

**The twenty-fifth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad Campus during 3-4 April 2000. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.**

**THEME**

Agricultural education in India: need for re-orientation.

**SUB-THEMES**

1. Challenges of the twenty-first century for agricultural education.
2. Curriculum for undergraduate and post-graduate programmes.
3. Stake- holders' perspective on agricultural education.
4. Operationalising the excellence in agricultural education.
5. Right sizing of agricultural universities in the country.
6. Experiential learning in agriculture.
7. Strategic plan for agricultural education.

**MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. There is a need to re-orient agricultural education in the country. The challenges of food security, profitability of large- and small-scale agricultural production systems and the pressures imposed by the increasing commercialization and globalization of agriculture and related activities necessitate re-orientation and restructuring of curricula in undergraduate and post-graduate programmes offered by State agricultural universities on consideration of stake-holders' perspective.
2. It is imperative to make degree programmes more skill, technology and application oriented, with some flexibility, to attract the students to study agriculture and other related subjects.
3. A thorough nation-wide debate is needed on restricting the admissions to undergraduate and post-graduate programmes based on manpower requirement.
4. There is need to keep a check on the mushrooming of new colleges either under or outside the State agricultural universities system.
5. Graduates should be trained in an integrated way to understand the complexities of agriculture. They should also be trained to acquire skills needed to process and market as well as manage the excess produce. The missing links in the existing system should be abridged.
6. The Human Resource Planning is an aspect that should receive due attention to prevent any further addition to the already swollen pool of educated unemployed youth. Strong and enduring links should be established between State agricultural universities and the agro-industries to optimize resource utilization and for proper harnessing of technologies generated in the laboratories and fields of State agricultural universities.
7. Involvement of industry for sponsoring research projects in State agricultural universities for generation of technology beneficial to industry and farming community need to be encouraged.
8. Strengthening of linkage is required between traditional universities and State agricultural universities in fundamental research for sharing infrastructural and trained manpower.

9. Designing norms for right sizing of university and departments in the institution needs nation-wide debate.
10. Establishment of a system to distinguish between performer and non-performer in the institution is required to maintain the tempo of efficiency.
11. Uniformity in academic standards has to be achieved.
12. Constitution of a few task force is necessary in the agricultural universities to address the critical issues in evaluating the standard of education, research and technology transfer.