

**Proceedings of the
Meeting of Librarians of Agricultural Universities**

August 11, 2016

Meeting of Librarians of Agricultural Universities was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Director General (Agril. Edn), ICAR, New Delhi on 11 August, 2016 at Lecture Hall of National Agricultural Science Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi. Librarians from 69 Agricultural Universities and other delegates participated and interacted during the one day meeting.

At the outset the DDG (Agril. Edn) extended the warm welcome to all the librarians, ADGs, ICAR officials and other delegates of the meeting. He mentioned that importance of library as “temples of learning” and a librarian as “Teacher of Teachers” is immense in the field of education. He said, digital India has been initiated long back by the librarians and some of the libraries in the National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) have already made a difference by developing into good libraries despite several constraints. The libraries have the most important contribution in the lives of students, farming and teaching community therefore the strength and weaknesses of each library may be identified and addressed as per the requirements of present day. The DDG referred the **LIBRARY** as Learning Station, Intelligent tank, Bureau of Knowledge, Reference Centre, Academic Centre, Resource Centre and Yard of tools and technology. He suggested all the librarians to come up with innovative ideas so that their library may be made unique and to create visibility among the target community. He suggested that the book and other purchases in the library may be done as per the demand and right type of books may be purchased which covers the syllabus as recommended by Fifth Deans Committee. He suggested all the librarians should be pro-active for creating modern facilities such as the smart class room, biometric system, e-books etc. He assured that the ICAR is working in a partnership mode with the AUs for the betterment of research and education in the country.

Dr. P. S. Pandey, ADG (EP&HS), heartily welcomed the librarians and other dignitaries. He emphasized the importance of library as powerful knowledge centre and said that the role of librarians is immense in providing access of resources to the users. He mentioned that the concept of e-learning must be initiated in all the AUs libraries. He appreciated the contribution of E-Granth, Krishi Kosh, Krishi Prabha and CeRA in development of digital libraries across the country. He suggested that the librarians should come forward for developing their libraries towards fulfilling the dream of “Digital India” of the Hon’ble Prime Minister.

During his talk on “Strengthening of Libraries of Agricultural Universities: Issues and Way Forward” he gave an account of the ICAR guidelines for library strengthening, timeline for submission of documents to ICAR, several issues and the ICAR vision for the AUs libraries. He requested the librarians to introduce e-learning i.e. e- courses, e- books and e-journals in their libraries. The annual impact report as received by the some AUs are not up to the mark therefore he suggested that annual impact report should be very precise and as per the format of ICAR. He informed that all demand/ proposals should be sent through nodal

officers. He urged the participants to come out with newer ideas for developing modern libraries towards improving the quality of higher agricultural education in the country.

Dr. M. B. Chetti, ADG (HRD) extended welcome to all and mentioned about the timely and appropriate step taken by the Agricultural Education Division by organising such meeting. He emphasized that the Agriculture Education Division has taken several initiatives for improving the quality of higher education in the country. He gave an account of the constraints faced by the librarians and mentioned that the roles of librarians are much bigger in the Universities and such roles should be realised and taken up with great responsibilities as their work has a direct impact on the student's future.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Project Director, DKMA in his opening remark told about the importance of library in the success of any institution. The knowledge created in public funded institution must be made freely available to all. Libraries should strengthen their institutional repositories and all publications must be preserved and archived.

Among the three guest speakers invited in the meeting, Dr. Ashok Kumar Rai from, Information and Library Network Centre, Gandhinagar, Gujarat presented an account of development of e-Shodh Sindhu, an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resources Development. He informed that e-Shodh Sindhu came into existence in December 2015 by merging the three consortia viz: UGC-INFONET Digital Library Consortium, INDEST-AICTE Consortium and NLIST. It is building a catalogue of Indian Agricultural Universities and more than 4000 colleges are its members. He discussed about the INFLIBNET journey, e-Sodh Ganga-a repository of thesis, e-Acharya MOOCS etc.

The second guest speaker Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Project Director, DKMA, ICAR, New Delhi presented a talk on "[Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture, India](#): Past, Present and Future of CeRA". He informed that CeRA was established in 2007 and is the first of its kind for facilitating 24x7 online accesses of select journals in agricultural and allied sciences to all researchers, teachers and students, administrators and extension specialists in NARES. He focused on future of CeRA as a complete e-resources platform by including new e-resources i.e. e-books, encyclopedias, citation analysis, bibliometric, benchmarking platforms and other databases.

The third guest speaker Dr. Dharendra Km Pradhan from NIFTEM, Sonapat, Haryana presented on the NIFTEM Knowledge Center. He gave a very good account of the NIFTEM Knowledge Centre having all the modern facilities and user friendly library which was well appreciated by all.

There was presentation on e Granth by Dr A Kumar, IARI, New Delhi titled "e-Granth: It's Strengthening & Sustainability". He discussed the KrishiKosh - Digital Repository of NARES and informed the house regarding submission of thesis on KrishiKosh.

The librarian from good libraries of the Agricultural Universities also presented about their work. Dr K Veeranjanyulu, PJTSAU, Hyderabad presented on Transforming Libraries of AUs: A step towards Digital India. Dr Devaraj from UAS, Bengaluru presented about the Services and E-resources, Dr RK Pateria, CCS HAU, Hissar presented on Digital Repositories under NARS- A case study of Krishi Prabha and Dr Madhav Pandey, IGKV, Raipur presented on "Shifting role of libraries in Digital Era".

Presentations on “Redefining Libraries” and “Arts and Science Academic Publications” were made by Sh Sudhir Gandotra of Open LX about integration of AUs libraries using KOHA software.

During the plenary session, Dr A.K.Jain, Ex, In charge Agricultural Knowledge Management Centre, IARI, New Delhi was felicitated for his immense contribution for e Granth project.

The meeting ended with a Vote of thanks.

The action points emerged during the meeting are:

S. No.	Description	Action
1	A long term plan for the Agricultural universities library may be developed.	Librarians, AUs
2	Interconnectivity of the AU libraries may be achieved by end of 2016 using KOHA software. The AUs may sign a MoU with the Open LX firm which will provide free KOHA software to the Universities.	VCs and Librarian, AUs
3	Duplication of efforts viz., purchase of journals etc. already subscribed by CeRA to be discontinued immediately.	Librarians, AUs
4	All libraries to be a member of Krishi kosh/e Granth. The Thesis uploading on Krishi kosh to be completed by end of 2016.	Librarian, AUs
5	The proposal for funding from ICAR under the “Library strengthening subcomponent may be submitted in a planned manner keeping in view the vision of digital libraries in AUs.	Librarian, AUs
6	The librarians should purchase the books as per the need of syllabus of fifth Dean’s committee.	Librarians, AUs
7	The Library impact report must be submitted in the approved format. The report should be properly bind and should contain all the requisite information.	Librarians, AUs
8	The AUs may develop plan for organising national/ International conferences on important issues related to the Libraries.	VCs and Librarians, AUs
9	The format and timeline for ICAR grants may be strictly adhered.	Comptrollers and Librarians, AUs
10	Agricultural Universities may provide reading room facility 24x7 to users in the campus.	Librarians, AUs
11	Old reports of the institution may be digitized and maintained in libraries as archives.	Librarians, AUs
12	ICAR may devise mechanism for instituting best librarian award annually.	Agri Education Division, ICAR

13	The guidelines for allotment of funds under Library Strengthening may be revised based on intake capacity in accredited courses rather than number of colleges.	Agri Education Division, ICAR
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