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WELCOME ADDRESS

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

WELCOME ADDRESS*

By

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Vice-Chancellor

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

It is a privilege and a matter of great pleasure for us that the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics is holding its 26th Annual Conference at the Ludhiana Campus of the Punjab Agricultural University. We feel greatly honoured by having on our Campus such a large gathering of distinguished economists and other scientists from all over India and abroad. We are very grateful to Shri Dharam Vira, our popular Governor and Chancellor who has found time to inaugurate this Conference, inspite of his heavy preoccupations. I extend my most warm welcome to him.

I take also great pleasure in welcoming Professor V. M. Dandekar, President-elect for this Conference and the delegates of the Society who have come from a wide spectrum of institutions such as the Central and State Governments, the I.C.A.R., the Planning Commission, Universities, Commerce and Industry, and our friends from foreign countries.

The success of this Conference has been ensured by the participation of a large number of experts and policy makers. I hope confidently that the deliberations of this Conference will have a beneficial bearing on the economic policy in general and agricultural policy of the country in particular. These discussions are of significance in the agricultural situation of the country today.

The subjects chosen for discussion at this Conference are of particular interest at the present stage of agricultural development of our country. The discussions on the Location and Role of Agricultural Processing and Supply Industries have importance for developing practical knowledge to improve processing and distribution of agricultural commodities. This subject has added importance in stimulating the growth of agro-industries and promoting technological developments that will reduce the wastage of food and other primary products.

Again, the choice of the subject of Intensive Development Approach to Agricultural Development is a happy one. Faced with the scarcity of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, a new production strategy and managerial dynamics is needed which will lay greater emphasis on changes in crop patterns and enterprise combination. The need for improving the operational efficiency of the farmers and for reducing the unit cost of production was never greater than in the prevailing agricultural price situation of the country. It is my hope that discussions on this subject will provide new orientation that will make agriculture more progressive, productive and profitable.

The third topic is of equal importance—Your deliberations on the contribution of various factors to agricultural growth will provide useful information on

* Welcome Address delivered on the occasion of the 26th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics held under the auspices of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab.

the priorities that should be accorded in regional development to different factors of increased agricultural production. You will, no doubt, give serious thought to these and other problems that will help to solve the food problem of the country and promote agricultural development on scientific lines.

Before I sit down, I again extend a sincere and warm welcome to all of you.