

The twenty-third Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Marathwada Agricultural University, Sub-Campus Aurangabad during 21-23 November 1996. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Human resource development for meeting future challenges in agriculture.

SUB-THEMES

1. Human resource development in Indian agriculture.
2. Marketing and export of agricultural commodities.
3. Pre- and post-harvest technologies.
4. Plant germplasm collection, evaluation, conservation and cataloguing.
5. Animal germplasm collection, evaluation and cataloguing.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To harness the fruits of technological developments, some specific measures are necessary like infrastructure development in rural sector, functional efficiency in the system, dynamic technology adoption, linkage improvement and industrial back-up to research.
2. We must identify the ecological niches for cultivation of export commodities. There is need to establish quality standards, testing facilities, and techno-economic assessment bodies.
3. Specific funding is needed for research and development in pre- and post-harvest technologies, with emphasis on processed food of animal origin, and the engineering component needs to be strengthened.
4. In the massive task of maintaining animal wealth in the country, financial support is quite inadequate, requiring decentralization in centres for specific animals and breeds.
5. In the fast-changing international scenario (WHO, GATT), there is need to restructure course curricula of agricultural universities by incorporating the emerging subjects like agricultural business, computer technology, polyhouse, export-import issues etc.
6. Agri-polytechnic colleges and minimum-competence vocational courses in lower agricultural education faculty should be established in each region and district to facilitate better human resource development.
7. The State agricultural universities have an important role to play in the marketing and export of agricultural commodities, specifically in market survey and identification of export commodities, establishment of quality standards and testing facilities etc., techno-economic survey and the socio-economic survey of farmers showing potential of exporting the agricultural produce.
8. The ICAR should establish a separate All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Agricultural Marketing.
9. Greater efforts are needed in the research and development of male buffaloes and marine products in view of the demand for good-quality processed meat and fish from the Gulf and other countries.
10. A separate discipline of Post-Harvest Technology may be created in each agricultural university.