

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Kashmir  
Lalmandi, Srinagar, 190001, J&K.

Dear Colleagues,

I am relinquishing the office of the Director, Agriculture, Kashmir after being a part of the Department for 37 years. During my career I have experienced numerous ups and downs which I have sailed through and I feel highly honoured that I will be going back home with sweet memories which Department of Agriculture has given me to cherish all my life.

Though Agriculture held a pivotal importance in the rural economy and had remained a matter of focus but insignificant policy making during the past era had made farmers divest from farming, however, newer proactive initiatives proposed and approved by the present dispensation not only helped our farmers to be entrepreneurs but also created employment opportunities for our youths.

It was my long cherished dream to make Agriculture a sustainable & remunerative economic activity for farmers welfare and we together focused on identifying key products and markets to improve their economic status and I feel blessed to realize some portion of my vision for my farmers welfare vis-à-vis *increasing the production and productivity of all crops, revival of traditional varieties, introduction and popularization of High Value Varieties of Maize (Sweet Corn & Baby Corn) that opened the scope of value additions in agriculture sector, Introduction, popularization and Promotion of High Value Exotic/Organic Vegetables. Farm mechanization was given a thrust, value additions were promoted and not to talk about the advancements made in production and e-marketing of Saffron, NABL Accreditation of the Quality Evaluation Laboratory and linking agricultural produce with Markets at the National and International levels.*

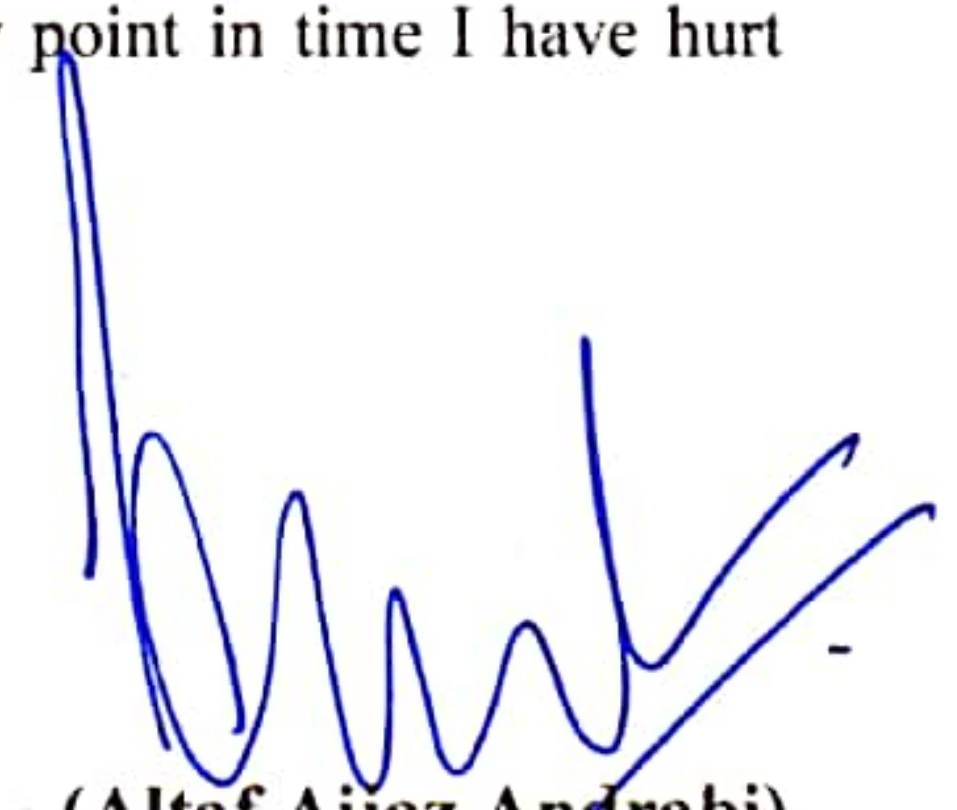
These achievements are undoubtedly a result of concerted team effort and I would like to place on record my personal gratitude to all the team members of Department of Agriculture, regardless of their rank and file and especially my farmers, who enabled me to discharge my duties effectively to keep the Department in vibrant mode for registering economic empowerment of the farming community. While placing on record my gratitude to my team, I would fail in my duties if I do not acknowledge the indelible support from the highest administrative institutions of the UT of J&K with their minimal interference that made me deliver professionally to the satisfaction of the farmers and other stakeholders.

At the end I cannot forget the most important source of my strength who have stood by me in thick and thin "MY FAMILY" they deserve a special tribute especially to my Parents, my brother, my sister, my spouse and my children without their support I may not have achieved what I have.

I would also like to submit my sincere apologies if at any point in time I have hurt anyone's feelings.

Allah Bless you all.  
Thank you.

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(Altaf Aijaz Andrabi)  
Director, Agriculture,  
Kashmir.