

# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE 36<sup>th</sup> CONVENTION OF VICE CHANCELLORS' OF AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES OF INDIA**

**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December 2011**



**ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY  
JORHAT-785013**







The 36th convention of Vice-Chancellors (VCs) of the Agricultural Universities was held at the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, on December 13-14, 2011.

Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri J.B Patnaik inaugurated the 36th convention of Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities and in his inaugural address he called upon the Vice-Chancellors of Agricultural Universities to motivate and educate students to learn modern Agriculture to compete with their global counterparts. He suggested that there is a need to formulate new agricultural policies which will encompass all type of farming system like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and forestry. He reiterated that agriculture today is facing challenges such as less arable land for cultivation, poor irrigation facility, degradation of natural resources and unpredictable shifts in climatic patterns. He emphasized on adopting organic paddy cultivation in North Eastern Region to minimize dependency on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Our country is in verge of 2nd green revolution to meet the growing demand of the population. He suggested that there will be need to grow most remunerative crops mixes in the diverse agro-climatic zone. He called upon the Agricultural Scientist to develop new technology to help farmers so that they can participate in globalization. The Hon'ble President of IAUA, Dr Tej Pratap, highlighted the main objectives of IAUA that is to discuss important issues of Indian Agriculture and advocate government on common issues to improve agricultural scenario of India. He expressed his happiness and satisfaction over 242 million tonnes food grain production during this year. He expressed his concerns on providing economic stability to the Indian farming community. The agriculture is facing impact of global climate change, population explosion, arable land for cultivation etc. He assured that IAUA will play an important role in addressing these challenges by imparting knowledge on modern agricultural technology to the students and farming communities.





Dr S.N Puri, Vice Chancellor, CAU, Imphal emphasized accessibility of agricultural education to more students by increasing the number of Agricultural Universities and Research Centres. He suggested that a joint effort may be required by both Govt. and private sectors to open more Agriculture Institutions. He stressed on recruiting quality teaching faculties and imparting vocational courses or distant to the farmers, NGO and students to learn about Agriculture.

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University, Dr K M Bujarbaruah, expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Governor, J.B Patnaik ji for gracing the event and for his constant support to the university. He also welcomed all the members of the IAUA to the university to participate the 36th convention. He highlighted the major achievements of the university in respect to education, research and extension activities. He briefed various contributions made by the university, including release of 47 Rice varieties for different agro-climatic regions, development of varieties for oilseed, pulses and sugarcane, development of vaccine for swine-Fever in pig, quality baby food by the Faculty of Home Science and successful breeding of cat fishes by Fishery department besides producing quality human resources in the field Agriculture and allied Sciences by the university. He reiterated that agricultural sector is facing many challenges due to factors such as land degradation, poor irrigation, global climate change etc. He suggested that the Government policies on education, research and extension may be re-defined to moderate these challenges. He expressed his concern on decline in number of students opting for higher education in Agricultural Sciences. He also urged the Government to extend additional support to develop better infrastructure in Agricultural Universities, recruit more academicians to provide knowledge and complete autonomy to the Agricultural Universities.

Dr R. P Singh, Secretary General, IAUA while proposing the vote of thanks suggested that agricultural education may be included in schools and colleges. He also wished that recruitment in Agricultural Universities may be enhanced. He expressed his sincere thanks to the Hon'ble Governor of Assam Shri J. B. Patnaik ji for gracing the occasion. He proposed vote of thanks to Dr. T. Pratap President of IAUA and Dr K. M Bujarbaruah, Vice-chancellor, AAU for organizing the 36th convention of IAUA, Members of IAUA, Faculty and students of the University for being a part of the 36th convention of IAUA.





On December 13, 2011, all the Vice- chancellors discussed various agendas. The first technical session was chaired by Dr S.N. Puri, Vice- Chancellor, CAU, Imphal and co-chaired by Dr C.S. Charkraboati, Vice- President of IAUA.

### **Agenda 1: Building consensus on identifying area of excellence in SAUs**

Dr S. K. Sharma on behalf of Dr S.S Chahal, Vice Chancellor, MPUA&T, Udaipur talked about building consensus on identifying areas of Excellence in SAUs. He focused mainly on building expertise in SAUs to meet challenges of Indian Agriculture and also identifying niche area of excellence by SAUs. After a threadbare discussion on the niche area of excellence, all the VCs agreed to develop proposals on the basis strength, cutting edge areas and submit such proposals for funding to ICAR.

*(Action: All VCs)*

### **Agenda 2: Experiential learning programme (ELP) - Current and future of this programme.**

Dr V.S Tomar, Vice-Chancellor, RVSKVV, Gwalior made several recommendations of experiential learning programme (EPL) in SAUs. He suggested that the EPL need special attention in various aspects such as measuring the experience and strength of the ELP, knowing the weaknesses and modifying the programme accordingly, transforming ELP across SAUs, assigning credit points to ELP, converting ELP to certificate course and identifying the stakeholders. After a threadbare discussion, the house recommended that ELP may be integrated in the Faculty of Veterinary and Fishery Sciences. ELP in public-private-partnership mode was also emphasised upon.

*(Action: All VCs)*

On December 14, 2011 all the VCs gathered to discuss XII Plan. The session was chaired by Dr D.P Ray, Vice-Chancellor, OAUT, Orrisa. Before discussing the agenda, the house discussed few issues of IAUA. Dr Tej Pratap suggested that the newly constituted executive committee of IAUA will pursue the agenda of the previous executive committee. Dr. C. S. Chakrabarti, newly elected President of IAUA, advised previous committee members to submit their reports before 15th January 2012 so that executive committee of the IAUA could discuss the agendas





before 31st January 2012. He informed the house that a special general body meeting of IAUA will be held in April, 2012 to discuss the changes in by-laws of the IAUA and any reforms required in the by-laws. The members also discussed on holding press conference before and after the convention to effectively communicate with the media regarding the purpose of IAUA meetings, functioning of IAUA and its long term plans and all the VCs supported the view.

Dr C.S Chakrabarti, President of IAUA, welcomed an open discussion on agenda of the IAUA for the next meeting with the ICAR delegates.

### **Agenda 3: XII Plan issues, problems, strategies to take IAUA Forward**

All members of IAUA discussed their various problems and also deliberated on strategies that need to be taken up by IAUA. The common agendas were functioning of AICRP projects, recruitment and pay structure in the KVKs, increase in amount scholarships of undergraduate and post graduate students, following UGC guidelines for recruitment of Assistant Professors, participation of SAUs in the ICAR's network projects and uniform deadline for admission into various degree programmes in the SAUs to facilitate migration of students within SAUs. The issues were picked up and the VCs were assigned to prepare report on a specific issue before placing the suggestion to the ICAR.

#### **Agenda 3.1: Functioning of AICRP projects**

It was felt necessary to identify problems of AICRP projects such as the impact on smooth running of projects due to abolition of permanent positions, timely distribution of funds for proper utilization, recruitment of researcher as permanent worker rather than temporary or casual workers etc. Dr S. K. Sharma, HPKV, Palampur will prepare a note on the above issue

#### **Agenda 3.2: Recruitment policy and pay structure in the KVKs**

The house discussed on major issues in KVKs and also recommended that pay structure of the SMS may be equal to that of the teachers, simple procedure to open new KVKs etc. The meeting entrusted the responsibility to Dr S K Patil for preparing a report on various problems of KVKs.

#### **Agenda 3.3: Adopt UGC guidelines for recruitment of Assistant Professors in AUs**

The house felt necessary to adopt UGC guidelines regarding recruitment of Assistant Professors. Currently, NET qualification is desirable for the candidates applying for the post of Assistant Professor which may be waived. Dr V.S Tomar, RVSKVV, Gwalior stressed on re-vamping PG research and uniformity in date of admission across the SAUs to facilitate migration of students. He will prepare a report on the above aspects.

#### **Agenda 3.4: Participation of SAUs in the ICAR's network projects**

Dr Pratap stressed on active participation of SAUs in ICAR network project and other mission projects of Govt. of India. Dr K.M Bujarbaruah has been entrusted to prepare a report on ways



to convince ICAR to include SAUs in their network projects to conduct research work in frontier areas of Agricultural Sciences for the benefit of Indian farming community. Dr Bujarbaruah, will prepare a note on the above issue.

#### **Agenda 3.4: Enhancement of number and amount of scholarships/ Fellowships at UG and PG programme in SAUs**

Dr A.K Gahlot, RUVAS, Bikaner, mentioned about increasing the number and amount of scholarships/ fellowships at UG and PG programme in SAUs for the benefit of the students. He will prepare a report on fellowship issue.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to Dr Tej Pratap, ex-president of IAUA and other participating Vice-Chancellors.





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