



Dr.D.L.Maheswar
Vice-Chancellor
University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot

Dr. D.L. Maheswar was born on 1st May, 1955 in an Agriculture family of Kamagondanahalli Village, in Tumkur district, Karnataka. He completed his early schooling in the Sri Siddaganga Institutions at Tumkur. He received his B.Sc. Agri, M.Sc. Agri. & Ph.D Horti degrees from UAS, Bangalore. He received his Post Doctoral degree (FRHS) from United Kingdom during 1981. He started his career as an Instructor and later served as Assistant Professor of Horticulture, UAS, Bangalore. Later joined as Class –I grade District Horticulture Officer and worked in different capacities as Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Marketing), Bangalore; District Horticulture Officer, Mandya; Deputy Director of Horticulture, Mysore; Deputy Director of Horticulture (Floriculture); Managing Director, HOPCOMS; Additional Project Director of World Bank assisted sujala watershed project; Executive Director, National Horticulture Mission; Managing Director, Karnataka State Co-operative Horticulture Marketing Federation; Additional Director of Horticulture (Oil palm Project), Bangalore and rose to the position of Director of Horticulture, Bangalore in 2013.

In a long span of 34 years of administration in horticultural sector, Dr. D.L. Maheswar served as teacher, researcher and a development consultant and advisor. As Managing Director, HOPCOMS, introduced market intervention schemes (MIS) for procurement and marketing of potato and onion for the first time in the state including computerisation of transactions. He has closely involved in formulating several research & developmental projects funded from different agencies including international and national Collaborative Projects. He has visited Nepal, Srilanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Israel, China & Singapore.

He was responsible for establishment of maiden Centre of Excellence for oil palm at Mysore District. Under his stewardship, Department of Horticulture has achieved world record production in young plantation in Belgaum District and in matured plantation in Mysore District. He has popularized new variety of oil palm TARAKA which is prominent variety in Karnataka. He is responsible to plan and raise IInd generation progeny oil palm plantation for hybridization in Karnataka.

Dr. D.L. Maheswar has served as a member of several boards such as Karnataka State Horticulture Mission Agency (KSHMA), National Mission on Micro Irrigation (NMMI), National Mission on Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), KAPPEC, Karnataka State Wine Board, Karnataka State Co-operative Horticulture Marketing Federation (KHF), HOPCOMS, Karnataka State Mango Development Co-operation (KSMD), Directorate of Oilpalm Research, Karnataka State Seed Certificate Agency, National Mission on Food Processing, Karnataka State Horticulture Development Agency, Karnataka State Spices Board and Mysore Horticulture Society (MHS) *etc.*

He has been the recipient of many prestigious awards and distinctions few of them include, Business and Economic Society for Trade, New Delhi presented the Sarvshreshth Udyog Puraskar Award (1997), International Excellence Award for horticultural promotion in Karnataka through HOPCOMS for productivity, quality and innovativeness at Kathmandu, Nepal (1996), Iconic Innovative Leaders of the Decade – 2016 Award.

Considering his credentials and earnest contributions, Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka appointed him as the second Vice-Chancellor of University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot on 28th June, 2014.

As a Vice-Chancellor he has been instrumental in enhancing quality of teaching, research & extension at UHS, Bagalkot. He played significant role in establishment of College of Horticultural Engineering & Food Technology (CHEFT), created centralised external examination cell at UHS, instrumental in getting accreditation to University & its 8 constituent colleges from National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board, ICAR, New Delhi. Under his continuous guidance UHS secured first position with award of highest JRFs among SAUs in horticulture and forestry category during 2016-17 and also UHS is identified as centre for conduct of ICAR competitive examination. He is instrumental in initiating the concept of green graduation among farm universities and is highly appreciated by the Minister for Higher Education, GoK. Under his stewardship UHS has formulated policies on onion production & marketing and Arecanut promotion and formation of separate Board for the benefit of Areca farmers. He has initiated several extension activities like seed village concept, Sasya Santhe, weekly farmer friendly solution programme, toll free number, Horti App based advisory services to farmers, tri monthly workshops and skill oriented training programmes. He was instrumental in establishment of Centres of excellence for FPOs, Horticulture Extension Education Units (HEEUs) for the welfare of the farmers and other stakeholders.

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