

The tenth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar during 4-6 November 1979. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Internal evaluation and the lab-to-land technology.

SUB-THEMES

1. Internal evaluation and grading.
2. Lab-to-land technology.
3. Review of Randhawa Committee recommendations.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Convention reiterated the recommendations of ninth Convention that there should be at least 65 days of actual instruction in a trimester and 100 in a semester, and that the answer sheets should be shown to the students after the test.
2. The Convention urged flexibility regarding the size of on farm demonstration plots, financial assistance per family, use of farm inputs etc.
3. The Randhawa Committee had made several recommendations on aspects of governance of agricultural universities, including the conversion of existing agricultural complexes in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh into separate agricultural universities. The ICAR should approach the State Governments for speedy action to amend the Acts of their universities suitably in view of these recommendations.
4. On the transfer of research responsibilities from State governments to agricultural universities also, the ICAR has to play a decisive role by persuading the State Governments to complete such transfer under pain of withdrawal of financial support, within a year.
5. The agricultural universities can co-operate in economizing the water use by adopting measures like lining of channels, checking of seepage etc., thereby increasing the water-use efficiency. Cropping patterns suited for low-moisture conditions have to be adopted, and contingent plans have to be drawn for identification of varieties and crops to be grown under low moisture or excess moisture during monsoon or winter months. There is urgent need to make water available for cattle too.
6. The agricultural universities can play an active role under drought or unfavourable weather conditions by providing expert guidance, personnel and relief services, in collaboration with other agencies.