

7th IAUA Regional Meeting of Vice Chancellors on: “Harnessing Potential of Traditional and Modern Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture” held at CSAUAT, Kanpur during 29th – 30th August, 2018

Recommendations

- In order to strengthen the coordination of Agricultural Universities and various developmental agencies in each state, IAUA recommended that the committee constituted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for preparing the strategy paper for doubling farmers' income in each state be entrusted with the responsibility to strengthen the linkages between the state developmental agencies and SAUs for proper implementation of improved technologies, keeping in view the traditional and modern knowledge.
- Considering the key role being played by the Farm Science Centers (KVKs) in different districts of the country, it was resolved that the constraints being faced by these centers need to be adequately addressed and more budget be allocated for proper implementation of various programmes.
- Declining water availability, over-exploitation of natural resources and indiscriminate demolition of traditional water harvesting structures were observed to be the key constraints limiting the crop productivity. It was recommended that modernizing these water-harvesting structures is imperative, along with a need to increase the water use efficiency through Micro Irrigation system and lining of water bodies, so as to fulfill the motto 'per drop more crop'.
- The concern was felt that indiscriminate use of agro chemicals is causing adverse impact on soil health as well as on the health of human beings and livestock. It was recommended that the *Paramparaगत Kheti* be given due emphasis and SAUs should develop such integrated modules so as to reduce the use of chemicals and thereby improving the health and reducing the cost of cultivation for better profitability.
- For reducing the cost of cultivation and ensuring timeliness of agricultural operations, it was recommended to promote the Implement/ Machinery Banks at Tehsil level for custom hiring, which will benefit the small and marginal farmers particularly.
- The house strongly recommended that the old and obsolete varieties, more than 15 years old, should neither be recommended for cultivation in the respective states nor be brought in seed production chain so as to enhance the seed replacement rate and to increase production. This would be more relevant particularly to water deficient areas like Bundelkhand region, where the productivity is low due to adoption of old varieties and inadequate availability of quality seeds.
- The IAUA appreciated the efforts made by the Government of India to establish the Seed Hubs in the country, which has led to an appreciable increase in productivity, particularly in pulse crops. It was recommended that such Seed Hubs be further strengthened in different crops to enhance the availability of quality seeds of new and improved varieties.
- Considering the large area under Oilseeds and Pulses in Bundelkhand region, it was recommended that the zone may be developed as an Oilseeds and Pulses hub in the Country. Also, development of value addition and processing sectors need to be given

special emphasis to increase the income of farmers and to reduce the migration of people from this area.

- It was observed that the area under millets in Bundelkhand region has declined. Hence, it was recommended to promote the cultivation of nutri-milliets for nutritional security. Further it was also proposed to discourage the cultivation of more water requiring crops like wheat and sugarcane in the region.
- The diversification and adoption of location specific Integrated Farming System modules be introduced in view of the climate change and the need of doubling farmers' income. The low input-responsive technologies be promoted to reduce the cost of cultivation and to enhance farmers' income.
- The problem of stray cattle and wild animals was identified to be of very serious nature in different regions and it was recommended to create Animal Hostels to provide the herd a place to stay. This will also benefit the owners. Steps should be taken to improve the breeds, their health and nutrition.
- Wild crossing is leading to the production of poor quality animals and therefore, it was recommended to make quality bulls available, to ensure the availability of certified semen and to maintain the genetic characteristics of different indigenous breeds.
- The productivity of milk was low particularly due to inadequate availability of quality feed and fodder to the animals and it was recommended to develop feed and fodder hubs in areas where there is scarcity of quality fodder.
- Organic carbon should be maintained by proper management of crop residue and by adopting organic farming. It was opined that Yogic Kheti is in its preliminary phase and before adopting it, multi-locational trials & scientific validation claims are essential.
- Minimum Standards for starting new colleges in agriculture and allied subjects (booklet published by the ICAR Education Division-Minimum Requirements for Establishment of New College in Agriculture and Allied Disciplines) should be followed by the states for giving NOC to start new agricultural institutions.
- SAUs and other agricultural institutions should follow the Fifth Deans Committee's recommendations and the Broad Subject Matter area guidelines for P.G. education, as recommended by the ICAR. This should be monitored by the Education Division of ICAR.
- Agricultural Educational Institutions/programmes should get the accreditation from the ICAR Accreditation Board. In PG and Doctoral programmes, students/ graduates should be admitted only from those agricultural colleges adopting the norms and standards of Agricultural Education prescribed by ICAR, as adopted by SAUs/CAUs.
- In order to inculcate interest towards agriculture among the future generation, agricultural education should form a part of the curriculum from the primary level of education itself. Necessary steps for its implementation should be initiated by the State Governments.