

**Proceedings of the Conference of
Vice-chancellors of Agricultural Universities
and
Interface with ICAR Directors**

17-18 February 2010



Education Division
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan II, Pusa
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(शिक्षा विभाग)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa, New Delhi-110 012

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Proceedings of the Conference of Vice-chancellors of Agricultural Universities & Interface with ICAR Directors held on 17-18 February 2010 at NASC Complex, New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

We enclose herewith proceedings of the above meeting duly approved by the Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR for your kind information and necessary action please.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,
(C. Devakumar)

Encl: As above

Distribution:

1. All Vice-Chancellors of SAUs/CUs/DUs/CAU
2. All Directors of ICAR Research Institutes/NRCs/Bureaus
3. All Zonal Project Directors of Zonal Project Directorates, ICAR
4. All Project Coordinators of All India Coordinated and Networks Projects, ICAR
5. Sr. PPS to D.G., ICAR, Krishi Bhawan
6. Secretary, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan
7. FA, DARE/ICAR, Krishi Bhawan
8. Chairman/Members, ASRB
9. All DDGs/ND, NAIP
10. All ADGs
11. Director (DARE)/Director (Fin.)/Director (Per.)/Director (Works)/Director (OL)
12. Proj. Director (DIPA)
13. Under Secretary (Edn.)/F&AO (Edn.)
14. All invited speakers
15. President/Secretary, IAUA, NASC Complex, New Delhi 110 012.

Proceedings of the Conference of Vice-chancellors of Agricultural Universities and Interface with ICAR Directors held on 17–18 February, 2010

Annual Conference of the Vice Chancellors of the Agricultural Universities and Directors of the Deemed Universities was held at the National Agricultural Science Centre, Dev Prakash Shastri Marg, New Delhi during February 17–18, 2010. On this occasion, an interface meeting of VCs with ICAR Directors, Zonal Coordinators and Project Coordinators was also organized on 17th February 2010.

Hon'ble Union Minister of the Agriculture, Consumer Affairs Food & Public Distribution, Govt. of India, Shri Sharad Pawar ji inaugurated the Conference on 17th February 2010. Prof. K.V. Thomas ji, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Govt. of India was the guest of honour. List of participants is annexed.

Hon'ble Union Agricultural Minister Shri Sharad Pawar Ji appreciated the efforts towards establishment of Niche Areas of Excellence and Learning Units, modernization of research and instructional farms, increasing use of ICT tools towards enhancing quality education, research and technology development capabilities as also inculcating corporate practices in them. For excellence, he emphasized the need for models of public–private partnerships. He applauded the creation of a chair of National Professor named “*Norman Borlaug Chair in Agricultural Biotechnology for Crop Improvement*” this year as a tribute to Prof. Norman Borlaug, the Father of Green Revolution. He exhorted the scientists, educationists, extortionists and policy manager for greater technological and awareness inputs and transparency in addressing the issues such as Bt brinjal.

Prof. K. V. Thomas ji, the Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, emphasized the need for a big push in the higher education sector in agriculture and allied subjects — both economically and technologically. He called for a three-fold increase in the number of PhDs, Post Doctoral, Masters and Bachelor degree holders and integrating PhD students with the research priorities of ICAR. Without working out the numbers and prioritizing research engagement especially

in cutting edge areas like nano technology, biotechnology and instrumentation in agriculture, historic momentum in agriculture cannot be fully sustained. He also emphasized on strengthening international cooperation, and private sector participation in the field of agricultural research.

Prior to them, Dr Arvind Kumar, Deputy Director General (Education), ICAR in his welcome speech remarked that this meeting was historical as for the first time, a joint meeting of VCs of AUs, Directors of ICAR Institutes, Zonal Project Coordinators, Project Coordinators of AICRPs is being organized. Dr R.B. Lal, President, Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA) appreciated the efforts of ICAR for its scientific, technical and financial support to the AUs. He also welcomed the decision of ICAR for providing centenary grant to century old historical colleges. He assured the support of IAUA in facilitating better co-ordination in enhancing quality assurance in higher agricultural education in the country.

Dr S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR expressed gratitude to the Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar Ji and Minister of State for Agriculture, Prof. K.V. Thomas ji for constant guidance, vision and supervision in the mission of science-related farming and technology-related processes of National Agricultural Research System (NARS). He outlined the roadmap of agricultural research, education and extension wherein components of capacity building, niche areas of excellence, international co-operation and collaboration could function in synergy and complementarily mode. He highlighted the role of quality education, green curriculum and development of knowledge and skills and hoped that the brand A-school in agriculture just as B-schools in business would become popular and agriculture profession would be acceptable and respectable. Shri Rajiv Mehrishi, Additional Secretary, DARE and Secretary, ICAR proposed the vote of thanks.

Interactive Agenda: Synergy and Complementarities of ICAR-AU

The interactive session was chaired by Dr K. Kasturirangan Member, Planning Commission and Sh. L. Rynjah, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission was the guest of honour. Dr S. Ayyappan, welcoming the Chief Guest and delegates, expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest for having the benefit of his vast experience in upstream research management and administration in addressing the concerns of agricultural research, education and extension. He briefed the post-independent accomplishments of

agriculture and emphasized the need for enhanced State as well as central funding and manpower support to SAUs for strengthening their capacity and capabilities for quality research, technological backstopping and human resource development.

Dr Kasturirangan appreciated the contribution of agricultural research and education in the increased agricultural production in the country. However, he said that the agriculture today faces a great challenge as there is a greater demand for food grains on one hand and the serious degradation of land, water and genetic resources on the other hand. He suggested that the agricultural universities should take advantage for funds of the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) which Govt. of India has launched recently. He also emphasized the need to develop the scientific models for prediction of accurate weather conditions, monitor the impact of climate change and also, develop technologies using modern tools to mitigate the effects of climate change. He further stressed for greater inter-institutional linkages especially with the State Government, the State Agriculture Universities and KVKs to hasten the pace of technology dissemination. As regards production of pulses in the country, he called upon to take advantage of the available technology which can result in about 20–30% increase in production.

Shri L. Rynjah Principal Advisor, Planning Commission explained the modalities for utilization of funds under project mode, available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) by the State Agriculture Universities. On this occasion, a copy of Agropedia CD prepared by Dr T.V. Prabhakar, IIT Kanpur and his team was also released by the Chief Guest.

The VCs and ICAR Directors thereafter, discussed the various opportunities for co-operation and collaboration in agriculture research & education and following were identified:

- On-board practical training programmes in CIFE vessels can be offered at CIFE, Mumbai on part payment basis to meet the nominal operation cost.
- AUs to come forward for registering the extant varieties. So-far only 3 universities have requested for registration of farmers varieties.
- Strengthening Home Science in agriculture research & education was advocated.
- Inter university exchange of teachers may be considered in order to overcome the deficiency due to in-breeding.

- Creation of an All India Coordinated Education Improvement Project was suggested.
- NAARM may consider feasibility of imparting orientation/refresher courses to the teachers.
- It is suggested that PCs should send technical note regarding scientific output of AICRP scientists to the respective Directors (Res.) which may be attached with AARs of AICRP scientists. It needs to be ensured that AICRP Staff are not posted in other units of SAUs.

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/SMDs)

Dr Kasturirangan appreciated the concerns of SAUs regarding poor funding, faculty shortage, quality concerns for education and research and agreed to request the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to write to all the Chief Ministers of the States. ICAR to pursue the matter.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Thereafter, agenda-wise discussion was taken up and the recommendations emerged are as follows:

Agenda 1: Current Status and Future Thrusts of Higher Agricultural Education

Dr Arvind Kumar, DDG(Edn.) made a comprehensive presentation highlighting the various activities initiated by the ICAR for strengthening and development of higher agricultural education in the country. He mentioned that development of institutional linkages at national and international levels, improving the faculty competence, enhancing the institutional capacity for course content development, modern delivery systems, and examination and governance mechanisms at the universities; emphasis on e-learning and teaching including e-content/resource development; networking and strengthening of libraries along with promotion of ICTs, connectivity, video conferencing etc. provision of Visiting/Adjunct Faculty in specialized areas, identification of more areas for support under Niche Area of Excellence, development of need based Experiential Learning Units for hands-on training to students, mobilizing youths towards agriculture, creating few other Centers of Advance Studies, inter-institutional faculty

and students exchange are some of the areas which need adequate attention at university level.

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 2: Changing Perspectives in Agricultural Extension: Krishi Vigyan Kendra—A Knowledge and Resource Centre

Dr K.D. Kokate, DDG (Agril. Extn), ICAR mentioned that Agricultural Knowledge Management is gaining centre stage of agricultural extension system to avail the benefits of information revolution. We should have thorough understanding of emerging extension models both at national and international levels. It may be in the form of Farmer led extension, market-led extension, ICT-enabled extension, public–private partnership. *Extension research should focus on refining and up-scaling these emerging models, scaling up government agricultural development programs, building strategies for greater adoption of frontier technologies like GM (biotechnology) and nano-technology.*

He added that for KVKs to be effective knowledge and resources centres, KRCTO model can be adopted. The model includes—**Knowledge:** Farming systems and productions systems, agricultural technology, markets (demand and prices) and policy; **Resources:** Infrastructure to provide necessary Technological backstopping and capacity building; **Competency:** Evaluating technologies, processing and value addition, weather based agro advisories, market intelligence and agro-logistics; **Technology Products:** Critical technology products, and problem solving consultancy is to be provided; **Organizing farmers:** To exchange information, facilitating learning from experience and support in decision making. To efficiently play the role of knowledge and resource centres, KVKs need to be strengthened by increased technological backstopping by ICAR and SAUs. *There is also a need for extension research by ICAR research institutes and SAUs to suggest innovative approaches and methodologies to KVKs for critical assessment of location specific technologies, frontline demonstrations, and effective capacity building of stakeholders, vocational training, and entrepreneurship development and for up-scaling successful experiences.*

(Action: all VCs/KVKs/Zonal Coordinators)

Agenda 3: NAIP Activities

ND, NAIP presented the agenda and reviewed the progress so far in all four components of NAIP. He mentioned that procurement (equipments, works etc) guidelines followed by NARS are different from Govt. of India. He suggested that *the role of Heads of Organizations like Directors and Vice-Chancellors is critical in facilitating the CPLs, administration and finance to ensure smooth implementation of the project under their organization to synthesize the unique contributions of external (non-NARS) partners to integrate them and mainstream into future R&D programmes and document what is working well and one not working in this model of research project.*

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/PIs of NAIP Consortia)

Agenda 4: AGROPEDIA: One-stop Portal on Indian Agriculture

Dr T.V. Prabhakar, IIT, Kanpur presented that Agropedia is a comprehensive, seamlessly integrated model of digital content organization in the agricultural domain. It is read write platform where anybody can submit any worthwhile information on any aspects of the crop. It aims to bring together a community practice through an ICT mediated knowledge creating and organizing platform with an effort to leverage the existing agricultural extension system. It is envisioned to be a one stop shop for all kinds of information related to Indian agriculture. The practice of crop knowledge models (KMs) has been defined and developed for the first time worldwide to create architecture for accumulating known codified and approved information about crops, with the support of FAO, Rome. The knowledge models of Chickpea, Pigeonpea, Sorghum and Groundnut are developed at ICRISAT, Wheat, Sugarcane, Litchi and Vegetable pea are developed at GBPUAT and Rice is developed at IITK. *The agricultural scientists are requested to enrich this platform by their knowledge and expertise.*

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/SMDs)

Agenda 5.1: ARS/NET Examination and Performance of ARS

Dr M.J. Modayil, Member, ASRB, New Delhi presented some significant trends in the performance of SAUs on the basis of the data for last 18 years. Students from some of the newly established universities have shown good promise in certain subjects. How this success can be replicated in other

departments of the same university and how other SAUs can benefit from the example of selected bright spots, needs discussion. Further, the board is in the process of making changes in the grouping of subjects for purpose of NET examination which will serve preliminary examination for ARS. *The opinion of the SAUs, which are the user organizations, would be useful in finalizing the subject grouping.*

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/SMDs)

Agenda 5.2: Biodiversity management including implementation of Biodiversity Act [Could not be taken up].

Agenda 5.3: Cornell University—Sathguru Foundation Initiative

Dr K. Vijayaraghavan, Cornell University, U.S.A. informed that the second batch of students from the Punjab Agriculture University would join in the program during second year. Batch size will be enhanced to 25 students (20 from TNAU and 5 from PAU). He narrated the lessons learnt from the partnerships which include enhanced skills in Statistics are desired, literature review and paper writing skills too need focus, exposure to international agriculture most preferred by Industry as they prepare to global and face global competition in domestic markets, student research skills appreciated by industry as they begin to reap up their investment in research, and a fair blend of academic courses and experiential learning essential to make the graduates prepare for their career goals. *The AUs may take advantage from this initiative and experiences.*

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 5.4: Seed Production Issues

Sh. Sanjeev Gupta, Joint Secretary, DoAC, Ministry of Agriculture gave an overview of opportunities for research, extension and education in the field of seed production. *He urged the VCs to avail the opportunities of various schemes available under DoAC.*

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 5.5: Renewable Agricultural Technologies

Dr Ganeshan, Principal Scientist (Agrl. Engg.), ICAR highlighted various

options available in the form of renewable energy technologies for adoption in the farms for lighting, crop drying and water lifting. The following action plans emerged from the presentation:

1. The Engineering Division of ICAR through CIAE, Bhopal can arrange to evolve good designs of solar dryers both of the natural convection type, forced flow type and solar PV assisted types with temperature control.
2. Location and feed stock specific biogas plants for generation of biogas and also for its utilization in an engine can be designed and installed at the user's site.
3. For farm lighting, commercial stand alone street lights and also centrally administered PV systems are available to meet the lighting needs.

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 5.6: Open Access: The Way Forward for Agricultural Research

Prof. S. Arunachalam, Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore, mentioned that India is a leading performer of agricultural research. In the two years 2006–2007, Web of Science had indexed more than 4,900 papers from Indian agricultural sciences (including veterinary sciences, fisheries and horticulture). That is roughly 6% of the world's output. In all of science, India's output is about 2.75%. Within the larger field of agriculture, India accounts for over 11% of the world's papers in agricultural engineering, and 6% of world's papers in agronomy. But Indian papers in agriculture are not well cited. There are two reasons for the poor citation record of our agricultural research. First is the absence of a rigorous quality consciousness, leading to publishing results in pieces and in journals of no consequence. Second, is low visibility. Not many researchers notice what we write. In this connection, open access institutional repositories can make a big difference. The idea is simple where one can publish paper in whatever journal but *place the full text of the final accepted version in an open access repository so that any researcher with simple Internet access can find and read it.*

He further informed that the Indian Academy of Sciences will soon set up an open access repository that would make available the full texts of all papers published by all Fellows of the Academy past and present. ICRISAT

and NIIT-Rourkela have a mandate in place and all papers by their faculty and students will necessarily have to be deposited in their institutional repository. *All AUs and ICAR institutes can also follow and the agriculture research sector be the first in India to have the record of 100% open access.*

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/SMDs)

Agenda 5.7: Upscaling IT Infrastructure in SAUs

PD (DIPA) informed that the IT infrastructure in respect of bandwidth, inter and intranet integrated threat management, website, e-courses and video conferencing has increased considerably but most of the SAUs lack scalable lease line facility to meet the requirement. *There is need to maintain lease line for 100 Mbps speed for linking with National Knowledge Network (NKN) connectivity during this plan period.*

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/SMDs)

Agenda 5.8: Strengthening of Directorate of Extension Education

Presently, 28 KVKs are operating under the Directorate of Extension at OUAT, Bhubaneswar. Request was made for its strengthening in terms of manpower and physical facilities.

[Action: DDG (Extn)]

Agenda 5.9: Strengthening of IPR Cell

OUAT, Bhubaneswar and UAS, Bangalore presented that the Intellectual Property Protection is to be pursued vigorously in each of the Universities in the present IPR regime. *ICAR may consider providing liberal support to such cells in the Universities. Training in IPR aspects may be imparted to scientists/teachers.*

[Action: ADG (IP&TM)]

Agenda 5.10: Strengthening of remandated KVK

AAU, Jorhat presented the need for adequate funding support from the ICAR for strengthening of five remandated KVKs with the University.

[Action: DDG (Extn)]

Agenda 5.11: Provision of fund to SAUs to carry out location-specific research project

AAU, Jorhat proposed a special provision to the tune of Rs. 30 lakhs per college per annum for the University so that location-specific research could be carried out involving the faculty members. It is pointed out that there is a special budgetary provision for the NEH region, which can be exploited for such purpose. For other SAUs, avenues are already available under AICRP and other network projects.

Agenda 5.12: Network project to cope up the impact of climate change on agriculture in each agro-climate zone

CCSHAU, Hisar mentioned that the impact of climate change will be different in different agro climatic zones of the country. There is need to initiate an AICRP on climate change to develop climate resilient technologies.

[Action: DDG (NRM)]

Agenda 5.13: AICRP on Pollution Abatement of National Resources

CCSHAU, Hisar presented that the contamination of underground waters and soils by pollutant ions, heavy metals and other agricultural chemicals has been observed sporadically. Since such problems of soil and water contamination are not confined to a specific area, there is a need to have such centers/labs for each state with a team of multi-disciplinary scientists. The point was noted.

(Action: SMDs)

Agenda 5.14: Provision of Short-Term Research Projects

CCSHAU, Hisar mentioned that the funding for need-based short projects was earlier available under AP Cess Fund, which has now ceased. There is an urgent need to make a provision for funding the need-based location specific research projects of SAUs. The point was noted.

(Action: SMDs)

Agenda 5.15: Addressable priority issues for enhanced animal productivity—a step towards attaining 4% national agricultural growth target during XI Plan

CCSHAU, Hisar presented the agenda. The subsistence oriented mixed farming systems will continue to be the backbone of Indian agriculture and are especially important in terms of area, extent of poverty, integrated natural resource management and opportunities for increased food production. The synergies in crop-livestock systems provide opportunities for generating more income from the resources available. Technological development, liberal budgetary provisions and policy interventions are required and both, *in situ* as well as *ex situ* conservation and propagation are priority issues.

[Action: DDG (Animal Science)]

Agenda 5.16: Establishment of Biological Safety Level (BSL) – 3/4 Laboratories

GADVASU, Ludhiana informed that the Biosafety level is required for work with dangerous and exotic agents that pose a high individual risk of aerosol-transmitted laboratory infections, agents which cause severe to fatal disease in livestock and humans for which vaccines or other treatments are not available. There is a serious threat from certain exotic diseases which have the potential to be pandemic in nature. Besides, there are new diseases emerging or recurring at unprecedented rate over the last decade. With the advent of biotechnology the construction of novel toxin biological weapons or genetically engineered diseases with high degree of virulence has been a reality. There is need for creating BSL-3/4 in the north zone at Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University to undertake research in emerging and exotic disease and be prepared for eventualities.

[Action: DDG (Animal Science)]

Agenda 5.17: Setting up of an Advanced Disease Diagnostic and Research Center- Animal Disease Registry

GADVASU, Ludhiana informed that the facilities at the University Diseases Diagnostics Centre are inadequate to achieve the desired objectives despite having enough teaching material available in the clinics. Moreover, pet owners, equine breeders and commercial dairy farmers are ready to pay for any advanced test if their precious animal can be saved. Therefore, to keep pace with modern animal health technologies and for improved learning of the students, the setting up of advanced diseases diagnostics was proposed.

[Action: DDG (Animal Science)]

Agenda 5.18: Conduct of Brain Storming Sessions in areas of vital contemporary interest

BCKV, Mohanpur mentioned that the possibility may be explored to hold the Brain Storming Sessions in areas of vital contemporary interest, which would provide opportunity of taking a relook at the issues with an in-depth analysis. The point was noted.

(Action: all VCs/SMDs)

Agenda 5.19: Current joining of new ARS Probationers before Foundation training

IARI, New Delhi presented that the ICAR has recently permitted the Ph.D. students to join ARS after the completion of their thesis work. There are many others including some with Ph.D. degrees who have been selected but not allowed to join so far because NAARM cannot accommodate them for training for certain periods which affects their seniority. Director, NAARM and Director (Pers.) were requested to look into.

[Action: Director, NAARM/Dir (P)]

Agenda 5.20: Establishment of National Centre of Excellence

IARI, New Delhi mentioned that research and teaching in about 95 disciplines are carried out in various SAUs, Central Universities and Deemed

Universities of the country. Due to limited resources and faculty it has not been possible to carry out high quality in-depth research in most of the disciplines. It would be appropriate to identify two to three national centers of excellence in each discipline which may be located strategically in the selected ICAR Institutes/SAUs. Such centers may have state of the art equipment and other facilities and manpower with the mandate of mission oriented basic research and high quality education.

[Action: All SAUs/DUs/ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 5.21: Preparation of Contingency Plans for Agriculture & Allied Sectors to Meet Adverse Eventualities Arising due to Extreme Climate Variability

DDG (NRM) presented the agenda. The consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture has desired preparation of Contingency Plans at district level for all the 126 Agro Climate Zones of the country to deal with weather related aberrations like droughts, floods and outbreak of diseases etc. The CRIDA, Hyderabad has been identified as a nodal agency for this job, is preparing such contingencies in participation with some ICAR Institutes, SAUs and Officers of State Line Departments. The CRIDA, Hyderabad has prepared requisite template for generating database and road-map for accomplishing the task. All SAUs and ICAR institutes to cooperate in the effort.

(Action: ICAR Directors/VCs/SMDs)

Before taking up the next agenda items for discussion, Dr S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR and Chairman invited suggestions regarding the performance rating of the AUs. Extensive discussion took place with regard to benefits and otherwise of rating and mechanism for the same. It was mentioned that instead of rating based on the comparison of all universities, the universities may be provided some grades as a reflection towards quality and standards of education. Detailed objective criteria for such grading may be developed by the ICAR.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

The Chairman also desired the following initiatives:

- Studies may be initiated for computing returns on investment on agricultural education.
- All universities may prepare VISION 2030 document preferably within three months.
- The decade 2010–20 has been declared as the decade of innovation by the Hon'ble P.M. All AUs may list the innovations that have been achieved in the universities.
- Result Framework Document (RFD) is being practiced by the various Departments of the Central Government for evaluating the progress on quarterly basis. The universities may adopt such a practice.
- Copies of Model Act of AUs have been circulated to all AUs. This may be adopted by all AUs. IAUA may write to State governments for its early adoption.

(Action: all VCs/IAUA)

A few core Expert Consultative Groups may be constituted for envisioning Education Quality Assurance, Faculty Capacity building, ICAR-AU partnership, performance-based ICAR funding, Education Technology Models, Green Curriculum and School Curriculum development, Optimal use of infrastructure and expertise across AUs etc.

[Action: DDG (Edn.)]

Agenda 6: Confirmation of the Proceedings of the last VCs Conference held on 16–17 Feb, 2009

ADG (EPD), ICAR presented the agenda. Since no comments on the proceedings were received, the proceedings of the last VCs Conference held on **16–17 February, 2009** placed at **Annexure-I** were confirmed.

Agenda 7: Action Taken Report on the recommendations of VCs Conference held on 16–17 Feb, 2009

ADG (EPD), ICAR presented the summary report which was accepted.

Agenda 8: EDUCATIONAL QUALITY REFORMS: ISSUES AND STATUS

Agenda 8.1: Parameters for Accreditation

ADG (EQR) presented that based on the recommendations of the last Accreditation Board meeting, 6 broad parameters with scores were identified for accreditation of the universities. These parameters are Infrastructure and Learning Resources, Faculty Strength and its Development, Student Support and Progression, Governance and Financial Management: Academic regulations and Curricula, and Performance Review, Output and Outcome of AU/College. Each parameter will have several key indicators. These parameters, key indicators and scores were discussed in the Conference and approved. *All AUs may communicate further suggestions at the earliest.*

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 8.2: Accreditation and Extension of Accreditation

Providing status of accreditation of AUs, ADG (EQR) mentioned that the non-accredited Universities should expedite submission of their Self Study Reports. Also, such Universities whereof the accreditation period has expired/is expiring should submit the action taken report on the recommendations of the Accreditation Board that were conveyed at the time of initial accreditation.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 8.3: Adoption of ICAR Model Act

ADG (EQR) informed that the revised Model Act for AUs in India has been circulated to all AUs and requested all to pursue its adoption.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 8.4: Implementation of Revised PG Course Curricula & Syllabi

It was informed by ADG (EQR) that the restructured PG course curricula

and syllabi were communicated to all AUs with a request for implementation with effect from July – August, 2009. All AUs were requested for expeditious implementation with intimation to ADG (EQR).

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 8.5: Non-government/Private Sector participation in Agricultural Education

ADG (EQR) presented the ICAR's vision of non-government/private sector participation in education which includes that the private sector including industry may

- (i) Create institutes of learning in unitary mode of excellence akin to IITs/ IIMs/IARI.
- (ii) Participate in development of course curricula and syllabi to make them market driven and job oriented. (Industry representatives were involved in revising the PG course curricula).
- (iii) Sponsor internships for students of AUs and training of in-service faculty to facilitate skill and entrepreneurship development and industry orientation. (many AUs are deputing their UG students for a short training in industry as part of their curriculum).
- (iv) Industry experts may participate in teaching, PG research programmes or lecture series in specific identified areas.
- (v) Sponsor projects for PG studies as per the industry requirement that will also enhance student's acceptability and employability.
- (vi) Sponsor establishment of professional chairs, fellowships, awards in the public sector institutions.
- (vii) Adopt villages for developing knowledge centres and facilitating entrepreneurship development.
- (viii) Partnering for the commercialization of technologies developed by the ICAR-AU system.

All Vice Chancellors were requested to pursue private participation in education and research in their universities and inform the status to ADG (EQR) within two months.

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 8.6: International Fellowships

ADG (EQR) briefed about this initiative of the ICAR and requested all Vice Chancellors to make use of the Scheme for faculty improvement as well as facilitating their pass out Masters' students for Ph.D study abroad.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 8.7: PG Curricula and Syllabi for Master Degree in Horticulture for Agriculture Colleges in SAUs

RVSKVV, Gwalior informed that the new and restructured Post Graduate curricula and syllabi, developed by the Education Division of ICAR for Horticultural Sciences, having PG programme in four divisions viz., Fruit Science, Vegetable Science, Floriculture & Landscape Architecture, and Plantation, Spices, Medicinal & Aromatic Crops is very good and can be started in colleges of Horticulture. However, it is difficult to run the Horticultural Sciences programme in four divisions in the College of Agriculture in which there is only one Department of Horticulture along with other Departments of Agricultural Sciences. Therefore, in the interest of all Colleges of Agriculture in SAUs, a new restructured PG curricula and syllabi for Master Degree in Horticulture may be prepared separately.

[(Action: ADG (EQR))]

Agenda 8.8: IGNOU courses in Agriculture

KAU, Thrissur mentioned that the Indira Gandhi National Open University has started various courses in agriculture on ODL/e-learning mode. They have also started a School of Agriculture. Considering the requirements of practical training in all agricultural courses, it was resolved not to encourage distance learning devoid of on farm and hands on training options.

[Action: All VCs/ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.9: Specification of degrees non-committal by UGC

VC, CCSHAU sought uniform nomenclature and acceptance of certain courses by University Grants Commission (UGC). *It was proposed to pursue the matter with UGC.*

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.10: Specialization in Post Harvest Technology of horticultural crops at postgraduate level

BCKV, Mohanpur mentioned that their Faculty of Horticulture has five Departments including one on Post Harvest Technology (PHT) of Horticultural Crops. The revised PG syllabus, however, suggested syllabus only for four Departments. ADG (EQR) informed that the courses related to Post Harvest Technology are well distributed in the curriculum of restructured four specializations of Horticulture.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 9: HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND STATUS

Agenda 9.1: Counseling & Placement of students/SRF/JRF

ADG (EQR) mentioned that most AUs have now established the Counseling and Placement Cells. However, the disclosure of information by the students/SRF/JRF is still voluntary. Counseling of the students for facilitating their selection in higher studies as well as career placements of the students is very important and these reflect the standards of education in a university. Hence, besides facilitation of counseling and placement, the AUs may ensure a mechanism for keeping a record of all past alumni.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 9.2: Enhancing the ICAR share of postgraduate support to SAUs by way of fee reimbursement, fellowship amount and more seats through ICAR entrance Examination

Fee structure in AUs varies from state to state and even from one AU/deemed university (DU) to another AU/DU within a state. ADG (EQR) informed that in a meeting taken by Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, the need for bringing uniformity in this regard was discussed. Also, the enhancement of percentage of students admitted through ICAR's Central Entrance Test for UG and PG programmes has been desired to be considered. *After due deliberations, it was proposed to enhance the all India*

quota from the existing 15 and 25% to 25 and 35% respectively for UG and PG admissions. The uniformity in fee structure should also be brought out.

[Action: All VCs/ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 9.3: Best Teacher Award Scheme implementation

ADG (EQR) informed that the ICAR scheme of Best Teacher Award is in vogue in many AUs for rewarding the performance wherein the award money is paid by the ICAR. *Those AUs which are yet to utilize the provision of this scheme, should adopt it to provide incentive to the performers. It was suggested that certain provisions in the guidelines need to be revised to make it easier to follow.*

[Action: ADG(EPD)]

Agenda 9.4: University Textbook writing

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. The diversity of our country in terms of language and agro-ecology offers enormous scope for the creation of textbooks for undergraduates in regional languages in various subjects. Alternate and effective models of recognition and reward of this scheme were proposed.

[Action: ADG (HRD)/ADG(EPD)]

Agenda 9.5: Emeritus Scientist Scheme

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. The proceedings of the first-ever review meeting held under the chairmanship of Dr S. Ayyappan, former DDG (Fy) and the revised guidelines effective from 1st Jan 2010 were circulated as a part of Agenda Notes. The salient points from these documents were highlighted. Extension of this scheme to 3 years as earlier, was proposed to be taken up by the Council.

[Action: ADG (HRD)/ADG(EPD)]

Agenda 9.6: Post-doctoral Fellowship

ADG(HRD) presented the agenda. The Post Doctoral Fellowships

Schemes such as TWAS-CSIR, DST, DBT, UGC, RA were presented and compared. Existing provision for Research Associate (RA) working in ICAR funded scheme was also presented and compared. It was decided that Post-doctoral fellowship in ICAR be introduced keeping harmony with other similarly operated schemes in the country especially TWAS-CSIR fellowship.

[Action: ADG (HRD)/ADG(EPD)]

Agenda 9.7: To discourage in-breeding at SAUs

RAU, Pusa presented the agenda. There is a need to discourage in-breeding at various SAUs for maintaining higher standards of teaching and research. Students should not be allowed to take either more than one or two consecutive degrees from the same university. Number of JRF/SRF should be increased and all such students who take admission in universities outside their native state should be given JRF/SRF as the case may be. A decision to this point was already taken at agenda 9.2.

[Action: All VC's/ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 9.8: Foreign visit of Faculty Members

JAU, Junagadh presented the agenda. In present practice, the approval for any foreign visit of SAUs scientist is to be obtained from the respective State Governments, which is a lengthy and hectic exercise. Mostly it is difficult to get the approvals. Therefore, it is proposed that this issue may be discussed and recommend to empower the Vice Chancellors of SAUs for sanctioning and approval of the foreign visits of the faculty members. Following a circular from the Ministry of Finance in 2007, this provision has been temporarily withdrawn. The matter would be pursued for the revival of this provision.

[Action: ADG (HRD)/ADG(EPD)]

Agenda 9.9: Faculty training in new and emerging areas

UAS, Bangalore presented the agenda. Faculty direly needs training under certain portions of the new courses introduced following the recommendations of the IV Dean Committee Report. Many AUs are facing

difficulties in this area. The Council may examine the gaps and suggest remedial mechanisms.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 9.10: International travel grant for participation of scientists in International Trainings/Seminars/Symposia/Conferences etc

RVSKVV, Gwalior presented the agenda. This support was being made available to all SAUs under ICAR development grant for national/international trainings, national/international scientific and academic meets etc. However, this support is not available since 2008–09. This needs to be restarted. A decision to this point was already taken at agenda 9.8.

[Action: ADG (HRD)/ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 9.11: Induction training for faculty improvement

OUAT, Bhubaneswar presented the agenda. Induction training to the newly recruited faculty at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad and regular refresher training to existing Faculties/Scientists/Research Management Personnel at advanced centers of learning in the country and abroad are required for faculty improvement. The ICAR may consider funding the University for the above HRD programme. NAARM may examine the proposal and recommend viable solutions.

[Action: Director, NAARM/ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 9.12: National training in cutting edge areas of agriculture science

SVVU, Tirupati presented the agenda. Some institutes may be upgraded and recognized as trainers' training center so that those who get trained at these institutes can train their colleagues at their respective universities. ICAR may also support the state veterinary/agriculture universities with grants for this purpose. A decision to this point was already taken at agenda 9.11.

[Action: Director, NAARM/ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 9.13: Increasing intake capacity of students and placements in AUs

BAU, Ranchi presented the agenda. It was advocated to introduce five to ten per cent weightage in UG seats for students coming from rural areas and also inclusion of agriculture in the middle level school syllabus. He gave suggestions for creating more jobs for the agriculture graduates and postgraduates and also recruitment of teachers on all India basis. The points were noted.

[Action: All VC's/ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 9.14: Job Mela

UAS, Bangalore presented the agenda. RAU, Pusa requested ICAR to help in organizing job mela in remote areas. The points were noted.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 10: EDUCATION PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: ISSUES AND STATUS

Agenda 10.1: Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education: Salient Recommendations of Prof Yashpal Committee

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Prof Yashpal, former Chairman, UGC in 28th February 2008 and the report was submitted on 1st March 2009. Some of the salient recommendations strengthening of basic sciences at the universities such as orientation course for VCs, Deans etc. and setting up of information cell at Education Division were highlighted. More feedback from VCs was invited.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 10.2: INSPIRE Scheme by DST

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) is an innovative programme sponsored and

managed by the Department of Science & Technology for attraction of talent to Science. The basic objective of INSPIRE is to communicate to the youth of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science, attract talent to the study of science at an early stage and thus build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base. A similar scheme for attracting school students to agriculture education may be devised. Suggestions from VCs are invited.

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 10.3: Benchmarking Criteria for Development Grant

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. Development grant is provided to all AUs as a catalytic support for imparting higher education. The ICAR is receiving about half of the grant approved under EFC. The number of AUs in the country has also gone up. There is need to evolve certain criteria based on economic status of State, number of SAUs in the State, the size of the university, State's commitment to the university, resource mobilized, the number of colleges and disciplines, the faculty strength, the number of students annually produced, the quality output as determined by the accreditation committee etc. Benchmarking of each SAU may be done with pre-determined relevant parameters. Funds released may accordingly be regulated with respect to the attainment of the targets set and with respect to well-set output and outcome indicators pre-determined on a time scale. Even, college-wise allocation can be thought of. Secondly, there is also need to work out a calendar for receipt of utilization and audit utilization certificates, half-yearly and annual reports, self-assessment evaluation report etc. *The Council may formulate a scheme and revise guidelines for the development grant, if necessary.*

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.4: Niche Area of Excellence

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. Building excellence in human resource is imperative to reach excellence in research output and its transfer. It is a principal strategy to provide maximum resources for most relevant, appropriate and applicable output and impact. In pursuance of that goal, AUs are supported in one niche area of attained excellence to address

local needs, serving livelihoods, food and nutritional security, quality sustenance of natural resources through diversification and productivity enhancement. AUs will be allowed the maximum two such areas, if funds are available. The following are the essential criteria for recognition:

- Availability of quality of human resource
- Existence of adequate infrastructure, access to information
- Attitude and commitment of faculty, staff and students
- Recognition by and interaction with best of the peer groups in India and abroad
- Shared vision (institutional, regional, national and international)
- Well developed educational technology system

The proceedings of the third annual review meeting held at BAU, Ranchi were included as a part of Agenda Notes. Action taken reports of as suggested in the proceedings of third annual review meetings may be sent by the PIs. The expectations from this scheme were highlighted and all the stakeholders were requested to give due importance. Guidelines for the assignment of PIs and effective implementation of the scheme may be formulated.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.5: Establishment of Experiential Learning Units

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. In addition to 220 units established up to the year 2008–09 in 45 universities, it is proposed to fund for the creation of additional units in universities having less than 5 units. Suggestions to increase the stipend for B. Tech students under Experiential Learning and orientation training of faculty toward entrepreneurship have been received. The points were noted.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.6: Modernization of AU Farms

ADG (EQR) informed that under this sub-scheme, against the total outlay of Rs. 421.95 crores for three years (2008–09 to 2010–11) only

Rs. 171.06 crores is made available to the Education Division which has been distributed to AUs. It is expected that in the third year (2010–11) which will be the last year of the sub-scheme, a substantial higher amount will be made available for the sub-scheme so that the objective of the scheme could be realized. It was pointed out that some funds may be reallocated to meet out the objective of this important activity during this year itself. The modernization of farm is expected to give more resource generation. *He requested that all universities should arrange to submit their Utilization Certificate for 2009–10 within April, 2010, as the new ICAR guidelines provide for revalidation of the unspent balance to be completed within the month of April of the next financial year. All AUs were also requested to provide details of the impact on production and productivity of different crops and on human resource development brought out through the utilization of the grant provided under this scheme.*

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 10.7: Central Instrumentation Lab

ADG (EQR) informed that the Central Instrumentation Labs in many of the AUs are almost non-functional. Establishment of the Central Instrumentation Lab as a common facility was intended to avoid expenditure on purchase of equipments by different departments/laboratories individually so that the grant could be utilized for some other useful purposes. *Revival of the Central Instrumentation Lab may be considered and in addition, a list of all equipments/facilities available in the lab may be hosted on the university website for knowledge of all possible users. It was proposed to include this facility as one of the quality criteria in the accreditation.*

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 10.8: Separate website of agricultural education

It was informed by ADG (EQR) that the Education Division intends to develop a separate website of higher agricultural education like the “CRICOS” (Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students) and “Postgrad UK”, the websites respectively, of Australian and UK education providers, which provide information about institutions, courses offered, and study mode etc. *Input of all AUs will be required for making this website useful and successful.*

[Action: All VCs/ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 10.9: Venues for Agriculture Fest and Agriculture Sports

ADG (EPD) presented the agenda. The last Agrifest has been organized by Sam Higginbottom Institute of Agricultural Technology and Sciences, Allahabad and the annual Agrisports is to be organized by Marathwada AU, Parbhani during 27–28 Feb 2010. The venues for the next year events have been confirmed and they are as follows:

AgriSports : KAU, Thrissur

AgriFest : AAU, Anand

During succèding of year, AgriSports shall be held at PDKV, Akola and AgriFest at GBPUA&T, Pantnagar.

[Action: ADG (EPD)/all VCs]

Agenda 10.10: Proposal for Continuance of the project NISAGENET: IASRI, New Delhi

The NISAGENET was executed at IASRI, New Delhi as Lead Center with 42 participating organizations imparting agricultural education in India. The system is operational on the Internet. The system focuses on maintaining an up-to-date data base and providing answers to queries covering all important aspects like general information, academic information, infrastructure facilities, budget provisions, and research and extension activities at the SAUs. It has an exhaustive Query/Reports system to provide information at Country, State, University and College levels. This on-line system provides an integrated platform for collection, analysis and dissemination of information on programs and activities of the agricultural education system in India. The architecture of the system is such that every participating organization needs to provide updated data through the data management software which is well equipped with *Upload Facility* for sending updated data to the Central Server at IASRI, New Delhi. After completion of the AP Cess funded project on 31-12-2007, this activity has been taken up as a regular institute funded project since 01-01-2008 so as to maintain the system. It has been observed that few of the 42 participating organizations are updating the data and as such the updating is incomplete. There is a strong need to expedite the entry and validation of the desired data along with regular uploads from the university. In view of its importance there is a need to strengthen the project with funds and logistics from the Education Division.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.11: Hands-on-Training facility in all constituent colleges of the University

AAU Jorhat presented the agenda. It is requested to consider supporting around three Hands-on-Training centers in each constituent college of the University. The areas could range from production of disease-free planting material to DNA finger printing/development of SNP. The point was noted.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.12: Demand for more hostels

UAS, Bangalore presented the agenda.

1. The UAS Bangalore has 96 foreign students and a large number of girl students. The cut off marks for last year admission was as high as 84% for general quota and 62% for SC/ST.
2. Three PhD. students share a single room. There is need to allocate funds for more hostels (Boys/Girls/International Hostels) not only in Bangalore but in other campuses also.

During discussion, it was brought out that many AUs have demands for more girls hostels as the enrolment of girls especially from rural areas are on the rise. Suitable provisions for new girls' hostels may be made.

[Action: ADG (EPD)/all VCs]

Agenda 10.13: Continuance of Experiential learning—setting up of facilities for hands on training

OUAT, Bhubaneswar presented the agenda. The projects sanctioned to the University as one time grant have been just started or developed half way. Support for at least few initial years is needed so that the projects become self sustainable. ICAR may consider providing support at least for 3 more years in terms of infrastructure, contingency and manpower. The point was noted.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.14: Improvisation of Telecommunication environment

TANUVAS, Chennai presented the agenda. The basic facility for video conferencing is available at two constituent colleges of TANUVAS viz. MVC, Chennai, VC & RI, Namakkal & TANUVAS University Head Quarters. However, this needs improvement to meet the international standards. The requirements include improvement to the infrastructure including computer server, network, powerfull firewall, antivirus, antispam and antiphishing software needs to be purchased and installed. Every year a good number of national and international conferences are conducted at TANUVAS. Further, TANUVAS is having working agreement with three US Universities. Hence, if such an advanced facility is available, it will be helpful in providing quality instruction to the students; hence a special grant may be provided for this purpose. This issue would be reviewed by the ADG (ARIS)/DIPA, ICAR.

(Action: PD, DIPA)

Agenda 10.15: E-Governance

OUAT, Bhubaneswar presented the agenda. At present the University has an internet bandwidth of 6 mbps which is required to be expanded to at least 20 mbps to meet the requirement of Central Library, faculties & hostels. Besides, all libraries of all SAUS/ICAR Institutes of the region need to be interlinked. ICAR may consider liberal support for this purpose to all SAU of the region. In order to introduce e-Governance of the University, the ICAR may consider providing funds for complete e-Governance of the University. A uniform policy would be evolved by ADG (ARIS)/PD (DIPA).

[Action: ADG (ARIS)/PD, DIPA]

Agenda 10.16: Strengthening Library

APHU, Venkataramannagudem presented the agenda. Financial Assistance for infrastructure including construction of information centres, provision for library and a mini workshop for repairs and maintenance of vehicles/implements/machinery for Andhra Pradesh Horticultural University is sought. The point was noted.

[Action: ADG (ARIS)/PD, DIPA]

Agenda 10.17: Providing development grant to Century old Agriculture College, Nagpur and 50 year old Agriculture College

PDKV, Akola presented the agenda. College of Agriculture, Akola under Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola has completed 50 years. The building and structures are now in dilapidated condition and need regular maintenance and renovation. The space in these buildings is also insufficient to meet the demand of increased student strength. The proposal for providing development fund for 50 year old College of Agriculture, Akola needs consideration. KAU, Thrissur too sought funding under this context. The point was noted.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 10.18: Regarding Mobile Exhibition Van

JAU, Junagadh presented the agenda. The *Krishi Mahotsava* programme (Mass scale execution activity) launched by the Govt. of Gujarat was unique in the country. About 285 Krishi Rath displaying various agricultural technologies was prepared. One Krishi Rath covered one district and by this way all the 18000 villages were covered. Thus, Government of Gujarat has tried to transfer agricultural technology to the doorstep of the farmers. Keeping this in view, it was felt that each university must have their own mobile exhibition van with Television and the CDs containing agricultural information. The fund necessary for this purpose may be provided by ICAR to all the SAUs for further enhancing the transfer of technology. It was pointed out that this falls under the Agricultural Extension Division which may consider the proposal.

[Action: DDG(Extn)]

Agenda 10.19: Regarding Mobile Clinic Van

JAU, Junagadh presented the agenda. It was pointed out that the problems of pest and diseases are mushrooming. Keeping in view the unawareness of farmers about technical know-how, it is proposed that the AUs should have their own mobile clinic vans for addressing the above issues right at the village level. The fund for the mobile van may be provided by ICAR. This agenda was covered under agenda 10.18.

Agenda 10.20: Establishment of staff training institutes in all state veterinary/Agriculture University

SVVU, Tirupati presented the agenda. Faculty members are taking up teaching, research or extension assignments without much prior training on pedagogy/objectives and technical aspects of research keeping in view the mandate of the university/priorities of the state. The refresher course or short term training programmes, are mostly helpful in acquiring knowledge or skills in their areas of specialization, but programmes are sporadic and sometimes the faculty attend these programmes to fulfill their obligations for their promotions to higher cadre. Under these circumstances if funds are granted for establishment of staff training institute under the control of each state veterinary/agriculture university, the staff can be trained periodically and their skills can be updated regularly. This issue was already covered under agenda 9.11.

Agenda 11: MISCELLANEOUS AGENDA

Agenda 11.1: Filling up of vacant posts of teachers/scientists

OUAT, Bhubaneswar informed that the permission of the Government of Orissa is awaited for filling up of some of the vacant posts of teachers/scientists in different research stations/projects/newly opened colleges. The Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR may consider taking up the matter with the Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa for the purpose. It was decided to flag this issue in the draft letter to be sent to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to be addressed to all CMs.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 11.2: Support for infrastructure and teaching posts for increase in seats due to OBC reservation

Presenting the agenda, VB, Sriniketan informed that there has been increase in number of seats both at undergraduate and postgraduate level due to reservation of seats under OBC category, which have led to acute shortage of space both for classroom and laboratories. Similarly sanction of additional teaching posts will ease the load of present faculty member. Similar issue was raised by DUs. The point was noted.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 11.3: Release of Pay arrears: Implementation of 6th Pay Commission in SAU's as per ICAR recommendations

JAU, Junagadh presented the agenda. The Government of India has implemented 6th pay commission and accordingly ICAR has recommended the implementation of UGC pay scales for all the SAUs. However, it has been observed that only in few SAUs of the country, it has been implemented. To keep the uniformity in the pay scales and perks in all the SAUs it is proposed that this issue may be discussed and resolved to implement the 6th pay commission as per the ICAR recommendations and send the resolution to the respective State Government.

[Action: DDG (Edn)]

Agenda 11.4: Superannuation age for the teachers/Scientists fixed as 62 years

TNAU, Coimbatore presented the agenda. Superannuation age for the teachers/Scientists may be fixed as 62 years in all SAUs uniformly in parity with that of ICAR Institutes. It was decided to flag this issue in the draft letter to be sent to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to be addressed to all CMs.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 11.5: Fixed tenure of five years for Vice-chancellor's

TNAU, Coimbatore presented the agenda. Vice-Chancellor's term in all SAUs may be fixed as five years uniformly. Similarly, upper age limit be also made uniform. It was decided to flag this issue in the draft letter to be sent to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to be addressed to all CMs.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 11.6: Counting of Past Services rendered in one SAU by another for pensionary benefit

MPKV, Rahuri presented the agenda. In scientific/academic career,

some Scientist/Professors move from one State Agricultural University to another State Agricultural University. Although they apply through proper channel, they find several hurdles in getting counted their previous services for pensionary benefit by their present employer SAU and concerned Government. At present there is less coordination between different SAU's to settle such cases for pensionary benefit. IAUA may take up this issue with the State governments.

(Action: President, IAUA/all VCs)

Agenda 11.7: Relaxation in grant of Senior Research Fellowship of ICAR to Ph.D. student at MPKV on pattern of deemed university

MPKV, Rahuri presented the agenda. Those students who pass ICAR Senior Research Fellowship for their Ph.D. research programme ought to take admission in another university (barring their parent university of M.Sc. (Agri.) degree) to enable them to avail the fellowship facilities. However, the students who do their M.Sc. (Agri) in deemed university like IARI, IVRI, CIFE, NDRI, IIHR are exempted from this rule and they get their fellowship on admission in the same institute for their Ph.D. programme. The students from other SAUs receiving Senior Research Fellowship may also be allowed to register for Ph.D. at the university from where they completed post graduation. It was noted.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 11.8: Induction of existing staff into faculty – waiver of NET exam

VC, GBPUAT, Pantnagar informed that in view of their rich experience and their having acquired M.Sc., Ph.D. qualification, serving Sr. Tech. Assistants (STAs) may be exempted from NET qualification for teaching positions. ADG (EQR) explained the status in this regard. It was resolved not to relax the essentiality of NET qualification for faculty but the AU was advised to introduce a cadre of technical services as has been done by ICAR.

(Action: all VCs)

Agenda 11.9: Age of superannuation of Vice Chancellors: IARI, New Delhi

The age of superannuation of Vice Chancellors of AUs including Deemed to be Universities may be raised to 70 years as per UGC norms applicable in all other Central Universities and Deemed Universities in Humanities, Engineering and Medicine. Superannuation of faculty of all SAUs and ICAR DUs may be raised to 65 years as per UGC norms already applicable to Central Universities in Humanities, Engineering and Medicine. Higher education in agricultural sciences should be treated at par with education in other faculties. Agricultural scientists in non-teaching institutions engaged in research and education should also be treated at the same level as was done in 1998. The points were noted.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 11.10: Pay and Allowance of HoDs and management positions

IARI, New Delhi presented the agenda. The positions of Dean, Director (Res.), Director (Extn.) and Head of Departments are senior posts involving higher responsibility and higher eligibility criteria for recruitment than Principal Scientists and Professors. Presently, they have been placed in PB-4 with Grade Pay of Rs.10, 000 with no difference. UGC pay package has provision of Grade Pay of Rs.12,000 for 10% Professors and Grade Pay of Rs.12,000 and additional allowance of Rs.3,000 pm for Deans and equivalent. It is proposed that this system may be adopted in ICAR and SAUs, to give Grade Pay of Rs.12, 000 to Heads of Departments and Grade Pay of Rs.12, 000 and allowance of Rs.3, 000 to Deans, Director (Res.), Director (Extn.) etc. This can bring in the desired hierarchy and better accountability.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Supplementary Agenda

An agenda item related to the age relaxation in case of deserving RAs and SRFs working in NAIP/externally-funded projects forwarded by DDG (Engg.) was raised. However, concern was felt to utilize this trained manpower in an effective manner.

It was instead proposed to request ASRB to consider their experience for the posts of Senior Scientists in their area of specialisation against vacancies.

[Action: Dir (P)]

In the general discussion after the identified agenda items, the Vice Chancellors presented several ideas for improvement of quality of education in the agricultural universities. Dr H.P. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR mentioned that in view of the increasing importance of Horticulture in nation's economy, there is need for strengthening higher education in this sector. Dr S.P. Tiwari, Former DDG (Edn.), ICAR suggested that new innovative initiatives are required in higher agricultural education, ICAR grant should be linked with identified parameters for quality, infrastructure and performance, and the universities should develop corporate culture while achieving excellence as the main objective.

The Conference ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

List of Participants of the Vice-Chancellors Conference 2010 (February 17–18, 2010)

No.	Name	Designation	Address
A. Vice Chancellors of SAUs/DUs/CAU/CUs			
1.	Dr K.M. Bujarbaruah	Vice-Chancellor	Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat-785 013
2.	Dr P. Raghava Reddy	Vice-Chancellor	Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad-500 030
3.	Dr S.D. Shikhamany	Vice-Chancellor	Andhra Pradesh Horticultural University, Venkataramanagudem, West Godawari
4.	Dr S.K. Sanyal	Vice-Chancellor	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal
5.	Dr N.N. Singh	Vice-Chancellor	Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi
6.	Dr K.S. Khokhar	Vice-Chancellor	Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125 004
7.	Dr Tej Pratap	Vice-Chancellor	CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
8.	Dr G.C. Tewari	Vice-Chancellor	Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur-208 002
9.	Dr V.M. Mayande	Vice-Chancellor	Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, Maharashtra
10.	Dr Vijay B. Mehta	Vice-Chancellor	Dr Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra
11.	Dr K.R. Dhiman	Vice-Chancellor	Dr Yashwant Singh Parmar Univ of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan, Himachal Pradesh
12.	Dr B.S. Bisht	Vice-Chancellor	Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
13.	Dr V.K. Taneja	Vice-Chancellor	Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Science University, Ludhiana, Punjab

No.	Name	Designation	Address
14.	Dr M.P. Pandey	Vice-Chancellor	Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh
15.	Prof. G. Kalloo	Vice-Chancellor	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, MP
16.	Dr N.C. Patel	Vice-Chancellor	Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh, Gujarat
17.	Prof. S.S. Honnappagol	Vice-Chancellor	Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar, Karnataka
18.	Sh. K.R. Viswambharan	Vice-Chancellor	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala
19.	Dr G.P. Mishra	Vice-Chancellor	Madhya Pradesh Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishva Vidyalaya, Jabalpur
20.	Dr S.S. Chahal	Vice-Chancellor	Maharana Pratap Univ. of Agriculture & Technology, Udaipur, Rajasthan
21.	Dr Arun S. Ninawe	Vice-Chancellor	Maharashtra Animal Science & Fishery University, Nagpur, Maharashtra
22.	Dr R.B. Deshmukh	Vice-Chancellor	Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, Maharashtra
23.	Dr S.S. Kadam	Vice-Chancellor	Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani, Maharashtra
24.	Dr Basant Ram	Vice-Chancellor	Narendra Deva University of Agriculture & Technology, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh
25.	Dr A.R. Pathak	Vice-Chancellor	Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat
26.	Dr D.P. Ray	Vice-Chancellor	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
27.	Dr S.K. Mann	Vice-Chancellor	Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, Punjab
28.	Dr M.L. Choudhary	Vice-Chancellor	Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa-848 125
29.	Dr Vijay Singh Tomar	Vice-Chancellor	Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, Gwalior-474 002
30.	Prof. A.K. Bakshi	Vice-Chancellor	Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut-250 110

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33.	Dr Md. Hafeez	Vice-Chancellor	Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
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35.	Dr P. Thangaraju	Vice-Chancellor	Tamil Nadu Veterinary & Animal Science University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
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37.	Dr H.S. Vijaya Kumar	Vice-Chancellor	University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
38.	Dr B.V. Patil	Vice-Chancellor	University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur
39.	Dr S.B. Dandin	Vice-Chancellor	University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Karnataka
40.	Dr A.P. Singh	Vice-Chancellor	UP Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwa Vidhyalaya evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh
41.	Prof. Asit Kumar Das	Vice-Chancellor	Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, West Bengal
42.	Dr C.S. Chakrabarti	Vice-Chancellor	West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Sciences, Kolkata, West Bengal
43.	Dr S.N. Puri	Vice-Chancellor	Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur-795 004
44.	Dr R.B. Lal	Vice-Chancellor	San Higinbottom Institute of Agriculture, Technology & Sciences, Allahabad
45.	Dr P.K. Abdul Aziz	Vice-Chancellor	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
46.	Prof. K. Kannan	Vice-Chancellor	SARSD, Nagaland University, Nagaland
47.	Prof. S.R. Singh,	Director	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

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48.	Dr H.S. Gupta	Director	Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa New Delhi
49.	Dr A.K. Srivastava	Director	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal
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51.	Prof D.P. Sharma	Dean	Nagaland University, Nagaland
52.	Dr Rameshwar Singh	Registrar	National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal
53.	Prof. Dharmeswar Das	Dean	Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar,
54.	Dr P.K. Ashokan	Director (Acad. & PG Studies)	Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala
55.	Dr H.C. Pathak	Director & Dean	Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat
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60.	Dr M.B. Chetti	Dean (Agril.)	Univ. of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
61.	Dr Rama Naik	Dean (H. Sci.)	Univ. of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad
62.	Prof. R.P. Singh	Dean	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
63.	Dr M. Srivastava	Associate	CSAUA&T, Kanpur
64.	Dr P.Q. Rizvi	Dean	AMU, Aligarh
C. Special Invitees			
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66.	Sh. L. Rynjah	Pri. Advisor	Planning Commission, New Delhi
67.	Dr K. Vijayaraghavan		Cornell University, USA
68.	Dr T.V. Prabhakar	Professor,	IIT, Kanpur

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69.	Prof. S. Arunachalam	Distinguished Fellow	Center for Internet and Society, Bangalore
70.	Sh. Sanjeev Gupta	Joint Secretary	DoAC, Ministry of Agriculture

D. Officers of DARE/ASRB/ICAR

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72.	Sh. Rajiv Mehrishi	Addl Secy. DARE & Secy. ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
73.	Dr C.D. Mayee	Chairman, ASRB	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
74.	Dr M.J. Modayil	Member, ASRB	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
75.	Dr Arvind Kumar	DDG (Edn.)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
76.	Dr H.P. Singh	DDG (Horticulture)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
77.	Dr A.K. Singh	DDG (NRM)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
78.	Dr K.D. Kokate	DDG (Ag. Extn.)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
79.	Dr S.K. Dutta	DDG (CS)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
80.	Dr M.M. Pandey	DDG (Engg.)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
81.	Dr C. Devakumar	ADG (EPD)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
82.	Dr R.K. Mittal	ADG (EQR)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
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84.	Dr K.C. Jain	ADG (CC)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
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93.	Dr A.K. Bawa	Principal Scientist	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
94.	Dr S. Kochhar	Principal Scientist	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
95.	Dr R.K. Goyal	National Coordinator	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
96.	Dr A.P. Srivastava	National Coordinator	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
97.	Dr Ravindra Pattar	Director (F)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
98.	Dr N.T. Yaduraju	National Coordinator	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
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104.	Sh B.N. Rao	DS (GAC)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
105.	Sh Sanjay Gupta	DS (Admn.)	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
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160.	Dr P.S. Naik	Proj. Coordinator	CPCRI, Kasargod
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171.	Dr GGSN Rao	Project Coordinator	CRIDA, Hyderabad
172.	Dr S.K. Jindal	Director	CIFE, Mumbai
173.	Dr G.N. Rao	Director	CRRI, Cuttack
174.	Dr Prakash Khandekar	Principal Scientist	NIANP, Bangalore
175.	Dr N. Gopalakrishnan	Proj. Coordinator	CICR, RS, Coimbatore
176.	Dr N.D. Majumder	Proj. Coordinator	IIPR, Kanpur
177.	Dr N. Nadarajan	Director	IIPR, Kanpur
178.	Dr M.M. Anwar	Director	NRCSS, Ajmer
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183.	Dr S.D. Kulkarni	Project Director	CIAE, Bhopal
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192.	Dr Dipak Sarkar	Director	NBSS&LUP, Nagpur
193.	Dr V. Balaji	Global Knowledge Manager	ICRISAT, Hyderabad
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198.	Dr R.P. Sharma	Project Director	Project Directorate on Poultry, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
199.	Dr Madhuban Gopal	National Fellow	Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi
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202.	Mr. Arvind Pratap Singh	Project Executive	FICCI, Federation House, New Delhi
203.	Dr R.P. Singh	Secretary General	Indian Agricultural Universities Association, NASC, New Delhi-110 012