Proceedings of the

Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities

February 20, 2013

Dr. C. Devakumar ADG (EPD) welcomed Dr. S. Ayyappan, the Hon’ble Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Dr. S. N. Puri, President, AIU, Dr. V. K. Taneja, President, IAUA. Hon’ble VCs & DDGs, other senior officers of ICAR and all other participants.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR welcoming the gathering informed about the fruitful deliberation held on 19th Feb., 2013 and hoped for way forward in today’s deliberations. He thanked 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 on time for timely release.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR extended warm welcome to all and appreciated the co-operation being extended by the universities from time to time and hoped to breach the bar in research for achieving higher quality of education so that SAUs become most sought after destination by the students of other countries as well. The universities across the country should join hands and, share the knowledge and strive to take on programmes which are nationally relevant. Interventions to reduce labour cost in agriculture should be encouraged, he said. He also shared the information that agriculture was given prominence in the Hon’ble PM’s address in the last Science Congress. He cautioned against the creation of fragments of Gene Banks everywhere and called for enriching the National Gene Bank.

He requested inputs for the Vision 2050 document. He advocated that way forward should be through competitive and consortia modes and grants should be linked to performance in various spheres. He desired that the research work of Ph.D students should be focused and harmonized with the project objectives/mandates of the universities. Certain areas like certifications, farm implement machinery fabrication and string of referral laboratories need to be strengthened. The colleges should come up with good farms and capacity building in field work should be prioritized. The mobility of the personnel between universities and their periodic trainings need to be encouraged. He urged for creation and maintenance of robust data management system for easy online access of information on expertise, technology packages, on-going projects etc. He urged the IAUA to mantle the responsibility of formulating uniform nomenclature of courses and programmes. There should be a robust set of performance indicators for the PME Cell to prioritize, monitor and evaluate the outputs and outcome in all schemes and programmes. The universities must also give due importance for the regulation and quality assurance of higher agricultural education. Each and every university must have
locally relevant flagship programmes. It is proposed to add a new dimension in the NAARM with the arm of teachers’ academy, he added.

Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB, thanked the VCs for their support in updating the question bank, upgrading the advisors list, permitting the faculty for participation in the interviews. He briefed about the efforts of ASRB in conducting interviews on time and efforts towards filing up of vacancies. He also urged the VCs to have uniformity in nomenclature of various courses as per the ASRB disciplines. He also called upon the universities to prime the students for better performance in the NET examination.

Dr V.K. Taneja, President, Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA), in his address lauded the role of ICAR in promoting agricultural education and assured that IAUA would continue to play a greater role in the process of improving agricultural education. He was of the view that for further strengthening of the institutions, conservation /utilization of the biodiversity and demonstration of the technologies developed can be done by adopting a village or cluster. Agricultural Science hubs involving all stakeholders both public and private in each city must be created. Towards making the universities ready for NAEP, some seed money may be considered. He opined that universities should have a common programme for output and building a roadmap for future REE4D. He also felt the importance of the uniformity of score card across the universities w.r.t CAS.

Shri P.K. Pujari, Additional Secretary and F.A., DARE requested the VCs to review the progress made, lessons learnt and way forward mechanisms and formulate strategies to spend grants on time as revalidation of the sanction may not possible in the succeeding financial year.

The Hon'ble chairman opened the floor for general discussion.

Dr. K. Ramasamy, VC, TNAU, suggested that graduate student conferences should be encouraged for showcasing their talent. Priority areas should be set for higher performance. Knowledge delivery coupled with outcome should be emphasized in the universities. He also wanted more inputs towards farm mechanization especially on women empowerment and robust monitoring criteria. Special budget could be allocated for enhancing specific skills of the university.

Dr H. S. Gupta, Director (IARI) requested the chairman to pursue the matter with the Ministry of Finance about the fellowships to be at par with those of DST/CSIR. He also desired incentive mechanisms for promoting excellence. He was concerned about the silo approach and extensive compartmentalisation in the campuses.

Dr M. L. Chaudhary, VC, BAU, Sabour informed that each UG student is being given research contingency of Rs 6000 per annum by the Bihar Government.

Dr K. Narayana Gowda, VC, UAS, Bengaluru wanted some quota for JRF under Sericulture.
Dr. S. N. Puri wanted provision of stipend during industry attachment.

Dr. V. K. Taneja, VC, GADVASU & President, IAUA and Dr. C. S. Chakrabarti, VC, WBUAFS were concerned about the low intake capacity of students in Veterinary and Dairy Sciences and for PG, the number is much less. They requested some fellowships to be built in for enhancing the intake.

Dr. K. Sharma, ADG (HRD) informed that the NTS is proposed to be extended even for PG students. He also added that already one JRF position is available in Sericulture. There is also consideration of Teaching Associateship and Teaching Assistantship in the XII Plan.

Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Director (NDRI) wanted more grant for hostel facilities. Dr. K. R. Dhiman, VC, Dr. YSPUHF, Solan informed that the students have earned Rs one lakh each from the supply of planting material.

Dr. R. K. Mittal, VC, RAU, Pusa informed that the Task Force has recommended three modules of Experiential Learning Unit per college.

Dr. M. L. Chaudhary requested financial support for furnishing the new hostels.

[Action: All ADGs (Edn.) Division]

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the Proceedings.

The proceedings of the last VC Conference held in February 2012 were confirmed.

Agenda 2: Action Taken Reports on the recommendations

Most of the universities have sent compliance report. ADG (EPD) presented the Action Taken Report which was accepted after discussion. Noting the delay in the finalisation of reports by the three committees constituted in the last meeting, the chairman desired that the committees must submit their reports within a month.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 3: Success Stories of Agricultural Science, Technology & Innovation in AUs

Agenda 4: The Roadmap for Making Agriculture More Productive for Small Holder Farmers

Agenda 5: ARYA proposal and Vocational Courses in Agricultural Universities

In a special session on Agricultural Science, Technology and Innovations of agricultural universities chaired jointly by Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, Govt. of India and Prof. R. B. Singh, President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India. The following universities were chosen to highlight their significant innovative success stories:
University | Success Stories
--- | ---
1. AAU, Anand | a. Gujarat Model of Liquid Biofertilizers: Lab to Land & PPP  
| b. Vidya Dairy Entrepreneurship Model
2. Dr PDKV, Akola | Innovations in Rain-fed Agriculture and Value-addition
3. JAU, Junagadh | SAWAJ-TRICHODERMA: The Green Bio-control Agent
4. MAFSU, Nagpur | Dissemination of Cost-effective Technologies to the Farmers in Rain-fed Areas of Maharashtra
5. NAU, Navsari | a. Nauroji-Stonehose Trap: A Saga of Triumph over Fruit Flies  
| b. ELP on Biofertilizers: A Success Story
6. NDRI, Karnal | High-Impact Technologies
7. TANUVAS, Chennai | Impact in Agricultural Science, Technology and Innovations
8. TNAU, Coimbatore | Glimpses of Agriculture Science Technology & Innovations
9. UAS, Dharwad | Beej Mantra: Participatory Seed Production
10. UAS, Raichur | The e-SAP Real-time ICT Platform for Solution against Pests
11. UHS, Bagalkot | a. Innovative Approaches in HRM of Faculty  
| b. Bhagya-A New Drumstick Variety for Health and Income Security

Ho’ble DG, ICAR in his introduction said that this short session was meant to have flavour of innovations that are happening in the various universities. At least, a full day session would be required to capture all such success stories in the area of research, education and extension, he said.

Dr KS Khokhar, VC, CCS HAU, Hisar made a presentation on the Agenda no. 4. Following discussion on the presentation, the President, IAUA requested the DG, ICAR to give an opportunity for a workshop on the formulation of IAUA roadmap. The Director, IARI was requested to organise this workshop jointly with the IAUA. The Education Division would facilitate this workshop.

[Action: Director, IARI; President, IAUA; DDG (Edn.)]

Dr. K. Narayana Gowda, VC, UAS, Bangalore made a presentation on ARYA model. Dr H. S. Gupta, Director, IARI suggested a consultation with Rajiv Gandhi Bharat Nirman Seva Kendra for fine tuning the proposal. It was additionally pointed out that this model should not be a sub-set of extension programme.

Prof. Abhijit Sen appreciated the new vigour and the enthusiasm of the new universities and those from Gujarat in particular and exhorted others to emulate this spirit of innovation benefitting the society. Most of the new innovations were from the newly formed universities. He expressed concern about the lack of new technologies from the older universities. He
exhorted the universities to walk on the unusual path to break new ground. The universities must nurture talents for springing new innovations. There must be a business unusual approach in seeking new grounds. About ARYA, he said, the focus must be on rural youth so that the curious minds are united and youth are retained in the rural area. Role of youth in agriculture should be encouraged.

Dr R. B. Singh, President NAAS, was of the view that VCs should strive to take forward the innovations. He stressed on linking the youth with Hands on Training and connecting students with the industry. Most of the new innovations were from the newly formed universities. He suggested that the groups working on particular innovations must come together with the geometry of convergence. While appreciating the innovations, he called upon the universities to scale them up for higher impact and desired a two-day session on agricultural innovations.

[Action: All VCs & ADG (EPD)]

**Agenda 6: VIP Reference - Measures for Enhancing Agriculture Productivity, Profitability and Sustainability of Rain-Fed Farming**

The VIP reference was discussed and after careful and diligent consideration, the following decisions were arrived at:

- Post Graduate studies involve mastery in the chosen subject so that these students evolve into knowledge and science managers.
- Since M.Sc. Programme is of four semester duration with the heavy academic load, the PG students can’t be spared as extension agents.

However, the meeting noted that the dissertation work wherever possible, particularly in the field of Social Sciences may involve farmers’ interaction benefitting the farming communities.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

**Agenda 7: EPD Related Issues & Progress**

It was informed about the XIII Agri-unifests being hosted by JNKVV, Jabalpur from 24-28 February, 2013 and the XIV Agri-sports being organised by KAVFSU, Bidar from 6-10 March 2013. These events would be held in two-tier i.e. zonal and national levels in future.

UAS, Dharwad and AAU, Jorhat have earlier volunteered to host XIV Agri-unifest and XV Agri-unisports in 2013-14 respectively. The request from UAS, Bengaluru to host the XIV All India Agri-unifest in 2013-14 as a part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration was accepted. UAS, Dharwad may host the zonal event in 2013-14.

[Action: VC, UAS, Bengaluru; VC, AAU, Jorhat and ADG (EPD)]
Dr C. Devakumar, ADG (EPD) apprised the house about the status of release of ICAR grants and requested the universities to comply with the requisite documents. There was also a detailed discussion about the scope and objectives of TSP. It was decided to send again the email attaching a copy of the guidelines and list of CD Blocks to all the universities.

The scope and objectives as well as guidelines of both the flagship programmes of Education Division namely NAE and ELU were highlighted. The universities were requested to mentor the faculty right from the stage of formulation of proposals through the execution.

[Action: All VCs]

**Agenda 7.1: XII Plan Initiatives-Mainstreaming with Strategies of Higher Education**

ADG (EPD) outlined the thrust areas identified in the XII Plan Approach Paper of Planning Commission as well as the major initiatives that are being proposed under XII Plan. He urged the universities in general and the President in particular to analyze the Approach Paper of XII Plan on HRD and skill development and provide useful suggestions in achieving increased access, expansion and excellence of agricultural education. He particularly emphasized the need for having revised guidelines for new civil works so that uniformity and economy could be incorporated in the construction of new green buildings.

[Action: All VCs/President, IAUA]

**Agenda 7.2: Guidelines for New Civil Works and Good Models of Civil Works Completed in XI Plan**

During XI Plan financial support for the construction of new boys' hostel, girls' hostel, international hostels, and educational museum were provided to the universities. Many universities have innovated in making green buildings with aesthetic sense and in an economical way. The universities were requested to provide details of the best design for appropriate use in the new guidelines on civil works. It was proposed to develop robust guidelines in consultation with the Dir (Works) for ensuring uniformity across the country in a particular civil work such as hostels, smart class rooms etc. Moreover, the concept of the green building and the aesthetic sense could be incorporated in the most economical way. Suggestions are invited from the universities by 15 April, 2013.

[Action: All VCs]

**Agenda 7.3: Reaping a Knowledge Dividend from Reshaping India’s Agricultural Education and Learning- Ajit Maru (GFAR Secretariat, Rome)**

Among the most important pathways for India to grow continuously at a rapid pace would be one that reaps a knowledge dividend from its projected demographic dividend. India would
have 65% of its population between 15-59 years of age by 2035. There is consensus that India needs a new Agriculture. An agriculture that is not only focused on production, productivity and profit but on sustainability and resilience in their broadest connotation and which contributes to improving the quality of life of all of India’s people, thus ensuring inclusiveness and equity in growth, development and progress.

The new Agriculture for India will have to be more knowledge based than today. It will have to improve efficiency and use of all resources along the entire agricultural, both food and non-food, commodity chain from input, production, harvest, movement and transport, post harvest processing, marketing and consumption. How can India reap a knowledge dividend from its demographic dividend for agricultural growth? The answer lies in India preparing its knowledge systems for agricultural innovation. Continuous innovation along the entire agricultural commodity chains will yield huge economic and in turn, social, benefits for India's people, a majority of whom will still in the foreseeable future till 2050 be dependent on agricultural and allied occupations.

The State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) in India are the fountainheads of its agricultural knowledge systems. These knowledge systems encompass not only the scientists, teachers, technicians and the graduate and post graduate alumni of these universities but all the actors and stakeholders of agriculture and its efficient production and use of commodities. Thus, the agricultural knowledge systems of India will have to address not only the formal, on campus educational needs but also the informal, off campus learning in communities, both rural and urban to efficiently produce, process, market and consume agricultural commodities and contribute to improving the quality of life. The education and learning provided will need to support both the generation and dissemination of knowledge, skills and technology required by the new sectors of Indian economy such as of agro-industries, agri-business and agri-services. Agriculture's contribution to improving the environment, as is being now done in the developed North, will also need to be recognized and its knowledge needs catered to. [Action: All VCs]

**Agenda 7.4: Initiating CIARD.RING India**

The Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) movement (See [http://www.ciard.net](http://www.ciard.net)) is working to make agricultural research information publicly available and accessible to all. The CIARD.RING is "a Routemap to Information Nodes and Gateways (RING) that share information related to Agricultural Research and Innovation for Development (ARD)". While managing a registry of agriculture related information services at the national level, also seamlessly link with the global CIARD.RING. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has joined CIARD and the Director General (ICAR) has approved in
December 2010 that all ICAR Institutes can participate in CIARD. Similarly, several State Agricultural Universities were approached and some expressed interest.

The CIARD Routemap to Information Nodes and Gateways (RING) is a project implemented within the Coherence in Information for Agricultural Research for Development (CIARD) initiative and is led by the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

The RING is a global registry of web-based services that give access to any kind of information pertaining to agricultural research for development (ARD). It is the principal tool created through the CIARD initiative to allow information providers to register their services in various categories and so facilitate the discovery of sources of agriculture-related information across the world. The RING aims to provide an infrastructure to improve the accessibility of the outputs of agricultural research and of information relevant to ARD management.

SAUs are requested to register their information in CIARD.RING (http://ring.ciard.net).

[Action: All VCs]

AGENDA 7.5: Agenda from the Universities

The following points were raised and duly noted. These could be considered in XII Plan subject to availability of funds.

Agenda 7.5.1: Requirement of Transit Hostel for SAUs

Agenda 7.5.2: Establishment of Technology Park at the University

Agenda 7.5.3: Modernization of Veterinary Hospitals with Ambulatory Facility

It was stated that Department of Animal husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries has scheme for modernization and strengthening of veterinary colleges and providing ambulatory services. The universities were asked to approach DAH & DF for financial support. It was informed that Ms Maneka Gandhi, Hon'ble MP disapproved farming of emu, rabbit and Japanese quail. Concerns about the hygiene and ethics in the slaughterhouses which are mostly unorganised were also raised. DDG (As) promised to send a detailed note on these issues. At the time of preparation of the proceedings, he has sent the following note:

1. Discontinuation/stopping of breeding of Japanese quail: Most of the Vice chancellors of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Universities were of the view that Japanese Quail farming is extensively done in different parts of India. Its meat is very popular and the farming is livelihood security of considerable number of families in different states particularly Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. It was a considered opinion of the house that Japanese quail is not a wild species. Therefore, stopping research/farming does not appear to be logical.
2. **Discontinuation/stopping of breeding Emu:** Emu farming has over the years spread to almost all parts of India and it is a source of livelihood for the rearers and their families especially in the states of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Punjab. The emu oil also being marketed by producers and is believed to have medicinal values. Though, it may be debatable whether emu farming is profitable or not, ICAR cannot advice the states to put a ban on the farming.

3. **Discontinuation/stopping of breeding Rabbits:** Rabbits have been bred/farmed not only in hilly regions but also in Southern States of the country for quite a long time and it has become a source of livelihood security for the rearers and their families in these regions. Rabbit farming existed much before ICAR started research on rabbit farming. The Vice Chancellors did not favour stopping breeding / research on rabbits.

4. **Improvement in Slaughter House hygien:** There was total unanimity amongst the VC's that efforts should be made to improve the hygienic conditions of slaughter houses.

5. **Training of Butchers:** It was agreed that butchers may be appropriately trained. The task of training of butchers can be taken by NRC on Meat, NRC on pigs and also state veterinary/agriculture universities where good slaughter house facilities are available.

6. **Menace of animals (Blue bull, dear, Monkey, boar, etc) in agriculture farms:** Several Vice-chancellors expressed concern about the damage done by wild/stray animals to crops/fruits/vegetables in several parts of the country. No concrete suggestions emerged from the discussion except that some VC's suggested that growing lemon grass prevents entry of animals in the area.

**Agenda 7.5.4: Revolving Fund for Experiential Learning Unit**

Dr R.R. Hanchinal, VC, UAS, Dharwad presented the agenda. Dr R. K. Mittal, VC, RAU, Pusa (Samastipur) informed that a similar provision is already built-in the report of the Task Force set-up for formulating new Experiential Learning modules.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

**Agenda 7.5.5: Incentives to Students in Relation to Sports and Cultural Activities**

Dr. S. B. Dandin, VC, UHS, Bagalkot presented the agenda for creation of incentives such as financial assistance for sports and cultural fellowship for those who get medals (gold, silver & bronze) at Inter Agricultural University youth festival/ sports meets for pursuing M.Sc/Ph.D. programme. The point was appreciated and noted for further consideration in the XII Plan.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]
**Agenda 7.5.6: Special Grants to the Century Old Faculty/Colleges**

This issue was raised by Dr. C S Chakrabarti, VC, WBUAFS, Kolkata. ADG (EPD) presented the following data about the number of Constituent Colleges that will complete 25/50/75/100 years or more during XII Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Category of constituent colleges</th>
<th>Number of Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Silver Jubilee</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Golden Jubilee</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Platinum Jubilee</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Centenary</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking note of this huge number of jubilee colleges, some sort of endowments need to be thought of. The universities were suggested to raise more funds through other sources also.

[Action: All VCs & ADG (EPD)]

**AGENDA 8: HRD Related Issues & Progress**

**Agenda 8.1 : Adoption of Uniform Policy by the Agricultural Universities for Admission of Candidates with or without ICAR Senior Research Fellowship [SRF (PGS)]**

ADG (HRD) presented the agenda. He mentioned that ICAR SRF (PGS) is a prestigious National level examination to award ICAR Senior Research Fellowships to encourage talented students to undertake Higher Agricultural Education in National Agricultural Research System. Since it is not an admission test candidates will have to take admission on their own. There is a wide variation in giving weightage to SRF (PGS) qualified candidates in admission to Ph. D. programme by SAUs. Many a times they have to appear in admission test of respective universities again. ADG (HRD) requested for an uniform policy in giving weightage/preference to SRF (PGS) grantees for admission against 25 % quota of ICAR prescribed by the Universities. After a detailed discussion it was decided that ICAR SRF (PGS) being a national level examination, all candidates who have qualified SRF(PGS) may be given admission in PhD against available seats in order of merit without any further examination at the University level.

**Agenda 8.2 : Completion of course work requirement instead of completion of Postgraduate degree as a criterion of eligibility requirement for All India Competitive Examination for the award of SRF (PGS).**

ADG (HRD) presented the agenda. The matter was deliberated upon at length and it was decided that the existing system for determining the eligibility requirements be continued for the SRF (PGS) examination.
Agenda 8.3  : Change of nomenclature of B.Sc. (Home Science) degree programme offered in the State Agricultural Universities as Bachelor of Home Science (BHSc).

ADG (HRD) presented the agenda. He informed that the SAUs are offering B.Sc. (Home Science) degree programme of four years duration under the faculty of Home Science, whereas B.Sc. (Home Science) degree programme of three years duration is being offered by General Universities. The new nomenclature has been proposed by TNAU, Coimbatore to differentiate the degree programmes of SAUs from the degree programmes of Conventional Universities. In this context he invited the attention of Vice Chancellors to the recommendations of the Committee to Review the Essential Qualification and Nomenclature of Various Degree Programmes in Agricultural Universities under the chairmanship of Prof. R.B. Lal, Vice-chancellor, SHIATS, Allahabad. This committee has recommended the nomenclature of B.Sc. (Home Science) degree programme as B.Sc.(Hons.) Home Science for implementation by the Universities. It was decided that the nomenclature of B.Sc. (Home Science) degree programme offered in the State Agricultural Universities may be kept as B.Sc. (Hons) Home Science as recommended by Prof. R.B. Lal Committee and the same may be implemented by the respective SAUs. Similarly, Honours be also added in agricultural stream.

Agenda 8.4  : Implementation of Report of the Committee to "Review the Essential Qualification and Nomenclature of Various Degree Programmes in Agricultural Universities".

ADG (HRD) presented the agenda. He informed that in pursuant to decision taken during Special Meeting of the Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities held on 4th October, 2010 at NASC Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi, a Committee was constituted to review existing essential qualifications for admission and nomenclature of various degree programmes and work out the modalities to bring uniformity in essential qualifications for admission and nomenclature of various degree programmes across the AUs under the Chairmanship of prof. R. B. Lal, Vice Chancellor, SHIATS, Allahabad. The Final Report of the Committee approved by Competent Authority was uploaded on ICAR Website (www.icar.org.in) on 14th August, 2012 for adoption and uniform implementation by the Universities. it was decided that the final report of the Committee as uploaded on the ICAR website on 14th August, 2012 be adopted and uniformly implemented across SAUs.
**Agenda 8.5 : Recognition of 2+2 UG degree programme in International Horticulture and Marketing; and International Agribusiness & Trade for admission in Master's Degree in SAUs**

ADG (HRD) presented the agenda. He informed that the College of Agriculture, Shardenagar, Baramati, affiliated to MPKV, Rahuri has introduced 2+2 UG Degree programme to be awarded in agriculture with specialization in International Horticulture and Marketing; and International Agribusiness and Trade by Van Hall Larenstein Institute, University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands. However, the decision regarding admission of students having specialization in International Horticulture and Marketing to PG Horticulture Programme of this College may be taken by all the Universities. However, students need to be admitted in horticulture/Agribusiness management on the basis of their specialization. In PG Agribusiness programme, the students with this degree may be considered for admission. It was decided that such new courses should be started by the Universities after careful consideration at the level of IAUA or other forum. The nomenclature and course contents of the degrees should be uniform as far as possible so that the passed out students should not face problems in admission in AUs. MPKV was requested to examine the possible recognition of 2+2 degree programme.

**Agenda 8.6 : Agenda from the Universities**

**Agenda 8.6.1: Students Enrolled under MBA (Agri Business) needs Exposure**
Orientation for students in IIMs for at least one month to gain professional knowledge and ideas are needed for their professional growth. ICAR funding would be necessary to support such orientation programme. The point was raised and duly noted.

**Agenda 8.6.2: Provision of Training cum Practical Training for Renowned Scientists**
The point was noted.

**Agenda 8.6.3: Fellowship in SAUs for Higher Studies**
Vice-Chancellor, BAU Sabour presented the agenda. It was pointed out that in most of the SAUs, state budgets are not enough to meet the fellowship requirements of the students those opt for higher studies in agriculture. This results in poor post graduate research output. To encourage the students for higher studies, the SAUs need to enhance the fellowship in line with fellowship given to PG students of deemed universities of ICAR. Therefore, ICAR may support for PG fellowships in AUs. ADG (HRD) informed that this point may be considered at EFC stage of XII plan.
Agenda 8.6.4: Revival of faculty (scientists/ teacher) exchange programme
Vice-Chancellor, SKA RAU, Bikaner submitted that Faculty exchange programme can work as a way for integrated Faculty Capacity Building by revitalizing course curriculum and improving campus culture. The suggestion was noted for necessary action by the house.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.6.5: Uniform Eligibility Criteria for Admission to M.Sc. (Ag.) and Ph.D
Action as suggested at agenda no. 8.4

Agenda 8.6.6: Establishment of Research Project Monitoring Cell
The agenda was presented by TNUVAS, Chennai. It was pointed out that establishing project monitoring cell in SAUs and SVUs with all modern facilities like Video-Conferencing is need of the hour. The projects can be effectively monitored on-line and cut-short the time and expenditure for travel. It was informed that PME cells have been funded in XI Plan by ICAR. This component has been taken up in NAIP too but Monitoring should be broad based. The house noted the suggestion for necessary action.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.6.7: Research contingencies to the individual scientists
The agenda was presented by TNUVAS, Chennai. It was suggested that the Modalities should be devised to allot small and medium budget ad-hoc schemes to each and every scientist under ICAR system from Research Contingency Grant. This will motivate the scientists, particularly young scientists, to find more number of researchable areas and will improve researching ability of the scientists and they become competitive enough to propose winnable projects and bag the projects from national and international agencies. DG, ICAR informed that extramural funding for research programmes in the universities/ ICAR institutes will be considered during XII plan.

Agenda 8.6.8: Under-graduate Research Work
The agenda was presented by TNUVAS, Chennai. It was informed that as per recommendations of IV Deans’ Committee, two credits for seminar and two credits for small scale research projects leading to publication of research articles should be introduced in under graduate education programme in Veterinary and Animal Sciences faculty with concurrence of Veterinary Council of India (VCI). The point was discussed and it was considered to be in the domain of VCI.

[Action: All VCs of AUs having Veterinary Faculty]
Agenda 8.6.9: Enhancement of State Limit for Students Admission

Dr. S. B. Dandin, VC, UHS, Bagalkot presented the agenda. He pointed out that the state limit in All India Competitive Examination be raised from 40-60% seat selection in each University. The matter was discussed and it was decided that the existing state limit of not more than 40% students to be admitted from one State be maintained in order to reduce inbreeding.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.6.10: Enhancement of ICAR JRF in Horticulture

The point will be considered at the time of increasing the number of ICAR JRF (PGS) fellowships.

[Action: ADG, HRD]

Agenda 8.6.11: Enhancement of Internship for the Veterinary students, Implant Training for the Students of the Faculty of Dairy Technology and the Faculty of Fishery Sciences

Action as suggested at agenda no. 8.6.5.

AGENDA 9: EQR Related Issues and Progress

Agenda 9.1: MoA and Accreditation Process Handbook of the Indian Board of Accreditation in AICTE – Approved Institutions

The House was informed that the UGC and AICTE would in near future bring out a revised system of accreditation of the universities and programmes being run by them. It would be circulated to all the Universities. Education Division, ICAR has been in contact with the UGC and the AICTE through participation in their meetings called for the purpose.

[Action: Universities concerned and Education Division, ICAR]

Agenda 9.2: The Regulation and Maintenance of Norms and Standards of Technical Education Conducted through Distance or Hybrid or Blended Modes

The house was informed that the norms and standards approved by the AICTE and Distance Education Council would also be applicable for technical education in SAUs for distance and hybrid modes.

[For information to all concerned universities]

Agenda 9.3: Mandatory Accreditation as per UGC Norms

The Universities must apply for accreditation with Self Study Report to the ICAR on time. Considering it, mandatory for all the AU as per UGC norms.

[Action: All the concerned SAUs]
Agenda 9.4: Provision of Advance Fellowship to the Students Sponsored Under India-Africa and India-Afghanistan International Fellowship Programmes

Students admitted under the India-Africa as well as India-Afghanistan Cooperation in Agriculture programmes have been reporting difficulties in meeting their expenses till the time their fellowship is being released by the DARE, GoI. It takes about 3-4 months as the process of release of fellowship starts after receiving joining report w.r.t. the scholar from the University. A letter has already been written by the Education Division, ICAR to all the AUs to extend financial support to the admitted scholars under these programmes equivalent to about 3-4 months of fellowship amount on monthly basis. This advance may be recovered from the fellowship when received from the DARE. The House debated on the issue and it was agreed that the scholars admitted under these programmes will be given financial support through advance fellowship on monthly basis for a period of 4 months and get the amount reimbursed/ deducted from the fellowship released for the scholar by DARE.

[Action: All SAUs, CUs and ICAR Institute based DUs]

Agenda 9.5: New Courses proposed

a) Course on Vertebrate Pests
b) Course on Accountancy and Economics
c) Course in Disaster Risk Management
d) Course on Humane Alternatives in Animal Models
e) Course on Disability Management in Agriculture

Based on the suggestions/proposals received from the Universities from time-to-time, the agenda points with details were presented by the ADG (EQR). Issues related to the inclusion of the above listed courses in the curricula at B.Sc, M.Sc. and Ph.D. level programmes were discussed by the House in details. The House observed that there is need to include new courses in B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. programmes depending upon the emerging areas of importance, demand from the industry/ market and local needs. The IV Deans Committee has already provided scope for introduction of new courses and electives by the Universities. However, it was also felt that the programme at B.Sc level is already overloaded with virtually no scope to add newer programmes.

The House resolved that Universities on the recommendations of their Academic Councils may introduce new courses depending upon the felt need, to begin with as electives. At M.Sc. and Ph.D level, these could be introduced as a new course in the basket of courses for the programmes. However, proper care must be taken that the quality instruction material and
laboratory facilities are well in place before starting the courses and adequate faculty is available.

[Action: All the concerned universities]

Agenda 9.6: From the Universities

Agenda 9.61: Foreign Agricultural Missions Visits Abroad

On the recommendations of IAUA, GB Meeting held on 13.12.2011 at AAU Jorhat, the issue of inclusion of some VCs in the Foreign Agriculture Mission Visiting abroad was discussed. The House had the view that presence of VCs in such delegations will be helpful from technical and educational aspects. Hence, ICAR may recommend inclusion of some VCs in Agricultural Mission Visiting abroad.

[Action: ICAR and DARE]

Agenda 9.6.2: Include more courses in Basic-Sciences in U.G. Curricula

The House felt the need for strengthening the basic/fundamental knowledge of U.G. students. Hence, wherever possible, courses on Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Botany could be included in the curricula to upgrade the deficient students.

[Action: SAUs]

Agenda 9.6.3: Inter University Scientist Exchange Programme

The issue was flagged on proposal from MAU Parbhani for facilitating academic, research and extension work with mutual cooperation between ICAR Institutes and Universities. It was recommended that the institution concerned may enter into MoU for exchange and sharing of scientists/faculty for mutual benefits. The guidelines to this effect have already been developed by ICAR and need to be adopted. Also, visits of scientists to institution abroad may be facilitated through simplification of the procedure.

[Action: All concerned universities]

Agenda 9.6.4: E-Technology Transfer Cell

The House observed that the conventional methods of technology transfer may not be effective in present day situations. Hence, e-technology transfer Cell could be created at University level for exploring, devising, installing, operationalizing, and monitoring of technology transfer programmes in electronic mode. Mobile telephony has already paved the way in this direction.

[Action: All SAUs]
Agenda 9.6.5: Issues Concerning International Students

(i) Joining of Candidates on Time
The House discussed the issue in great length. It was recommended that processing of applications, and process of admission of foreign students in AUs need to be speeded up. Sufficient time may be allowed to the University and the candidate to get prepared and commence the studies on time.

[Action: ICAR and DARE]

(ii) Settlement Grant for The Students on Arrival
In view of financial hardships faced by the foreign students on their registration in University and the time of release of Fellowship by concerned agencies, they may be provided financial help. It may be done by advance payment of Fellowship to them for 3-4 months on monthly basis. Also, hostel facilities and guest house accommodation (if required) may be provided to them on concessional rates.

[Action: All AUs]

(iii) Disbursement of monthly stipend to the candidates
It may be examined if sponsoring/funding agencies could release Fellowship amount for 1-2 months on joining of the foreign student in the University. The matter shall be taken up with DARE & MEA.

[Action: ICAR and DARE]

(iv) Financial support by the funding agencies to get Medical Insurance
The House debated on this issue. It was recommended that medical insurance expenses of the foreign students may be treated as reimbursable by the funding agencies.

[Action: ICAR and DARE]

Agenda 9.6.6: Permission of GoI/DARE for International MoUs/Conferences

The delegates observed that there are considerable delays in getting permission for entering into MoUs by AUs with universities/institutions abroad. The process was explained by DARE officials. The House was of the view that their process may be simplified and time limit may be fixed for getting the reply.

[Action: ICAR and DARE]
Agenda 9.6.7: Approval to Open New Agriculture Colleges

The House deliberated on this agenda in details with specific examples of starting affiliated colleges in private sector in Maharashtra and Chhatisgarh. The House recommends discouraging such proliferation of the Colleges without matching quality standards.

[Action: All SAUs]

Agenda 9.6.8: Exposure Visits of the Senior Faculty Members in reputed International Institutes/Organization.

On the Proposal submitted by RVSKVV, Gwalior the issue of facilitating exposure visits of the senior faculty members in reputed international institutes/organizations was discussed. The House recommended that some provision may be made in the plan budget of the University for such activities. It is expected to improve the competence of the faculty for academic, research and extension activities.

[Action: All the AUs]

Agenda 9.6.9: Guidelines for reaching Memorandum of Understanding with foreign universities

The House observed that a large number of MoUs have been developed by SAUs for cooperation/collaboration with foreign universities and institutions. Such cooperation is expected to promote advancement in the quality of education and research. It was recommended that the process of approval of the MoUs may be simplified and necessary guidelines to the universities may be issued so that different criteria/points could be included in the MoU.

[Action: ICAR and DARE]

Agenda 9.6.10: Up-gradation of Course Content on Epidemiology for Managing Trans-boundary Diseases of Agricultural Importance

The proposal was received from TANUVAS, Chennai for up gradation of the course content on epidemiology. The House observed that such upgradation is well within the authority of the academic council of the university. Hence, decision may be taken at the University level (Action: All the concerned SAUs).

Agenda 9.6.11: Making Sports as Part of Curriculum in SAUs

The Agenda was flagged by UAS, Bangalore. It was debated in details. The House was of the view that the proposal cannot be agreed to at this stage.

[Action: All SAUs]
Agenda 9.6.12: Reduction in Workload for B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering)

The Agenda item put up by UAS, Bangalore was not agreed by the House.

Agenda 9.6.13: Admission of B.Sc. (Sericulture) Graduates for Postgraduate Courses in Related Discipline.

The Agenda raised by UAS, Bangalore was discussed. The House observed that the Policy of not including programmes that are conducted by less than three universities needs to be adhered to.

Agenda 10: From Sr. F&AO (Edn.)

Agenda 10.1: Adoption General Financial Rules-2005

Regarding the adoption of GFR- 2005, FA (DARE) clarified that the universities should follow State Government rules rather than having piece meal approach. This point was noted.

Agenda 10.2: AUCs from Local Audit/ Statutory Audit w.e.f. 2012-13

On the issue of accepting AUC issued by Chartered Accountants, it was clarified that it is acceptable only in respective of State Government having such provisions as in case of Karnataka and Rajasthan.

[Action: All VCs & Sr F&AO]

Agenda 10.3: No More Requests for Revalidation

The Additional Secretary & FA (DARE) explained that there is no such provision for revalidation of the unspent grant but Council may consider revalidation of the sanction if adequate funds are available in the succeeding financial year. He further advised the universities to be pro-active and prudent in fiscal planning. The universities must inform ICAR well in advance in case of such situation within the same financial year.

[Action: All VCs]

AGENDA 10.4: From the Universities

Agenda 10.4.1: Requesting ICAR to Accept The Audited Utilization Certificate Issued by The Charted Accountants

This agenda was already covered under Agenda 10.2.

[Action: Sr F&AO]

Agenda 10.4.2: Accordal of ICAR Permission to Utilize the Unspent Balance of 6th CPC Arrears By Revalidation Of Unspent Balance

Accordal of ICAR's permission was already settled. The point was noted for record.

[Action: Sr F&AO]
Agenda 11: Other Issues Received from the Universities

The following agenda items were in the nature of seeking financial support from ICAR. The universities were advised to also explore alternate sources of support.

Agenda 11.1: Centre for Advanced Studies in Agricultural Education- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.2: Sandwich Course Programme for Students- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.3: Establishment of Centre for Open & Distance learning- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.4: Establishing a Controlled Climate Seed Storage Facility for Breeding Materials- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.5: Establishment of Food Quality Control Laboratory- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.6: Strengthening of Quality Seed Production Programme- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.7: Strengthening of Directorate of Research- BAU, Sabour & TANUVAS, Chennai
Agenda 11.8: Kisan Choupal- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.9: Farmer Friendly Publication- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.10: Village Knowledge Resource Centre- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.11: Directorate of Training and Placement- BAU, Sabour
Agenda 11.13: Establishment of Seed Bank (State-wise) to Conserve Elite Germplasm- NAU, Navsari
Agenda 11.16: Provision of Single Window Services/Advise System at University Head-quarter- RVSKVV, Gwalior
Agenda 11.17: Establishing Communication Centre at University Head-quarter- RVSKVV, Gwalior

Agenda 11.12: Umbrella MOU between ICAR and SAUs in Respect of All Schemes

Dr. N.C. Patel, JAU, Junagadh raised this agenda. It was informed that the Council is seized of this matter and action is in progress.

Agenda 11.14: Timely Release of Funds

This is being merged with Agenda no. 34

Agenda 11.15: Provision of Funds for Retirement Benefits to the Staff Working in ICAR Projects- PAU, Ludhiana & RVSKVV, Gwalior

This point was noted. [Action: Dir (Fin.)/ADG (PIM)]

Agenda 11.18: Provision of Separate Funds for Extension, Repair and Renovation of Existing KVK Buildings- RVSKVV, Gwalior
Agenda 11.19: Provision of ATIC Facilities- RVSKVV, Gwalior
Agenda 11.20: Difference in Pay Structure of (SMS and Prog. Co-ordinator) Scientists Working at KVKs and Others- SKRAU, Bikaner
Agenda 11.21: Creating a Special Cell for Augmenting Revenue Generation- SKRAU, Bikaner

Agenda 11.22: Improving Post Graduate Education- TANUVAS, Chennai

Agenda 11.23: Inclusion of Sericulture under Area Domain of Research by ICAR- UAS, Dharwad

Agenda 11.24: Provision of Grants for Institutional Farm Development and Establishment of Laboratory under XII Five Year Plan- UAS, Dharwad

Agenda 11.25: Up-gradation of Programme Co-ordinator Post of KVK from Senior Scientist to Principal Scientist and Programme Assistant post to Assistant Professor Cadre- UAS, Dharwad

Agenda 11.27: Providing Technical Assistance for Technological Backstopping to DEE along with Ministerial Staff at the SRF rate- UAS, Dharwad

Agenda 11.29: Grant for Establishment of a Farmers’/Extension Training Centre- NU, Nagaland

The above agenda related to KVKs were noted

(Action: DDG (Extn))

Agenda 11.28: Hindrance to Public Breeding will Seriously Impact Food Security: Concern of Biodiversity Act 2002- UAS, Dharwad

These points were noted.

Agenda 11.26: Anomaly in 6th UGC Pay-scale i.e., Grade Pay to be equated to Scientists of ICAR. An amount of Rs.600/- is deficit in Grade Pay as against Scientist- UAS, Dharwad

Agenda 11.30: Age of Superannuation of Vice Chancellors and Faculty- IARI, New Delhi

Agenda 11.31: Pay and Allowance of HoDs and Management Positions- IARI, New Delhi

The points were noted. The decision of the Council will be communicated.

[Action: DS (Edn.))]

Agenda 11.32: Externally Aided Projects (EAPs)- KAU, Thrissur

This agenda was dropped.

Agenda 11.33: Score Cards for Career Advancement- KAU, Thrissur

The point was noted.

[Action: The President, IAUA]

Agenda 11.34: Consideration of Opening AICRP Centres

Regarding agenda no. 11.14 and 11.34 related to AICRPs, it was informed that the SMDs may take suitable action. Further, it was shared that respective SMDs of ICAR are in the process of formulating new framework to make the centres more active and efficient in delivering the targeted outputs.
CONCLUDING SESSION:

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR asked the SMDs and other senior officers of ICAR for their responses.

Dr. S.K. Datta, DDG (CS) advocated the slimming of the staff in AICRPs and comprehensive re-structuring with focus on infrastructure development. The AICRPs must complement the mandates of crop based institutions on major crops. The VC Conference in general and our consultation with the SAUs must be driven by S & T rather than the sole motive of grant in-aid.

Dr. M.M. Pandey, DDG (Engg.) desired that the rate of return in AICRPs must be enhanced. He also desired that:

- An element of competitiveness may be incorporated among the centres. Some centres can be considered on competitive mode.
- The universities must send quality proposals under RKVY and strictly avoid duplication.
- Basic sciences should be critically promoted in the campuses.

He appreciated the performance of the engineering students from TNAU, PAU and GBPUAT.

Dr. K.D. Kokate, DDG (Extn) advocated more thrust on research in extension and improved quality both at PG and Ph.D levels. He requested the VCs to strengthen the Directorates of Extension Education and create a feeling of ownership by the faculty and other stakeholders. He also wanted SAUs to plan for accelerated growth of innovations with constant feedback from the Directorate of Extension Education. He informed about the new initiative of ‘Farmers First’ as a flagship programme of XII Plan. He reiterated that ARYA should be distinct from extension activities lest the KVKs will be burdened.

Dr. Meenakumari, DDG (Fy) advised the universities to give greater emphasis on post-harvest technologies, diagnostics and pharmacology in fisheries. She also desired the promotion of model fish pond for teaching and demonstration.

Dr. N.K. Krishna Kumar, DDG (Hort.) endorsing the comments of DDG (Engg.) lamented about the lack lustre report being sent by some of the centres. He read out the three options advanced by Dr. S. Maiti, Dir (DMAPR) Boriavi, Gujarat in the revised framework of AICRPs. He requested the Sectoral Committee of Accreditation Board to look into the avoidable mosaic of nomenclature for the courses/degrees in the field of Horticulture. He desired for more integrated courses for imparting holistic knowledge and skills.

Dr. A.K. Sikka, DDG (NRM) appreciated the initiative on special session (Agenda no. 3) as a part of the VCs conference. Welcoming the new course on disaster management, he hoped that its syllabus would be comprehensive.
Dr. D. Rama Rao, ND (NAIP) appreciated the efforts of the universities in the NAIP component of livelihood security. He reiterated that the universities should seek support from corporate donors, alumni etc.

Dr S. L. Goswami, Director (NAARM) informed about the proposed monitoring scheme as a part of the XII Plan activities of NAARM. He also wanted a dedicated cell in each university for HRD for capacity building and envisioning.

Dr S. Mauria, ADG (IP&TM) wanted scale-up and internalization of IPR dimension in technology incubation. He expressed his concerns that public sector is lagging in exploration and exploitation of germplasm.

Dr B. S. Prakash, ADG (AN&P) advocated pooling of skills for crossing the threshold in achieving excellence.

Dr Rameshwar Singh, Director (DKMA) requested the VCs to enhance the web content and exploit the services of NAIP consortia on e-learning, CeRA, e-granth, Agro-web, Rice-Portal etc.

Dr A. K. Vashisht, ADG (PIM) informed that two volumes on AICRPs staff base will be soon uploaded in the ICAR website.

Dr. T. C. Thakur, ICAR, National Professor appreciated the new agenda (Agenda No. 3) but also sought a slot for the ICAR National Professors.

Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG (Edn.) informed that the online application for All-India examination has crossed 100 K. He informed that both JRF and SRF numbers are likely to be increased by about 25% in XII Plan. There will also be likely provision of introduction of PDF. He advocated caution against dismantling of AICRPs as they have served the NARS most effectively in the past. Regarding the proposal of new courses, organization of nomenclature of courses and degree programmes, he assured that the Sectoral Committee of the Accreditation Board would look into it. He also requested the VCs to respond to the pending issues raised by the Education Division.

Dr. C. Devakumar proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and all other distinguished participants. He also thanked organizing committee and the ICAR officials who gave unstinted co-operation in the organization of the conference.

***************