

**Profile of**  
**PROF. M.C. VARSHNEYA**  
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**Prof. M.C. Varshsneya** was born on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1945 at Mathura in U.P. He passed his Intermediate in 1961 from UP Board in 1<sup>st</sup> Division. Passed B.Sc. in 1963 from S.M. College, Chandausi, Dist. Moradabad, U.P. During B.Sc. studies he was awarded "Bursary" and "Merit Scholarship". He is M.Sc. from Agra University and got Ph.D. training in Agricultural Meteorology from University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA.

He started his carrier as Lecturer, Hindu Inter College, Kiratpur, Bijnor from 1964 onwards and held positions like Professor of Physics, Professor In Charge, CASAM, College of Agriculture, Pune, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, Pune and Head Department of Agricultural Meteorology, MPKV, Rahuri, Maharashtra. Joined as First Vice-Chancellor of the newly constituted Anand Agricultural University, Anand on 21.05.2004.

He is an internationally recognized authority in crop modeling. He worked as a member of High Level Committee constituted by the Government of Maharashtra under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to prepare an Action Plan for Agriculture for coming 25 years. Presently, he is the member of Committee on Higher Education appointed by the Governor of Gujarat. The General Body of the Association of Agro-meteorologists, Anand elected him as President for the period of 2009-11. The General Body of I.A.U.A. elected him as Secretary-Treasurer for its Executive Committee for the period of 1.1.2010 to 31.12.2010

Guided 75 M.Sc. (Agri.); 2 M.Tech. (Agril. Engg.) and 6 B.Tech. (Agril. Engg.) students and evaluated 3 Ph.D. (Agril.) theses. He has at his credit 9 books, 75 Research Papers, 40 Book Chapters, 13 General Articles besides 47 reports and 18 papers presented in Seminars. He acted as member of several important societies/ Committees. He was honoured by Association of Agro-meteorologist for his contribution as excellent teacher, who has guided number of M.Sc. and Ph.D. Scholars and his research contributions especially in the field of Crop Modeling, Micrometeorological studies and Climate Change in International Symposium on Agro-meteorology and Food Security held during 18-21 February 2008 at Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyberabad.

He has visited U.S.A., Italy and Israel and presented papers in International Conference in 2000.

Recipient of several academic awards and honours. Important amongst them are, Bronze Medal for e-kirshi kiran program by Ministry of Administrative Reforms and Ministry of Information Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi. Best research article awarded by Journal of Maharashtra Agricultural Universities in 2006. Certificate of Appreciation as Director, CAS in Agricultural Meteorology in 1999 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research New Delhi. Best presentation award on "Impact Analysis of Agro-advisory" by NCMRWF, DST, New Delhi in 2001. FAO Fellowship, 1988, Food and Agricultural Organization, Rome. Awarded "Glory of India Award-2009" presented by India International Friendship Society, New Delhi.

## SIXTH ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF ANAND AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

**Prof. M. C. Varshneya**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

Your Excellency the Governor of Gujarat and the Chancellor of the University and the President of the Convocation, Dr. Smt. Kamla; Dr C D Mayee, Hon'ble Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi and the Chief Guest of the Convocation; Shri Dileepbhai Sanghani, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Co-operation & Animal Husbandry, Government of Gujarat and the Guest of Honour; distinguished members of the Board of Management and Academic Council; Recipients of degrees, medals and prizes, other members of the university community, distinguished guests, press & media; ladies and gentlemen !

It is indeed my privilege and pleasure as the Vice-Chancellor of the university to heartily welcome you all at this auspicious occasion of the 6th Convocation Ceremony for the award of Degrees and Honorary Degrees to graduates and post-graduates of the Anand Agricultural University, Anand. I feel very privileged to welcome Dr. Smt Kamla, Her Excellency the Governor of Gujarat on her very first visit to one of the oldest agricultural institutes of India. Blessings by her to the degree recipients and their teachers will embolden the spirits of both. We accord most sincere welcome to our Chief Guest, Dr. C D Mayee, the illustrious and outstanding personality and the brightest agricultural scientists for kindly agreeing to deliver the Convocation Address. Dr Mayee has been the pioneer for the reforms in human resource management for Indian agriculture. I welcome our minister Shri Dileepbhai Sanghani as AAU,s well wisher and strong supporter for development. We also heartily welcome all the distinguished persons present over here and all our students.

Convocation is a solemn occasion in the life of university and in institutions of higher learning for both faculty and students. For faculty, it is the culmination of their effort in producing skilled graduates for addressing future challenges. For students, it marks the day of fulfillment of their pursuit and hard work in earning degree.

In this Convocation, degrees will be conferred on 330 students out of the total strength of about 2000. Today 169 graduates 150 postgraduates and 11 postgraduate diplomas, who have completed their studies and passed their final examination are standing before you for receiving their degrees. Medals and prizes will be awarded to 45 achievers.

This is the sixth year of establishment of Anand Agricultural University and I take pride in informing you that the university has completed its initial stage of development with the completion of administrative protocols, formation of authorities, academic regulations, central admission procedure, research re-mandating, reforming extension education, recruitment of faculty and major civil works. We have played major role in generating quality human resource, enhancing agricultural production and improving agricultural performance of the State. We will continue to do so to address the challenges ahead.

It is our responsibility to look into education, research and extension activities, which are not only locally relevant, but also globally competitive. To meet the challenges of the development, the university has started new courses of its own kind on Food Processing Technology and Bio-energy, Agricultural Information Technology and International Agri-Business Management. We are the first in the country to start Polytechnics in agriculture and allied subjects for imparting vocational training to rural youth. The establishment of polytechnics is a milestone in the agricultural education of the country in general and Gujarat in particular. For giving impetus to the improvement in productivity, reduction of cost of production, reducing work drudgery and improving services to the farmers, the university has commenced three years full time four different Diploma programmes.

Biotechnology is much talked about these days as a hope for the future dynamic change in all spheres of plants and animals. We have planned to start a new College of Biotechnology at Anand with the support of State Govt. Similarly, castor being very important commodity for Gujarat having great potentiality for earning foreign exchange, we have requested our Minister to allow us to establish a Castor Processing Institute at Ahmedabad.

In addition to construction of many new buildings, the university has upgraded and renovated almost all the colleges, hostels, library, guest house,

gymkhana, auditoriums and other buildings for providing congenial environment to the students for overall development of their personality.

The scientists of AAU have developed different cutting edge technologies in different aspects of agricultural and related fields. I am glad to inform you that the university is operating more than 47 research projects with a total fund outlay of about Rs 2602 lakhs from various agencies. The university has given four new crop varieties, one each for rice, pigeonpea, pumpkin and marvel grass. Further, to enhance the sustainability of farming, the university has also developed and released 15 technologies in crop production, 14 in crop protection, 8 in animal production and 3 in dairy and food processing during last one year for the commercial use of farmers and the industry.

The novel and innovative concept of *Krushhi-Mahotasava* promoted by Government of Gujarat has resulted in significant enhancement of agricultural production. This year, we experimented with entirely new format of the *Krushhi Mahotsava* in which *krushi mela* combined with exhibitions and theme based seminars were organized both at regional as well as taluka levels. We have also established a unique pilot project on Direct Video Assisted Redressal system in the village for the quick solution for the farmers' problems. Yet another innovation named as *Kisan Setu* has also been made for providing e-linkage to the farmer with the scientists. As part of our focus on helping women in agriculture and animal husbandry, we have designed gender specific training modules entirely managed by lady scientists and trainers.

Dear recipients of degrees and distinction, you have the blessings and good wishes from all of us in your professional pursuit. You have to be a responsible citizen and worthy son or daughter of this great country. You have to hold high the flag of your Alma Mater. Dear students, every one of us have different potential and responsibility to serve the society. Always remember knowledge with character and sincerity with humanity will bring you success and happiness. I wish you all the good luck and bright future. Once again, I welcome you all.

***JAI HIND***