

39th Vice-Chancellors Convention on: Making World Class Agricultural University in India held during 8-9 Nov. 2014 at NASC Complex, Pusa Campus, New Delhi

Recommendations:

1. It was consensually agreed that we need to move ahead in future without being nostalgic about our glorious past as today none of the Indian university/ agricultural university figures in first top 200 universities of world.
2. For assessing the performance of Indian universities, there is urgent need to formulate a ranking methodology, governed by the issues and challenges of our higher education system and evolve India specific methodology realizing the importance of Indicators such as global research reputation, regional research reputation, publications, normalized citation impact, total citations, number of highly cited papers, international collaboration and number of PhD degrees awarded in making a world class university.
3. Government has a crucial role to play in the establishment of world-class universities characterized in agriculture as in USA and other highly ranked countries. For making World-Class University, alignment of key factors such as Talent, Resources and Governance is required. The universities must also give due importance for the quality assurance of higher agricultural education. There is need to counter major issues and challenges relating to higher education in India such as moderate quality barring few centres of excellence; low access and inequity, highly inequitable distribution across gender, location and socio economical groups; weak networking among Indian Universities; over emphasis on lecture based teaching pedagogy; fragile cultural diversity and lack of trusted institutional mechanism for university-industry interface and social interface.
4. The cultural diversity of the university needs to be encouraged by having several indicators and performance should be measured by indicators such as quality of teaching and learning outcome, curriculum, quality research, social inclusion, balanced subject / discipline growth, Inter-state & Inter-university Collaboration. There should be emphasis on digitalization of agricultural universities. In order to improve education and research, there is need of advancement in infrastructure, smart class rooms and next generation based orientation in biotechnological aspects.
5. There is urgent need to motivate young Indians to Agriculture which is the need of day. Agricultural education and research should be made more attractive to attract young talent. To attract the best staff, students and funding we need to be focused on important global issues. For achieving this, there is also need of modernization of research, increased use of ICT tools towards enhancing quality education, research and technology development capabilities and also to inculcate corporate practices in them.
6. There is a need for a new vision for agriculture according to which by 2020, we should do a 40/20/20 i.e. task to build on Green Economy by increasing productivity by 40%, emission by 20% and rural poverty by 20%. The impact of climate change will be greatest in some of the most populous countries of the world as they struggle to cope with feeding a rapidly expanding population. Therefore, we need to mobilize all the scientific acumen, resource conservation technologies for adaptation and mitigation as well as work for developing climate smart centres.

7. Success should be measured in terms of quality of what we do which does not always translate into the higher levels of international rankings and therefore, other measures of impact, including impact on the quality of life of people are more important than rankings.
8. There should be emphasis on the development of laboratories working for diagnostic, agricultural machinery development, food technological including organic food certification systems apart from bio-safety and weather forecasting facilities etc. in agricultural universities. There is urgent need of 24x7 Power supply for agricultural universities as a first step towards making of world class in terms of education and research. There should be development of facilities in Hazardous material and waste management for safety.
9. Sports, culture and social service mantra should be promoted in universities for providing strong sense of national integrity, unity, ethics and pragmatism among students.