

CITATION FOR HON. SHRI. SHANKARRAO GENUJI KOLHE

Shri. Shankarrao Genuji Kolhe, a dedicated philanthropist, who contributed his entire life for economic and social development of rural people through education and industrialization. He is a great visionary, educationalist and social entrepreneur brings smile on millions of farmers by establishing twelve educational institutes and twelve co-operative industries.

Shri. Shankarrao Kolhe born in small village Yesgaon of Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, India in a farmer's family on 24th March 1929. After his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from University of Pune in the year 1950, he did his higher education in USA and Europe through Ford Foundation scholarship. In spite of higher education and great job opportunities in abroad and in India, he started farming. He had done lots of research on sugarcane crops, brings technology in the farms. The farmers around the villages coming to see his farms, he explains them techniques to increase productivity of various crops. In the year 1953, bringing together the farmers of Kopergaon taluka he established first organization named Kopergaon Taluka Vikas Mandal to provide seeds, pesticides and fertilizers on reasonable cost to farmers. He played one of major role in Green Revolution.

Production of agriculture increased but farmers not getting good prices to their sugarcane from private sugar factories. To solve this problem, he had established co-operative sugar factory named Sanjivani Takali Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana, Sahajanandnagar, in the year 1963 bringing together more than ten thousand farmers. Due to this more than twenty thousand direct and indirect employment generated in this rural area. To give good price to the farmer's sugarcane he had established supportive business of chemical production from which fourteen different chemicals produced. Many times due to draught conditions or heavy rains farmer lost their crops and they come in economic crises. To get regular income to farmers, he had started cooperative milk union with name Godavari Khore dudh utpadak sangh in the line of Amuls rural development model. Under the milk union in each village co-operative milk sansthas established to collect milk from farmers. Due to strong network of milk collection and distribution Godavari milk becomes popular in Cities and it directly benefits to farmers to improve their economic conditions. More than one lakhs farmers supplying milk to Godavai Milk. Apart from this he had established Amrut Sanjivani sugar transport company, Suvarna Sanjivani sugar transport company, Devyani cooperative Bank, Sanjivani Sahkari Patsanstha, Yashwant poultry farms, Sanjivani agro-producers cooperative society, International forum for Indian agriculture etc.

After good economic development of farmers Shri. Shankarrao Kolhe realises that the children's of farmers should also take world class education. So he established Sanjivani Rural Education Society in the year 1983. Under that he had started polytechnic and engineering courses. Now Sanjivani Rural Education Society runs 12 different institutes and offering education from playgroup to Ph.D. The institutes includes Polytechnic, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Science, commerce, D. T. Ed, B.Ed International school, CBSE school, Saniki school and Adivashi Ashram Shala. Now more than 15000 students studying and 2000 teaching and non – teaching staff working in Sanjivani Rural Education Society. In 1992 he established the Sanjivani Pre-cadet training Centre for civil and defence services as he realised that youths from Maharashtra get opportunities in defence services. It is a matter of proud that about 1300 cadets are rendering their services for the nation through various departments of defence ministry.

He had constructed Kolhapur type Hingani Weir and 44 buds for irrigating region in Kopergaon. He led farmers March to Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai to demand reduction in interest rates on loan to farmers. He had raised Indian farmer's issues in World Trade Organisation at Mexico in the year 2003.

He served as a cabinet Minister for three turns in Maharashtra Government. He shouldered important portfolios as revenue, transport etc. Hewas Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Maharashtra from 1972 to 1999. Besides holding important ministerial positions he had chaired several government of Maharashtra committees, including the one for horticulture development which proved to be turning point for agribusiness in the country. He had elected on various prestigious posts such as Chairman and Director Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari sakhar Karkhana, Chairman and director, Indian Sugar industries, Import and export corporation, New Delhi(1975), Chairman and Director, National Heavy Engineering, Pune, Member of Executive committee, Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara, Vice Chairman Saibaba Sansthan, Shirdi etc.

For his outstanding contribution in rural development he had received many awards such as **Aaryabhushan** in 2003 from Maharashtra Sahakari Mudranalaya Pune, **Sahkar Ratna** National level award in 2006 from IFFCO New Delhi, **Jeevan Sadhana** in 2007 from Pune University, **Girna Gauravin** 2007, **Adarsh Rayat Sevak** from Rayat Shikshan Sanstah Satara in 2012, **Shivajirao Nagvade Addrash Sahakar**, in 2013, **JeevanGourav** from Sugar Technology Association, New Delhi in 2013, **Jeevan Gourav**, From Deccan Sugar Technology, Pune.

Achievements:

- Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from University of Pune in the year 1950
- Higher education in USA and Europe through Ford Foundation scholarship
- Founder Chairman Kopergaon TalukaVikas Mandal (1953-1960)
- Founder Chairman and Director, Sanjivani Sugar Factory (1962 to uptill)
- Chairman and Director Maharashtra Rajya Sahakari sakhar Karkhana (1972-1984)
- Chairman and director, Indian Sugar industries, Import and export corporation, New Delhi(1975)
- Chairman and Director, National Heavy Engineering, Pune
- Member of Executive committee,Rayat Shikshan Sanstha Satara
- Founder Director, Vasantdada Sugar industry, Manjari (1975 to uptill)
- Founder, Godavari Khore Sahakari dudh Utpadak Sangh (1976)
- Founder, Sanjivani Rural Education Society (1983)
- Minister, Revenue, Government of Maharashtra (1991)
- Minister, Transport, Government of Maharashtra(1992)
- Founder, Devyani Sahakari Bank (1996)
- Founder, Sanjivani Precadet Training Center (1992)
- Chairman, Power, Industry, Employment Committee 2002-04
- Vice Chairman SaibabaSansthan, Shirdi (2004-12)

Awards

Sate level :

- **Aaryabhushan** in 2003 from Maharashtra Sahakari Mudranalaya Pune,
- **JeevanSadhana** in 2007 from Pune University,
- **Girna Gaurav** in 2007,
- **Adarsh Rayat Sevak** from Rayat Shikshan Sanstah Satara in 2012,
- **Shivajirao Nagvade Addrash Sahakar**, in 2013,
- **Jeevan Gourav, From Deccan Sugar Technology**, Pune

National Level

- **Sahkar Ratna** National level award in 2006 from IFFCO New Delhi
- **Jeevan Gourav** from Sugar Technology Association, New Delhi in 2013

Contribution to the field

- Contributed his entire life for economic and social development of rural people through education and industrialization by establishing twelve educational institutes and twelve co-operative industries.
- Established co-operative sugar factory named Sanjivani Takali Sahkari Sakhar Karkhana, Sahajanandnagar, in the year 1963 bringing together more than ten thousand farmers. Due to this more than twenty thousand direct and indirect employment generated in this rural area.
- Established Sanjivani Rural Education Society to provide world class education to the childrens of farmers, now society runs 12 different institutes and offering education from playgroup to Ph.D. The institutes includes Polytechnic, Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Science, commerce, D. T. Ed, B.Ed International school, CBSE school, Saniki school and Adivashi Ashram Shala . Now more than 15000 students studying and 2000 teaching and non – teaching staff working in Sanjivani Rural Education Society.
- Established the Sanjivani Pre-cadet training Centre for civil and defence services to get opportunities to rural students in defence services, so far 1300 cadets serving nation in military.
- Established Godavari Khoredudhupadaksangh in the line of Amuls rural development model for social and economical uplift-ment of farmers. More than one lakhs of farmers benefitted and more than ten thousand direct and indirect employment generated.
- Established Amrut Sanjivani sugar transport company, Suvarna Sanjivani sugar transport company, Devyani cooperative Bank, Sanjivani Sahkari Patsansta, Yashwant poultry farms, Sanjivani agro-producers cooperative society, International forum for Indian agriculture which creates employment opportunities in rural areas of Kopergaon Taluka.