

The twenty sixth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held on 23rd & 24th October 2001 in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

THEME

Agricultural research and education improvement through institutional linkage.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As State Agricultural Universities are facing financial crisis, adequate financial support may be provided by the State Government concerned to the SAUs as per the mandate established. Also the ICAR may provide the funding support through enhanced sanction of catch up grant/Development grant.
2. Third generation Universities are suffering from financial crisis. Hence, they may be supported by ICAR at least in the frontier areas so as to equip men and materials in such universities.
3. ICAR should make it mandatory for the private KVKs funded by ICAR to have effective linkages with SAUs.
4. The Institutes established by Government of India, ICAR and other PSUs located nearby SAUs should establish functional linkages for which MOUs may be drawn. For this ICAR can take a lead and suggest modalities.
5. Any reorientation of the policy/research programmes should have the objectives of improving income entitlement of the majority of the farmers namely, small and marginal farmers particularly in the WTO era.
6. It is high time to invest more on Horticulture and non food crops since more employment generation and export advantage are observed in this sector.
7. The research focus may be on evolving suitable technologies for those crops that have both comparative and competitive advantage.
8. Further agricultural research programme must focus on reduction in costs of production of agricultural commodities so as to make them competitive.
9. Feed back from farmers must be taken into account for making transfer of technology more effective. In this regard, service Institutions like input, finance and marketing may be involved in transfer technology.
10. Increased allocation for extension by SAUs will yield higher dividends as it is found that only 2 percent of the total out lay of the budget is allocated by SAUs for extension.
11. A task force comprising of identified Vice-Chancellors of the SAUs of the region may be formed and they may apprise to the different State Government for the funding support needed by the SAU in the State concerned.
12. The TANWA kind of innovative model implemented in Tamil Nadu benefiting specific women clientele group can be replicated for other areas and states.
13. Mountain Universities Forum needs to be created for making in-depth analysis of mountain Agriculture and to prepare a suitable action plan to overcome the problems.