

Recommendations of 27th Convention held at Acharya Ranga Agricultural Hyderabad 9-11 December 2002

1. To improve agricultural production and productivity, it is essential to have inter-institutional collaboration between all stake-holders, i.e. farmers, scientists, Governments, NGOs etc. (Action - Agril Universities and ICAR)
2. The research organizations as well as private sector should collaborate and share resources to effectively utilize the benefit of advances in gene revolution, GM technology and biotechnology, because the existing options available to us are less rewarding and are unsustainable. (Action - Agril. Universities and ICAR Institutes)
3. There is need to reorient our agricultural education, research, extension and development activities to face the changing needs and emerging challenges through IT enabled services, renewed transfer of technology cells in SAUs and people's participation for equitable distribution of natural resources, improving irrigation water use efficiency etc.(Action - Agril. Universities)
4. For rainfed areas (100 million ha), research is needed on watershed development and alternative farming systems besides attention to integrated pest and nutrient management. (Action - Agril. Universities)
5. Steps are to be taken to maximize productivity, training on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, introduction of job-oriented courses, and increase in employment opportunities including those for women. (Action - State Govts. And Agril. Universities)
6. Quality infrastructure has to be developed for value addition to utilize surplus or perishable farm produce and for reduction of post-harvest losses Extension personnel have to act as agents of information and knowledge communication. (Action - Agril. Universities)
7. Potential of information technology and distance education should be fully tapped by the ICAR and the SAUs, simultaneously revamping the curricula in view of a global competition in the wake of WTO, and to keep pace with the rapid advances taking place in research and technology generation. The research institutions and line government organizations should foster linkages in distance education. The students are also to be sensitized on issues related to climate change, and the degradation of soil, water and bio-diversity, in addition to the laws, rights and issues connected with GATT, WTO, IPR etc. (Action - ICAR, Agril. Universities and State Govts.)
8. The government policies should be directed to encourage financial institutions towards infrastructure upgradation, market development, and the export incentives and facilities to effectively tap the frontier areas of science and technology by SAUs, and other institutions etc.(Action - Union and State Govts.)
9. The share of R & D in the total GDP should be atleast 1% (2% of agriculture GDP) for the development of quality infrastructure, agricultural processing and value addition, especially of horticultural and vegetable produce. (Action - Union and State Govts.)
10. The ICAR should consider funding of the SAUs to upgrade their financial status and to enable them to generate their own resources, evolve better crop varieties etc for sustaining agricultural, livestock and fishery productivity and ensuring food security. (Action - ICAR)
11. The SAUs should have IPR cells for providing technical support to Plant Variety Protection and for educating the farmers regarding their rights as breeder and farmer and also patenting of products and legal and other practical issues. (Action - Agril. Universities)
12. Our standards for benchmarking quality must match the international standards. The Government policies on land reforms, credit, finance, taxation, pricing of farm produce etc. therefore need suitable modification in tune with the requirements of liberalized economy, with adequate empowerment to the States to adopt the relevant import-export policies. There should be single-window clearance for agro-based industries, and export-promotion zones should be established in different areas to cater to their specific needs. (Action - Union and State Govts.)