



# Socio-Cultural Study of Agriculture

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## MESSAGE OF PRINCIPAL

Dr. Harpreet Kaur

I welcome you all to the First International Seminar at Mata Sundri College for Women, University of Delhi.

The Conference is on a very relevant social concern entitled, *Socio-Cultural Study of Agriculture*. Agriculture and the rural sector have a deeper linkage with the social fabric of a country and any disturbance results in far reaching repercussions. Socio-cultural aspects govern the economic and environmental concerns as well.

Agriculture has been there as a key to development since times immemorial and enables growth of the human population. It is estimated that one-third of the workers of the world are employed in agriculture, which is second to the service sector. Although in the recent years, it is on a steady decline. A marked change is set in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with intensive agriculture that increased productivity with increasing mechanization that is energy-intensive, and use of fertilizers and pesticides. Yet food security is threatened due to a number of reasons like, increasing demand for the non-food biofuel crops, growing costs of transportation, population explosion, rising consumer demand, apathy in policy making etc.

India, as we are all aware has been an agricultural economy and presently 50% of our workforce is engaged in agriculture. The share of agriculture in the gross domestic product is 20.5 percent.

Food is considered to be the basis of life. We cannot but be dependent on agriculture and herein comes the importance of the agriculture-allied activities. Moreover, economic surveys clearly state, "Agriculture and allied sector has a critical role in ensuring food security, reducing poverty and sustaining growth in India". Therefore, the concerns of the farmer should be the concern of every citizen of India. Policy makers and researchers should bring forth a deeper understanding to work towards ameliorating the conditions of the farmers. The sub-topics covered under this conference revolve around it and are of a great importance having present day relevance.