

# Mason Vaugh

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## Mason Vaugh



<b>Born</b>	June 27, 1894 <a href="#">Bonne Terre, Missouri</a> , United States
<b>Died</b>	October 7, 1978 (aged 84) <a href="#">Ohio</a> , United States
<b>Residence</b>	United States and India
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Fields</b>	<a href="#">Agricultural Engineering</a> <a href="#">Agricultural machinery</a> <a href="#">Allahabad Agricultural Institute</a>
<b>Institutions</b>	<a href="#">University of Missouri</a> <a href="#">The Ohio State University</a>
<b><u>Alma mater</u></b>	<a href="#">University of Missouri</a>

**Mason Vaugh** (June 27, 1894 – October 7, 1978) was an American agriculturalist who developed the first agricultural engineering department outside [North America](#) in 1921 at [Allahabad Agricultural Institute](#).<sup>[1]</sup> He also served in the [US Army](#) during [World War I](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

## Work in India

Mason Vaugh was born on June 27, 1894 in [Bonne Terre, Missouri](#). He graduated at the top of his class from grammar school and high school. In 1919 he was given a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Missouri and in 1928 earned the equivalent of a M.Sc. in Agricultural Engineering in 1928. In 1921 he became a lay missionary in India, teaching agricultural engineering at Allahabad Agricultural Institute.<sup>[3]</sup>

Vaugh utilized traditional Indian materials which he adapted for farmers to use as modern agricultural implements. Among his innovations was the "Shabash," an improved plow consisting of a [plowshare](#), a [moldboard](#), a few bolts and a wood beam. It cost Indians 15 rupees, or \$3. Improved implements such as the Shabash made it possible for farmers to plow larger areas than previously possible.<sup>[3]</sup>

Vaugh introduced several other implements, such as hoes, cultivators and the wheat threshers. He was the leader of the [Agricultural Development Society](#) (ADS), established in [Naini](#) to manufacture and sell improved implements developed by ADS and the Institute. He retired in 1957 and returned to the United States.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

He has often been called the father of agricultural engineering in India.<sup>[6]</sup> In his honor [Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers](#) (ISAE) established the Mason Vaughn Agricultural Engineering Pioneer Award. Prof. Ralph C. Hay was the first recipient of this award for his contribution in establishing [agricultural engineering](#) programs at [IIT Kharagpur](#) (1954–56) and [Pantnagar University](#) (1962–64).<sup>[7]</sup>

In 2012 Professor K.V. Katti of the University of Missouri made a trip to India and presented a paper at the Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHIATS) on green nanotechnology in agriculture, medicine and engineering. He was going to set up a relationship between the two institutions but learned of Vaugh's early career at the Institute which had already created an affiliation. He expressed amazement at the work done by Vaugh.<sup>[8]</sup>