

The first convention of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana during 23-26 February 1970. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Financial and administrative set-up and the related problems.

SUB-THEMES

1. Administration.
2. Resident instruction.
3. Research and extension.
4. Campus planning.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An Endowment should be created as a perennial source of financial resources, with comprehensive scope to secure liberal subscriptions from the public and other resources.
2. There should be no financial ceiling for any agricultural university for a particular item or programme. Each university should get minimum Rs 2 crores during the Fourth Five-Year Plan, and the Plan allocation for agricultural education should be raised from Rs 21.5 crores to Rs 28 crores. The provision for research should be separately indicated.
3. The agricultural universities, in association with the respective states, should plan for an efficient organization for the placement of graduates, have links with the employing agencies, and provide self-employment opportunities for the graduates. An Employment Bureau should be established in each university, and emphasis should be laid on 'Earn while you learn'.
4. In view of great need for the development of our agricultural universities, internal as well as international collaboration should continue for a long time.
5. To improve the manpower, inter-university mobility of the scientific personnel needs greater strengthening.
6. The Semester system should be adopted in place of Trimester system, the number of examinations must be reduced and an internal comprehensive examination may be introduced at some stage.
7. The Home Science colleges run by the State Governments should be transferred to the universities to ensure uniformity of curriculum and improve the quality of training.
8. As per the policy decision of various states, the entire research should be transferred to the agricultural universities, and additional fund should be made available to conduct and strengthen research in core areas, as well as for the crops, livestock and disciplines requiring our immediate attention like pulses and oilseeds, water resources etc.
9. Similar to research the training centres for extension education programmes should be transferred to the agricultural universities, along with sufficient funds, for effective farmers' training and efficient communication and broadcast facilities.
10. The space in the campus area should be effectively utilized through proper planning and quality control under professional supervision, to help farmers by offering plan services for the farm structures, through design and architectural service, and through a construction service.