

**The twenty-first Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat during 16-18 December 1994. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.**

**THEME**

Agricultural education policy.

**SUB-THEMES**

1. Future directions and strategies in agricultural education.
2. State agricultural universities-industry linkages; and Export scenario of agricultural products.
3. Manpower requirements for agriculture, animal science and home science by 2010.
4. Emergence of faculty-oriented universities in agricultural sharing of experiences; and Experiences in different agricultural universities.
5. Financial stability in agricultural universities.

**MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. An Agricultural Education Council should be established by the Government of India to improve the quality of education and bring about equity quality and relevance in it.
2. The ICAR should create an Accreditation Board and co-ordinate manpower planning in the State agricultural universities and the States. An Educational Technology Unit is also to be established, and need-based curricula to be developed and updated.
3. The quality of teaching is to be improved, the proportion of science and technology in the curriculum is to be increased, and the undergraduate curriculum should have 50% of practicals.
4. The course of export technologies should be introduced in agricultural education.
5. The universities must recognize the importance and commercial value of obtaining patents and their products, and should have perfect wedlock between the teaching and research and the industries. They should provide consultancy services to business houses, as the latter's support too depends largely on the improved, innovative and new technologies. Accordingly the industry should be made to spend lavishly on university research.
6. The competitive advantage of India in having diverse agro-climatic conditions, wide range of crops, cheap labour etc. should be fruitfully utilized in promoting the export of our crops and agricultural products, which at present is quite meager.
7. There is need for a national manpower planning centre with branches in States and State agricultural universities for better co-ordination as well as proper manpower assessment and development.
8. Tentative estimates of manpower requirement was made at 50,000-55,000. It was urged to follow the Chinese model, where no agricultural graduate remains unemployed.
9. The entire gamut of issues relating to the bifurcation of existing and the establishment of new disciplines in multi-faculty universities should be examined by a high-power committee, including the opening of new colleges in different disciplines.
10. Foreign students may be admitted in the universities, charging suitable fees from them. The universities should receive non-lapsable grants instead of block grants and the Plan expenditure may be converted into non-Plan expenditure regularly.