

Tamil Nadu: Governor RN Ravi urges graduates to prepare for climate change consequences

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COIMBATORE: Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi on Monday took part in the 42nd Annual Convocation of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) and urged students and researchers to prepare for the uncertain disastrous consequences of climate changes.

He stated that the changing monsoon patterns, rising sea levels, deadly heatwaves, intense storms, and flash floods posed a great threat to the agriculture sector. The governor at the event conferred degrees on 2,602 graduates and research scholars from TNAU and its affiliated colleges.

Addressing the students, he said, "Although our country today is foodgrain surplus, the corresponding benefit of it has not gone to our farmers as the majority of them are subsistence and small. There exists a paradoxical

situation where the gross food production in the country is surplus and the bulk of food producers are poor.

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"This has arisen due to decades of distorted agriculture policies, which benefited a few big farmers but did not help the overwhelming majority, who are small and marginal."

He added, "I am informed that the incremental income due to the adoption of TNAU crop varieties, management technologies, and farm machinery by the Tamil Nadu farming community was worth 10,433 crore per annum." Trilochan Mohapatra, secretary of the Union department of agricultural research and education, said that only 40-45% of the agricultural area in Tamil Nadu is rainfed. "It is important to harvest rain, store it and effectively use it through micro-irrigation," he added.