

**The seventeenth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar during 16-18 December 1988. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.**

**THEME**

The year 200 A.D. – major thrust of the agricultural universities.

**SUB-THEMES**

1. Structural and curricular changes in undergraduate programmes to meet emerging opportunities in the year 2000 A.D.
2. Research for sustainable agriculture.
3. Innovative approach for extension in 2000 A.D.

**MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. A working group may be constituted to formulate a standard mode of operation of the field-oriented rural work experience of one semester for B.Sc. (Agric.) students. Financial commitment in the form of stipend from the ICAR is necessary as has been done for Veterinary graduates.
2. In the next decade the State agricultural universities have to lay stress on producing agricultural managers, and for this the course curricula have to be more flexible in preparing students for a more diverse job market and future managerial role.
3. Instructional programmes have to lay greater stress on developing and using modern methods and aids of teaching, which requires appropriate instructional technology and adequate financial support.
4. This is high time that Agricultural Education is declared a Technical Education and the degree a Technical Degree. The ICAR and State Government should therefore move the Council of Technical Education to take early action for this long-felt need.
5. In view of continuous deterioration and paucity of natural resources, greater research efforts are needed for conservation of genetic resources of plants and animal sources, land and water, as well as integrated pest management.
6. The farm technology developed must be cost effective and appropriate.
7. Every State agricultural university should establish a Department of Environmental degradation and suggest remedial measures.
8. Central Agricultural Economics Institute should be established to take up studies on rural management, pricing, subsidy and alternative agricultural systems.
9. As the second phase of Green Revolution would require greater extension effort and attention than in the past, the first-line extension education system needs to be strengthened structure-wise, programme-wise and resource-wise.
10. The availability of improved seeds, saplings, fingerlings and animals are in short supply everywhere. These require augmentation for strengthening extension programmes as also the production programmes by the farmers.
11. For manpower development in Extension, equal emphasis is necessary on training in subject-matter as well as in extension methodology/ pedagogy. Therefore M. Sc. (Extension) should be so structured. Besides, M. Sc. in subject matters (Agronomy, Horticulture etc.) may be allowed for Ph. D. in Extension with some remedial courses in Extension Education.