

**Proceedings of the
Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Agricultural Universities
and
Interface of ICAR Directors
January 17-19, 2014**

Annual Conference of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of the Agricultural Universities (AUs) was held at Baramati, on February 17-19th 2014. The Directors of ICAR Institutes, and Senior ICAR Officials were also present on 19th Feb., 2014 during the interactive sessions.

17th January, 2014.

An informal meeting was held at City Inn hall under the chairmanship of Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR. The new Vice Chancellors were introduced during the meeting. The Vice-Chancellors were invited to make their observations on the quality of agricultural education in the country. The following points emerged during the discussion:

- Shortage of faculty either due to non-availability of qualified persons or lack of support from the authorities. It was desired that the vacant positions be filled up immediately with suitable candidates, as the State Governments have already been sensitized about this issue.
- The efforts should be initiated to include agriculture education in RUSA and the issue may be taken up with MHRD. It was also mentioned that respective State Governments need to be approached in this regard.
- ICAR may renew support for farm modernization. It was mentioned by ADG (EQR) that the proposal has been included in the XII Plan EFC memorandum of the Education Division.

The Chairman informed about approval of NAEP by the Department of Economic Affairs, Govt. of India. He stressed that Agriculture Universities must adopt the Model University Act as it is directly linked with the support to be provided under NAEP.

January 18, 2014

The conference started with ICAR song and welcome address by Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG (Edn.). He welcomed Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Shri Arvind Kaushal,

Addl. Secretary, DARE & Secretary ICAR, Dr. R. B. Singh, Former President, NAAS, Dr Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB, Dr. A. K. Shrivastava, President, IAUA, Shri P. K. Pujari, FA (DARE), Hon'ble VCs, DDGs, senior officers of ICAR and all other participants. He appreciated the fact that conference was held for the first time outside Delhi in the educational hub of Vidyanagari, at Baramati. He informed the gathering about the fruitful deliberations held on 17th Feb., 2014 and welcomed the VCs who had joined recently. He hoped for way forward in today's deliberations. He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the ICAR to upscale the higher agricultural education in the country and thanked VCs for their cooperation and the progress being made in strengthening the higher agricultural education.

Dr A. K. Srivastava, President, Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA), in his address lauded the role of ICAR in promoting agricultural education and assured that IAUA would continue to play a significant role in the process of improving agricultural education. He mentioned that future approach of IAUA is to take up series of planned activities to address various issues viz. conservation of natural resources, enhancing input use efficiency, reduction of postharvest losses, processing, initiatives to devise mechanism to fulfil the future HR requirements in the field of Higher Agricultural Education, Research and Extension. He was of the opinion that exposure for 3 month course on education and teaching technologies to the newly recruited assistant professors will prove to be beneficial in improving higher education in the country. The following suggestions were made by him:

- ❖ English language should be a part of UG curriculum.
- ❖ Students from Basic Sciences may be accepted in UG programme.
- ❖ New faculty should be given at least 3 months training in teaching techniques.

Shri Arvind Kaushal, Addl. Secy., DARE & Secy., ICAR emphasized that AUs have the responsibility to provide food for everyone. For this, resources need to be optimized and collaborations be encouraged to give extensive opportunities for learning. To reduce inbreeding, the initiatives may be taken for tie up of the students with institutes. He informed that Council can provide only limited support and all the essential requirements of the SAUs have to be met by the States. He reiterated that no organization can independently have any dealing with foreign

agencies and that this responsibility solely lies within the domain of DARE. All universities were advised to refer matters relating to international students/projects etc. to DARE. He expressed concern about opening of new Universities in spite of the fact that 40% of the posts in AUs were vacant. He stressed that Universities may focus on improving the quality of education. He mentioned that Ministry of External Affairs (MoEA) have been requested to develop a system so that MoUs are cleared within 3 months. In countries like, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Iran and Iraq permission of MoEA is must.

Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB, mentioned about the contributions of ASRB in meeting the HRD requirements of the agricultural research and education system of the country and thanked the VCs for their support in updating the question bank, advisors list, and permitting the faculty for participation in the interviews. He briefed about the efforts of ASRB in conducting interviews on time and efforts towards filing up of vacancies, maintenance of the timelines for various positions especially, CAS and introduction of the online ASRB examination system and informed that inputs from Vice Chancellors of the AUs may be invited to improve the score card. He informed that talent from overseas is being encouraged and till date, 20 researchers have joined as Senior Scientists. The inclusion of basic science course in agriculture system was also emphasised. He also offered ASRB assistance for filling up RMP positions in AUs.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR extended warm welcome to all and appreciated the Baramati KVK and described it as a model for all the Universities to follow. The co-operation being extended by the Universities from time to time and proactive initiatives of NARS for ensuring food, nutrition and livelihood security and challenges of vulnerable ecologies were appreciated by him. The visible progress as a result of special grant in several Universities was also lauded. The importance of traditional methods of teaching rather than complete dependence on e-teaching in modern classrooms was emphasized by him, along with the need on sharing of facilities among AUs. The strategies to motivate and inspire youth towards higher agricultural education through use of innovative scientific tools, encouraging capacity building and collaborative research etc. were also highlighted during the presentation. The AUs were encouraged to breach the bar in research for achieving higher quality of education so that they become most sought after destination by the students of other countries as well. He advocated

that way forward should be through competitive and consortia modes and performance linked grants. The VCs were complimented for the changes in the AUs through judicious use of sanctioned grants and he was of the view that National Agriculture Education Project would further help to reinforce quality. The need to address governance issues was stressed and the adoption of Model Act by the Government of Karnataka was appreciated by him. He mentioned that there was an urgent need to in stil strength trust and hope for agriculture related activities including education, and development of human resource in agriculture should be the top priority. It was also conveyed, that focus during this plan, will be on impact assessment of all ICAR technologies & NARS. He informed that efforts were on with MHRD to include agricultural education in RUSA. The chairman felicitated Dr. Minhas, Director, NIAM, Baramati for his efforts in organizing the conference at Baramati.

Shri P.K. Pujari, Additional Secretary and F.A., DARE requested the VCs to review the progress made, lessons learnt and way forward mechanisms and formulate strategies to spend grants on time as revalidation of the sanction may not be possible in the succeeding financial years and emphasised that AUs must develop proper financial management systems.

Dr. R.B Singh, Former President, NAAS, stressed the importance of NARS in green and white revolution and told that there is a need to mobilize youth to contribute in Indian economy, especially in agriculture. He appreciated that theme for the next Indian Science Congress has been aptly titled “Youth for Development”. He opined that nurturing of trained person is more essential rather than only imparting training to them.

Thereafter, the chairman opened the floor for general discussion and following issues were raised.

- Dr. B. Ashok, VC, KVASU, Kerala suggested that special budget could be allocated for enhancing specific skills of the University. Classroom/hostels are required as per demand due to the increasing number of students.
- Dr. Narayana Gowda, UAS, Bangalore stressed that priority areas should be set for higher performance and expressed concern about lack of communication skills in students. Knowledge delivery coupled with outcome may be emphasized in the Universities.

- Dr M.S. Aulakh, VC, MSKRJKVV, Banda raised the issue of score card and desired modifications.
- Dr Gaya Prasad, VC & Director, IVRI urged for a strong initiatives to tackle inbreeding among faculty and students in AUs.
- Major Gen. Srikant, VC, LLRUVAS, Hisar urged that English teaching may be introduced at UG level to address declining communication skills of students and faculty.
- Prof. C.S. Chakraborty, VC, WBUFAS, Kolkata, raised the issue of attracting rural students towards higher agricultural education and motivating them to go back to the farm as entrepreneurs, so as to transfer the benefit of higher education to the farmers.
- Dr. S. Honnapagol, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, urged that the AUs must refrain teaching methodology using regional languages and English should be language of instruction. He was of the view that the issues of degree equivalence awarded by the reputed foreign universities should be dealt at the level of Education Division, and minimum standards of higher agricultural education in all disciplines of agriculture should be followed by all the AUs. He also informed that the Experiential Learning modules have been finalised. He requested that the 5th Dean's committee under Chairmanship of Dr. R.B. Singh, may submit the report at the earliest.
- Dr. S.B. Dandin, VC, UHS, Bagalkot was of the view that rural agricultural work experience should be a part of the UG programmes with at least three credit course. RAWE may be linked to rural school drop-outs and be offered as three or six months certificate course/ diploma with stipend of Rs. 1000/- and after completion students may go back and work with farmers.
- Dr. S. L. Goswami, Director, NAARM informed that Education System Management Division has been started at NAARM and acapsule programme in outreach mode for newly recruited faculty has been initiated. The Universities may nominate the faculty for training.
- Dr. A.R. Pathak, V.C., NAU, Navsari raised issues of unfilled positions in KVKs and stressed the need for national level training for newly recruited faculties.
- Dr. A.K. Mishra, VC, MAFSU, Nagpur requested ICAR to identify 5-10 Universities and set targets/schemes to be fulfilled with full support and monitoring of ICAR in particular University to be developed as a model, and the Universities can reach the peak in shortest time.
- Dr. L.N. Harsh, VC, AU, Jodhpur, urged that courses should be structured in such a way that the students turn into job providers instead of job seekers.
- Dr H.S. Gupta, VC & Director, IARI, New Delhi, emphasized the need to fill up vacant posts and use the services of retired scientists to address faculty shortage.

- Dr. S.N. Puri, VC, CAU, Imphal was of the opinion that some issues like attracting and retaining youth in agriculture, mechanization of small farms, provision of marketing facilities and market intelligence services need attention.
- The agenda items were taken as outlined below:

Agenda 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of the last Annual Conference held on February 19-20, 2013

Since no comment on the proceedings were received, the proceedings of the last VC Conference held in February, 2013 were confirmed.

Agenda 2: Action taken report on the proceedings of the last Annual Conference held in February 19-20, 2013

Dr. Pradeep K. Sharma, ADG (EPD) presented the Action Taken Report.

The compliance report submitted by the universities was included in the ATR. The Action Taken Report was presented by ADG (EPD) and was accepted after discussion.

Regarding Agenda item no. 8.3 it was suggested by the GB member Shri Sudhir Kumar, that Dean's Committee may debate on the issue of nomenclature of Bachelor Degree of Home Sciences, and submit the report.

[Action: President Dean's Committee]

For Agenda item no. 8.6.9 regarding enhancement of State limit for student admission from 40 to 60 % .A committee was constituted to look into the issue, comprising of following members: Dr B. Ashok, VC, KVASU-Chairman; Dr. S.B. Dandin, VC, VHS, Bhagalkot-Member and Dr. B.S. Dhillon, VC, PAU, Ludhiana-Member.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

To avoid the difficulties, faced by the students from Africa and Afghanistan, it was agreed to initiate a six month English proficiency course at the level of AUs. Depending upon proficiency, one extra semester can be taken up by students. The modalities need to be worked out in consultation with DARE/MEA.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 3: Agenda from EPD

Agenda 3.1: Development grant: Effective utilization and other related issues

Dr. Pradeep K. Sharma, ADG (EPD) apprised the house about the status of the release of the

ICAR grants and requested that the Universities must comply with the submission of documents and annual reports on time. The 11 universities which had not submitted their AUCs were requested to submit the same within the fortnight. The expenditure may also be closely monitored by the VCs and unspent amount be intimated at the earliest.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 3.2: Decision regarding the Niche Area of Excellence Programme

The universities were informed that to monitor the progress of the Niche Area of Excellence (NAE) programmes the internal review committees have been formulated and these committees may submit the report before the next annual review meeting. The universities not having NAE were requested to submit the suitable proposals as per the guidelines.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 3.3 Organization of the Agri-sports and Agri-unifest in the year 2014-15

The BSKV, Dapoli and NDRI, Karnal volunteered to host XVI Agri-sports and XV Agri-unifest, respectively, for the year 2014-15. It was also agreed that the Deemed Universities may also participate in these events. The Agri-unifest should include an item of debate on key issues. It was also agreed to make the zonal sports more effective with the operationalization of the zonal sports complexes.

[Action: VC, BSKVV, Dapoli & VC & Dir. NDRI, Karnal]

Agenda 3.4: Uploading the data on NISAGENET

It was emphasized that nodal officers appointed by the universities must ensure proper up-dation of the data on NISAGENET. It was informed by ADG (EPD) that many universities were not regular in updating the site. Registrar may be appointed as Nodal officer and all the newly formed AUs may also appoint nodal officers and data be uploaded on the NISAGENET. The up-dation of data be made quarterly.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 3.5: Implementation of the Best Teacher Award scheme

It was informed by the ADG (EPD) that universities which are yet to utilize the provision of the scheme must utilize the same as per guidelines.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 3.6 and 3.7: XII Plan Initiatives and Revised guidelines for new civil works.

ADG (EPD) outlined the new initiatives of the XII Plan and stressed that it was essential to have

uniformity in the civil works being granted to various universities under the scheme. The universities were informed about the new guidelines regarding various civil works so that the uniformity in cost and works may be achieved. It was also stressed that all the universities must incorporate the concept of green buildings for all the new civil works sanctioned by the Council. The guidelines will be uploaded on the website.

[Action: All VCs: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 4: Agenda from the Universities (Related to EPD)

Agenda 4.1: Financial assistance to establish and maintenance of Gene Bank

The financial assistance was not agreed. However, it was suggested that necessary action may be initiated by the university at its own level.

[Action: VC, UAS, Bangalore]

Agenda 4.2: Appropriate financial support for infrastructural development during XII plan

It was clarified that limited support will continue to be provided in the XII Plan for strengthening and development of the universities as per the approval of the XII Plan EFC.

[Action: VC, BAU, Ranchi]

Agenda 4.3: Mobile Veterinary Clinics

The RKVY funds may be utilized or university may seek assistance from Dept. of Animal Husbandry, for the mobile veterinary clinics as the provision has not been made for this purpose.

[Action: VC, CGKV, Durg]

Agenda 4.4: Increase in contingencies for SAUs

Funds are based on realistic demand and availability and can be considered under Developmental grant based on availability of funds.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 4.5: Enhancement of ICAR allocation to students for all India study tour

The provision has been included in XII Plan EFC.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 4.6: Provision of one-time grant to the Constituent Agriculture Colleges which have completed 50 years under various AUs

Provision for limited funding has been included in the XII Plan EFC.

[Action: ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 4.7: Additional Research fund

The funds are available under specific schemes and could be utilized effectively.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.8: Strengthening of Higher Agricultural Education to meet future challenges

To enhance the capacity building of the faculty, initial training schedule for three years need to be proposed by the NAARM. It was also mentioned that HRD has been given adequate emphasis in XII Plan and proposed NAEP project.

[Action Dir. NAARM; All ADGs (Education Division)]

Agenda 4.9: Health insurance schemes for the students

The possibilities may be explored and mechanism may be developed by the Universities at their own level, considering it an important issue.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.10: Special Grant for renovation / repair of infrastructure

Provision for limited support has been included in the XII Plan EFC of the Education Division. There is no provision for contingency for conducting need based location specific research. However, under the component enhancing research and instructional capabilities possibilities may be explored. There is provision for the purchase of equipments for the Central Facility Laboratory only and funds will be provided for the same.

(Action: All VCs)

Agenda 4.11: Enhancement of Development Grants to the Old Colleges of the Universities

The agenda item was raised by VC, WABUFAS, Kolkata. It was clarified that there is no provision to provide special grants from the Council. However, only limited support could be provided to old historical buildings in XII plan, considering the Plan allocation.

Agenda 4.12: Special grants for TVCC & ILFC to the Veterinary colleges.

Funds are being granted under the plan scheme “Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India” and can be utilized for the purpose. Additional funds may be sought from RKVY. All Veterinary Universities may submit proposal for strengthening.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.13: Funds for Smart class room.

The provision for funds has been made in XII Plan and universities should take up these

activities considering the availability of e-courses now.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.14: Establishment of Farmer's Hostel in NU, Nagaland

It was clarified that there was no provision for the Farmer's hostel in the XII Plan.

[Action: VC, NU, Nagaland]

Agenda 4.15: Revival of research grants to SAUs out of cess fund or any other fund for pursuing short term research projects

ADG (PIM) and Dir (Fin) informed that there were sizeable number of schemes for which accounts have not been settled and no reports have been submitted. The list is available with Dir (Fin) and universities were advised to clear the accounts and submit the documents for earlier schemes. Under the ongoing /new programmes, provision of budget has been made on competitive grant basis.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 4.16: Financial assistance to modernize the existing animal farms of the Universities with automated milk parlor, feeding and cleaning system.

Specific proposals may be considered under the component for enhancing the research and instructional capabilities of the universities.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 4.17: Rejuvenation of Niche Area of Excellence Scheme as a regular educational access during XII five year plan

Centers have been strengthened and the universities were advised to submit proposals and schemes with other agencies /sources also.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.18: Agri-graduates for self-employment and entrepreneurship

The agenda was raised by the VC, NU, Nagaland. As recommended by the Dean's Committee hands on training through experiential learning units, is being imparted for encouraging entrepreneurship and development for self employment.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.19: Mobile Agri-service

The proposal may be submitted for funding under RKVY scheme.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 4.20: E-governance support

It shall be considered under the proposed National Agriculture Education Project if the norms are fulfilled.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 5: Agenda from HRD

Agenda 5.1: Introduction of Centralized Admission Procedure for Admission to PhD Programmes through Entrance Examination in Agricultural Universities

The issue was discussed and it was agreed to constitute a committee comprising of the following persons to give its recommendation about the centralized admissions on the pattern of ICARs AIEE for admissions to 25% seats in Master degree programmes of AUs and award of ICAR-JRF (PGs) in agriculture and allied sciences.

- i. Dr. K.S. Khokhar, VC ,HAU, Hisar
- ii. Dr. B .Ashok, VC, KAVASU, Pookode
- iii. Dr. B. Kurup, KUFOS, Kochi
- iv. Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Director, NDRI, Karnal
- v. ADG (HRD)- Member Secretary

The committee was requested give its recommendations within three months time.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 5.2: Inclusion of 10+6 B.Sc. Agriculture (Hons.) programme as alternate qualification for admission to various PG programme in Agricultural Universities and award of JRF.

Experience of PAU, Ludhiana has been very good and it was unanimously agreed that it may be replicated by the other SAUs to attract and retain the talent in higher agriculture education from the very young age. The programme (10+6) Agri. (Hons.) may be considered as alternate qualification for admission to various PG programmes in AUs and award of JRF. In addition it was also discussed and agreed that Students who have done 10+2 in Agriculture would be admitted to B.Sc. (Agriculture) degree programme, if necessary, with some remedial courses. It was also resolved that students with B.F.Sc./B.Sc. with Nautical Science should be considered for admission in M. F. Sc. degree programme offered by various universities.

[Action: All VCs; ADG HRD)]

Dr S N Puri, VC, CAU, Imphal brought up the issue of distance education and suggested that the programme on Distance Education in agriculture may be considered on the pattern of such similar programme being conducted by IGNOU. IAUA may take initiative in this regard.

[Action: President, IAUA]

Agenda 6: Agenda from the Universities (Related to HRD)

Agenda 6.1: Research and Extension contingency

Under the ongoing /new programmes, provision of budget has been made on competitive grant basis.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 6.2: Candidates qualified for ICAR, SRF (PG Students) to be given admission in Ph. D against available seats in order of merit without any further examination at University level.

It was resolved that candidates qualified for ICAR, SRF (PG Students) maybe given admission in Ph. D against available seats in order of merit without any further examination at University level.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 6.3: More number of scholarships should be given to PG students of other states.

This will also avoid inbreeding.

Noted. It will be taken up at the time of XII Plan EFC.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.4: Adjunct faculty system need to be made compulsory in SAU's. Talented teachers / Scientists within the country or from foreign countries should be allowed to interact with students of SAU's, so that capacity building among students will be highly enriched. The cost of TA and hospitality during the visit by adjunct faculty should be met out by ICAR.

The adjunct faculty scheme is operational and will be strengthened further in the XII Plan.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.5: All the PG students should be given some stipend/fellowship

It is proposed to extend the scope of NTS to PG students also during the XII Plan, subject to the

approval of the EFC.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.6: Teaching internship

The provision of Teaching Internship has been included in the National Agriculture Education Project.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.7: Veterinary internship and scholarship to the in-plant training/on-farm training students of dairy & fishery graduates.

The provision for the same has been included in the XII Plan EFC of the Education Division.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.8: Enhancement of stipend provided to students undergoing RAWE / Inplant training programmes

The provision for enhanced stipend to students undergoing RAWE/ In plant training has been included in the XII Plan EFC of the Education Division awaiting approval.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.9: Fellowship for PG / Ph.D. students should be at par with the Fellowship given in ICAR Deemed University like IARI, IVRI, CEFA etc.

The proposal was not agreed upon.

Agenda 6.10: Revise the examination system in BVSc&AH degree programme

Revision of the exam pattern for B.VSc. & AH is in the purview of VCI.

Agenda 6.11: Orientation programme for newly recruited faculty

Suitable provision for initiating the orientation programme for newly recruited faculty has been made by NAARM in XII Plan EFC.

[Action: Dir, NAARM]

Agenda 6.12: Provision for faculty training in new and upcoming areas.

The provision already exists for the faculty training in the new upcoming cutting edge areas through summer /winter schools and Centres for advanced Faculty Training (CAFT). Further, provision of training the faculty both nationally and at international level has been made in the NAEP.

[Action: ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.13: Introduction of the Foundation Course on ‘Human Values and Professional ethics in JNKVV, Jabalpur.

The university may initiate the course.

[Action: VC, JNKVV, Jabalpur]

Agenda 6.14: Students pursuing PG programme in different SAUs on the basis of Common Entrance Test conducted by the ICAR. There are two streams of students who are admitted in different SAUs based on written test conducted by the ICAR. In one stream the students are given placement as well as fellowship whereas, in second stream the students are given only placement and not the fellowship.

The students who qualify SRF PGS examination are only eligible for fellowship. There is no provision to provide fellowship to others. ICAR only grants fellowships and not placements.

Agenda 6.15: Need base faculty development programme to stimulate quality of agriculture education

The provision already exists for the faculty training in the new upcoming cutting edge areas through summer /winter schools and CAFT Centres. Further, provision of training the faculty both nationally and at international level has been made in the NAEP.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (HRD)]

Agenda 6.16: Student Exchange Programme

For exposure of the students and for the development of the students the provision for UG & PG students exposure visits to international agriculture & internship programme has been made in the National Agriculture Education Project.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 6.17: Inter University Faculty Exchange Programme

Provision for faculty exchange and fellowships for the faculty has been made in the National Agriculture Education Project.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 7: Agenda from EQR

Agenda 7.1: Guidelines for dual degree and joint degree programmes

Some cases of dual degree were considered by Dr. R. B. Lal committee and decisions were conveyed to the concerned. More proposals, if received, will be put up to the sectorial committee

of the Accreditation Board. However, the proposal for the reduction of period to 4 years for Masters and PhD joint degree was not agreed to.

[Action:ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 7.2: Operational guidelines for Experiential Learning.

Modules have been proposed by Task force and universities may also consider additional modules based on the profitability. The modules need to be implemented by the university as per the guidelines developed by the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. S. L. Mehta.

[Action:All VCs]

Agenda 8: From the Universities (Related to EQR)

Agenda 8.1: Strengthening Sericulture Research and Education/Inclusion of MSHAE in Sericulture

A committee has been constituted under chairmanship of Dr K. Narayangowda to evolve minimum standards of higher agricultural education in sericulture. The committee has been requested submit the report at the earliest. The universities were also requested to consider admission of B.Sc. (sericulture) graduates for admission to related disciplines for PG programme.

[Action:All VCs& VC, UAS, Bangalore]

Agenda 8.2: Relaxation of one additional year for remedial courses in agriculture to the students admitted to PG School IARI

The issue was raised by IARI, but was not accepted, considering the various problems during implementation.

Agenda 8.3: Introduction of integrated programme for M.Sc./ Ph.D. at IARI New Delhi

It was felt that issue needs more deliberations before its consideration.

[Action :Dir., IARI]

Agenda 8.4: Establishment of Research Project Monitoring Cell:

The PME cells have already been setup by various AUs. Other universities need to take such measures.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.5: Fisheries Science students should be given more experience in basic science courses. The basic science courses such as Chemistry, Physics, Cell Biology, and

Mathematics should be included in the curricula

To matter may be taken by the Dean's Committee, already constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. B. Singh.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.6: Offering short duration sandwich programmes to B. F. Sc. students in the following subjects such as Scuba diving and remote sensing

University may initiate action using own resources.

[Action: VC, TNFU, Nagapattinam]

Agenda 8.7: Strengthening of SAUs – ZARS system for enhancing the quality of research in the present perspective

There is no provision for providing the financial support for this purpose in XII Plan.

Agenda 8.8: Support for motivational lecture by management gurus.

The universities need to initiate action in this regard, considering its benefits for the students and faculty.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.9: Attracting successful alumni serving abroad to the AUs.

The university can take necessary action on its own. However, under NAEP some provision have been made for inviting scientists from abroad for specific purpose.

[Action: All VCs; ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.10: Starting Colleges of agriculture in private universities

The matter need to be taken up by such universities who are willing to start such programmes. The minimum standards for opening specific colleges are being worked out.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.11: Addressing smallholder farmers in course curriculum

The issue may be considered by the V Deans Committee, already constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. B. Singh.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.12: Technical updation of faculty members from SAUs at National and International Institutes on the pattern of scientists working in ICAR schemes.

The issue has been proposed to be taken up under the proposed NAEP project.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.13& 8.14: Equivalence of degrees of the Foreign Universities viz; Afghanistan, Africa, Asia including South Asia with that of Indian Universities, and with the degree of developed countries.

The committee constituted under the chairmanship of Dr R. B. Lal may take up this issue on case to case basis. All the issues need to be resolved. In case of equivalence of degree of Indian Universities with the degrees of developed countries, ICAR may have an understanding with specific universities for working out equivalence of degrees in the above universities. The students who come to Indian universities and vice versa may get the admissions smoothly. Similarly specific cases be considered by the Sectorial Committee of the Accreditation Board constituted for this purpose.

[Action : ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.15 National Mission on Education through information & communication technology

The ICT request can be submitted. Support has already been provided under NAIP and also by DKMA.

Agenda 8.17: Meeting of Deans

The V Dean's Committee shall be conducting faculty-wise meeting of Deans.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 8.18: Medi-claim scheme for foreign students

This can be considered as per the provisions under the scheme. However, in other cases, it may be dealt as per rules of the university. The universities may devise mechanism in consultation with Health Insurance Companies.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.19: Fee of foreign students at admission

Matter was discussed. Universities may adjust from their own resources and the amount may be deducted after fellowship is received from ICAR.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.20: Support for skill intensive agricultural education.

Support is being provided under Experiential Learning.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 8.22: Revival of farm developmental grant:

There was some provision for the specific purpose in XI Plan. Now the guidelines have been revised and deemed universities may be included.

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 9: IAUA Agenda items

No agenda item was presented.

Agenda 11: Other Agenda items from Universities

Agenda 11.1: Establishment of Animal Science Information Centre (ASIC):

CGKV, Durg, desired to develop Animal Science Information centre in line with ATIC. The university was advised to initiate action at its own level.

[Action: VC CGKV, Durg]

Agenda 11.2&11.3 : Establishment of bull mother farm in Gir breed of cattle and Murrah breed of buffalo and goat seed centre.

CGKV, Durg, raised the issue of establishing a bull mother farm and goat seed centre. It was decided that the university may initiate action on its own level.

[Action: VC CGKV, Durg]

Agenda 11.4: Registering information in CIARD-RING

The agenda was raised by VC, KUFOS, Kerala. It emerged that some of the AUs are already registering information in CIARD.RING (<http://ringciard.net>).

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.5: Number of posts at least 15% (Associate Professors / Professors) should be taken by ICAR by direct recruitment through ASRB as ICAR Professors in all SAU's. This will not only enrich the faculty but also avoid staff inbreeding in SAU's. Talented scientists should be recruited

Universities may submit the written request and make necessary provisions in the Act and Statutes of the universities.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.6: Nationwide policy for study of climate change

Noted.

Agenda 11.7 Appointment of Scientists in ICAR projects

Necessary action may be initiated by universities in consultation with ASRB.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.8: Powers to Vice-Chancellors to depute University Scientists/Teachers for foreign trainings, symposia, conferences and educational programmes

The permission of DARE needs to be obtained for foreign trips.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.9: Funds from infrastructure

It was clarified that limited support will continue to be provided in the XII Plan for strengthening and development of the universities as per the approval of the XII Plan EFC.

[Action:ADG (EPD)]

Agenda 11.10: Establishment of separate Directorate of Agricultural Engineering in all the States.

This comes under the purview of State Government. SAUs may take up the matter with State.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.11: Agriculture job fairs by ICAR for graduates at National and regional levels

Noted

[Action: ADG (ICT)]

Agenda 11.12: Establishment of centre for conservation of regional crops germplasm.

Necessary action may be initiated by the university at its own level. It was not agreed upon.

[Action: VC, NU, Nagaland]

Agenda 11.13: Equivalent status to ICAR-Net and ARS

Two different exams NET & NET and ARS system has been evolved after extensive discussion.

To be continued as such.

Agenda 11.14: Establishment of interuniversity research centres.

In Kerala it can be tried out for research in basic sciences

[Action: VC, KAU, Thrissur]

Agenda 11.15: Public Private partnerships, Strengthening of linkages with industries/ public sector undertakings / private institutions for collaboration in the field of research and education.

It was agreed that universities may encourage the strengthening of linkages with industries /public sector undertakings for collaboration in the field of research and education.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.16: Commercialization of Technologies. Granting of early approval from the

National Biodiversity Board (NBA) for speedy commercialization of technologies.

The issue may be taken up by the concerned university with NBA.

[Action: VC, UAS, Bangalore]

Agenda 11.17: Import of potential exotic genetic material.

Import of exotic genetic material be made as per the existing guidelines and provisions.

[Action: All VCs]

Agenda 11.18: Provision to visit international organization

Provision has been included under the proposed National Agriculture Education Project (NAEP).

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 11.19: Faculty exchange programme

Provision has been included under the proposed National Agriculture Education Project (NAEP).

[Action: ADG (EQR)]

Agenda 12: Agenda from KVKs

Agenda 12.1 Difference in Pay (SMS & Program Coordinator) of KVKs

The pay structure of KVK staff is regulated as per the MoU signed between ICAR and the respective host organization.

Agenda 12.2: Release of funds for civil works of KVKs

The funds are usually released well in advance. However, sometimes delay is caused as per RE.

Agenda 12.2.1: Converting the post of junior stenographer (Grade-III) of KVKs as typist cum computer operator

The point was discussed but was not agreed to.

Agenda 12.2.2: Providing funds for maintenance of KVK instructional farm

The provision for providing funds for the KVK instructional farms already exists and will continue in XII Plan.

[Action: DDG (Extn)]

Agenda 12.3: Establishment of new KVKs and transfer of one old KVK from IGKV, Raipur

The matter will be taken up with CGKV, Durg, by Zonal Project Director, Zone 7.

[Action: DDG (Extn)]

Agenda 12.4: KVKs as Centres of Excellence

It was informed that during the XII Plan some selected KVKs may be considered as specialized KVKs.

[Action: DDG (Extn)]

Agenda 12.5: Sale of Fish seeds by KVK

The KVKs with Fishery scientists and potential for fish seed production may take necessary action.

[Action: VC, KUFOS, Kochi]

Agenda 13: Agenda items on AICRPs

Agenda 13.1&13.2: Establishment of AICRP on Lac (AICRPs) and provision of up-gradation or new AICRP/Network centre (AICRPs): up-gradation of AICRP sub Centre on soybean at JNKVV, Jabalpur.

The matter may be taken up at the time of the finalization of the EFC of the XII Plan.

[Action: DDG (CS)]

Interface of Directors and VCs of SAUs on 19-01-2014

Dr. P.K. Sharma, ADG (EPD) invited and welcomed Shri P. K. Pujari, Addl. Secy. DARE &FA, Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB, Dr. R.B. Singh-Former Dir., IARI & President NAAS, Mr. Arvind Kaushal, Addl. Secy. DARE & Secy. ICAR, Dr. A. K. Srivastava-President, IAUA and Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG (Edn).

Dr. Arvind Kumar welcomed the dignitaries on the dais and participating VCs & Directors and apprised the house regarding the provisions made under various components in XII Plan.

Dr. R.B. Singh mentioned that efforts towards strengthening education, research & extension can only take the nation forward and appreciated the efforts of the NARS to work in that direction with focussed attention.

Dr. Kushmakar Sharma, ADG (HRD) presented the salient recommendations of the committee on the evaluation and accreditation of non- grant agricultural and allied colleges affiliated to SAUs and those in general universities. It was informed that the committee recommended that the ICAR may allow affiliation /accreditation of private unaided agricultural and allied colleges provided they ful-fill the requirements of infrastructure, manpower and quality education programme through a well laid out transparent process.

The VCs were of the view that ICAR may not consider accreditation of the private colleges unless requested by them. It was also requested that report of the committee may be uploaded on the ICAR website.

Dr. K. Sharma also presented the report of the committee constituted under the chairmanship of Dr R. B Singh for prescribing model qualifications for selection of VCs of agricultural universities. The VCs appreciated the move and suggested to re-examine the feasibility of having a score card for the purpose.

The third presentation By Dr K Sharma was regarding the proposed revision in the guidelines for the students to conduct research for their degree programme as trainees at ICAR Institutes. The revisions were appreciated by the VCs and Directors of the ICAR Institutes.

Dr. R.B. Singh opined the need to increase Public-Private Partnership and engage the corporate/private sector into developmental process without compromising with the quality.

Dr. Gurbachan Singh informed that score card should not be used as a physical parameter but there should be minimum four-five parameters to be pointed as questions, and it should not be called as score card, but a kind of some bench mark for calling for interview.

The following issues were also raised during the discussion

- i) There is scarce of response from the state government in adopting the ICAR Model act or giving their input on it.
- ii) In the Model act there is a provision of two committees one for screening and other for selection, which also needs acceptance of the state government.

Dr. K. Narayangowda, VC, UAS, Bangalore, presented the highlights of the International Farmers' Fair and mentioned that it may be the annual feature of the university as it created a unique platform for different stakeholders from the farming sector. He also highlighted the activities/achievements/contribution of the university in the national development.

Dr. Gurbachan Singh highlighted the activities/achievements and contribution of ASRB in national development by selecting quality people at various levels in agriculture sector in India, and presented the data of different examination's performances by the candidates from entire India. He also addressed the following issues:

- Scarcity of the eligible candidates for Senior Scientists and Principal Scientists positions advertised for direct recruitment by the ASRB.
- The contribution of SAUs candidates, in respect to ICAR deemed University, is very less in ARS examination.
- Number of candidates qualified in ARS examinations is only dominated by the very few states of India.
- It is a matter of concern to raise the percentage of NET qualified candidates from 12 % in last examinations to much more in the next examination.
- There is scarcity of candidates in some of the subjects for NET/ARS which is also a matter of high concern.

Dr. R.R. Hanchinal in his presentation focused on the issues related to registration of plant varieties. He informed that India is one of the 12 mega biodiversity regions with over 45000 species and represents 11% of the world's total flora. He said that the number of applications for registration of plant varieties are much less from the public sector organizations, in contrast to that of private sector organizations. Thus needs attention of the Council and SAUs. He also requested to ICAR institutions and SAUs to become a nodal centre for benefit sharing.

Inauguration by the President

DDG (Edn) welcomed the esteemed guests and dignitaries on the dais, Hon'ble President of India, Chief Guest; Shri Prithviraj Chavan, CM, Maharashtra; Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture; Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Charan Das Mahant; Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Ajit Pawar; Cooperatives Minister, Shri Harshvardhan Patil; State Agriculture Minister, Shri Radha Krishna Vikhe-Patil; Smt. Supriya Sule, MP; Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secy. (DARE) & DG ICAR; Shri Arvind Kaushal, Addl. Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR, Shri P. K. Pujari, Addl. Secy. ICAR&FA, and Dr A. K. Srivastava, President, IAUA.

Dr S. Ayyappan, Secy. (DARE) & DG ICAR in his welcome address during the inauguration of the VCs Conference by the Hon'ble President appreciated the support and encouragement provided by him. The various programmes initiated by the Council during the year were presented, especially the programmes like, Borlaug global rust initiative and lauded the contributions and services of Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug in making this country self-

sufficient in food production. The following major concerns i.e. attracting and retaining youth in agriculture and inculcating skills in them along with the need to address the issues faced by small/marginal farmers which forms core of Indian agriculture were also raised. He also appreciated the fact that the Agri-Leadership provided by Shri Sharad Pawar and his unflinching support for the cause made the growth rate of 4.6 % in agriculture a reality.

Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Prithviraj Chavan in his address expressed confidence that country can handle the challenge of food security due to the efforts of the agriculturists. He also added that adverse effects of the climate change is the issue demanding immediate attention. He released two publications, viz. Souvenir-“Towards climate resilient agriculture-KVKs experiences from Maharashtra” and “Transforming agriculture transforming India-A compilation of speeches delivered by Hon’ble Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture & Food Processing (in three volumes)” and presented these to the Hon’ble President of India.

Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar, reflected that Council is bringing about major changes in the lives of Farmers by reaching out to them through its innovations. The only solution to shrinking land resources was to increase productivity, he said. The necessity to create an environment of academic excellence to develop globally competent infrastructure, and technology generation, dissemination and human capacity building was also stressed. The role of ICAR in imparting higher agricultural education was appreciated, and he also thanked the farmers, scientists, faculties, students, service providers and institutions for their significant role in national food security. The impact of technologies generated by the by agriculture scientists was also appreciated.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon’ble President of India inaugurated a three-day Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Directors, and appreciated the efforts of ICAR and scientists to organise a meeting of this kind and ushering in commendable changes in the field of agriculture which forms the backbone of the Indian economy. He lauded the efforts of agriculturists which led the country to one of the major exporters of food grains, sugar and cotton. He appreciated the support provided by Union Agriculture Minister for over a decade which led the country to self -sufficiency in food. He said that major challenge was to increase productivity and desired targets can be achieved only with inclusion of modern technology and emphasized the need for newer technologies to harness the unproductive, salt affected,

waterlogged or acidic soils in the country. He also said that ICAR has to now focus on emerging issues like: climate change, host-parasite complexes, concern of bio-safety, restriction trait regimes, competitiveness of the farm produce, improvement in the farms income, shift in the consumption pattern toward processed food and increased demand for food items of animal origin. He suggested to the scientists and our farmers' community to convert these challenges into opportunities. Further, he said that greater productivity and profitability can be achieved by improved resource management, diversification and good breeding approaches.

The Hon'ble President spoke of the rich dividends obtained due to science led growth which has been in the forefront of agricultural research and extension and was of the opinion that the agricultural universities have to play an important role in imparting quality education to students, making them professionally competent and socially sensitive. To harmonize agricultural education with excellence in science and technology, he urged the universities to undertake initiatives aimed at faculty and institution development, and reforms in governance and curriculum and appreciated that ICAR has initiated the National Agricultural Education Project to improve and sustain the quality of higher agricultural education. The innovative student programmes such as READY, which stands for Rural Entrepreneurship and Awareness Development Yojana; ASPIRE, or Agriculture Science Pursuit for Inspired Research Excellence were also appreciated by him.

He conferred the coveted Best Performance Award for attaining maximum number of students qualifying for JRFs in 2013-14 to Govind Bhallabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (Ist Prize), and Dr. PDKV, Akola and UAS, Bangalore as joint winners of II prize and SKUAST-Kashmir was conferred III Prize.

The inaugural function ended with the vote of thanks from Addl. Secy. DARE & Secy. ICAR.

Interface of Vice Chancellors' with Farmers (5.00 PM -7.00 PM)

The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Sharad Pawar. The Secy. DARE & DG, ICAR, welcomed the dignitaries on the dias, Hon'ble Shri Sharad Pawar, Union Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries; Smt. Supriya Sule, MP; Shri B. R. Barwale, Chairman, MAHYCO, Shri B. H. Jain, Founder and Chairman, Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Shri V. S. Borade, Trustee, Marathwada Sheti Sahayya,

Mandal, Aurangabad, Shri Arvind Kaushal, Addl. Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR , Dr Arvind Kumar, DDG (Edn) and Dr. K. D. Kokate, DDG (Agril. Extn). He drew special attention to the challenges in vulnerable ecologies and highlighted the achievements of ICAR for freedom from hunger and malnutrition. He informed that consistent efforts of the Scientists, researchers and farmers have resulted in surplus of food-grains in the country, paving the way for food security and self sufficiency. He also informed about the various new initiatives of the Council including National Agriculture Education Project.

The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Shri Sharad Pawar emphasized the urgent need to address the issues concerning rain-fed agriculture, which account for over 56% of the total crop area, and over 77% pulses and 66% oil seeds are cultivated in these areas with having potential of animal husbandry. Rain-fed area has a great scope and potential to boost the national food production, he told. He appreciated the national initiative on climate resilient in agriculture, which is a step in right direction to manage climate risks in diverse agro-climatic situations, by the ICAR. Further, he told that public-private partnership can play a significant role in technology commercialization, and agri-business must be developed and expanded to make it a profitable venture. He complimented CAU, Imphal for extending agriculture education to the remote areas in North-Eastern region. He was of the view that network of the research and education institute is successful, if it contributes towards betterment and flourishing of farmers with less inputs and increased income. He appreciated that technologies generated by agriculture scientists have played a significant role. He felicitated Dr B.R. Barwale, Shri B. H. Jain and Shri V. S. Borade, for their contribution to the agriculture.

Smt. Supriya Sule, MP, in her address highlighted that rural economy needs, increase in the agricultural and livestock productivity, enhancing the revenue to the farmers and farm workers, providing non-farm avenues of employment to the rural people and progressively increasing the GDP contribution of the agricultural sector to national economy. The scientists and technologists should prepare to combat the challenges in an integrated fashion with the overall rural development and improved quality of life of the farmer as a goal. The scientists and technologists assembled here should strive to promote the prosperity, happiness and wellness of our rural masses.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Dr. K. D. Kokate, DDG (Agril. Extn).

The following were the recommendations that emerged from deliberations:

1. VCs should expeditiously take steps to implement ICAR Model Act and address faculty shortage.
2. It was agreed that students who have done 10+2 in Agriculture would be admitted to B.Sc. (Agriculture) degree programme if necessary, with some remedial courses across all AUs.
3. The AUs may collaborate with ICAR Institutes to develop mutually beneficial research programmes.
4. AUs should take advantage and provide technical backstopping for the major initiatives taken by Ministry of Agriculture like Food Security Mission & RKVY.
5. It was decided that transfer from AICRPs should be undertaken only by following Council's guidelines as included in the MoUs for the same.

Four major issues requiring immediate action and attention were:

- Adoption of Model Act
- Continued faculty shortage in agricultural universities.
- Motivating and inspiring youth in higher agricultural education
- Encouraging capacity building and research culture in AUs and ensuring publications in high impact journals.