

RAJASTHAN AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY: BIKANER

Proceedings of the 35th Meeting of the Board of Management held on 30th September, 1996 at 11.00 A.M.
in the University Administrative Office, RAU, Bikaner.

The following were present

1. Prof. R.K. Patel	Chairman
2. Shri Narpat Singh Rajvi	Member
3. Shri N.S. Parihar	"
4. Dr. Fateh Karan	"
5. Dr. S.S. Rathore	"
6. Dr. V.S. Kulhari	"
7. Dr. (Mrs.) P. Gupta	"
8. Dr. P.K. Pareek	"
9. Dr. A.K. Dahama	"
10. Dr. L.K. Murdia	"
11. Shri B.L. Naval	Member Secretary

Invitee

Shri K.S. Bika

Dr. S.L. Mehta, DDG (Edn.), ICAR and Shri G.R. Punia, Progressive Farmer conveyed inability to attend the meeting. Shri C.S. Rajan, Agriculture Production Secretary, GOR; Dr. E.A. Siddiq, DDG (Crop Sci.); Secretary (Animal Husbandry); Secretary, Higher Education ;and Director, Agriculture could not attend the meeting.

1. Extending a very cordial welcome to members of the Board, the Vice Chancellor mentioned that he was pleased to welcome Shri Narendra Singh Parihar, Eminent Scientist and Dr. A.K. Dahama, Professor, Directorate of Research, RAU, Bikaner, who were attending the meeting for the first time. The Vice Chancellor remarked that valuable guidance from these senior members coupled with intellectual leadership of the new members, Dr. S.L. Mehta, Dr. E.A. Siddiq and Shri G.R. Punia would immensely upgrade the capacity of the Board to take constructive decisions in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

2. The Vice Chancellor appreciated contributions made by the out-going members, Dr. R.P. Singh, Dr. B.S. Yadav, Dr. G.S. Sharma and Shri Surendra Pal Singh.

3. The VC expressed that RAU is already committed to enhance her capabilities to embark upon more ambitious programmes to maximise the productivity gains to improve the quality of life. He reviewed RAU's progress/achievements in past six months. A gist of the review is as follows.

EDUCATION

1. Highlighting the primary mission of RAU- the training of students (human resource development), the Vice Chancellor expressed his satisfaction over the expanding academic horizons of CTAE. The college will now offer degree programmes in three more subjects: Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mining Engineering. These subjects earlier had only diploma programmes.

2. In order to apply the same admission criteria in all agriculture colleges of the State, the scope of Joint Entrance Test (JET) for admission to B.Sc.Ag. programme was enhanced to cover even the private and Government Colleges of the State. It is for the first time that admissions to all the 8 agriculture colleges of Rajasthan were made through a common JET akin to PMT & PET.

3. Strict enforcement of attendance regulations has remarkably improved attendance of students in classroom. The firm adherence to academic calendar has enabled proper and timely conduct of the 1995-96 academic session.

RESEARCH

1. New varieties identified/ released include:

Clusterbean - RGC 986, developed at ARS, Durgapura, identified for release for the country

Chickpea - GNG 469, developed at ARS, Sriganganagar, identified for release for North West Plain Zone of the country

Wheat - Raj 3777, developed at ARS, Durgapura, identified for release for very late sown conditions in the country

- Job 666, developed at SKNCA, Jobner, identified for release in saline/alkaline areas of the country

Rice - BK 8437 (Surabhi), developed at ARS, Kota, identified for on-farm demonstration

2. To establish intellectual climate and create new knowledge-base, RAU organized following national scientific meetings:

A. The VIII Group Workers National Meet of AICRP on Arid Zone Fruits at Bikaner during January 4-6, 1996.

B. National Seminar on "Agricultural Engineering for Sustainable Development" at CTAE, Udaipur during February 15-16, 1996.

C. The 31st Annual Group Meeting of All India Coordinated Pearl millet Improvement Project at ARS, Mandor during May 6-7, 1996.

D. The 11th Workshop of All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants at RCA, Udaipur during July 8-11, 1996.

3. Three new research projects received are:

A. Development of Immunodiagnostic Methods for *Trypanosoma evansi* infection in Camels and Other Related Species; sanctioned by Department of Biotechnology, GOI, in Department of Parasitology, CVAS, Bikaner.

B. A Study on Assessment of Impact of Fruit Clusters in the Development of Horticulture in Rajasthan; Department of Agricultural Economics, RCA, Udaipur; Directorate of Horticulture, GOR.

C. Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics, RCA, Udaipur recognized as Voluntary Centre of All India Coordinated Small Millet Improvement Project by ICAR.

4. Crop Research Centre: To develop and refine technologies for the farmers in II Phase of IGNP command area of Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts effectively, it has been proposed to bifurcate the largest agroclimatic zone of the State (Zone Ia) into two: (i) Zone Ia comprising Jodhpur and Barmer districts and (ii) Zone Ic comprising Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts. To conduct research for canal command and rainfed areas of Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts, the Crop Research Centre (CRC) has been established at Beechwal, Bikaner. At CRC, an area of 98 ha is being developed. Two water reservoirs of 50 and 5 lakh litre capacities have been constructed. Remodelling of existing structure into salinity laboratory has been completed and work on other buildings and facilities is in progress.

5. In view of the fact that Rajasthan has about 74 % of the total area under clusterbean in the country, and 90 % of area under mothbean in the country, the ICAR was requested to shift Project Coordinating (PC) Unit of AICRP on Arid Legumes from IARI, New Delhi to RAU, Bikaner. Since this shifting would enable concerned scientists to plan and execute the research programme on arid legumes under production constraints normally experienced by these crops, the ICAR has responded to the request by deputing a five-member high level committee of ICAR to visit different sites in the State for identification of a suitable location for the PC unit. The team has already visited various locations during July 22-27, 1996 and it is hoped that the PC unit of AICRP on Arid Legumes will be soon shifted to an appropriate location in Rajasthan.

EXTENSION

1. The Collectors and Heads of Line Departments of various districts participated as members of Local Management Committees of different KVKs of RAU. The meetings reviewed the progress made by KVKs and discussed ongoing programmes. It is noteworthy that KVK staff has now been strengthened considerably.

