



National Symposium
On
Towards a Sustainable Development in
Agriculture



The Annual flagship event of the Economics Department of Loyola College was organized by the **Loyola Economics Association for Development (LEAD)** at the Lawrence Sundaram Hall on **14th February, 2018**. The theme for this year's symposium was **"Towards a Sustainable Agriculture in India"**. After the customary lighting of the lamp by all the dignitaries, **Prof. B. Bhagwan Das, Head of the Department of Economics** welcomed the gathering and expressed his gratitude to all the dignitaries present. In tune with the theme for the day, the inauguration ceremony was presided over by the **'Father of Green Revolution' Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Founder of MSSRF and Chairman of the National Commission on Agriculture**. The department was blessed to have a man of such stature preside over the ceremony and deliver the inaugural address that was filled with anecdotes from an illustrious



Other reputed guests were **Dr. C. P. Chandrashekhar, Professor of Economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi** and **Dr. Shashanka Bhide, Director of Madras Institute of Development Studies**. They delivered the keynote address and special address respectively.

Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier, SJ, Principal and Chairman, Loyola College, imparted some of his vast knowledge to the audience with his remarks about the theme for the day and its relevance in today's scenario. **Dr. Fatima Vasanth, Deputy Principal, Loyola College**, set the tempo for the event with an inspiring speech which captivated everyone present. The **annual publication of the Department of Economics, Oikonomikos- Economics in Perspective** was released by **Dr. M. S. Swaminathan**



and the monograph of papers of the Symposium was released by Dr. C. P. Chandrashekhar. The vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Diana Josephine, President, LEAD.



Following a short coffee break, the panellists Mr. Jeyaranjan, Director of Institute for Development Alternatives, Mr. Ayyakannu, Founder and President of the National South Indian River Interlinking Agriculturists Association, Dr. Sivasubramaniyan, Associate Professor, MIDS and Mr. Kunal Shankar, Special Correspondent, Frontline India were felicitated and the panel discussion began, moderated by the Organising Secretary, Sruthi Kesh.

Since the four panellists were from different backgrounds, their perspectives on the theme were varied and this added colour to the discussion. It was an impressive session and proved to be a very informative one for all the professors and students present at the venue. There were many news reporters from the print as well

as digital media who covered the event and also interviewed the panellists. This was followed by the lunch break.

The post lunch technical session comprised of paper presentations by professors, students and research scholars from various institutions from across the country and three venues namely, Lawrence Sundaram hall, Y.D Hall and MRF Hall were allotted for the same. These sessions were chaired by Dr. A. Duraisamy, Head of the Department of Economics, Madras Christian College, Dr. Jabeen Ara Begum, Head of the Department of Economics, SIET College for Women and Dr. D. B. Usharani, Head of the Department of Economics, Ethiraj College for Women. Student moderators and rapporteurs were present at each venue.



The papers presented were of great quality and since the presenters were from an array of disciplines like Economics, Political Science, Development studies, Law, etc., a wide range of topics under the

main theme were covered. The chairpersons gave valuable inputs to the presenters which marked the end to a fruitful day of discussions and deliberations.



The valedictory ceremony commenced after a short break with music performances by our students to entertain the crowd after a long day. Dr. T. P. Subramanian, Coordinator of the Department of Economics, welcomed the gathering and appreciated the work done by all the organisers and participants and also thanked the sponsors for their support.

This was followed by a closing address by Prof. B. Bhagwan Das, Head of the Department, who was appreciative of the collective effort put in by the professors of Shift I and Shift II and student organisers and presented certificates of appreciation to all the participants.

Representatives from the title sponsors, Geojit were felicitated for their generous contribution and support towards the success of this event. The student organisers were then presented with certificates of appreciation by Prof. Diana Josephine, President of LEAD. The day concluded with the national anthem.