

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR AT 1ST CONVOCATION OF MNS UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MULTAN

- Auzubillah-e-Minash-Shaita-nir-Rajeem
- Bismilla-hir-Rahman-nir-Raheem
- Honorable Vice Chancellors, Members of the Parliament, Civil Administration, Eminent Citizens, Distinguished Guests, Respected Members of the Syndicate, the Academic Council, Deans, Directors, Chairpersons, Faculty Members, Representatives of Media and Press, Respected Parents and My Dear Graduating Students

Assalam-o-Alaikum

- It is a matter of great pleasure for me to preside over at the 1st Convocation of MNS University of Agriculture, Multan on behalf of the Chancellor and welcome you all to this august event. I am also taking this opportunity to convey the heartiest congratulations extended by the Chancellor to all students of the first graduating batches of this University and to their proud parents. This convocation not only signifies the success and achievements of our students, but also marks an important milestone in the history of this institution. It is a time for reflection, for renewing our commitment to the future of our country and to the following generations.

Dear Passing-out Graduates

- I would like to remind you that you are a very special batch indeed, being the pioneer students of this University. As you step away from this institution, you are now going to face the world and the great challenges that may come your way. But I want you to remember that you are taking more than a degree document out of this university. I trust that each of you would emerge as a scientist, a leader, a thinker, an entrepreneur, and a citizen entrusted with responsibilities to your people, your society and your country. Your degree

represents more than knowledge and training. It represents your courage, character, and commitment to make a difference in the world. I trust that you will do justice to what you have received from this institution and you will rise to all the challenges that come your way and overcome them.

Ladies and Gentlemen

- The MNS University of Agriculture was established in 2012 with a primary objective of elevating socio-economic status of farmers, and with a mandate to provide for education in various faculties of agriculture and other branches of knowledge, make provisions for research and development and service to the society. Today's event has given us the unique opportunity to self-appraise our achievements and at the same time aspire for future endeavors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- In any society, the pursuit of education enhances and broadens the intellectual horizons of its citizens. The higher education institutes like the universities help advance new ideas, promote enduring knowledge, assist in inculcation of appropriate moral and ethical values among the students, and sponsor academic excellence and perfection. It is also important that the students are taught and groomed properly to become responsible, conscious and proactive citizens. I am confident that MNS University of Agriculture is maintaining a high standard in its academic undertakings, judiciously utilizing all resources to bring innovation, creativity and pragmatic approach into agricultural education with continuous focus on quality of processes and procedures.

Distinguished Guests

- The University is taking all measures to establish and promote an innovative research-based culture aligned with its vision to strive for academic excellence and build knowledge-based economy. I am proud to share that during the last couple of years, we have made several significant

accomplishments related to developing infrastructure, increasing student enrolment, expanding academic programs, improving communication network, organizing national and international events, hiring qualified and competent human resource, and establishing linkages with local and foreign institutions. We are committed to work harder with more dedication and really looking forward to achieve more milestones on the way to success in the years to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The student enrollment at the University has increased to more than 3000; while, the number of programs offered are 37. To cater for the academic needs, qualified and competent faculty becomes inevitable and the strength of UAM faculty has now reached to 92, amongst which 56 are PhDs. Further, the faculty have won several research grants, with gross amount of more than 300 million rupees. The worth of development projects has reached up to 1,478 million rupees, whereas skills development projects worth 149 million rupees are being carried out at the University. The construction work of the University's main campus is underway and all targets for the last year regarding work of the project titled "Development of MNS-University of Agriculture Phase-II" have been achieved.

Honorable Guests,

- As a developing higher education institution in the country, we are expanding our vision to revolutionize different academic disciplines to narrow down the knowledge gaps in Agricultural science and education, work to develop better farming methods, solve the special problems of local farmers, and provide new technologies. We have developed strong linkages with different national and international universities, institutions and organizations to work in the areas of mutual interest. The University has signed MoUs and agreements for exchange of staff and students and collaboration in research and development

with institutions around the world including China, Australia, USA, UK, Germany, Argentina, Turkey, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan etc. We are also working on projects funded by local as well as international agencies like DIFID, DAAD, USAID, ICDD, ACIAR etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- At this institution, we have been advocating and promoting the sense of ownership in our students, teachers, staff and all stakeholders that are joining hands with us, whether from academia, industry, farming community or government set up. Ownership is not assigned or given to some-one, it is taken by will. Ownership means coming forward and saying; “I will make this happen.” People who take ownership naturally have the habit of exposing problems because those issues get in the way of their success. So, they raise issues, admit short-term failures, find out solutions and keep moving ahead. I would reiterate to all of you to come forward, take ownership and work together for active support in the development of this University.

Distinguished Guests,

- I would like to appreciate the academic staff of the University for their excellent performance and support in defining the educational years of our graduates. Their continued efforts have made this University a real success in human resource development in the country. We have dedicated and highly qualified faculty members, mostly holding Ph.D degrees in diversified disciplines of Agriculture and allied subjects.
- At the end, let me avail this opportunity to convey my deep sense of appreciation to honourable members of the Syndicate, Selection Board, Academic Council, Board of Faculty, Board of Studies, Staff Members and students, for their active support, enthusiastic interest and continued cooperation in the sustained development of the University. I would also like

to thank all those who have dedicatedly worked and supported the University to stand on its feet. I am confident that with extended support from the Punjab Government, Higher Education Commission and Private Sector, we will be in a position to exceed expectations and continue making strides towards our goal of making this a world-class Agriculture University.

- Thank you very much.
- **Pakistan Zinda Abad**