

Recommendations of Ist Regional Meeting on 'Policy paper on Control of admission, improvement in examination/ evaluation system and invigilation of examinations, course curricula and mechanism for affiliation of private colleges with SAUs ' held on 13-14 February 2007 at TNAU, Coimbatore

Recommended Policy Guidelines on Private Agricultural Education

(A) Affiliation:

- The management of the private college/institution should be transparent and the affiliation of such private college, imparting UG/PG teaching in agriculture and allied sciences, need to be invariably under the regulatory control of SAUs alone.
- All private Agricultural colleges should be affiliated with State Agricultural Universities of their respective region (SAUs/DUs/ICAR) and follow similar system of education and guidance. SAU Model Act does not allow affiliation, as a result many agricultural colleges are affiliated with traditional universities. Element of affiliation should be incorporated in the Model Act.
- All existing private colleges of agriculture and allied sciences affiliated to traditional universities should now be affiliated with the SAU of the region.
- Affiliation should be temporary, for a period of 10 years, subsequently renewable by adopting norms relevant at that time. Non-compliance of norms will make affiliation liable to cancellation by the Vice-Chancellor of SAU concerned.
- To curb mushrooming of private colleges there should be substantial amount of affiliation fee as being charged by TNAU, for each course.
- Affiliation procedure should be well laid out in consonance with the university academic processes and mandate.
- Every SAU shall develop a perspective plan in term of agricultural academic institutions needed for its area of jurisdiction for intensive production agriculture, processing and value addition and quality rural life.

(B) Accreditation:

- There is need for establishing accreditation norms for affiliated private colleges. SAUs may enforce the accreditation norms before affiliation through an Accreditation Committee constituted by the concerned SAUs. One of the Members may be ICAR nominee.
- Costs involved in accreditation should be borne by the institution seeking affiliation.
- Accreditation procedure should be well laid out.

- Establishment of a private college or a new programme in already affiliated college should be opened with prior approval of the SAU concerned. College seeking accreditation/affiliation should have minimum 20 ha cultivable land of which 10 ha should be available for agricultural experimentation.
- Accredited private colleges should be eligible for financial assistance from ICAR.

(C) Admission

- The admission procedure to various courses of both constituent as well as affiliated private colleges need to be in accordance with the practice in vogue in the SAUs to which the college is affiliated.
- Annual induction to a private college should include 50% of the seats to be admitted common entrance mechanism of the SAU and remaining 50% may be filled by college on merit basis.
- 15% of the total seats in the private colleges may be filled by the Management body of the college.
- There should be a merit quota of 15% seats having same fee structure as that of SAU.5. The intake capacity should commensurate with the facilities available with the college but subject to a maximum of 64 in a UG programme.

(D) Academic Standards:

- Affiliated college should recruit/employ qualified competent teachers for which the pay structure shall be similar as prevalent in SAU.
- The minimum qualification for appointment of teachers in the affiliated private colleges should be Masters' degree with NET, giving preference to candidates with doctorate degree.
- The college management committee should include Dean and concerned Director Resident Instruction or nominee of the Vice-Chancellor as members.
- The teachers at affiliated colleges should have opportunities for training, participation in seminar and symposia.
- Before accreditation/affiliation it must be ensured that the institution has prescribed laboratories, library and other instructional infrastructure.
- Preference should be given to active young teachers in recruitment of teachers. However, retired teachers may be hired on short term basis.
- Affiliated colleges should have logical institutional framework with departments headed by professor/Associate Professor.

(E) Regulation on Resident Instruction:

- Resident Instruction Rules and procedures/Academic regulations of the SAU concerned
- Periodic monitoring of the academic programmes and its delivery should be undertaken by SAU concerned.
- Where number of Affiliated colleges justify there may be a Controller of Examination at SAU for systematized examination and evaluation.

(F) Course Curriculum:

- Course curriculum and academic regulations at affiliated colleges should be same as following by the SAUs for their constituent colleges.
- To have uniformity in agricultural education, semester system of teaching should be mandatory.
- Attendance of the students in affiliated colleges should be the same as prescribed in SAU.
- Affiliated colleges should have the extracurricular activities for overall development of the students such as Commercial Agriculture, NSS, NCC, study tours etc.
- The PG programme should invariably include thesis dissertation as being followed in SAUs.

(G) Examination/Evaluation and Invigilation:

- The academic calendar of the Affiliated College academic calendar including registration and examination schedules should be the same as that of the SAU.
- Examination, invigilation, evaluation and award of the transcript and degree/certificate etc. Should rest entirely with SAU.
- For promoting active participation of the student in learning processes, evaluation should have internal marks, at least 40%.4. The setup of the question papers should include objective, short note and descriptive type questions covering the entire syllabus with limited optional/choice
- In order to curb unfair means there should be a Chief Invigilator(s) to supervise the conduct of examination, appointed by the SAU.
- Answer books for evaluation should be coded, forwarded and confidentiality ascertained.
- Supplementary examinations should be done away with.

(H) Other

- Failure to comply provision of MOU/directives of the University within the stipulated time, the Vice-Chancellor may withdraw the affiliation.
- Affiliated colleges should have student gymkhana and playgrounds. They should also be part of the SAU sports and other cultural activities.
- Graduates of affiliated colleges should also be entitled for service placement of the SAU.