

The sixth Convention of the Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola, during 14-16 May 1975. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Role of agricultural universities and repatterning of agricultural education.

SUB-THEMES

1. Role of agricultural universities in rural and agricultural development.
2. Repatterning of agricultural education for first degree.
3. Manpower planning and problem of unemployment of agriculture graduates.
4. Institution building in agricultural universities.
5. Research.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The agricultural universities should have a well-defined mission, since they aim to conduct research and impart training that will lead to strengthening of ecological, educational and social infrastructure. The research policies should aim at increasing the overall productivity and developing labour-intensive technologies.
2. As suggested by Education Commission, for link between education and productivity, science should be made a basic component of education, work as well as vocational education should be introduced at all levels of education, science and technological education and research especially of agriculture and allied sciences, should be improve at university stage, and the social and national service should be made an integral part of education.
3. There was consensus that agricultural education should be need based and production oriented. The students coming in agricultural colleges should have proper motivation to learn agriculture and work on farms.
4. Besides evolution of cross-bred cattle, there is need to improve production capability and foreign-exchange potential of buffalo by proper management. Research is to be intensified for fodder production and to evolve cropping patterns required for man and animal complex in agriculture.
5. Immediate steps are necessary to meet the paucity of text-books in agriculture and teaching aids.
6. The curricula need reorientation to suit job opportunities. Short-duration courses may be started for this purpose.
7. Each agricultural university should have a Communication Centre, each district should have a Krishi Vigyan Kendra, and Directorates of Extension Education should lay greater emphasis on intensive field-oriented training for extension functionaries of the State and skill-oriented training for the farmers.