

The sixteenth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Kerala Agricultural University, Thiruvananthapuram during 16-18 December 1988. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Agricultural universities and rural development.

SUB-THEMES

1. Conceptual aspects.
2. Current status.
3. Future involvement.
4. Plenary session.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An inter-disciplinary forum may be constituted in each university to function as a centre for Rural Development. It could be instrumental for planning in areas like agro-based small-scale industries, rural health and sanitation, communication and general welfare of the rural community.
2. As the existing data pertaining to agricultural production are invariably unreliable, the Department of Agricultural Economics, Statistics, and Rural Sociology functioning in the agricultural university need to be strengthened.
3. Proportionate weightage may be given to rural-development education and to the techniques in the course curricula of different degree and non-degree educational programmes.
4. Inter-discipline fora (like Centre for Rural Development Studies) may be set up in State agricultural universities to function as nuclei for conceptual and analytical investigations, perspective planning and formulation of specific strategy for rural development.
5. In view of the Government proposal for setting up Rural Institutes, the Convention recommended that as far as possible such institutes should function as part of the State agricultural universities, or at least in their close proximity, involving their representation in their various management and academic bodies.