

Recommendations of 3rd Regional Meeting on 'Value addition in Agricultural Products' held on 13-14 February 2007 at TNAU, Coimbatore

Recommendations

- A delegation of IAUA comprising Vice-Chancellors will meet the Prime Minister and other members of planning commission and appraise the achievements in the field of agriculture including animal husbandry and fisheries and also the future expectation during the XI plan period.
- A book on the successful technologies evolved and success stories of extension may be compiled and IAUA will publish and circulate this book.
- Most of the SAUs are functioning in old dilapidated buildings and the basic infrastructure housing the laboratories are outdated. Special financial allotment under non-recurring has to be sought from Central and State Government's to modernize the basic amenities.
- The Vice-Chancellors of Agriculture Universities have to be involved in the planning process of state financial allocations as agriculture forms the major activity of our country.
- Financial allocation for agricultural research and education should be made under separate budget in the states as well as centre.
- Certain percentage of teaching/research personnel in all Agriculture Universities may be recruited from other states in order to develop healthy competition and avoid inbreeding.
- Tailoring the research and development programmes in order to cater to the standards of domestic and export markets.
- Sensitizing the policy makers on creation of community level infrastructure for grading, packing and packaging, and storage and promoting grower's association to empower them to negotiate on price.
- Efforts to be taken to encourage co-operative/contract farming with buy-back arrangements to initiate market-led production.
- Maintaining cool chain for the post-harvest handling of cut flowers around 5° C with appropriate packaging to get better prices in the international markets.
- The investment in agricultural research has to be enhanced to increase Total Factor Productivity to achieve 4% growth of the sector per se.

- For exploitation of the agro-ecological diversity of the country, programmes should be evolved for production/export of agricultural produce from different regions during the off seasons in importing countries.
- Adoption of suitable national strategies on augmenting animal productivity, production, consumption and marketing of animal products. Creation of realistic database on meat, milk and egg production, handling transportation, pre and post harvest loss, marketing etc.
- Cutting edge technologies on processing, preservation and value addition on animal products by integrating newer biotechnological tools with the ITK may be developed.
- Development of HACCP, GMP protocols and quality standards for animal products viz., milk, meat, poultry, fish etc. with establishment of reference and testing laboratories.
- Food safety and quality should be dealt while considering the use of GM foods. There should be regulatory system established to oversee the biosafety of GM foods.