

Proceedings of The Annual Conference of Vice-chancellors of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Directors held during 14-15 May, 2015 at NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi

1. INAUGURAL SESSION

The Annual Conference of Vice-chancellors of Agricultural Universities and ICAR Directors has been organized annually by ICAR with an objective to deliberate and develop a consensus on issues and reforms related to agricultural research, education and extension systems for smooth and effective functioning of NARES. It provides an excellence opportunity for developing effective interface between agricultural universities, ICAR Institutes and ICAR administration. With this background, the present year Conference was organized during 14-15 May at NASC Complex, New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Chief Guest of the event on 15th May, 2015

At the outset, Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR welcomed the Chief Guest Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture, dignitaries and participants in the Conference. He presented the overview of the NARES activities over the last year and stressed on the importance of the Conference by highlighting collaborative efforts for agriculture research, education and extension between ICAR Institutes and agricultural universities. He expressed confidence that National Agricultural Research and Education System (NARES) has been committed for proactive steps to cope up with new challenges due to paradigm shift in agriculture.

In his inaugural address, Shri Mohanbhai Kundariya, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture emphasized on the need to develop technological interventions for cutting the cost of cultivation, on one hand, and increasing the agricultural production and productivity on the other. He stressed that livelihood of farmers and their prosperity must be kept in mind when programmes for agricultural research and education are formulated. While lauding the role of KVKs in extension of technologies to fields, he suggested to organize *Krishi Melas* during *Kharif* and *Rabi* seasons for the sake of farmers' knowledge empowerment. Hon'ble Minister urged scientists to work for meeting the challenges such as natural calamities and low productivity in some of the regions. He expressed with satisfaction that the deliberations during this conference will pave the way for the prosperity of farms and farmers.

The Chief Guest conferred Rajbhasha Awards to ICAR Institutes, KVKs and Outstanding ICAR Annual Report Awards. Various books and CDs published by NARES were released on this occasion.

2. PLENARY SESSION

At the outset, Dr. Arvind Kumar, DDG (Agricultural Education) heartily welcomed Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR and Chairman of the Session and other dignitaries present in the conference. He specially welcomed and introduced new Vice Chancellors joined after the last VC Conference held in 2014. DDG informed that a total of 11 new agricultural universities have been added in the 12 Five Year Plan, making the list as 73 agricultural universities in the country. He further mentioned that during the Union Budget presentation of 2014-15 in Lok Sabha, Hon'ble Finance Minister announced to open two new agricultural universities in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, two new horticultural universities in Telangana and Haryana and two IARI like institutions in Jharkhand and Assam, therefore, widening the dimension of agricultural education and research in the country. DDG thanked all Vice Chancellors for their cooperation in successful conduct of All India AIEEA UG/PG/AICE-SRF examination being conducted by ICAR. He praised the efforts of Deans and Vice Chancellors for bringing out the V Dean's Committee Report, which is likely to be finalized. He further appraised the house about the new Policy guideline that has been developed to open a new Central Agricultural University and is likely to be placed before the Parliament. He also briefed about the progress of National Agricultural Education Project (NAEP) for which Project Implementation Plan preparation is in the final stage.

Dr M.L. Choudhary, President, Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA), in his address lauded the role of ICAR in promoting agricultural education and assured that IAUA would continue to play a significant role in the process of improving agricultural education and implementing the policies of ICAR. He mentioned that future approach of IAUA is to take up initiatives to devise mechanism so as to fulfil the future requirements in the field of higher agricultural education, research and extension. He imparted some of the suggestions including increasing the number of fellowships, Centres of Excellence and Experiential Learning Programmes.

Dr. R. B. Singh former President, NAAS made a mention that India has to do a lot to bring its position higher in terms of TFP and HDI and further emphasised that it is not technology fatigue, but it is human resource fatigue, for which role of agricultural universities is very crucial.

Shri R. Rajagopal, Additional Secretary, DARE & Secretary, ICAR emphasized that the AUs have the huge responsibility to provide food for everyone and to chalk out strategy to eradicate poverty, hunger and starvation. For this, research and technology development programmes need to be strengthened. He assured to the house that the Council has been committed to render all sort of helps to cope up the issues.

Shri P.K. Pujari, Special Secretary, DARE and Financial Advisor, ICAR pointed that agricultural growth in the country is passing through a difficult phase. He stressed that agricultural universities must ensure to submit requisite certificates, e.g., Utilization Certificate (UZ), Audit Utilization Certificate (AUC), and adhere the guidelines such as phasing out the expenditure and make a plan as per guidelines. He further mentioned that all agricultural universities must get

registered on CPMS/PMS portal. He mentioned that fund must be utilized by the universities in the current financial years itself, and it should not be forwarded to the next financial year.

Dr. Gurbachan Singh, Chairman, ASRB highlighted the contribution of ASRB in meeting the HRD requirements of the national agricultural research system of the country and thanked Vice Chancellors for their support in updating the question bank by permitting the faculty for participation in the interviews and other sort of cooperation required time to time. He expressed his concern that only 10-15% student qualify for NET examination at 60% merit cut-off, and requested Vice Chancellors to keenly relook into it. He pointed out that enthusiasm is rather missing for RMPs, this needs thorough introspection.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR extended warm welcome to all the Vice Chancellors and appreciated the cooperation being extended by the agricultural universities, but at the same time he expressed his concern that it is the high time to look within and also to look beyond. Director General enunciated about the much of the efforts are being utilized for man-management across NARES, but small effort is being made for core works on research and technology development. He expressed his concern about degree nomenclature and uniform course curricula, movement of students from one university to another and almost extinction of basic and humanities disciplines in majority of universities. He desired that the programmes suggested by Hon'ble Prime Minister on Soil Health and Community Radio are the need of the hour for Skill Development in agriculture and thus the Vice Chancellors must put special efforts to implement these programmes. Director General pointed that the year 2015 is being declared as International Year of Soil, the soil health should be taken on forefront of the universities' agenda. Director General appreciated the efforts of ICAR and agricultural universities in calamities like HUDHUD, Hail Storms, rehabilitation works in J & K, on-line crop contingency in drought affected areas, arrangement of seeds and other common issues where entire NARES stood firm to serve the entire country specially the farming community. He suggested that **Make in India** programme must be followed in agriculture research sector. He suggested that KVKs and PCs must invite public representatives in their meetings that will generate better outlook about the technologies being developed in our research stations. He requested all Vice Chancellors to take necessary steps to strengthen the Centre-State coordination and should devote some time for monitoring the progress of all ICAR funded projects/schemes. He apprised that the newly created four centers of Accreditation Board (National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board) may take care of accreditation of universities. He expressed his concern about research data management across the NARES.

At the end of the session, Dr. P. S. Pandey, ADG (EP & HS) proposed the vote of thanks.

3. PRESENTATION OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the Annual Conferences held during January 17-19, 2014 and July 29-30, 2014

Since no comment was obtained, the proceedings of the last two conferences held in 2014-15 were confirmed by the house.

2. Action Taken Report on the Proceedings of the Annual Conference

ADG (EP & HS) presented the action taken report which was approved by the house with certain modification, which is being mentioned in the recommendations.

3. Special Presentations

3.1 Fifth Deans' Committee on Higher Agricultural Education: Restructuring of UG & PG Programmes

Dr R. B. Singh, Former President, NAAS presented the outlines of the Fifth Dean's Committee report on Higher Agricultural Education. He suggested that Basic Science courses such as Chemistry, Physics, Cell Biology, and Mathematics should be included in the curricula and also emphasised for orienting the syllabus, both at UG and PG level towards stress on practical. A comprehensive discussion followed the presentation. The progress made by various committees were appraised and it was decided that the final report be compiled by December, 2015. The following recommendations were made:

- Academic reforms suggested by ICAR should be implemented by SAUs
- Basic Sciences need to be incorporated in the curriculum.
- New areas like nano-technology to be included in the curriculum.
- Interaction to be strengthened with organizations like UGC, DST, DBT, etc.
- SAUs to adopt Student tracking system.
- Change in the nomenclature of Home Science needed to make it more attractive.
- Monitoring and Evaluation system in universities to be introduced
- Provision of credit base systems in the degree programme.
- Uniform policies and implementation of ICAR Model Act for all the SAUs
- It was further discussed that the agricultural universities should provide programme wise information on employability of different degree programmes, efficacy of setting up of new agricultural universities in terms of employability, impact pathway analysis, research outcome, academic rating etc. for discussion in Vth Deans' Committee.

Action: All Vice Chancellors, ADG (EQR)/Deans' Committee

3.2 Other Presentations

Following presentations were made and explicit discussions took place

- Policy and Guidelines on Higher Agricultural Education by Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu
- Restructuring and Strengthening of National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board by Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu
- Netaji Subhash ICAR International Fellowship by Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu
- Introduction of Agriculture in Curriculum at School by Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu
- Implementation of National Agricultural Education Project by Dr. A.P. Srivastava
- Implementation of PME in Agricultural University by Dr. S. Mauria
- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) by Dr. P. S. Pandey

Following issues emerged during the discussion that need attention:

- i. All Vice Chancellors were requested to offer comments on the Policy and Guidelines on Higher Agricultural Education.
- ii. All agricultural universities should link their website with Netaji Subhas ICAR International Fellowship for its wider publicity.
- iii. IAUA should be the Nodal Agency for handling the cases pertaining to degree equivalence.
- iv. Uniformity of degree nomenclature is essential
- v. For authorization to students for 15 and 25% seats in different degree programmes, agricultural universities must adhere to ICAR guideline.
- vi. Similar course curriculum must be there all over for accreditation by ICAR.
- vii. Agricultural universities should pursue State Governments for implementation of minimum standards for different degree programmes suggested by ICAR.
- viii. The presentation on National Agricultural Education Project was made by National Coordinator (NAEP) and Vice Chancellors were requested to offer their comments.

Action: All Vice Chancellors, IAUA, ADGs (HRD, EQR, EP&HS)

4. Issues pertaining to Education Planning and Home Science

4.1 Development Grant: Effective Utilization and Related Issues

The Agricultural Universities were advised to adhere to timeline circulated to all AUs for submission of essential documents like SoE, AUC/UC, Annual Expenditure Statement, Annual Reports for timely release of funds. The universities were requested to send the contact details of Comptroller and Registrar along with their mobile number. It was mentioned that release of the grants to the agricultural universities has been linked with the accreditation from April 2016, therefore, universities must take necessary step to get accredited well in time.

Action: All Vice Chancellors, ADGs (EP&HS and EQR)

4.2 Decision regarding RAWE and NTS Grant to the SAUs

The demand for NTS and RAWE should be submitted by 30th May, 2015 as indicated in the letter no. 7 (16)/2012 dated 17th April, 2015 which has already been circulated to all the universities.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

4.3 Organization of the Agri-Sports and Agri-Unifest during the year 2015-16

It was decided that Agrisports, 2015-16 will be organized at TNAU, Coimbatore and Agri- Unifest, 2015-16 at OUAT, Bhubaneswar. Accordingly, a proposal may be sent to the Education Division, ICAR for release of grant for this purpose.

Action: VC, TNAU, Coimbatore and VC, OUAT, Bhubaneswar

4.4 Uploading the Data on NISAGENET

To expedite the process of uploading of data, the details of Nodal Officer from the main campus of the university may be submitted to the Education Division, ICAR for effective coordination in the matter.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

4.5 Impact Report of the Library Grant

A concern was expressed about the poor impact reports of the library grant submitted by several university. All the universities will submit the report in proper format along with additional facilities being created. The requisite proforma will be circulated for uniformity in impact report.

Action: ADG (EP&HS) and all VCs

4.6 Strengthening of e-Granth Portal and Ph.D. Thesis Repository

There is urgent need to strengthen the e-Granth Portal of NARS by all the universities. Digitization of research conducted in AUs was also recommended in last Conference as desired by Hon'ble Prime Minister. Still some universities have to complete this task. Therefore, it was decided that all AUs must enrich the portal by depositing the soft copy of their library resources and Ph. D Thesis.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

4.7 Uniformity Guidelines for Websites of AUs

Several important information are missing on the website of many agricultural universities, therefore, a general guidelines for uploading of the essential data will be communicated from the Education Division. This will also facilitate to maintain the uniformity and ease of retrieving the data from the website.

Action: ADG (EP&HS) and all VCs

5. Agenda from Universities Pertaining to EP&HS

5.1 Funds for Infrastructure Development, Repair/Renovation

Issues pertaining to infrastructure development like students' hostel, central equipment facility, games and sports facility including repairs and renovations were discussed. It was decided that wherever financial support for infrastructure development are required, grant will be provided as per norms after the approval of CCEA note.

Action: ADG (EP&HS)

5.2 Support for Jubilee Colleges

Support for Jubilee Colleges would be considered as per provisions and norms after the approval of the CCEA note.

Action: ADG (EP&HS)

5.3 Agenda Pertaining to Experiential Learning Modules

- i. After discussion on the agenda from CCSHAU, Hissar, it was agreed that limited number of elective courses could be taken up during Experiential Learning programme as per the requirements of the university

Action: VC, CCSHAU

- ii. It was also informed that Experiential Modules have to be self-sustaining as there is provision of need based recurring contingency only for first two years only after the establishment of the module.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

- iii. In case significant impact have been generated after 4-5 years of establishment of Experiential Learning Module, the unit can be upgraded based on the need.

Action: VC, VNMKV, Parbhani

- iv. The programme of 'Student READY' can be restructured in future. RAWE and EL restructuring can be considered for effective implementation of the programme.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

- v. It was clarified by ADG (IPTM &PME) that there is a provision for establishing 50 incubation centers, out of these about 20 centers will be established in agricultural universities.

Action: ADG (IPTM& PME) and All Vice Chancellors

5.4 Support for New Equipments

Support for new equipments in Central Equipment Facility will be initiated as per norms after the approval of XII Plan CCEA note.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

6. Agenda from HRD

6.1 Inclusion of Bioinformatics and Computer Application as sub-subjects with their respective syllabus in the Major Subject Group of Agricultural Statistics for AICE-SRF (PGS) examination.

The issue was discussed and it was decided that Bioinformatics and Computer Application may be introduced as additional sub-subject and the nomenclature of the discipline "Agricultural Statistics and Informatics" may also be revised while retaining the existing eligibility qualifications for the subject. The syllabus of this subject as revised by NET/ASRB may also be adopted for AICE-SRF (PGS)-2016 examination.

Action: ADG (HRD)

6.2 Relaxation in the Age Limit of RAs/SRFs for Appointment of Assistant Professor in SAUs/CAUs/DUs.

As age limit is based on State Acts and statutes of the respective state universities. Accordingly, action is to be taken by SAUs only, if needed.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

6.3 Mentoring Scheme for Young Faculty/Students

There are already many programmes being conducted by NAARM for the mentoring of young faculties. Universities are requested to become proactive and get its faculty trained at NAARM, Hyderabad.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

6.4. Promotion of Health and Productivity of Animals in India

The update about ICAR and Zoetis PPP initiatives was presented for the information to the house. Various applications of technologies for next generation FMD vaccines were discussed.

7. Agenda Items from Universities Pertaining to HRD

7.1. Eligibility for NET

- (i) The lateral entry from Diploma to degree course after one year was discussed. It was the general view that AICTE guidelines may be followed and for lateral entry 10+3+3 could be equated to 10+2+4. However, it was decided to examine the issue.

Action: ADG (HRD)

- (ii) The issue to include Dairy Engineering as a subject in ARS / NET was also discussed and it was agreed that Committee constituted for the purpose may take up the issue.

Action: Chairman, ASRB; ADG (HRD)

7.2. Capacity Building of Faculty in SAUs

- (i) The provision for Faculty Recharge Centre was discussed and clarified that it is already there in XII Plan EFC of the Education Division, ICAR.
- (ii) Establishing a Centre of Teaching Excellence in different subjects at places of potential strength was not agreed to.
- (iii) For extending free training facility to faculty of SAUs at NAARM, modalities may be worked out by NAARM. However, it was clarified that Education Division of the Council specifically provided support for the capacity building of the faculty under its Plan Scheme.

Action: Director (NAARM); ADG (HRD)

7.3. Fellowship to Post Graduate & Doctoral Students

It was clarified that the revision of the guidelines of ICAR Fellowship is already under consideration.

ADG (HRD)

7.4. Establishment of Centre for Advanced Training

This issue was discussed and it was agreed upon to establish Centre for Advanced Training on Bio-fertilizers and Organic Farming at NAU, Navsari, since the university has produced various strains of Liquid Bio-Fertilizers and has excelled in serving the farming community. It was suggested to approach Agricultural Education Division with detailed project proposal for consideration.

Action VC, NAU, Navasari; ADG (HRD)

7.5 Pertaining to Junior Research Fellowships

i. Increase in number of Junior Research Fellowships

This issue was discussed and increase in number of Junior Research Fellowships was emphasized by everyone. It was informed that this is being considered by the Agricultural Education Division.

Action: ADG (HRD)

ii. Inclusion of Junior Research Fellowship for M. V. Sc. Degree in Wildlife Forensic & Health at Centre of Wildlife Forensic & Health

Inclusion of Junior Research Fellowship for M. V. Sc. degree in Wildlife Forensic & Health, NDVASU, Jabalpur will be considered from 2016 onwards.

Action: ADG (HRD)

7.6 Industrial Collaboration in Students' Research in the AUs

There was no representation by the university and hence deferred

7.7 Barcoding of University Mark Sheets and Degrees

The university is at liberty to introduce barcoding of university mark sheets and degrees

Action: All Vice Chancellors

7.8 ICAR JRF/SRF Examination Center at the Main Campus of the University

It may be considered for more and better access.

Action: ADG (HRD)

8. Agenda from Universities Pertaining to EQR

8.1 Nodal Agency for Education & Research in Food Science & Technology

Since there is already Vth Dean Committee working to streamline the degree nomenclature in Food Science subjects, there is no need to create another committee for the purpose.

8.2 Farm Mechanization and Farm Strengthening to Achieve Accelerated Agricultural Growth

The proposal is pending with the Cabinet, and after its approval it may be implemented.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

8.3 Reconsideration in the Number of Years in Experience as Teacher in all the Faculties of SAUs to Overcome Acute Shortage of Senior Faculty

ICAR guideline in the matter is final and may not be possible to amend it at this stage.

8.4 Admission of Foreign Nationals in AUs and Delay in Disbursement of Fellowship to International Students

Direct application to target university in case of foreign national in Indo-Africa and Indo-Afghan Fellowship Programme may not be possible due to some administrative reasons. However, DARE is already pursuing MEA for timely release of fellowship to foreign national.

8.5 Recognition of AUs Winning Maximum Number of ICAR International Fellowships

It was discussed and suggested that a wider consultation is required in the matter.

8.6 Strengthening of e-Learning

House felt that e-Learning programme are already existing and efforts of all AUs for its strengthening are required.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

8.7 Interfacing of Mechanical Engineering and IT with Agriculture

The suggestion was considered as useful and it may be pursued.

8.8 Introduction of a New Course on 'Human Values' in UG Programmes

State Government may start course/ degree programme following its own guidelines.

8.9 Financial Support for Diploma and Certificate Courses in Agriculture and Allied Disciplines Institutions under UGC

There is no provision of financial support to diploma and certificate courses.

8.10 Placement for Home Science Graduates and Post Graduates

Universities must do all round efforts to get the students employed.

Action: All Vice Chancellors

9. Issues Pertaining to KVKs

Issues related to KVKs were discussed in Interface Meeting of VCs and ICAR Directors. In a clarification sought from the agricultural universities, it was elucidated that during the bifurcation of agricultural universities, transfer of KVKs may be acceptable, but new KVKs demanded by agricultural universities is subject to the Cabinet approval.

- It was further clarified by the house that KVKs should be of multidisciplinary, and not as specialized in certain disciplines.
- For the financial related issues, any purchase may be made as per ICAR guidelines subject to CCEA note approval.
- KVKs must conduct front line demonstration as it is the prime work allotted to them. Further it was decided that public representatives must be invited in all Kisan Melas or other programme.
- ICAR must ensure e-Connectivity with all agricultural colleges and KVKs.

Action: All VCs; ZPDs; PD (DKMA)

10. Issues Pertaining to AICRPs

Issues related to AICRPs were discussed in Interface Meeting of VCs and ICAR Directors. Agricultural universities must submit UCs/AUCs/SoE/Monthly Expenditure Plan well in time for timely release of grant from ICAR. In the last quarter, more than 30% expenditure may not be allowed.

- All AUs must ensure registration on PFMS/CPSM portals to enable the release of grants.
- Funds to be utilized in current financial years only.
- Staff working in Universities under AICRPs schemes must be assigned its core research work, for which they have been posted.
- A **Special Cell** should be created in all AUs for overall monitoring of AICRP projects.
- All Vice Chancellors are requested to ensure the timely submission of AUCs/technical reports pertaining to AICRPs.
- Regarding testing recommendations of Agro-chemicals, it was suggested to form a committee to look into the matter of registration of agrochemicals.

Action: All VCs; PCs (All AICRPs)

11. Other Recommendations

Considering the remarks made in inaugural and plenary sessions, special presentations made during the conference, discussion on agenda items and suggestions imparted by the delegates, the following general recommendations were made for overall improvement in the functioning and coordination of NARES:

- Agricultural Education Division must ensure the university wise fund allocation for release by the June end of the current financial year.
- Universities must ensure uniformities in degree nomenclature and course curricula for all degree programmes.
- Movement of students from one university to another may be allowed.
- There is need to revive the Colleges of Basic Sciences and Humanities in universities
- Food Security and Breeder Seed Production must be a prime agenda of the universities
- **Make in India** programme must be ensured in agriculture sector and PME units and Agrinnovate India must find the way out for commercialization of technologies. Agricultural universities may take the help of Agrinnovate India in the matter.
- In-situ conservation of germplasms be promoted and germplasm must be shared across the NARES for its proper scientific use.
- PRTs need to be critical in their recommendations for accreditation to agricultural universities. For accreditation of Veterinary Colleges, ICAR should take the affiliation report of VCI for the college into consideration while going through the process of accreditation.
- Proper data management across NARES is required for the use of all stakeholders.
- For affiliation of private agricultural colleges, universities must adhere to minimum standards prescribed.

It was suggested to form the following four Committees on different subjects to strengthen the NARES system with reference to the content and quality of higher agricultural education. The name of committee and its Terms of Reference is being proposed below:

1. Committee on Suggesting Guidelines to Develop a Model University

Proposed names of the committee members are given below:

1. Dr. R.B. Lal, VC, SHIATS, Allahabad.
2. Prof. A.C. Varshney, VC, DUVASU, Mathura.
3. Maj. Gen. Sri Kant, VC, LLRUVAS, Hisar.
4. Dr. B.S. Dhillon, VC, PAU, Ludhiana.
5. Dr. N.C. Patel, VC, AAU, Anand.
6. Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, ADG (EQR) and Member Secretary.

Terms of Reference

- To devise the parameters/focus areas required for a Model University.
- To find out the possibility for developing a monitoring mechanism to ensure quality education and research.
- To suggest a stable funding mechanism commensurate with their requirement.
- To suggest the ways and means to infuse better quality of teaching, research and extension.

2. Committee to Suggest Guidelines for Developing Virtual Class Rooms (VCR) for Higher Agricultural Education Across NARES.

Proposed names of the committee members are given below:

1. Dr. A. Padma Raju, VC, ANGRAU, Hyderabad.
2. Dr. R.K. Jain, JD (A), IARI, New Delhi.
3. Dr. K. Ramasamy, VC, TNAU, Coimbatore.
4. Dr. A.R. Pathak, VC, JAU, Junagadh.
5. Dr. P.S. Pandey, ADG (EP&HS), ICAR
6. Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, ADG (EQR), ICAR and Member Secretary.

Terms of Reference

- To find out the feasibility of establishing virtual class rooms and its possible implications.
- To suggest the mechanism for developing VCR on mentoring of remote learning.
- To explore the possibility of interconnecting premiere institution in agricultural education with the institutions in remote places.

3. Committee to Develop Guidelines to Build Online Learning System including MOOC

Proposed names of the committee members are given below:

1. Dr. K. Alagusundaram, DDG (Agri. Engg.), ICAR, New Delhi.
2. Dr. K. Ramasamy, VC, TNAU, Coimbatore.
3. Dr. R.K. Jain, JD (A), IARI, New Delhi.
4. Dr. A.K. Singh, DDG (Agril. Extn.)
5. Dr. C. Deva Kumar, Former ADG (EPD), ICAR.
6. Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, ADG (EQR), ICAR, New Delhi.
7. Dr. P.S. Pandey, ADG (EP&HS), Member Secretary

Terms of Reference

- To suggest guidelines for developing course contents for MOOC.
- To work out the licensing mechanism of MOOC access to students and teachers.
- To suggest road map for NARES for developing on-line courses for different stakeholders in agricultural education.

4. Committee to Develop Guidelines to Test Recommendations of Agro-chemicals

1. Dr. N. K. Krishna Kumar, Deputy Director General (Horticulture)
2. Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice Chancellor, HAU, Hisar
3. Dr. R.K. Mittal, Vice Chancellor, RAU, Samastipur
4. Dr. M. B. Chetti, ADG (HRD)
5. Dr. P. K. Chakrabarty, ADG (Plant Protection), Member Secretary

Terms of Reference

- To suggest guidelines for testing recommendations of agro-chemicals
- To suggest the agro-chemical recommendations by generic name or brand name
- To suggest a structure for charging of fee by the SAU for testing the agro-chemicals

All above four Committees were requested to submit report to the Council within three months.

Action: All VCs, ADG (EQR), ADG (EP &HS)

After completing the agenda items, the conference was concluded with the Vote of the Thanks to the Chair.