

The third Convention of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at University of Agriculture Sciences, Bangalore, during 22-25 March 1972. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Report of National Commission on Agriculture.

SUB-THEMES

1. Unemployment.
2. Interim Report of National Commission on Agriculture.
3. Draft working paper of the Association presented to National Commission on Agriculture.
4. Linkage of services supporting agricultural development.
5. Other relevant subjects.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The unemployment among the graduates in agricultural sciences may be because they are not equipped for the types of jobs available to them, which requires closer linkage among various employment agencies. It was proposed that the government should provide liberal loans to the graduates for raising livestock or agro-service centre, as well as allot culturable land to the desirous ones, and each university should establish an agricultural polytechnic and start agro-service centre with proper financial support.
2. It was felt that some states were slow in transferring the state-wide research functions to the agricultural universities, and the National Commission has failed to solve the overlapping of functions between extension and training between the agricultural universities and the concerned State department, beside a similar overlapping in the field of research, despite a clear mandate to the universities.
3. In the area of fundamental research, the ICAR should create centres of excellence in each discipline similar to the Advanced Centres set up by the UGC. The Government should provide block grants, instead of project/scheme-wise grants, to the agricultural universities to ensure flexibility in research programmes. The research programme in the universities has to be problem oriented, without distinction between fundamental, applied or adaptive research.
4. It was proposed to the National Commission that the Association and the ICAR should have close collaboration and joint research units, accreditation board and joint trust for operation of funds, and project approach should be followed for the physical development and financial support to the university. There were proposals for transferring the sub-centres of Central research institutes to the agricultural universities, provide greater flexibility and autonomy to the All India Co-ordinated Research Projects, development of plant protection as an integrated science, and free exchange of scientific material.
5. Strong and viable linkages are essential between the associated agricultural services. There should be a single agency at the State level and national level to relate all agricultural development programmes.
6. Suggestions were given to improve practical training through integrated field practical at undergraduate level, communicate new farming ideas and techniques to the cultivator in his/her mother tongue; to set up a Research Policy and Planning Committee by the IAUA to collaborate with the ICAR for developing a Master Plan of Agricultural Research in the country; and to redesignate ICAR as the Indian Council of Agricultural Development by bringing in extension education also under its ambit and integrate the teaching, research and extension functions at the all-India level.