



# ICG LECTURE SERIES

BY

## EMINENT PERSONS

### **Former Union Minister Dr. Yoginder K. Alagh to deliver Lecture on The Future of Indian Agriculture at ICG on Thursday 4th August**

The International Centre Goa is organising a Lecture cum Interactive Session on “The Future of Indian Agriculture” by Dr. Yoginder K. Alagh, Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat and Former Union Minister of Power, Planning Science and Technology. The lecture will be chaired by Dr. N P Singh Director, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Old Goa. This programme is part of ICG Lecture Series by Eminent Persons and will be held at 11.00 am on Thursday 4th August 2016 at The International Centre Goa, Dona Paula. Entry to the programme is free and open to general public. Those interested in attending may kindly email their RSVP to [pro@incentgoa.com](mailto:pro@incentgoa.com)

Yoginder K. Alagh is Professor Emeritus / Vice-chair, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research in Ahmedabad and Chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat. From 1996 to 1998, he was the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Planning and Programme Implementation, Science, Technology and Power, and until 2001, Member of the Rajya Sabha. He was Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Member Planning Commission, Chairman BICP and Secretary to the Government and Chairman APC. Dr. Alagh’s professional experience is related to research, policy-making and administration of large research/policy formulation professional groups relating to macro policy and planning, industrial policies and reform, and agricultural planning and policy. He holds a doctorate in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. He has taught at that University, IIM Calcutta and at Swarthmore College. He is extensively published in India and abroad and was awarded the prestigious V.K.R.V.Rao Award for Outstanding Research in Economics in 1982. He has been consultant/senior adviser to FAO, UNDP, ILO, World Bank, ADB and Chair of the Scientific Steering Committee of UNESCO’s Social Science Research Programme (MOST), Member Council of United Nations University, Senior Fellow, World Institute of Development Research (WIDER) and of CIGI in Waterloo. He is currently Independent Director of Shree Cements, Somany Ceramics and Star Agri. He was Trustee Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, Chairman IRMA and Independent Director of Tata Chemicals. His last book on The Future of Indian Agriculture has been sold out. He writes a column for the Express Group and the Business Line.

**Abstract :** Indian agriculture meet the requirements of food security and rapidly diversify itself. It can function in a rural urban continuum, with rapid developments of markets and shifting of working populations from villages to linked small towns and also from crop production to value added activities. Employment growth will be high in these activities chasing a high rate of economic growth. All this will happen if the institutional structure gives the appropriate signals in term of technology and organizational support and the necessary economic support in terms of pricing and infrastructure support. Otherwise there will be rising food prices chasing few goods and immiserisation. The

prospects for Indian agriculture are good. Demand will grow fast and if we create the correct incentive and organization systems the Indian farmer will not fail us as he has responded well in the past when our policies were supportive. Research and support systems will have to concentrate on a much larger cafeteria of crops and support to non crop agriculture, including animal husbandry, fish and forests. This will need newer organizational systems for technology, financing and price and tariff support systems. The real dangers apart from anti agricultural policies are in running into real resource constraints. Again here the strategies for land and water management are known and agricultural research can fill in the gaps. Unfortunately the Eleventh Plan is the first plan without a chapter on the Perspective of the Economy and we have to rely on the efforts of people concerned on India's future outside the government. We may hope for a more serious effort in the Twelfth Plan. As member of the Planning Commission it was my good fortune to develop his vision of a detailed agro climatic strategy for India. The prospects are better and it is more urgent now. However long term strategic planning for critical sectors has been unfortunately abolished.

The lecture will be followed by an open interactive session with the audience.

## **Ends**

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