



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: 25th June, 2026

To

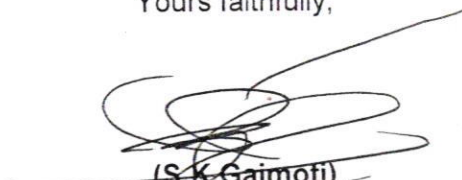
1. All Vice-Chancellors, State Agricultural Universities/CAUs/ ICAR-DUs/ CUs having faculty of Agriculture.
2. All Directors, ICAR Institutes.

Subject : Revised Guidelines for ICAR- National Fellow.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority in the ICAR for revision of guidelines for ICAR-National Fellow 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 FELLOW

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

1. Objective

- 1.1. To promote excellence at national level in agricultural research and education.
- 1.2. To recognize the meritorious contribution of individual agricultural scientists/ teachers and facilitate their research and related activities in agriculture.

2. Number of Fellowships

The total number of positions of ICAR National Fellows would not exceed twenty five (25) at any given time.

3. Salary

- 3.1. The ICAR National Fellow would be appointed in the Pay Scale level-14 (Grade pay Rs.10,000/-) in Basic Pay range Rs.1,44,200 - Rs.2,18,200/- along with admissible allowances or as revised from time to time.
- 3.2. His/her starting pay would be determined/fixed by the Council as per relevant ICAR rules.

4. Nature of Appointment

The appointment of the National Fellow will be tenurial in nature but not beyond the age of superannuation as prevalent at his/her sponsoring institution. An ICAR National Fellow will be appointed for an initial tenure of five years, which can be extended for one more, i.e., second tenure of five years subject to the quality performance as assessed by the Search-cum-Selection Committee. Only in case of exceptionally good contributions, as assessed by the Selection Committee, the tenure may be further extended for the third and final term of five years or until superannuation whichever is earlier.

5. Eligibility and Procedure of Selection

- 5.1 Only Professors/Principal Scientists/Associate Professors/Senior Scientists/those Research Scientists who are in equivalent position and standing would be eligible for consideration for appointment as ICAR National Fellow.
- 5.2 The applicant should not be more than 45 years of age on the specified date. He/she should possess a Ph.D. degree. The applicant should have an academic/research experience of at least 10 years out of which a minimum of 3 years should be in the rank of Senior Scientist or equivalent position along with significant contributions in the form of knowledge and technology generation as evidenced by published work in NAAS rated journals, product/ process/ methodology, released and notified variety/breed/stocks, innovations as patents/ protections etc. significant output and outcome/ impact of knowledge/ technology generated by the candidate should be explicitly stated. Publications in proceedings of seminars/ symposia/ conferences etc. and abstracts will not be considered at all for this purpose.

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5.3. 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

5.4. The SSC would formulate criteria and other modalities for inviting nominations and recommend deserving nominees for selection. A two-step process of inviting nominations will be followed. (a) Call for concept note about the proposed research programme from the eligible candidates and (b) Call for detailed project proposal from the shortlisted candidates based on the merit of the concept note.

5.5. Nominations from the sponsoring institutions would be invited in the prescribed format that will include a detailed research project proposal. The nomination should be sponsored by the Agricultural University/ICAR Research Institute where he/ she is presently serving. The sponsoring Agricultural University/ Institute would undertake to agree to the service conditions as laid down in para 9 of these guidelines and would provide the logistics comprising necessary basic facilities and support for his/her work. The research manpower and funding support from ICAR will be as provided in the approved project.

5.6. Final selection would be based on the recommendations of the Selection Committee, taking into account the relevance of the area of research, proposed plan of work in the form of a project, academic records, achievements and experience. The candidates may be contacted/called for discussion, if so needed. Based mainly on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, approval of the project will be given by the Council as per procedure.

5.7. The tenurial appointment of ICAR National Fellow would be made with the approval of the President, ICAR Society.

6. Operational Autonomy

6.1. ICAR National Fellow will have autonomy in implementation of the work plan of the approved project including the operation of the funds within the approved budget heads following the procedures of the sponsoring Institution. No re-appropriation of funds from any one budget head to another by the ICAR National Fellow/sponsoring Institution would be permissible. Re-appropriation of funds from one budget head to another, if needed, would require prior approval of the Council.

6.2. The Fellow will be competent to sanction purchases of the recurring and non-recurring nature subject to conforming to the purchase procedures followed in the sponsoring Institution.

6.3. The Fellow will be involved in the selection of his/ her project staff.

- 6.4. The Fellow will be a member of the Teaching Faculty, wherever applicable. He/she would appropriately share the Institutional facilities required for his/her work.
- 6.5. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be appropriately signed among the (i) ICAR, (ii) ICAR National Fellow, and (iii) the sponsoring institution to which the candidate belongs and where the project work is to be undertaken.

7. Budget

The cost of the scheme, as specified and approved, would be borne by the ICAR. ICAR will release the grant to the ICAR National Fellow through the sponsoring institution. 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 Fellow may engage, depending on the work plan of the approved project, one Research Associate (RA) and one Senior Research Fellow (SRF)/ Young Professional with rates of Associateship/ Fellowship/ Emoluments as in vogue in ICAR and as amended from time to time.
- 8.2. The secretarial assistance may be outsourced on contractual basis and the expenditure within the approved budget may be met from the research contingency grant under the project.
- 8.3. Each contractual engagement for the project will be for the duration as needed but not more than 3 years at a time in case of RA/SRF, not more than 2 years in case of Young Professional, and not exceeding the duration of the project. Engagement of the RA/ SRF/ Young Professional will be governed by the guidelines issued by the ICAR in this respect. All contractual manpower engagements under the ICAR National Fellow project including RA/ SRF/ Young Professional will be non-regular, co-terminus, time-bound and periodical in nature and will automatically terminate on completion of the tenure or at the close of the project, whichever is earlier.
- 8.4. In case of recognition/acknowledgement of the contribution made by the RA/SRF/Young Professional in any research work involved in the project of the National Fellow, decision of the National Fellow will be final; and no right in this regard can be claimed by the concerned RA/ SRF/Young Professional.
- 8.5. Each ICAR National Fellow project will have a budget with the maximum ceiling under each head as below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Revised Rates per annum</u>
<i>Revenue</i>	
i) Research Contingency -	Rs. 15.00 lakhs
ii) TA/DA -	Rs. 1.00 lakhs
<i>Capital (Equipment)</i> -	Rs. 8.00 lakhs

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

9. Service Conditions

- 9.1. In case the ICAR National Fellow 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.
- 9.2. The age of superannuation for an ICAR National Fellow, if not from an ICAR institution, would remain the same as in the sponsoring institution.
- 9.3. The Fellow, if from outside the ICAR, will not be absorbed in the ICAR on completion of the tenure.
- 9.4. The ICAR-National Fellow may be permitted to carry out not more than two additional research projects on the areas similar to his/her National Fellow project provided the work under his/her ICAR-National Fellow project does not suffer.
- 9.5. ICAR National Fellow 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 three months during each term of five years (not allowed to be cumulative over the terms), after completing at least one year in the project/fellowship. Participation in conferences, seminars, symposium etc. will not be construed as such an assignment.
- 9.6. ICAR National Fellow may apply for or accept any other regular or term offer/appointment within the country or abroad after a minimum period of three years as National Fellow. On selection to the regular or term appointment and with effect from joining the same, the Fellow shall cease to be an ICAR National Fellow.
- 9.7. The offer of appointment as ICAR National Fellow should be consummated within six months from the date of issue of the order and no extension will be given beyond six months.

10. Project Monitoring

- 10.1. ICAR National Fellow shall submit the progress of the project annually vis-à-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 Fellow 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. The annual performance appraisal report of the ICAR National Fellow shall be made by the Head of the Institution as Reporting Officer and be reviewed by the DDG (Agricultural Education), ICAR. The comments of the scientific/research bodies of the institution where the progress of work is reviewed/presented may be invariably attached with the performance appraisal reports.

10.4. Continuation of budget grants for ICAR National Fellow project would depend on maintaining satisfactory progress under the project.

11. Project Review

The Council may review the ICAR National Fellow project by referring it to peer/peers. The report of peer review shall be placed before the Selection Committee for evaluation. The Search-cum-Selection Committee along with 2-3 subject matter experts (depending upon the requirement), may review the progress of ICAR-National Fellow projects through an annual workshop. The expenditure incurred in this regard shall be met from ICAR National Professor/ Fellow Scheme.

12. General

- 12.1. The ICAR National Fellow is expected to protect the Intellectual Property Rights generated or likely to be generated during his/her tenure. The Council will have the appropriate share on the patents/protections/knowledge generated as per the 'ICAR Guidelines for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer/Commercialization' as amended from time to time. If the fellow enters into any other IP agreement, the same will be appropriately communicated to and shared with the Council. In all publications arising out of the National Fellow project, the support from the Council should be duly acknowledged.
- 12.2. For any clarification regarding the ICAR National Fellow, the Assistant Director General (HRD), Agricultural Education Division, ICAR, New Delhi may be contacted.
- 12.3. Secretary, ICAR will be the final authority in resolving and taking decision on any situation/conflict and his decision shall be binding on all parties concerned.
- 12.4. For any dispute, the applicable law will be the Indian law under the jurisdiction of Courts in Delhi only.

