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# Science Resource Management

Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board, established in 1973 as an independent recruitment body for the ICAR, plays a key role in induction of best quality scientists and other senior management personnel in the Council. The Board aids and advises Council in evolving and implementing policies related to human resource development as well as Career Advancement Schemes for ARS Scientists.

The ASRB is consistently endeavouring to reform and refine talent-search strategies to meet existing as well as emerging needs of the national agricultural research system. Its main mandate is to make available the best human resource to man various positions in the ICAR and its institutes across the country.

### NET and ARS examinations

For the first time, the NET Examination–2012 and ARS (Preliminary) Examination–2012 were conducted as separate and independent examinations on 24 February 2013 at 33 centers across the country as per the revised scheme and syllabi. For the NET examination–2012, a total of 29,011 candidates had applied while 16,790 had applied for ARS–2012 (Preliminary) Examination 22,537 and 11,472 candidates actually appeared in the NET and ARS (Preliminary) examinations respectively. Only a total of 1,845 candidates (8.19%) qualified in the NET, and in eight disciplines i.e. Agricultural Microbiology, Economic Botany and Plant Genetics Resources, Animal Biochemistry, Poultry Science, Agricultural Chemicals, Agricultural Business Management, Home Science and Agricultural Structures and Environmental Management – none could qualify.

The ARS (Preliminary) examination–2012 was for recruitment to fill 431 vacancies at the initial grade scientists in 36 disciplines. ARS Main examination –

#### Discipline- wise break-up of NET candidates

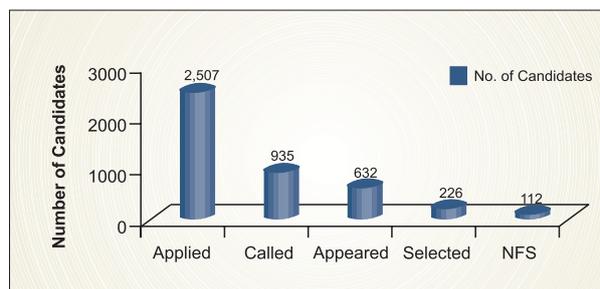
Disciplines	Applied	Appeared	Qualified
Crop Science	12,154	9,215	1,209
Agricultural Engineering	1,991	1,623	41
Horticulture	2,421	1,955	106
Natural Resource Management	4,819	3,789	143
Animal Sciences	3,522	2,892	185
Fisheries	893	705	85
Social Sciences	3,211	2,358	76
Total	29,011	22,537	1,845

2012 was conducted on 30 June, 2013 at 12 centres across the country. Out of 16,790 candidates, who applied for the ARS examination, only 2,476 passed in the examination, and 745 candidates obtained marks above the cut-off level to be called for the interview.

NET Examination of 2013 was conducted on 27 October 2013 in 55 revised disciplines at 33 centers across the country. Applications along with E-Payments for this were received through completely online system. A total of 24,770 candidates applied for the NET examination.

### Direct recruitment

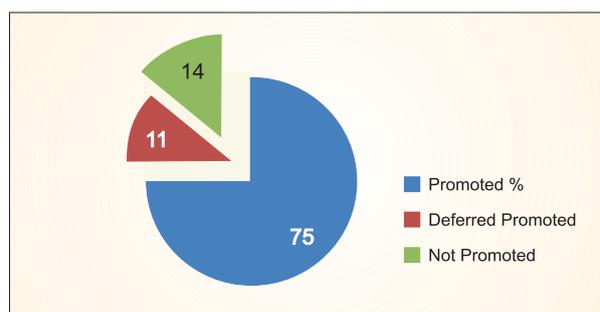
During the year, the Board completed the recruitment process for 338 posts. Of these, 11 were Research Management Positions, 32 were in the middle-level cadre (Project Coordinators, Joint Directors of other than national Institutes and Heads) and the remaining were for Principal Scientists and Senior Scientists. The Board made positive recommendations in 227 posts.



Details of direct selection posts

### Assessment of scientists

**Assessment/ Promotion of Senior Scientists under Revised Career Advancement Scheme:** Consequent upon the adoption of Sixth Pay Commission UGC package for the ARS, the revised Career Advancement Scheme was promulgated by the Council from 1 January 2009. In terms of its time-bound



Assessment of Senior Scientists for promotion to principal scientists under the Career Advancement Scheme



implementation during the year, the Board considered more than 749 proposals in 57 disciplines for promotion from Senior Scientist (RGP ` 9,000) to Principal Scientist (RGP ` 10,000).

The performance for assessment promotion was quite satisfactory, as 86% (11% Deferred Promoted) of the candidates were recommended for promotion to the

next higher grade. Of the successful candidates, 50% secured more than 80% marks and amongst the unsuccessful ones, only 7% secured less than 65% marks. This reflects on the positive strength of the ICAR research system.

#### New initiatives

**Online system for NET/ARS Preliminary examination in ASRB, ICAR:** Computers, servers, UPS and software were procured and delivered by the outsourced agency at the Data Centre (DC), Data Recovery (DR) Centre and at 23 online examination centres across India. These equipments have been installed at DR, DC and 15 centres. Software modules for question bank, test display, online registration and generating admit cards have been finalized. For the first time in the ASRB, online applications were successfully invited from the candidates for NET-2013. □