

Proceedings of the Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and ICAR directors held during 14-15, February, 2017, at NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi

INAUGURAL SESSION

Annual Conference of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of the Agricultural Universities (AUs) and Directors of ICAR institutes was held at the National Agricultural Science Centre, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi, during 14-15, February, 2016. The Vice Chancellors of the Agricultural Universities (AUs), Directors of ICAR Institutes, and Senior ICAR Officials attended the interactive session. The main focus was to deliberate on the issues during the next three years and to strengthen the interaction and collaboration between AUs & ICAR institutes.

Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR extended warm welcome to the Chief Guest Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare and to all the other dignitaries and participants of the Conference. He lauded the support extended by the Hon'ble PM for agriculture research, education & extension.

Thereafter, he presented the salient achievements and activities of the NARES and appreciated the co-operation being extended by the Ministers from time to time. He informed that 310 new varieties in various field crops and 51 in horticultural crops, 5 pig varieties, location specific rural poultry varieties have been developed and released, in the last year. He also apprised the house of the progress being made in the fishery sector last year. The efforts of the Council in tackling diseases in both crops and livestock, and assessment for contingent climate planning were also mentioned. He apprised about the strengthened data management and extension network through development of KVK portal with two lakh hits till date, and various Apps developed for the welfare of farmers and agriculture literacy. He hoped to breach the bar in research and for achieving higher quality of education so that SAUs become most sought after destination for the talented students. The agricultural universities across the country should adopt V Deans Committee recommendations and collaborate to take on emerging challenges and new programmes for producing quality human resource and thus contribute towards production, productivity, profitability and sustainability of the farming systems.

He further informed that with the efforts of the Government of India, a new initiative i.e. the Agriculture Research Centre for BRICS will be established in India. The cooperation in the area of agriculture research and education has been enhanced and strengthened in Afganistan and Burma in recent past. The vision of ICAR is to increase productivity by 40%, reduce hunger and poverty by 30% along with reduction in the emission of green house gases by 20% by 2030.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Sudharshan Bhagat said that National Agricultural Research System (NARS) with 102 ICAR Institutes and 73 Agricultural Universities spread across the country is one of the largest in the world and appreciated the efforts of NARES in green, pink, blue, white and yellow revolution and in achieving food and nutritional security. He was of the view that with the accelerated technology development in agriculture and allied fields, new short duration, climate resilient, less input requiring varieties in most of the important crops will be a reality in near future. He appreciated the role of KVKs in dissemination of technology and frontline

demonstrations. He appreciated the efforts of ICAR towards digitization. He emphasized the need to encourage capacity building programmes and to keep farmers in view while developing research and developmental activities.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Parshottam Rupala appreciated the efforts towards strengthening of higher agricultural education, research and technology dissemination. He thanked the Hon'ble AM for announcing Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Krishi Puruskar at Zonal and National level for small and marginal farmers to encourage them. He informed that, to motivate and inculcate healthy competition among Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), new award 'Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puruskar' which has been instituted at Zonal and National Level. He said soil health will guide the farmers and help in precision agriculture and is also a good opportunity for employment. He was of the view that more challenges offer greater opportunities and expressed that deliberations during this conference will be helpful in identifying new viable strategies for upgrading the technological capabilities of our agricultural sector and in enhancing its effectiveness.

The Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh, in his inaugural address expressed confidence that challenges faced by Indian agriculture will be tackled successfully by strong coordination among NARES. He was of the view that ICAR institutes and AUs have an important role in attracting talent towards higher agricultural education. Student READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) programme is a new initiative of Indian Council of Agricultural Research to reorient graduates of agriculture and allied subjects for ensuring employability and to develop entrepreneurs for emerging knowledge intensive agriculture for articulating education into entrepreneurship and employability. The stipend under Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWEX) a component of student READY has been enhanced to Rs. 3000/month for six months. The government is aware of the need to produce quality human resource and fourteen new colleges have been added in three Central Agricultural Universities. He also appreciated the initiative of linking ICAR support with accreditation. However, he directed that central universities with agricultural faculty be supported as they are NAAC accredited, if felt necessary, agricultural faculty for ensuring better quality be accredited in future.

He announced that every year 3rd December will be celebrated as National Agriculture Education Day in the memory of Dr Rajendra Parsad, the first Food and Agriculture Minister of India and first president of Independent India. He was of the view that through this, awareness will be created among school children about agricultural education and work being done on sustainable agriculture in the country. He also mentioned about the new agricultural universities and two IARI like institutes in Jharkhand and Assam being opened with the support from Central Government. He informed that, *Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana* (PDDUUKSY) has been launched under "Unnat Bharat Abhiyan" of Govt. of India so as to link traditional knowledge with science and technology and to build skilled human resource at village level relevant to national needs to provide rural India with professional support in the field of organic farming/natural farming/rural economy/sustainable agriculture. He again emphasised that SAUs and Institutes must concentrate on developing high yielding and climate resilient varieties and the need to strengthen 'Lab to Land' programme through KVKs. He reiterated that country will progress only when agriculture is strengthened and our farmers prosper.

Two universities in each of the four categories viz. Agricultural Sciences (UAS, Bengaluru, UAS, Dharwad), Horticulture and Forestry (UHS, Bagalkot, CAU, Imphal and OUAT, Bhubaneswar), Engineering and Technology (UAS, Bengaluru and GBPUAT, Pantnagar) and Veterinary and Fishery Sciences (TANUVAS, Chennai & GBPUAT, Pantnagar), were awarded First, Second position, respectively for achieving excellence in AIEEA-PG-2016 examination conducted at all India level. Among the categories of large and small ICAR Institutes, the Best Annual Report Award 2015-16, was bestowed upon ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal and ICAR-National Research Centre for Integrated Pest Management, and ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition & Physiology respectively. Sixteen ICAR institutes and 12 KVKs were awarded for adopting cashless mode for payments. Various books were also released on the occasion by the Hon'ble Union Minister.

Shri Chabbilendra Roul, Additional Secy. DARE & Secretary ICAR, proposed vote of thanks.

Vice Chancellors' Conference

Dr. N. S. Rathore, Deputy Director General (Agril. Education), ICAR extended warm welcome to the august gathering. He presented the achievements and reforms introduced in Agricultural Education Division in the last one year. He informed that to attract talented students Agriculture has been declared as Professional Degree. The course curricula has been revised the Fifth Deans Committee with incorporation of Tradition, Technology, Talent and Trade components. Scholarships under student 'READY' and NTS-UG have been enhanced, NTS-PG has been initiated and students with mathematics would be allowed to appear in the entrance examination for admission B.Sc. (Agriculture) admission. It was emphasized by him that to maintain quality of higher agricultural education, the support to AUs under plan scheme of Agricultural Education Division has been linked to accreditation and Monitoring & Evaluation of all AUs through high level committee has been initiated. He also mentioned the imitation of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana for non-formal education on organic farming/sustainable agriculture/cow based economy be imparted to the farmers through 100 centres across the country for profitability and enhancing production. He informed that 61 extra mural research project have been awarded. He complimented the VCs for the progress being made in strengthening the higher agricultural education and urged them to monitor the budget and submit the reports and other necessary documents for timely release.

Dr David Bervingson, DG, ICRISAT, gave a presentation on 'Empowering Farmers through Digital Agriculture'. He was of the view that this would help in providing nutritional security and better livelihood to the farmers. Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and data ecosystems developed with the objective to support the development and delivery of timely, targeted (localized) information and services to make farming more profitable and sustainable, socially, economically and environmentally. Since there are multiple ministries involved there is a need to have tools and technologies to converge various departments, so as to provide integrated solutions. He also emphasized on the need to provide ecology specific interventions and provide targeted services to serve marginal farmers. He said that majority of small holder farmers have limited access to relevant information and market knowledge to increase profitability. Digitization and mobile phones will offer a platform for information symmetry and connecting farmers to higher value markets, better adoption and provision to opt for scalable, lower-cost solutions tailored to the specific needs of an individual small holding and marginal farmer to increase farm productivity, profitability and sustainability.

Dr T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR welcomed everyone, and congratulated Dr D. Bervingson for excellent presentation and emphasized that the area of digital agriculture needs discussion and recommendations from the Council will be made very soon as to address the gaps in demand driven innovations. He agreed that there was an urgent need to initiate digitization to accelerate the process of dissemination and delivery of technologies and other services to the farmers. He said that this would be helpful in measuring the progress and impact, mid-term corrections and improvisations. Central system has to come out with ideas so that specific and strategic State specific plans could be prepared and thus there is need to work in partnership with Agricultural universities.

Thereafter, the action taken report for the last year's conference and agenda items were presented.

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of the last Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors held on 22-23 January, 2016.

Since no comments were received, the proceedings of last VC conference held in January, 2016 were confirmed by the house.

Agenda 2: Action Taken Report (ATR) on the proceedings of the last Annual Conference held during January 22-23, 2016.

ADG (EP&HS) presented the action taken report which was approved by the house. However, the issue of lateral entry from diploma to degree course after one year and for lateral entry of 10+3+3 to be equated to 10+2+4 was not resolved and it was decided that committee constituted last year may meet to examine the issue for Veterinary Science and give its recommendations.

Dr. M. C. Varshneya, VC, KU, Amreli -Chairman
Dr. Ramasamy, VC, TNAU, Coimbatore -Member
Dr. A. K. Srivastava, VC, NDRI, Karnal -Member
Dr. N. C. Patel, VC, AAU, Anand -Member
Dr. M. B. Chetti, ADG (HRD) - Member secretary

(Action: ADG, HRD)

Agenda 3: Agenda from EP&HS

Agenda 3.1: Single window system for ICAR grants to be followed

All the VCs may ensure that documents being submitted by AUs are sent in prescribed format along with the check list.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.2: ICAR representative on Board of Management/ General Council/ Executive Council.

Necessary action needs to be initiated by all universities to include ICAR representative on Board of Management. Meetings of BoM to be held regularly for good governance. ICAR

may in turn issue necessary directions to State Government to amend their Modal Act to incorporate ICAR representative in respective BOM even in veterinary universities.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.3: Green Initiatives in Agricultural Universities including e-Governance

All AUs to submit proposals towards green initiatives i.e utilization of solar energy, rain water harvesting, waste water treatment, composting, e-governance including EKTA and noise free generators etc. on cost sharing basis.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.4: Agricultural Education Division Scheme: Constraints, requirement and way forward

For creating enhanced visibility of AUs and developing quality human resources, a plan for next three years may be framed (based on priority) knowledge generation, technology generation and package of practices;. A Vision Document of all AUs may be developed. Universities should initiate programmes on capacity building, training, consultancy, testing, certification and technology outreach. Programmes must be designed for purpose of revenue generation.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.5: Installation of the video conferencing facilities for initiating *Chhatron Se Baat*” and suggestions invited for developing “Student Portal”

As desired by Hon’ble Agriculture Minister, each AU must extend facilities for communicating with students under “*Chhatron Se Baat*” and initiate the process for implementation of EKTA for e-Governance.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.6: Timeline for submission of documents: demand, reports, UCs & AUCs

The AUs were informed that from next financial year (2017-18), demands have to be submitted online, and Portal will not allow to submit any demands &AUCs after the due date. The following are the timelines for submission of documents:

- *Submission of all Demands* : 31st May
- *Utilization Certificate (UC)* : 15th May
- *New Civil works proposal* : 30th June
- *Annual Progress Reports* : 30th June
- *Audited Utilization Certificate* : 31st August

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.7: Student READY programme, NTS and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

All the universities were advised to implement students ‘READY’ programme in the final year of degree programme as per ICAR guidelines. The Adhaar number of all the student beneficiaries has to be linked to their account numbers by 31st March 2017. The Adhaar number of the students have to be provided along with their names while submitting the

demand for NTS, RAWE, other fellowships and other stipends under DBT scheme of Govt. of India.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 3.8: Strengthening linkages with Commodity Boards

All AUs were advised to develop need based structured Plan with Commodity Boards and apprise the Agriculture Education Division of the same. It was also proposed to keep one need based interactive meet with National Commodity Board representatives for future road maps.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4: Agenda from HRD

Agenda 4.1: Enforcement of anti-ragging measures by the AUs

All AUs to enforce strict anti-ragging measures.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.2: Timely submission of consolidated proposals and AUC's in respect of the release of scholarships/fellowships

Nodal officers to be sensitized to submit consolidated reports and demands, to enable smooth release and utilization of funds.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.3: Student Placement Cells

Agricultural Education Division is not receiving any inputs from SAU's in this regard. SAU's were requested to update on placements through campus recruitments every year for maintaining data base.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.4: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Krishi Shiksha Yojna (PDDUKSY) activities

The Agricultural Universities nearest to the centre were asked to ensure all possible help and co-operation to the Nodal Officers of these important schemes and flagship programme of GoI for proper implementation and effective conduct of trainings and submit annual report highlighting the major achievements made under these schemes.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.5: AIEEA counseling 2017: Uniform eligibility criteria for admission & other issues

The number of seats finalized for each AU for the accredited programmes and colleges during the meeting held on 16-17th January, 2017 must be adhered to and AUs to comply with the eligibility requirements of ICAR. The students admitted during online counseling in a particular accredited college of AU must be admitted in that college only and in no case he/she should be shifted to off campus colleges.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.6: Participation of universities in various programmes of Education Division

The universities to encourage faculty members to submit proposals for various programmes of Education Division for consideration of Council.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.7: Information related to intake capacity and pass-out details of the students

The information related to program (UG, PG, Ph.D.), gender (M/F) and category (SC/ST/OBC/PC) wise number of students enrolled and passed out every year from the AUs to be furnished after completion of each academic year.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 5: Agenda from EQR

Agenda 5.1: Implementation of the V Deans' Committee Report

The AUs which have not implemented the V Deans' Committee Report were advised to implement at earliest.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 5.2: National Academic Depository (NAD): Issue of Digital Academic Certificates

All the AUs were advised to contact the NAD and deposit the necessary data/documents by uploading on NAD as per the communication received from UGC /HRD.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 5.3: initiating diploma courses in AUs

The AUs were advised to initiate diploma courses for creation of skilled human resources and also one year diploma for input dealers/retailers/dealers.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 6: Agenda from Agricultural Universities pertaining to EP&HS

Agenda 6.1: Support for infrastructure development/ student amenities

It was informed that limited need based support in critical areas will be considered during the next three years as per the approval of EFC.

Agenda 6.2: Support under Research grant

Support under this component is already being considered under Extramural research programmes. It was informed that sixty one projects have been sanctioned with the support of Rs. 10.00 crore from Agricultural Education Division. The AUs were advised to submit suggestions on themes.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 6.3: Experiential Learning Modules

The Experiential Learning modules are being considered on priority for the off campus colleges where no EL module has been sanctioned by the Council so far. As per the availability of funds these will be enhanced to 2 EL modules per degree programmes for the colleges where the number of students is more.

(Action: ADG, EP&HS)

Agenda 6.4: Support for library strengthening

As per the availability of funds one digital library per AUs may be supported during next three years. It was also informed that suggestions were also invited during the meeting of librarians held on 11th August, 2016, at New Delhi.

(Action: ADG, EP&HS; All VCs)

Agenda 6.5: Support for e-Governance:

The AUs were informed that support under this component will be considered and universities can either develop their own portals on line of EKTA and merge with the main portal. It was also informed that letter requesting suggestions and proposals for development of portal were sent on 10th January, 2017.

(Action: ADG, EP&HS; All VCs)

Agenda 7: Agenda from Agricultural Universities pertaining to HRD

Agenda 7.1: Non practicing allowance (NPA) for B.V.Sc. degree holders

It was agreed that a letter in this regard will be written to all State Govt. from Hon'ble AM.

(Action: ADG, HRD)

Agenda 7.2: Capacity Building of faculty in SAUs

It was informed that number of CAFT may be added in new areas and provision for support for capacity building of faculty will be provided under National Agriculture Higher Education Project (NHAEP)

(Action: ADG, HRD)

Agenda 7.3: Issues pertaining to AIEEA

- (i) **Making AIEEA UG (All India Entrance Examination for Admission to UG) of ICAR a single national level eligibility test for Agriculture and allied courses similar to NEET for Medical and Dental UG Courses**

At present, no such proposal is under consideration at the Council's level.

- (ii) **Allocation of seats during PG admission: Remove restriction on state-wise limit so that students can choose his/her desired degree programme in a desired institute / university**

The provision of 40% restriction has been kept to encourage the mobility of students to other universities to reduce the academic inbreeding.

- (iii) **Recognizing B.Sc. (Hort.) and M.Sc. (Hort.) degree holders to seek admission to various PG programmes in Agricultural Universities, Graduates of Horticultural Universities shall be provided an opportunity to write entrance examinations in the disciplines of most related fields**

The issue was discussed during the meeting of Registrars/ COEs held on 16th -17th January, 2017, and the eligibility for the B.Sc. (Hort.) and M.Sc. (Hort.) degree holders to seek admission to various PG programmes was resolved.

Agenda 7.4: Fellowship to post graduate & doctoral students:

ICAR is providing PG scholarship as well as NTS (PG) for M.Sc. students and at present for Ph.D students except for merit based award of JRF (1st Year) and SRF for subsequent years there is no other scholarship for the students admitted through AIEEA conducted by ICAR.

Agenda 7.5: Issues pertaining to JRF/SRF

- (i) **Merit list of JRF examination could be the base for selection of PG students in SAUs/DIs/CAUs: the students may be allotted based upon merit obtained in JRF examination as per their preference**

At present, no such proposal is under consideration at the Council's level.

- (ii) **Increase in number of ICAR JRF and SRF fellowship so that the deficiency of skilled technical staff in academic/ research institutions in the country can be fulfilled**

The matter is under active consideration.

(Action: ADG, HRD)

Agenda 7.6: Request for additional grants for Internship programme for B.V.Sc & A.H. students. The duration of internship has been increased to one year from six months in MSVE 2016. Hence, the duration of stipend for internship may also be increased from six months to one year

It was decided that the matter will be considered while formulating the scheme for the next three years.

(Action: ADG, HRD)

Agenda 8: Agenda from Agricultural Universities pertaining to EQR

Agenda 8.1: Consideration of contractual teachers as a faculty member at the time of review for accreditation of College/ University:

It was decided to consider this issue in the revised guidelines for accreditation being formulated

(Action: ADG, EQR)

Agenda 8.2 & 8.3: Maintaining uniformity in regulations

It was decided that accreditation by the Council is based on individual programmes, colleges and as per Minimum Standards. Hence no action is needed to include directives of other regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, VCI etc.

Agenda 8.4: Formation of Agriculture Council of India as regulatory body for SAUs

The AUs were informed that draft has been developed and submitted to the competent authority.

(Action: ADG, EQR)

Agenda 8.5: ICAR initiatives and persuasion of respective State Governments for implementation of ICAR Model Act in SAUs.

It was decided that letter may again be written to Chief secretaries and Governors of all the States to implement the ICAR Model Act.

(Action: ADG, EQR)

Agenda 8.6 & 8.7: Introduction of Academic Exchange Programme among SAUs and other leading Institutes through inter institutional linkage

Lateral movement of students /faculty to be encouraged, by all the AUs.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 8.8: Farm mechanization/strengthening: Special funds for strengthening of farms

It was discussed and considering the importance of the modernized farms in strengthening of higher agricultural education, it may be included in next three year plan.

(Action: ADG, EQR)

Agenda 9: Umbrella MoU to be signed between ICAR and SAUs

DARE to expedite the process. Director, DARE presented latest position and informed that nothing was pending.

Agenda 10: National Higher Agricultural Education Project (NHAEP)

The OSD (NAHEP) informed about the components and programmes envisaged under the programme.

Agenda 11: Flagship Programmes of Govt. of India vis a vis the Agricultural Universities: role of AUs in implementing programmes like- Smart Cities, Start-up India, Swachh Bharat, Digital India etc.

AUS should support all schemes in their respective areas.

(Action: All VCs)

ACTION POINTS

- No funding from the Central scheme for the universities, if not accredited.
- Timely submission of following documents by the Universities in the prescribed format:
 - i. Proposals along with checklists
 - ii. Annual Progress Report
 - iii. Utilization Certificate (UC)
 - iv. NET Essentiality Letter (so far Responded -29)
 - v. Audited Utilization Certificate (AUC)
 - vi. Work Completion Certificate
- Universities to submit their requirements for next three years.
- Final reports for Experiential modules to be submitted.
- Universities to have latest Video conferencing facilities for initiation of ‘Chattron se BAAT’
- Proposals submitted by the universities should be in proper format along with duly filled checklist and all correspondence to be routed through Nodal Officer, Education Division.
- Universities should also work for revenue generation and establish online management system, especially student portal.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks by Dr. P.S. Pandey, ADG (EP&HS)