



Queen's Road Calling

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Video conference with Regional Chapters



IAT Bangalore had arranged Video Conference in order to discuss the various activities undertaken by its Regional Chapters at the Directorate of Agriculture on 15th June 2012 at 6-00 P.M. The office bearers of all the Ten IAT Regional Chapters participated in the discussions besides the officers from the districts of Mysore and Bidar.

Dr. K.V. Sarvesh, President, IAT, Bangalore reviewed the progress of activities of the Regional Chapters individually.

The office bearers and other members of IAT Bangalore actively participated in the discussions. Dr. K.V. Sarvesh, President assured the office bearers of the Regional Chapter of arranging such Video Conference regularly.

Guest Editorial

Farmers' Suicide; who is responsible?

India is being described as one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

But, let us get in to the agriculture to know what is happening to the core component of the economy in India. No dearth of facts to prove how backward is our agriculture. Productivity of our major crops is abysmally low compared not only with that of developed countries but also with the comparable neighbor like China.

In spite of continued policy supports and recurrent program initiatives, the so called four percent growth in agriculture is as elusive as an eel.

One farmer suicide every 30 minutes!

Government reports in recent years have admitted without any hesitation that agriculture in a state like Karnataka is not at all remunerative. For instance, a report by Karnataka State Department of Agriculture indicates that the net income received by the farmers comes to either negative or very low in majority of crops if all costs including the rental value of land and family labor are taken in to account. The agrarian crisis in India is so deep that the farmers, unable to bear with it, have been resorting to most unfortunate and tragic decision of ending their precious lives.

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Reaction to the editorial

Who is the real enemy of the farmers?

Good & timely editorial by Dr. Prakash.

I have been witnessing the **forced sacrifices** of the farmers since decades ever since the days of my studies & later as an activist of the famous farmers' movement in Karnataka (not the present one driven by the green notes, but by the one that was sweeping the state during 80s steered by green shawls), as a banker & now as a consultant.

Everyone wants a pound of the farmer's flesh. The politicians irrespective of the parties, the bureaucrats, paid academicians & not to leave behind the businessmen. They want his lands at cheaper rate; they want his grains

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Krishi Ankura in full bloom at Sondekoppa



The IAT sponsored **Third Krishi Ankura Program** held on 21st June, 2012 at Sondekoppa (Bengaluru North taluk) during the year 2012 received kudos from the participants.

Mr. S.G. Cheluvaiah, Ex-Taluk Panchayath member and Honorary Secretary of Channakeshava High School who presided over the program appreciated the efforts of IAT in enhancing the agriculture knowledge of the high school students.

Mr. G. Srikantaiah, former Joint Director of Agriculture while explaining the objectives of conducting Krishi Ankura program to the gathering, emphasized the importance of Agriculture Technology for the students.

Earlier, the program was inaugurated by Dr. D. Rajagopal, Vice-President, IAT, Bengaluru. Mr. K.J. Devendrappa, Secretary, IAT and Mr. B. Rajashekhara, Head Master, Channakeshava High School graced the occasion as Chief Guests.

The Third Krishi Ankura program during the year 2012 was started on 21-06-2012 at Channakeshava Government Aided High School, Sondekoppa, Bengaluru North Taluk which was inaugurated by Dr. D. Rajagopal, Vice-President, Institution of Agricultural Technologists, Bengaluru. Mr. K.J. Devendrappa, Secretary, IAT and Mr. B. Rajashekhara, Head Master, Channakeshava High School were the Chief Guests.

Mr. Channabasavaiah, Chairman of the Extension, Education and Training sub-committee, IAT welcomed the gathering.

Mr. Ningappa, Senior Technologist, IAT proposed vote of thanks.

Mr. Hanumanna and Mr. Pampapathi, sub-committee members and teaching staff of High School were also present on this occasion.

Kalidasa's Megha Sandesha @ IAT!



IATians had a pleasant experience when Satellite pictures of the movement of clouds were used to relate Kalidasa's magnum opus Megha Sandesha!

Thanks to Dr. H.V. Venugopal, Professor & Head, Sanskrit Division, National College, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru. He was delivering a guest lecture on **Kalidasa's Megadhootha Sandhesh - A Scientific Analysis of Clouds related to Agriculture** at B.J. Nanjundappa Hall of IAT on 23rd June, 2012.

He related the movement of clouds from Western Ghats to Kailasa Parvatha via Nagpur, Ramagiri, Haridwar Kamakal town modern satellite pictures with **Kalidasana Megadootha Sandhesha**.

Dr. N. Krishnamurthy, Chairman, Knowledge Enhancement Committee, IAT welcomed the gathering. Mr. Channabasavaiah introduced the guest to the participants. The program was presided by Dr. K.V. Sarvesh, President, IAT while Dr. D. Rajagopal, Vice-President proposed vote of thanks.

Dandagi's gadgets impress IATians

“You can yourself create your own simple irrigation gadgets for terrace, Kitchen, Corridor & indoor Gardens without much expenditure & gulp instant, but healthy sprouted pulses!” said Dr. Gururaja Dandagi.

He was delivering a lecture program on his innovations called Nano “**Honey**” Drip Irrigation, Instant Seed Germination Tests, Pulse Sprouting gadgets at IAT, Bengaluru on 4th August, 2012.



He also shared his knowledge with the gathering with live demonstration of all his innovations.

Dr. N. Krishnamurthy, Chairman, Knowledge Enhancement Committee, IAT welcomed the gathering. Dr. Channabasavaiah, M.C. Member introduced the guest. Dr. D. Rajagopal, Vice-President, IAT presided over the function. Mr. Ningappa proposed the vote of thanks.

Bagalkot Chapter Conducts Special Training Program for Farm women



Regional Chapter Bagalkot organized a training programme to the farm-women from all taluks of Bagalkot district under special training programme in collaboration with Department of Agriculture from 25th to 30th June 2012.

Farm women in Bagalkot District were taught on various **Modern Animal Husbandry Techniques** at DATC in a Special Training Program jointly held by Dept. of Animal Husbandry & IAT from 25th June to 30th June 2012.

Dr. Gurumurthy, JDA who inaugurating the training program & releasing a booklet on the latest technologies to be adopted under Animal Husbandry and stressed the role of Animal Husbandry in improving the socio-economic status of the farming community.

Dr. Chetana Patil, DDA, DATC and President of IAT Regional Chapter and Dr. Palegar, Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry also spoke on the occasion.

Delayed Monsoon spurs Line Departments



Delayed Monsoon made all the officers of the Departments of Sericulture, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry to put their heads together to ward off the impending drought at an Interactive session on 9th July 2012 with the Farmers & Scientists of KVK.

The session jointly organized by the Department of Agriculture, Vikram File Pratistan, Hema-Vema Charitable Institution & IAT, suggested the farming community to utilize the facilities & services provided by the line departments. The officials also suggested the farmers to take up alternate crop cultivation

Dr. Chetana Patil, President of IAT Regional Chapter, DDA, DATC inaugurated the Interaction session and Mr. N.D. Doddalingappa, Retired ADA presided over the function.

Mr. N.H. Bhavi, an IATian and Block Technology Manager, ATMA extended warm welcome to the participants and Mr. D.M. Pile, former Agri. Officer and an IATian proposed vote of thanks.

Bijapur Chapter joins hands with DOA in Seed Treatment Campaign

The IAT Regional Chapter Bijapur in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture organised **Seed treatment campaigns / demonstrations** at Thikota & Mamadapura, RSKs, on 26th May 2012.





Bholegavan and Nadha K.D. RSKs on 27th May 2012 & Utal RSK on 13th June, 2012.

Dr. R.B. Jolli, Associate Professor, Seed Science and Technology, Dr. M.H. Bantanal, JDA, Bijapur, Dr. Srinivasalu, Associate Professor of Microbiology, Bijapur, Mr. Ishwar Goud, Mr. Meti from the Department of Agriculture (ATMA), Dr. Ashok Sajjan, Associate Professor, Seed Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, Bijapur and IAT Secretary, Mr. S.S. Nooli from KVK, Ms. Manjula Bankapur, Ms. Jayaprada participated as resource persons.

They advised the farmers to use Rhizobioum, Azospirillum, Trichoderma etc. for legumes & to treat seeds before sowing to avoid seed borne diseases.

Hold Interactive Sessions in villages - Bijapur ZP President



“Please hold Interactive sessions between farmers & scientists in villages instead of in the cities” appealed Mr. Chandrashekar Patil, President, ZP, Bijapur.

He was addressing the **Interaction Session of farm scientists & farmers** after inaugurating it on 4th June, 2012 at the College of Agriculture, Bijapur.

The program was presided over by Dr. S.B. Devaranavadagi, who advised the farmers to adopt soil and moisture conservation and methods and requested them to create farm ponds in their fields in order to use the water collected in the farm ponds at crucial periods.



Mr. A.N. Patil, CEO, Zilla Panchayat while releasing a seed treatment bulletin requested the farmers to get their soils tested before sowing in order to apply right type and quantity of fertilizers to the soil.

Mr. B.G. Patil, who also participated in the program advised the farmers to treat agriculture as Industry and stop migrating to urban areas. Many resource persons from Agriculture College, Bijapur participated in the session.

UAS Bijapur. Dr. Ashok Sajjan, Secretary, IAT proposed vote of thanks.

“World Nature Conservation Day” Celebrated



The chapter in collaboration with NSS units organised “**World Nature Conservation Day**” on 28th July 2012.

Dr. S.L. Madiwalar, ADR, RARS Bijapur, chief guest spoke on the role to be played by the youth in conserving biodiversity for sustainable agriculture.

Dr. S.B. Devaranavadagi, Professor and Head, Farm Forestry spoke on the conservation of flora and fauna on this earth. He feared extinction of human beings if the denuding of forests continues without any restriction

The program was chaired by Dr.A.R.Alagawadi, President, IAT and attended by Dr.Ashok S.Sajjan, Secretary, IAT and others.



Bellary High School students organize a session on agriculture



The Regional Chapter, IAT Bellary extended all the required support to the students of Government High School, Bellary to organize an exhibition on 14th and 15th of July 2012 out of which half a day was dedicated to agriculture on 15th July, 2012.

Agri Mart, Sanju Agri-clinic, Zuari Industries Ltd., Mounesh Agro Agencies, Siruguppa, Nadaf Farm Equipments, Mubarak Agro Agencies and Kaveri Seeds were some of the participants.

The session led by Mr. K. Ramappa, JDA was attended by over 1000 farmers and the lively interaction session lasted for two hours.

The farmers, villagers and organizers lauded the efforts of IAT Regional Chapter Bellary and honoured the IATians.

Dr. Dwarkinath bats for integrated farming at Durga

“Go for Integrated farming to improve your socio-economic status” Dr. R. Dwarakinath, Former Vice-Chancellor, UAS, Bengaluru and President, AME Foundation urged the farmers after inaugurating a day long seminar on **“Technical Practices in Dryland Agriculture”** at IAT Chitradurga on 2nd June 2012 jointly organized by Durga Chapter & Rotary club.



Dr. Dwarakinath quoted the example of Rajasthan where farmers are aware of the dryland practices and adopt in getting better yields.

Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, JDA and President, IAT presided over the function. Prof.V.Veerabhadraiah, Vice-President and Mr. G. Gurusiddiah, Member, IAT Bengaluru, Mr. A. Ramadas, DWDO, Chitradurga and Mr. G.S. Shivanna, President, Rotary Club, Chitradurga were the Chief Guests.

Dr. B.R. Ramachandra, Chief Scientist, Dryland Development Project and Mr. Prakash Kerore participated as resource persons.

Over Two hundred farmers from the district participated in the program. Mr. G. Sreekantan, Secretary welcomed the participants and Mr. B. Jagannath, Joint Secretary proposed vote of thanks.

DURGA campaigns for better tur cultivation practices



The Durga Chapter in association with the Department of Agriculture organised one day training program to the farmers on improved methods of tur cultivation: **“Sudharita Togari Besaya Paddathigalu”** at its premises on 18th May, 2012.

One hundred farmers from all the taluks of the district participated in the training program. Mr. A. Thippeswamy, Vice-President and other members of IAT also participated.

Brace up to fight Brucellosis!

The Chapter in association with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services organised a day long training program on National control program for Brucellosis at IAT on 29th May, 2012 in order to control the Brucellosis in the entire district effectively.

The training program was inaugurated by Dr. H.S. Jayanna, Deputy Director (AH&VS). The training

imparted by Dr. Doddamallaiiah, Asst. Director (AH&VS) and nodal officer of the scheme.

The IATians, Mr. A. Thippeswamy, Mr. G. Sreekantan and others participated in the training program.

Durga & snail, a mismatch!

Durga chapter is known for its high speed. But, it organizes a program on its *bête noir*, the snail!

In collaboration with the Department of Horticulture and KVK, Babbur, it organised a one day training program on the control of Basavana Hulu/ Shankhu Hulu (African Giant Snail) in Beetlewine Crop at Hunasakatte of Chitradurga taluk on 30th May, 2012.

The program was inaugurated by Mr. P.V.Vijayakumar, DDH, Chitradurga.

The resource persons are Dr.Onkarappa and Mr. P. Viswanath from KVK and the Department of Horticulture respectively.

Mr. A. Thippeswamy, Vice President, Mr. G. Sreekantan, Secretary and Mr. B. Jagannath, Joint Secretary of IAT Chitradurga participated in the training program.

Durga AGM held



The Annual General Body meeting of the chapter was conducted on 2nd June 2012 under the Presidentship of Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, President, IAT. The audited statement of accounts for 2011-12 was approved. The Secretary Mr. G. Sreekantan, Presented the Agenda. Accordingly the discussions were held.

Video Conferencing comes to IAT too!

The President and the Office Bearer of the Chapter participated in the Video Conference called by the IAT, Bengaluru at D.C. office, Chitradurga and presented the activities of the chapter.

Animal Health Camp held

The Chapter in association with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Rotary Club, Chitradurga organised one day Animal Health camp at Doddapura village of Chitradurga taluk on 26th June 2012. The



facilities provided were General Checkup, Unproductive Animal Checkup, Vaccine against Gulala rota, Distribution of tablets to control verms and Salt mixture distribution.

Dr. Doddamallaiiah, Asst. Director (AH&VS) was the resource persons. IATians Mr. G. Sreekantan and B. Jagannath participated.

IATians meet Principal Secretary for Agriculture at Durga

The Principal Secretary, Agriculture, GoK visited, Chitradurga on 3rd July 2012 and meeting was arranged at ZP office Chitradurga where the President of IAT Dr.R.Krishnamurthy, the Secretary Dr.G.Sreekantan and others participated and submitted three memorandums to the Principal Secretary, Agriculture on (1)Requesting not to establish soil and water analysis unit from the Department of Agriculture, on the other hand to strengthen the one

**Chee! Thoo,
Good, Bad, ugly! Eve
Write somet**

Dear IATians,

I profusely thank you all for the support given to me as the editor of KT. Now that another team has to be elected shortly & a new editor has to take over, I want to share the performance of KT & me during these 6 years which may help me.

When I was assigned the editorship of KT, I had a long list of plans to implement with the best of my knowledge..... & efforts too! But, still I am the editor in the waiting. Of course, I have 'fool' filled some of my plans.

For the Quick Analysis which I referred above, I request all of you to contribute to be published in the next & the last issue of KT under my editorship. Keep it straight; feel free to throw the brickbats not just the bouquets. I am expecting your feedback.

I request you to send in your 'Reactions' to my mail id lakshminarayana@gmail.com, 100 words by 27th October, 2012

October is a month of festivals; you have number of holidays; hence I am writing this to you.

S.N.Lakshminarayana
Editor



already established at IAT Regional Chapter, Chitradurga. (2) Requesting to permit IAT, Chitradurga to outsource personnel required by Department of Agriculture under ATMA and by the Department of Horticulture under NHM. (3) Requesting to permit organizing training programs to the staff of farmers under different departments with the help of retired officers of the respective departments.

Monsoon has failed; what to do? IAT, Durga tries to find a solution



An **Interaction Session** between the Scientists and the Farmers was organised at Bharamasagara on 15th July 2012, in view of the failure of rains and alternative cropping methods to be followed. The President and other members of IAT participated in the session.

Shahbash!
Everything is welcome.
Anything on KT!

KT for the past 6 years.

As I am about to assume the charge, I feel that you should do a quick analysis of my performance to indulge in a retrospection of what I did. I love retrospection.

What I should do to make it more readable & presentable. I did it. I have some unfulfilled plans which I am going to share with the readers.

I request you to send your reactions on my performance as the editor of KT to be published. Kindly be as objective as possible; do not hesitate to call a spade a spade. I am enough large-hearted to take them to my stride.

You can mail me at yanas8@gmail.com or to iatbangalore@gmail.com not exceeding 100 words.

Remember, writing a few words on KT & me is not an impossible task for all.

e-tender efforts by Durga

The Regional Chapter was registered on 17th July 2012 for the purpose of applying 'e-tendering at e-Governance Office, Bengaluru.

NAIP staff visit 9 villages in a day!

The staff of NAIP visited the demonstration plots of Pomegranate crop in 9 villages of the district on 21st May 2012 and observed the crop in various stages, including harvesting.

DHARWAD chapter organizes a visit to organic farm



The Regional Chapter and the UAS Dharwad SAMETI (North) jointly organised visits for Officers of the Government Departments on 12th June 2012 to Siddaroodha Organic Farm and the Seed Bank at Gundenatti village of Khanapur taluk of Belgaum district.

Vanamahotsava, Dharwad style!

The chapter in collaboration with the UAS Dharwad organised **Vanamahotsava** by planting the seedlings of Amla at the premises of DATC on 5th June 2012 on the eve of World Environment Day.

The President, IAT, Dharwad and JDA, Dharwad Mr. Ganesh Naik, JDA, Watershed Development Department. Mr. S.B. Biradar, Dr. L. Krishna Naik,



Director of Extension and other Officers of the Department of Agriculture, participated in the program.

Boom boom 'Bhoochetana!'



The Regional Chapter, Dharwad in collaboration with Department of Agriculture organized Six days orientation training program to the facilities of **Bhoochetana** program of Gadag district at DATC, Dharwad from 4th June to 9th June 2012.

The program was inaugurated by Dr. C.M. Rafi, Entomologist, Ms. Shabana Shamik presided over the function.

The resource persons were Mr. R.B. Hiremath, ADA and Mr. Channappa Angadi, AO and Secretary, IAT Dharwad.

65 facilitators of Bhoochetana scheme from Gadag district received the training on recent technologies on Agriculture and allied sectors.

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IAT Regional Chapter Dharwad had organised one day training program on 10th August 2012 to the Bhoochetana Farmer Facilitators.

Dr. P.L. Patil, Professor and Head, Soil Science Department, UAS, Dharwad imparted the training on Nutrient Management.

Dr. Vastrad, SMS, JSYS, Dharwad while explaining the role of Bio-fertilizers in increasing the Crop Yields,



distributed Bio-fertilizers free of cost to the farmers of Farmers Field School.

Dr. R.B. Hiremath, ADA, DATC, Dharwad Presided over the program.

Fare well, Mr. Ganesh Naik, at Tumkur



A warm farewell was given to Mr. Ganesh S. Naik, JDA and President of IAT who was transferred to Tumkur district, after rendering 3 years of his valuable service in Dharwad district. The Present JDA Mr. S.M. Gadad, Mr. S.B. Biradar, DWDO spoke on the occasion. The farewell programs was jointly organised by the officials of the Department of Agriculture and the office bearers and members of IAT Regional Chapter, Dharwad.

Father of Karnataka Horticulture remembered

IAT - Regional Chapter, Dharwad in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Dharwad had organised a seminar on Horticulture in connection with the **Birth Day of Late Dr. M.H. Mari Gowda** on 08 August 2012 in the premises of Horticulture Department, Dharwad.

The resource persons Dr. Shashidhar, Professor, UAS, Dharwad, Dr. J.B. Gopali from U.H.S., Bagalkot and Mr. Surya Vamsi from ISARD, Dharwad provided the relevant information on Potato, Mango and Onion seed production respectively.



The program was presided over by Mr. Dasharatha Rao K Desai, President, Taluk Panchayat, Dharwad, Mr. Dharmaraj, DDH, Mr. Prabhu Kesha Gowda, President, HOPCOMS, Mr. Vijaya kumar Gidnavar a former Professor and members of Taluk Panchayat participated in the program as chief guests besides 200 farmers from various parts of the district.

Mr. P. Saralappa, SADH arranged the program.

Parthenium Awareness Week celebrated

The AICRP on Weed Control, UAS, Dharwad in association with Directorate of Weed Science Research (ICAR), Jabalpur (M.P.) celebrated Parthenium Awareness Week at Dharwad on 23rd August, 2012.

The awareness campaign was launched by releasing a technical folder and Mexican beetles by Dr. Krishna Naik, Director of Extension, UAS, Dharwad. Dr. Naik briefed the gathering about the significance of the event



and also explained about the ill effects of Parthenium on human beings, crop yields and the control measures on an integrated approach.

NCC cadets of UAS Dharwad actively participated in the program, besides the scientists and other students of UAS, Dharwad.

ACCOLADES

UAS-R shows the e-way to GAP!



The UAS Raichur bagged the “e-WORLD 2012” international award conferred into Category of “Best ICT enabled Agriculture Initiative of the year” in International Conference on “e-World 2012” held on 15-16th June 2012 at Le Meridien in New Delhi. Dr. L.B. Hugar, Principal Investigator and Dean (Agri) College of Agriculture received the award. The award consists of a memento and a citation.

The award was given to the NAIP, Agropedia-II project which is instrumental in disseminating the latest technology to the farming community through voice and text (SMS) messages from mobile telephones. Since last year 350 voice messages on crop production, crop protection, and animal husbandry have been disseminated to more than 10,000 farmers in six

districts coming under the jurisdiction of UAS, Raichur. This feat was achieved through Voice Kissan Vigyan Kendra (vKVK) platform of Agropedia. Messages were sent through the five KVK's viz., Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Gangavati and Hagari.

Another important platform **KVK.net** is also launched, which provides networking facility to nearly 90 KVKs all over India to share the knowledge of agriculture.

The Vice Chancellor Dr. B.V. Patil, congratulated the Principal Investigator and his team for getting the award.

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Dr. Krishna bags two Gold Medals



Mr. Krishnamurthy, D. Asst. Professor of Agronomy and Technical Assistant, Director of Research, UAS, Raichur has been awarded Ph.D along with two Gold Medals. He has worked on **“Effect of Fertigation with Distillery spentwash on soil fertility, growth, yield and quality of Banana”** for his Ph. D. dissertation.

The award was presented by the then President of India Smt. Pratibha Patil on 6th August 2011 in the 45th convocation of UAS-B.

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Best Teacher



Dr. C.J. Sridhara, Associate Professor of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, Shimoga has bagged the ICAR Best Teacher Award 2011, The award was given by UAS, Bengaluru on 15th October 2011. He is involved in Teaching, Research and Extension work in the University.

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Dr. Vasu at Jeju!



Dr. S.N. Vasudevan, Professor and Head, Department of Seed Science and Technology, College of Agriculture, Raichur participated in Second International Conference on Environment and Agriculture Engineering – ICEAE 2012 held at Jeju Island, South Korea. The conference was

held on 29th and 30th June 2012.

Dr. Vasudevan presented a research paper on **“Influence of Seed Conditioning to improve Genetic purity in egg plant”**.

The Conference was organised by the Asia-Pacific, Biological and Environmental Engineering Society, (APCBEEs).

* * * *

The ones who left their sweet memories with us

The Managing Committee on behalf of all IATians mourns the death of Mr.Bhoge Gowda, former Deputy Director of Horticulture and Mr.N.Ramappa, former Deputy Director of Agriculture

3451 now.

Soon will touch 3500!

Continued from page 1

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, around two lakh Indian farmers have ended their lives since 1997, or **roughly 46 Indian farmers kill themselves every day** or one suicide almost every 30 minutes! What is equally sad is the occurrence of more suicides in the case of farmers who are socio-culturally forward, market oriented and growing commercial crops with assured irrigation rather than by the traditional farmers in the dry regions growing food crops.

They administer price for farm products & also for farmer's life!

Our intelligentsia is so handicapped that it is unable even to comprehend this paradox of phenomenal growth in the economy and the pathetic situation in agriculture, let alone find a way out of this situation. It is time that the farm scientists who work close to farmers to take the challenge and break the paradox of plenty to others and pauperization of peasantry. At least they should understand why farmers alone are forced to comply with **overloaded equity considerations and social obligations**.

The agricultural land, the basic means of production, is under the '**ceiling limit**', and hence distribution of land is governed by the broader rules of Land Reforms in India. Secondly, the prices of the majority of agricultural commodities are '**administered**' in the forms of Minimum Support Price, Issue Price, Procurement Price and so on, in order to '**control**' their violent fluctuations and to safeguard the larger interests of the consumers. And hence, the so called profit or '**surplus**', unlike in other sectors, has to pass through the rigorous scrutiny of these considerations and obligations, constraining severely the magnitude of farm income in a country like India.

Farmer as a price taker

Another peculiar feature of agriculture is that the farmer is **downgraded to the hopeless situation of absolute 'price taker'** for the produce he or she produces. An industrialist, a businessman, a barber to cobbler, all are capable of '**making**' the prices of the product or service they provide, whereas the farmers are not. To make the situation worse, an additional '**obligation**', to supply not only cheaper food but also healthy food through organic / natural method of farming has been imposed on our peasantry, irrespective of whether it is profitable or not. A fresh approach, not swayed by either protagonist of free market economy or ideological fundamentalism of left and socialists, is essential to resolve the contradictions and mismatches discussed above.

Prof. Prakash Kammaradi

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at throw away prices; they want his life.....free of cost! **He is the ultimate victim.**

Every Govt. wants the farmers' land to create a heaven for the urbanites. The cities are being built on the graves of the farmers, earlier called "**villages**".

Union minister plays cricket; state minister plays 'crook'et!



"Two farmers walk the parched land. Suicides in their ranks average more than 120 a month in AP"

If the central agriculture minister is playing cricket, the state agriculture ministers are playing '**crook'et!** Ironically, all these ministers are sons of farmers. But, still they are playing on the '**live**' pitches of the farmers across the country, only to take their '**lives away**'.

The tragic part of the story is that the farmers are exploited more by the people who were earlier the children of farmers themselves. These exploiters are presently wearing the robes of govt. officials, politicians, industrialists, businessman etc. These children of farmers have forgotten the humble & the "**thorny**" way their farming parents had to cross to create the "**throne**" on which they are sitting now. They are championing the cause of the urbanites more than the original city-bred people. More loyal than the king!

One top most official of one of the line departments of agriculture whom I know very closely sheds tears for the farmers on the dais, but, does everything inimical & 'enemy'cal to farmers on a daily basis.

The need of the hour is to eradicate these neo-pests who are the direct descendents of the farmers. Fleecing their own farming community & forcing them to flee the villages is their hobby & pass time. Do we need an MNC to destroy these home-grown pests?

Will 'Reverse Cannibalism' lead to the extinction of farmers?

These children to whom the farming parents have '**given away all that they had**' have fled the villages forever only to exploit their own parents pushing them to suicides on which Dr. Prakash has written his editorial. It is common in animal kingdom to eat its own offsprings. But, here we have sons & daughters who eat their own farmer parents. Should this be called "**reverse cannibalism**?"

Hence, this is not just a case of suicide. It is also a patricide & matricide by those who have left their respective villages & parents in search of big pasturelands forgetting their roots. Then it is left to the imagination of the right-thinking people to decide on who is causing more harm to the farmers.

With their presence in all powerful positions & places, these descendants of the farmers can surely mitigate the problems of their parents. But, they have to retrospect themselves & learn to be humane. But, considering the ungratefulness & merciless situation they have willingly entangled themselves in, I have no faith that they would repay the farmer his due.

They will make both the village & the farmer extinct. I am just calling a spade a spade.

What about you? Do you think that they will retrospect & reverse the situation?

S.N. Lakshminarayana
Editor

Dr. Prakash Kammaradi, a man of multifarious activities & myriad interests



Dr. Prakash Kammaradi with Dr. Abdul Kalam

I know this man since 1975.

A man who hobnobs with many issues at a time; one who rubs shoulders with the intellectuals across the country.

Wanted by the farmers' movements, NGOs scientists, governments, universities etc., alike for the intellectual property he possesses & more than that for his commitment to his views. Unlike many academicians whom I have known, he does his home work well & makes his presence felt wherever he goes.

A good human being who has his own view point on all the issues around the world makes, a mark wherever he walks, sorry... talks.

It is none other than Dr. Prakash Kammaradi. Teluve Nagarajarao Prakash Kammaradi.

A well known writer, teacher, speaker, researcher with clearly noticeable social responsibility, Dr. Prakash Kammaradi, now, Professor & Head, Dept. of Agriculture Economics in UAS-B turned down my request to Guest Edit this issue of KT. Editor of "Hittala Gida" (Backyard

Plant), dedicated for dissemination of indigenous knowledge, grassroots innovations, biological diversity and sustainable technologies since 1995, he suggested me to find a senior IATian for the purpose!

I was surprised!

Surprised by his humility. A man who has been teaching UAS-B grads since 28 years, a man who is serving various committees on various issues in the universities, Govt, Non-Govt. organizations does not claim his seniority! I was simply bowled by his humbleness. I decided not to budge & finally prevailed upon him to edit it.

Hence, you have this wonderful piece in your hand today.

Dr. Prakash has written a thought-provoking editorial on Farmers' suicide which I cannot resist admiring it & adding a few more lines to it as a reaction. I have done this beneath his editorial.

Globe-trotter

A globe-trotter who has presented innumerable papers in the national & international level seminars, conferences, meetings, Dr. Prakash is now focusing **on agriculture as well the natural resources of Western Ghat region of South India throughout his academic career.**

Three reports on "Estimating the Cost of Production of Arecanut crop in Karnataka" by Dr. Prakash enabled the Government of Karnataka to provide a Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs. 6000/- and Rs. 8000/- per quintal for of Chali & Red varieties of Arecanut respectively to protect the interests of farmers in Karnataka.

Your editor cannot enlist his accomplishments in one breath. Huf! Quite an enviable achievement, this.

I thank the distinguished Guest Editor Dr. Prakash on behalf of all IATians for sparing his valuable time & knowledge to make this issue of KT truly farmer-friendly.

I also wish that the universities & govts. do not let go any opportunity to tap this rare treasure of knowledge in the coming days.

S.N. Lakshminarayana
Editor



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