

The eighth Convention of Indian Agricultural Universities Association was held at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore during 18-20 February 1977. The following topics were selected for discussion at the Convention.

THEME

Self-improvement of agricultural universities, new course curricula and need of fundamental research.

SUB-THEMES

1. Self-improvement of agricultural universities.
2. New courses and curricula in agricultural universities.
3. Fundamental research in agricultural universities.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The administration, finance, academic standards etc. of the university need continuous evaluation and monitoring to bring about increased efficiency and performance.
2. Instead of asking the youth to go to villages, technology of developing food should crops develop under the shadow of industry, and the students should get specialized training to meet this end.
3. The duration of degrees imparted in the agricultural universities should be of 4 years, and for Agricultural Engineering and the Veterinary and Animal Sciences should be of 5 years.
4. Inventories of resources and manpower may be conducted by the States, so that admission of agricultural graduates could be linked with employment potentialities.
5. In view of rapid advances in technology, the ICAR may consider introduction of new courses like Farm Forestry, Agricultural Meteorology, Agricultural Marketing and Co-operation, Human Nutrition, Rural Credit and Population Education.
6. The agricultural universities may start B. Ed. programme, in view of huge demand of teachers for vocationalization of education in Agriculture, Agro-mechanics and Home Science.
7. The time has come to pay due attention to fundamental research in agricultural universities. National institutes of the ICAR can take it up in their departments, and may have collaboration with general universities and the national institutes of the CSIR.