Wipe out hunger, Hussey tells farm scientists

DHARWAD: Terming food insecurity, malnutrition as ‘wicked problems’, Interim President of Texas Agricultural and Medical University Mark Hussey has called upon the global community of agriculture scientists to work together to solve these wicked problems and eliminate hunger.

He noted this while delivering the convocation address at the 27th annual convocation of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) held in Dharwad on Thursday.

He said, the world’s exponentially growing population was at the core of these problems.

“As a result, food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger have grown beyond the proportion in the world. Currently, one sixth of the world’s population (one billion people) suffer from chronic hunger and at least 3.5 million children die each year globally from under-nutrition. Not only does hunger rob the poor of healthy and productive life and stunt mental and physical development, it also provides a breeding ground for crime and civil unrest,” he warned.

As a remedy he suggested that there should be diligent efforts to train the next generation of ‘Hunger Fighters’ and also to develop and deploy new technologies and added that many of these issues could be addressed by the agricultural universities.

He concluded by stating that, the fundamental principles of accessibility, practical as well as classical education, research and discovery in the public interest and correctedness to all the people remain powerful and profound. “We must embrace these principles as well as commitment to excellence and social responsiveness,” he added.

Throughout his 22 minute speech, Mark Hussey recalled the influence of his ‘Guru’ and nobel winner Norman Borlaug, the pioneer of Green Revolution.

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