



भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
कृषि शिक्षा प्रभाग
कृषि अनुसंधान भवन-II, पूसा, नई दिल्ली-110012
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Agricultural Education Division
Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan-II, Pusa, New Delhi-110012

F.No. Ag.Edn/27-8/NP-NF Guidelines/2025-HRD(e-402532)

Dated: 11th June, 2026

To

1. All Vice-Chancellors, State Agricultural Universities/CAUs/
ICAR-DUs/ CUs having faculty of Agriculture.
2. All Directors, ICAR Institutes.

Subject : Revised Guidelines for ICAR-National Professor.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority in the ICAR for revision of guidelines for ICAR-National Professor as approved by the Governing Body in its 265th meeting held on 28.02.2026. These guidelines supersede all previous guidelines and may be followed by all concerned Agricultural universities/ICAR Institutes effective from 22.04.2026. A copy of the guidelines is appended herewith for information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


(S.K.Gajmoti)
Director (Agril. Edn.)

Encl: **As above**

Copy to:

1. All DDGs, ICAR/ All ADGs, ICAR, Director (P), Director (F), ICAR
2. Sr.PPS to DG, ICAR/ PPS to Secretary, ICAR/ PPS to AS &FA, ICAR
3. Sr. F &AO (Agril. Edn.), ICAR
4. All Officers/Sections of ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, KAB-I &II, Pusa
5. DKMA for uploading the same on the ICAR website

GUIDELINES FOR ICAR NATIONAL PROFESSOR

(Revised and Approved in ICAR 265th GB meeting on 28.02.2026)

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To promote excellence by recognizing outstanding scientist with proven output and outcome for creation of culture of basic research through their project work in the National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System (NAREES).
- 1.2 Establishing and nurturing a novel school of thought around the recognized person.

2. Number of Positions

The total number of positions of ICAR National Professors would not exceed ten (10) at any given time. These will include one B.P. Pal Chair in Genetics and Plant Breeding at IARI, New Delhi, one Norman Borlaug Chair in International Agriculture and M.S. Swaminathan Chair in Agriculture & Allied Sciences located in ICAR-Agricultural University System.

3. Salary

The ICAR National Professor would be appointed in the monthly pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (fixed) along with admissible allowances or as revised from time to time.

4. Nature of Award

The award of the National Professor will be tenurial in nature. He/she will be appointed for an initial tenure of five years, which can be extended for one or more tenures of five years subject to quality performance as assessed by the Selection Committee but not beyond 65 years of age.

5. Eligibility and Procedure of Selection

- 5.1 Indian nationals occupying positions of Professors/Principal Scientists or equivalent for at least 8 years and their age being not more than 60 years as on the specified date are eligible for nomination.
- 5.2 A Search-cum-Selection Committee (SSC) comprising of the following would be constituted with the approval of the President, ICAR Society:
 - One Eminent Scientist : Chairman
 - Director General, ICAR : Member
 - Three reputed Scientists : Members
(Nominated by D.G., ICAR)
 - DDG (Agricultural Education) : Member-Secretary
- 5.3 The SSC would formulate criteria and other modalities for inviting nominations and recommend deserving nominees for selection. The process may involve formal applications, nominations by Eminent Scientists/ National Academies and Search Process by the SSC.

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collaboration/guidance for their adequate training/research career building. ICAR National Professor must deliver at least four lectures per year in ICAR-AU System/ Institutions under Ministry of S&T or in courses being organized under Centre of Advanced Faculty Training/ Summer-Winter Schools by the Education Division of ICAR.

- 6.6 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be appropriately signed among the (i) ICAR, (ii) ICAR National Professor, and (iii) the sponsoring institution to which the nominee belongs and where the project work is to be undertaken.

7. **Budget**

- 7.1 The cost of the project, as specified and approved, would be borne by the ICAR. ICAR will release the grant to the ICAR National Professor through the sponsoring institution.
- 7.2 Each ICAR National Professor project will have a budget for a duration of Five years for meeting expenditure on the salary and allowances of ICAR National Professor, salary of contractual staff, TA/ POL/ Equipment/ Contingencies, etc. excluding the salary of staff redeployed by the sponsoring institution to work under the project. Within the overall budget outlay, the following annual budgetary provision, excluding the salary component, is recommended with a maximum ceiling under each item as below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budgetary Provision</u>
<i>Revenue</i>	
i Research Contingency	: Rs. 25.00 lakhs
ii TA/DA	: Rs. 2.00 lakhs
<i>Capital (Equipment)</i>	: Rs. 8.00 lakhs

(The total budget of Rs. 40.00 lakhs under Capital (Equipment) for a period of Five years may be preferably utilized in the initial 3 years of the project)

- 7.3 The budget provisions for different budget heads, within the approved overall-budget ceilings, may be revised from time to time as per revised need-assessment, if any, with the approval of Competent Authority.
- 7.4 The Budget of the project shall be released as per existing guidelines of the Council/Ministry of Finance.

8. **Provisions, Facilities and Supporting staff**

- 8.1 Each ICAR National Professor will have the following staff, depending on the work plan of the approved research project.
- 8.1.1 On redeployment basis from the sponsoring institution and not to be financially borne on the National Professor Scheme :

Scientist/Senior Scientist	-	2
Technical Staff	-	2
Administrative Staff	-	2

- 9.5 In case the ICAR National Professor is from a sponsoring institution outside the ICAR, the Council will not be responsible for his/her continuation and protection of service interests in his/her sponsoring organization.
- 9.6 The National Professor, if from outside ICAR, will not be absorbed in the ICAR on completion of the tenure.
- 9.7 ICAR National Professor is expected to devote full time for his/her approved project and shall not engage him/herself on any other work except for the projects related to the theme of his/her agreed research work-plan and with prior approval of the Council. He/she would not accept any other position in the University/Institute except Chairmanship/membership of important scientific committees.
- 9.8 ICAR National Professor shall have total academic freedom in planning and execution of his/her approved project and shall have requisite administrative control over staff working under him/her in his/her project. Need-based adequate support from the sponsoring institution must be extended for his/her work. He/she must not be burdened with routine administrative responsibilities of the Institute/University.
- 9.9 The scientists associated with the National Professor will be Co-Principal Investigators in the National Professor project but will be allowed to submit Research Project Files (RPF) or projects in equivalent formats under the National Professor's overall research work-plan/thematic areas and shall have the status of Principal Investigator of a regular Institute/University project for Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB) and related markings.
- 9.10 ICAR National Professor will be permitted by the ICAR to accept foreign assignment, befitting his/her status in an international organization for a total period of not exceeding six months during each term of five years (not allowed to be cumulative over the terms), after completing at least one year in the position. Participation in conferences, seminars, symposium etc. will not be construed as such an assignment.
- 9.11 ICAR National Professor may apply for or accept any other regular or term offer/appointment within the country or abroad after a minimum period of five years as National Professor. On selection to the regular or term appointment and with effect from joining the same, the ICAR National Professor shall cease to be an ICAR National Professor.
- 9.12 The award of ICAR National Professor should be consummated within six months from the date of issue of the Award Letter and no extension will be given beyond six months.

10 Project Monitoring

- 10.1 ICAR National Professor shall submit the progress of the project annually vis-a-vis projections made and target set in the work plan of the approved project. The activity milestones for the next year should also be included in the progress report.
- 10.2 ICAR National Professor shall make an annual presentation of the progress made in the scientific/research committees at the sponsoring institution ensuring wider participation of the scientific staff/faculty members and ICAR representatives.
- 10.3 A National Professor shall make an annual presentation of the progress made in the project before RAC of the concerned ICAR Institutes/Academic Council of AUs. The

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