



**TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
COIMBATORE**

**45th CONVOCATION
25th MARCH 2025**

WELCOME ADDRESS

**45th Convocation of
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore - 641 003**

(25-03-2025)

Welcome Address

Dr. V. Geethalakshmi
Vice Chancellor

Honorable Governor of Tamil Nadu and **Chancellor**
of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

Honorable Minister for Agriculture-Farmers
Welfare and **Pro-Chancellor** of Tamil Nadu Agricultural
University

Distinguished Chief Guest of this august function,
Thiru. R. Selvam, I.A.S., Executive Director, Council for
Leather Exports, India

Respected Members of the Parliament and Tamil
Nadu Legislative Assembly

Agricultural Production Commissioner & Secretary to
the Government Thiru. V. Dakshinamoorthy, I.A.S.,

District Collector of Coimbatore,

Thiru. K. Pavankumar G Giriyappanavar I.A.S.,

Members of the **Board of Management**,

Members of the Academic Council,

Retired Professors, Staff and Students

Most importantly, graduating students, award
winners, their proud parents, personnel from **press and
media**

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning

It gives me an immense pleasure to welcome you
all to the 45th Convocation of Tamil Nadu Agricultural
University

It is a proud moment for this University that 4,611
students are conferred with their degrees today and
I congratulate each one of you for a great career ahead

TNAU offers 14 UG, 34 PG and 29 Ph.D programs in a wide range of disciplines through its **18 constituent colleges** and **28 affiliated** colleges and all the degree programs have been accredited by ICAR with “EXCELLENT” rating.

As envisioned by the State and Central Governments, TNAU increases its UG admission strength every year by around 10%. This year TNAU has introduced new PG and Ph.D programs in Food Technology.

Through creating state of the art infrastructure and enabling environment, TNAU has become a preferred destination to Pan India students which is evident from 30 – 40 % enrollment from other States for their PG and Ph.D programs at TNAU.

Through Blended Learning Program, empowerment of slow learners and creation of language labs, TNAU has increased the Pass percentage to 97.5% from 88% and brought down its attrition rate below 3%.

Considering the need for imparting employable and entrepreneurial skills to the students, TNAU has introduced novel programs namely Industry Connect, Professor of Practice and Adjunct Faculty.

TNAU is linked with 150 industries for student internship(s) and thesis research, engaged 73 non-academic industrialists as Professors of Practice to make the students industry ready and 91 Adjunct Faculty from foreign Universities to empower our students to become globally competitive.

During 2024-25, 1257 UG students were placed through Campus Interview and >200 students have cleared competitive UPSC / TNPSC / Bank Examinations.

During the period 2022-24, TNAU has executed MOUs with 338 Nationally important Institutes and 32 international institutes to strengthen its academic / research programs.

As a No. 1 University in India, TNAU has adopted 112 FPOs for technical hand holding including marketing and developing profitable business plans and thereby enhancing livelihood of 1,50,000 farm families.

TNAU encourages its faculty towards "Self-Reliance" by obtaining all time high number of 273 externally funded projects with a total outlay of Rs. 62.2 Crores.

During 2025, a total of 19 varieties (3 in rice, 1 in Millets, one in pulses, 2 in oilseeds, 11 in horticultural crops

and one in mushroom) were released towards achieving food and nutritional security.

TNAU has developed a Village Level Weather Forecasting system for delivering precise weather based customized agro-advisory services to 12 Lakh farmers of the state.

TNAU has established a “Centre of Excellence on Climate and Disaster Resilient Agriculture” with the funding support of Rs. 7.29 Crores from Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. This initiative was supported by Government of Tamil Nadu through providing a special fund of Rs. 2.926 Crores in piloting creation of 385 Climate Smart Villages which will be upscaled to make the entire State climate resilient. Through this project, farmers will be made aware of climate change and climate resilient practices including crops, varieties, soil / water management, methane mitigation, crop insurance and market intelligence etc.,

TNAU is considered as a preferred partner to Ministry of Agriculture – Farmers Welfare, Government of India for promoting Natural Farming practices in the country through establishment of model farms and capacity building through KRISHI SAKI programs. During 2024,

TNAU has trained 350 of its faculty as Master Trainers who in-turn trained 10,750 Krishi Saki's on Natural and Organic Farming.

TNAU is a frontrunner in deploying Geo-spatial tools for monitoring water bodies, measuring GHG emissions and disaster risk assessment. We are one of the key partners in the prestigious YESTECH project of Government of India on developing crop yield estimation procedures using remote sensing tools which will replace labour and time-consuming intensive Crop Cutting Experiments.

TNAU engaged more than 20,000 students to digitize >3.5 crores of land parcels (85% of cultivated area) by making use of Digital technologies with precise information on area under different crops and varieties. This massive initiative, made the State of Tamil Nadu to feel proud and become No. 1 State in the country to accomplish the task of Digital Crop Survey.

As a FIRST SAU in the Country, TNAU has set up a DGCA approved RPTO Licensing Centre for developing DRONE PILOTS. I am very proud to inform the house that, TNAU has become a preferred partner to Central Government in implementing DRONE DIDHI program.

While keeping an eye on food / nutritional security, TNAU keeps its other eye on sustainability in food production, soil and environment. TNAU's biofertilizers, water soluble fertilizers, nano-fertilizers and STCR based fertilizer recommendation are paving way for rejuvenating soil health of Tamil Nadu. TNAU's Centre for Agricultural nanotechnology is recognized by Government of India as a National Referral Laboratory for testing nano-fertilizers developed by industries.

TNAU is undertaking massive efforts on profiling the health parameters and microbiome of all the soil types of Tamil Nadu which will help in designing soil rejuvenation strategies. TNAU attracted Rs. 10 Crore funding support from Gates Foundation, USA for developing Biostimulants Efficacy Testing Structure. Preliminary findings indicate possibility of reducing 25 – 30% of chemical fertilizers by using biofertilizers.

TNAU's timely interventions and team work with Dept. of Agriculture enabled swift assessment of damages caused by invasive pests, rugose spiralling whitefly in coconut, mealybug in cassava and Fall armyworm in maize and root wilt disease in coconut.

TNAU's expertise enabled development of bio-intensive management strategies. Its bio-consortia "Cococon", predator "*Apertochrysa*" and parasitoid "*Encarsia*" have become so popular among the farmers and have slowed down the progression of invasive pests and diseases and thereby saved our farmers from crisis.

Considering the need for promotion of horticulture and forestry to sustain farm income under changing climate, TNAU has brought out 24 varieties in horticultural crops and 4 varieties in forestry crops in these 3 years.

During 2024, TNAU has initiated research programs in frontier areas viz., Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data Analysis, 3D Printing, Genome engineering, Bio-Hydrogen Production from agri-waste and Soil quality mapping.

Through the introduction of **One Faculty - One Paper per year** policy, TNAU has increased its number of publications to all time high of 1304 SCOPUS listed papers in 2024 alone.

Through its six Agri-Business Incubation Centers at Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Killikulam, Periyakulam and Mettupalayam, TNAU has enrolled >2033 incubatees and > 650 START-UPS including 71 student START UPS.

As a unique initiative, TNAU promotes entrepreneurship among the women through its “Semmai Madhar” program. TNAU has enrolled 150 women incubatees and 52 of them have successfully launched their START UPs.

As a first institute among the SAUs in the country, TNAU has launched its own E-marketing platform www.tnauagricart.com similar to Amazon / Flipkart to deliver the agri-inputs at farm gates. This increased the revenue through sale of inputs to Rs. 40 – 50 Lakhs per month.

Also to enable the farmers in taking up timely farming operations, TNAU is establishing 15 Custom Hiring Centres in its KVKs to promote farm mechanization on hiring basis.

During 2024, TNAU has obtained 11 product patents, 58 design patents, 2 GIs and 28 Copyrights. Put together 99 technologies developed by the TNAU researchers have been protected.

All these concerted efforts have placed TNAU at the top among the SAUs:

- TNAU is the only SAU placed in Times Higher Education (THE) Rankings Framework.
- Under QS World Ranking in Agriculture & Forestry, TNAU is placed in the band of 201 – 300 out of 1422 institutions.

- TNAU is very proud to win the National Water Award for the year 2023 under University Category.
- Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project led by WRD involving TNAU's Centre for Water and Geo-Spatial Studies has won the Best Water Management Project Award for the year 2024 by the Ministry of Jalsakthi, Government of India.
- During 2024, 8 TNAU Centers have won the Best Centre Award under ICAR – AICRP programs.

At this juncture, I am thankful for the valuable guidance and support of the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu and the Chancellor of TNAU as well as Hon'ble Pro-Chancellor of this University and the zeal and commitment of the Faculty, Staff and Students towards transforming TNAU as an Institute of International Eminence.

Once again, I take this opportunity to congratulate all the graduands and welcome you all to this 45th Convocation of TNAU.

THANK YOU

JAI HIND