

The nineteenth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Rajendra Agricultural University, Samastipur during 29-31 October 1991. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Diversification and employment generation in agriculture.

SUB-THEMES

1. Identification of areas.
2. Diversification and employment generation in agriculture through pisciculture.
3. Diversification and employment generation in agriculture through sericulture and mushroom cultivation.
4. Diversification and employment generation in agriculture through horticultural crops.
5. Diversification and employment generation in agriculture through dairy and animal products.
6. Diversification and employment generation in agriculture through cereals and cash crops- based industries.
7. Diversification and employment generation in agriculture through farm mechanization.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For poverty alleviation and employment generation, the agriculture has to be diversified by developing relevant and viable technologies for varied aspects of farming operations, utilizing biotechnology, economic and marketing studies etc. through co-ordinated efforts of all concerned departments and organizations.
2. The course curricula at undergraduate level may be restructured on the basis of manpower requirement, making the student a generalist with specialization in areas like pisciculture as per local needs.
3. Emphasis is needed on social forestry on waste, saline etc. lands, or degraded forests, apiculture, sericulture etc. for sustainability and employment generation in agricultural sector. It requires strengthening of extension infrastructure, location-specific nursery plantation and cottage-based industries, involvement of farmers in road-side plantations etc.
4. An integrated approach in cropping systems is needed to evolve a perfect Agri-Horti-Silviculture system for achieving maximum output per unit area.
5. For export of fruits and vegetables, the desired quality of product is required, needing research on varietal development and strengthening of the processing standards.
6. Research and development deserve greater emphasis in areas like micro- propagation, tissue culture, post-harvest physiology, nursery network, development of cottage-scale as well as big horticultural estates for marketing and export, and also production of off-season vegetables for higher economic returns.
7. Adequate budget is needed to develop livestock industry and proper processing and marketing facilities. Livestock improvement, disease surveillance and forecast, exploitation of agro-industries waste for animal feed, study of animal husbandry practices of migratory livestock etc. deserve greater attention.

8. There is pressing need for quality seed, improvement in the quality of produce for export purpose, utilization of by-products of sugarcane, soybean etc., rural industrialization at farm level, multi-byproduct industries for cereals and cash crops etc.
9. As power supply is rare in rural areas, greater attention is needed for animal-drawn and mechanically operated agricultural implements for various crops and operations.
10. Agro-service centres, training of artisans and communication of information regarding all technologies are essential for the rural farming community.