

## B.H. JAIN - A DOYEN OF DRIP SYSTEM - SETS THE EXAMPLE

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**F**uturologists are necessarily inspired persons of pragmatic vision. They can be cool, rational, calculating and even having absolute faith in God. H.G. Wells, George Orwell, Nietzsche, Burckhardt, Spengler, Toynbee and Sorokin were people who had the wisdom to foresee what is going to happen. These people had a special talent which others did not have. One such person in India, who could see far ahead of his time, is Dr.N. Mahalingam.

He has been tirelessly piloting the concept of diverting every drop of rain water that drains into the sea for irrigating the water-starved millions of acres of land in our country to boost up the economy to the levels of Israel. The strategy propounded by Dr.N. Mahalingam for Macro Economic levels has caught the attention of our planners. Serious efforts are being taken for inter-linking the river basins for easy transfer of surplus waters from one surplus basin to a deficit basin. Shri Bhavarlal H. Jain has been spear-heading the task of implementation of the efficient water management system at Micro level i.e., at field level. The efforts of Dr.N. Mahalingam at Macro-level and that of Bhavarlal Jain at Micro level are sure to enable us to catch up with the levels of Israel. The opportunity knocks at the doors of the people and it is upto them to make use of the same.

Mr. Bhavarlal H. Jain of Jalgaon rose from rags to riches through hard work, perseverance and intelligent use of knowledge to convert a barren area into a prosperous zone. What was a beginning, with Rs. 7000 in 1963, blossomed into a turnover of Rupees 142 crores in 1992 and provided employment to thousands with potentials to stabilise indirect employment for millions. His effort was a case of million dollar miracle which requires to be appreciated, applauded and emulated.

Born in the family of a small trader-farmer in a tiny village situated under the foot-hills of the Ajanta caves, Mr. Bhavarlal Jain took a B.Com., LL.B., got a Gazetted Officer's post but turned it away to commence a business career in which he has risen to laudable heights by sheer dint of merit. What really catapulted Mr. Jain to prominence was the concept of Drip Irrigation, the significance and relevance of which to Indian conditions has been brought out by Dr.N.



*Bhavarlal H. Jain*

Mahalingam from time to time. Here is a man who pioneered an integrated approach to Drip System in a manner worthy of approbation.

Mr. Jain, ably assisted by a self-motivated professional team, spread the message and created an awareness throughout the country. The growth of the Drip System has been phenomenal from a meagre 1500 acres in 1987 to cover 65,000 acres of 32 different crops in 1992. He proved that the contribution which the drip technology can make towards National Agricultural Productivity is no longer under cloud. In 'Drip', he has persistently declared that he is producing and propagating something of value not only to his own mission, but also to the entire nation. The need for an economy to emulate his example to achieve a higher per capita, more employment and rural development will be revealed if we take a peep into the development of our economy in the past forty-five years.

After 45 years of independence, our economy has been liberalised and allowed to play an active role in the world market. During the past we have

made huge investments and established a number of industries to produce goods and services. We have also spent huge amounts for the development of infrastructures viz., Dams, Roads, Ports, Airports, Railways, Schools, Colleges and Hospitals. All these investments have been made to improve the economy so that it may catch up with those of developed economies. In the process of planning, the nation has borrowed from international financial institutions for the establishment of a productive base; the loans are to be repaid through export of our goods and services.

In such a scenario, we have to understand our strength and weaknesses so that we may equip ourselves in such a way as to overcome hurdles in our economic development on sound lines.

Drip irrigation was first tried on commercial scale for vegetables in Israel, in late 60's in the Arava Valley, which is a desert area with brackish water. The different agricultural conditions in this region were not conducive to achieve a reasonable level of production and profitability. It soon became apparent that drip irrigation almost doubled the yields. Agriculture in this region, that was previously suffering from several difficulties, consequently became progressive and profitable with the use of this new irrigation method. The system spread rapidly to other regions. The success in the Arava Valley and the assumption that similar results could be attained under normal conditions justified this development, and to-day most of the vegetables grown in Israel are irrigated by the drip system.

Israel has miraculously converted her sandy desert with climatic adversities into a sound agricultural base with the introduction of drip irrigation system. The average yields in different countries are given in the table below :

Country	Average yield in Kgs per hectare		Per capita cropped area in hectare	Per capita availability of water in million lit.
	Cereals	Roots & Tubes		
Israel	2295	39,003	0.10	0.37
Japan	5671	25,934	0.04	4.43
India	1627	14,417	0.20	2.17

India has good soil and abundant water resources and sunlight on almost all the 365 days

in a year. Our agricultural scientists are known for their genius and solid contributions. Our farmers are hard-working. Even then it is a mystery that the per worker contribution in India has been just 2.5% of the Japanese worker in agriculture.

M/s. Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Jalgaon with the innovative visionary Shri B.H.Jain as Chairman, continue to campaign to enthuse and educate the farmers with customer-oriented practices. Having gone round the factories (including the 100% export oriented units) and the farms where Drip Irrigation Systems are put to effective use and having heard the plea and exhilarating experiences of Shri B.H. Jain, I feel that my trip was undoubtedly a pilgrimage to the "Mecca of Drip Irrigation".

Farmers all over India and from each block should see the farms where Jain Irrigation Systems are put to use. When they establish a model farm in each of the districts, each farm will draw, inspire and enthuse thousands of other farmers.

Most of us unfortunately entertain a feeling that India is a poor country and that we lack most of the resources which the developed countries are blessed with. One who visits Jain Irrigation Farms will come out with an enriched inspiration that India is blessed with abundant resources which are yet to be exploited for our prosperity. There are challenges. But each challenge opens up a threshold of unlimited opportunities. Believe me; we can establish 150 Israels within India. All that is needed is courage, confidence and hardwork coupled with initiative.

I want farmers all over India to know about the Jain Miracle. Having seen it myself I have no hesitation in recommending the same to the farming community.

The beneficial application of the Jain Irrigation System to different crops such as plantain, pappala, sugarcane, vegetables, horticultural crops will follow in the coming issues of Kisan World. *(to be continued)*

I should not be dominating and aggressive,  
Acting in a self righteous, arrogant way,  
Instead, like a newly married bride,  
I should be embarrassed, timid and restrained.

- Bodhisattvacaryavata