the current crop pattern is leading to groundwater over exploitation, it is crucial to cultivate low water high value crops using groundwater. In addition, due to high probability of well failure, farmers are bearing a large proportion of cost of groundwater themselves, a proper minimum support price policy for groundwater crops needs to be formulated. In addition support to individual borewell recharge efforts by farmers and creating awareness on sustainable use of groundwater resource through irrigation extension needs emphasis. Much of the future growth in agriculture will come from non-crop sector, the investment in horticulture, dairy, livestock, fisheries, etc., must be provided necessary

impetus so as to meet the future requirements and also enhance and double the farmers' income.

The Governor, His Excellency Shri Vaju Bhai Valaji emphasized on the irrigation efficiency due to water scarcity. The cultivation of climate smart millet crops for facing challenges of climate change. Union Minister Shri Ananth Kumar emphasized on the role of tree planting to play carbon sequestration as a strategy to face climate change. Sri Ananthkumar highlighted that every tree is representation of lord Shiva, as the tree absorbs CO2 and releases oxygen similar to Lord Shiva absorbing poison (halahala) during Samudra mathana.



In his vote of thanks Director Professor MG Chandrakanth profusely thanked the vice president Honorable shri Venkaiah Naidu and all the dignitaries for their participation remembering Padmavibhushana Prof VKRV Rao, the founder of ISEC. Speaking on behalf of PhD scholars in all the 29 ICSSR research institutes of the country, he requested the Honorable Vice President to bring parity in fellowships to PhD scholars in social sciences on par with fellowships to PhD scholars in natural sciences, since social science scholars are paid a modest fellowship of Rs. 16000 per month for only two years, while natural science students are paid fellowship of Rs. 25000 per month for five years.

Dr PS Srinath, Registrar of ISEC did an excellent compeering of the event.