

## **Proceedings of XXVI meeting of the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board held on 17 Sept, 2020 at 10:00 AM (in Virtual Mode)**

The XXVI Meeting of the Board was held on 17 September, 2020 (online) under the Chairmanship of Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR and Chairman of the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board. At the outset, Chairman welcomed the newly nominated Board Members and expressed that, having their vast experience in agricultural education; it may bring advantage to the Board specially in deliberating critical issues. The Director General further appreciated the Board for its efforts, especially in academic improvement in Agricultural Universities. Dr. R. C. Agrawal, DDG (Agricultural Education) and Vice-Chairman introduced the new Members and expressed that other vacant slots in the Board may be filled very soon. The list of participants is appended as Annexure.

Point wise discussion on each agenda item and subsequent decision of the Board is presented below:

### **Agenda 1. Confirmation of the Proceedings of the XXV NAEAB meeting held on 09/12/2019**

Since there was no comment received from Members, therefore the Proceedings of XXV Meeting of Board were approved.

### **Agenda 2: Accreditation to Agricultural Universities/Colleges/Programmes**

Based on assessment and score card of the programmes, Colleges and the University, as recommended by the Peer Review Teams; considering the accreditation guidelines and comments of the Accreditation Secretariat, the NAEAB discussed agenda in detail and approved the following:

#### **2.1. Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur**

##### **2.1.1. Following Colleges and Programmes were approved for accreditation for a period of five years:**

1. **College of Agriculture, Vellayani, KAU, Thrissur** (with Score of 3.02) and its following programmes
  - B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agronomy
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Extension
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Physiology
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Economics
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Breeding and Genetics
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Pathology
  - M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Microbiology

- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Biotechnology
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Vegetable Sciences
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Post harvest Technology
- M.Sc. in Community Sciences
- M. Sc. in Agricultural Statistics
- Ph.D in Agronomy
- Ph.D in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- Ph.D in Agricultural Extension
- Ph.D in Plant Physiology
- Ph.D in Agricultural Economics
- Ph.D in Plant Breeding and Genetics
- Ph.D in Plant Pathology
- Ph.D in Vegetable Science
- Ph.D in Post harvest Technology
- Ph.D in Community Sciences

2. **College of Agriculture, Padannakkad, KAU, Thrissur** (with Score of 3.10) and its following programmes

- B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agronomy
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Physiology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Breeding and Genetics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Entomology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Pathology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Biotechnology
- M.Sc. in Horticulture in Fruit Science

3. **College of Agriculture** (Formerly College of Horticulture and renamed after AC notification by KAU), Vellanikkara, KAU, Thrissur (with Score of 2.92) and its following programmes

- B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agronomy
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Extension
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Physiology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Economics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Breeding and Genetics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Entomology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Pathology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Statistics
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Microbiology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Plant Biotechnology
- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agricultural Meteorology

- M.Sc. (Ag.) in Seed Science & Technology
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Plantation Crops & Spices
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Vegetable Science
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Fruit Science
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Floriculture & Landscaping
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Postharvest Technology
- M.Sc. in Community Sciences
- Ph.D in Agronomy
- Ph.D in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry
- Ph.D in Agricultural Extension
- Ph.D in Plant Physiology
- Ph.D in Agricultural Economics
- Ph.D in Plant Breeding and Genetics
- Ph.D in Agricultural Entomology
- Ph.D in Plant Pathology
- Ph.D in Agricultural Microbiology
- Ph.D in Plant Biotechnology
- Ph.D in Community Sciences
- Ph.D in Plantation Crops & Spices
- Ph.D in vegetable Science
- Ph.D in Fruit Science
- Ph.D in Floriculture & Landscaping
- Ph.D in Post harvest Technology

4. **Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology**, Tavanur, KAU, Thrissur (with Score of 2.86) and its following programmes

- B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering)
- M.Tech. (Agri. Eng.) in Farm Machinery and Power
- M.Tech. (Agri. Eng.) in Soil & Water Engineering
- M.Tech. (Agri. Eng.) in Processing & Food Engineering
- Ph.D in Farm power Machinery
- Ph.D in Soil & Water Engineering

5. **College of Forestry, Vellanikkara**, KAU, Thrissur (with Score of 2.99) and its following programmes

- B.Sc. (Hons.) Forestry
- M.Sc. (Forestry) in Silviculture & Agroforestry
- M.Sc. (Forestry) in Natural Resource Management
- M.Sc. (Forestry) in Wildlife Science
- M.Sc. (Forestry) in Forest Biology & Tree Improvement
- M.Sc. (Forestry) in Forest Products & Utilization
- Ph.D in Silviculture & Agroforestry
- Ph.D in Natural Resource Management

- Ph.D in Wildlife Science
- Ph.D in Forest Biology & Tree Improvement
- Ph.D in Forest Products & Utilization& Management,

6. MBA in (Agri-business Management) in College of Co-Operation, Banking, Vellanikkara

2.1.2. Following Programmes/ Colleges in KAU, Thrissur **were not approved for accreditation** on the ground of degreenomenclature(notadhering ICAR guidelines) and scoring less than 2.5 (bench mark for accreditation)

- 1) M. Sc.(Ag) in Agricultural Entomology & Nematology in CoA, Vellayani
- 2) M. Sc. (Hort) in Pomology & Floriculture in CoA, Vellayani
- 3) Ph. D in Agricultural Entomology & Nematology in CoA, Vellayani
- 4) Ph. D in Pomology & Floriculture in CoA, Vellayani
- 5) B. Tech in Food Engineering in KCAE & T, Tanavur
- 6) Ph. D in Processing & Food Engineering in KCAE & T, Tanavur
- 7) College of Co-Operation, Banking & Management, Vellanikkara, KAU, Thrissur and its following programmes
  - B.Sc. (Hons.) Co-Operation & Banking
  - M.Sc. (C&B) in Rural Marketing Management
  - M.Sc. (C&B) in Rural Banking & Finance Management
  - M.Sc. (C&B) in Co-operative Management
  - Ph.D (C&B) in Rural Marketing Management
- 8) Academy of Climate Change Adaption Education Sit Research Vellanikkara, KAU, Thrissur and its following programmes
  - B.Sc. (Integrated) Climate Change Adaptation
  - M.Sc. (Integrated) Climate Change Adaptation
- 9) Integrated B.Sc. and M. Sc. programmes in Biotechnology

**2.1.3 KAU, Thrissur was approved for accreditation for a period of five years with scoring of 2.90, equivalent to B Grade.**

## **2.2. University of Horticultural Science, Bagalkot**

Based on assessment and score card of the programmes, Colleges and the University, as recommended by the Peer Review Teams; considering guidelines and comments of the Accreditation Secretariat, theNAEAB discussed agenda and approved the following:

**2.2.1. Following Colleges and Programmes were approved for accreditation for a period of five years:**

- 1. KRC, College of Horticulture, Arabhavi**(with Score of 2.70) and its following programmes
  - B.Sc. (Horticulture)
  - M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Floriculture and Landscape Architecture
  - M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops

- M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Vegetable Sciences
- M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Fruit Science
- Ph.D. in Floriculture and Land Scape Architecture
- Ph.D. in Vegetable Sciences

**2. College of Horticulture, Bengaluru**(with Score of 3.05) and its following programmes

- M.Sc.(Horticulture) in Floriculture and Land Scape Architecture
- M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops
- M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Vegetable Sciences
- M.Sc. (Horticulture) in Fruit Science
- Ph.D in Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops
- Ph.D in Vegetable Sciences
- Ph.D in Fruit Science

**3. COH, Bagalkot**(with Score of 2.97) and its following programmes

- B.Sc.(Horticulture)
- M.Sc.(Horticulture) in Floriculture and Land Scape Architecture
- M.Sc.(Horticulture) in Plantation, Spices, Medicinal and Aromatic Crops
- M.Sc.(Horticulture) in Vegetable Sciences
- M.Sc.(Horticulture) in Fruit Science
- Ph.D. in Plant Pathology

**4. COH, Sirsi**(with Score of 2.98) and its following programmes

- a) B.Sc.(Horticulture)

**5. COH, Kolar**(with Score of 2.95) and its following programmes

- a) B.Sc.(Horticulture)

**6. COH, Bidar**(with Score of 2.72) and its following programmes

- a) B.Sc.(Horticulture)

**7. COH, Munirabad**(with Score of 2.73) and its following programmes

- a) B.Sc.(Horticulture)

**8. COH, Mysuru**(with Score of 2.84) and its following programmes

- a) B.Sc.(Horticulture)

**2.2.2. The following degree programmes, across the Colleges, were not found eligible for accreditation on the ground that degree nomenclature is not as per the ICAR guidelines.**

- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Entomology in COH, Bagalkot, COH, Bengaluru and KRCCH, Arabhavi
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Plant Pathology in COH, Bagalkot, COH, Bengaluru and KRCCH, Arabhavi
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry in COH, Bagalkot, COH, Bengaluru

- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Genetics and Plant Breeding in COH, Bagalkot, COH, Bangaluru and KRCCH, Arabhavi
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Plant Biotechnology in COH, Bagalkot, COH, Bangaluru and KRCCH, Arabhavi
- M.Sc. (Hort.) in Post Harvest Technology in COH, Bagalkot, COH, Bangaluru and KRCCH, Arabhavi
- Ph. D programmes (other than listed in S.No. 2.2. C1, 2.2 C2 and 2.2 C3) were not eligible for accreditation as their first batch is still to come out.

**2.2.3. University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot was approved for accreditation for a period of Five years with score of 2.82 equivalent to Grade B.**

### **2.3. Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture & Technology, Kumarganj, Ajodhya**

Based on assessment and score card of the programmes, Colleges and the University, as recommended by the Peer Review Teams; considering guidelines of the Board and comments of the Accreditation Secretariat, the NAEAB discussed agenda and approved the following:

**2.3.1. Following and Colleges and Programmes were approved for accreditation for a period of five years:**

#### **1. College of Agriculture, ANDUAT Kumarganj, Ayodhya (with Score of 2.92)**

- B.Sc (Hons.) Agriculture
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Agronomy
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Biochemistry
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Economics
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Meteorology
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Statistics
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Crop Physiology
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Entomology
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Extension Education
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Genetics & Plant Breeding
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Plant Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Plant Pathology
- M.Sc. Agriculture in Agriculture Chemistry
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Agronomy
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Biochemistry
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Economics
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Meteorology
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Statistics
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Crop Physiology
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Entomology
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Extension Education

- Ph.D. in Agriculture Genetics & Plant Breeding
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Plant Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Plant Pathology
- Ph.D. in Agriculture Chemistry

**2. College of Horticulture and Forestry, ANDUAT Kumarganj, Ayodhya (with Score of 2.83)**

- B.Sc (Hons.) Horticulture
- M.Sc. Horticulture in Fruit Science
- M.Sc. Horticulture in Vegetable Science
- Ph.D. Horticulture in Vegetable Science

**3. College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, Kumarganj, Ayodhya (with Score of 2.93)**

- B.V.Sc. & A.H.
- M.V.Sc. in Animal Genetics and Breeding
- M.V.Sc. in Animal Nutrition
- M.V.Sc. in Live Stock Production and Management
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary and Animal Husbandry
- M.V.Sc. in Extension Education
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Biochemistry
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Medicines
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Microbiology
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Pathology
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Surgery and Radiology
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Parasitology
- M.V.Sc. in Veterinary Anatomy and Histology
- M.V.Sc. in live Stock Product Management
- Ph.D. Animal Nutrition

**2.3.2. Following Programmes were not eligible for accreditation as these could not score 2.50 (bench mark score for accreditation)**

- a. B.Sc (Hons.) Home Science in the College of Home Science, ANDUAT Kumarganj, Ayodhya
- b. B.Tech. Programme in Mahamaya College of Agriculture Engineering & Technology, Ambedkarnagar
- c. B. F. Sc. programme in College of Fisheries, ANDUAT Kumarganj, Ayodhya
- d. Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology in College of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry

2.3.3. College of Home Science/Community Science, College of Fisheries and Mahamaya College of Agriculture Engineering & Technology, Akbarpur were not approved as their UG programmes were not eligible for accreditation.

**2.3.4 ANDUAT, Kumarganj, Ayodhya was approved for accreditation for a period of five years with a score of 2.82 equivalent to B grade.**

## **2.4. B.Sc.(Hons) Agriculture programme in Jagannath University, Jaipur**

B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture was **not approved for accreditation** because its score card 2.28 was less than 2.50 (bench mark for accreditation).

## **Agenda 3. Action Taken Report on the recommendations of XXV Board Meeting/ Governing Body recommendations.**

### **3.1 Appeal Committee proceedings**

Three Universities namely CSKHPKV, Palampur, PVNTUV, Hyderabad and SKRAU, Bikaner have sent an appeal requesting to review their accreditation status. Accordingly, as per guidelines a three-member Committee has been constituted to review the same and following recommendations were offered by the Appeal Committee.

**3.1.1 CSKHPKV, Palampur** has made an appeal against the Grading of the University and reconsideration of accreditation of some of its Master degree programme in the college of Veterinary Science. However, after thorough review it was observed that the university could not offer convincing clarifications through additional information as also interaction with the university designated officer before the Committee. Thus, the assessment of Peer Review Team based on Self Study Reports and verification together with interaction at site was found to be fair and reasonable. The assessment of PRT at site was already agreed and signed by the university authority. Despite this finding, the Appeal Committee reexamined the score card in response to the assessment by the PRT and did not observe any convincing ground for changing the decision of the PRT. The appeal in the case is, therefore, disposed of.

**3.1.2 VNTVU, Hyderabad**, has made an appeal for reviewing of accreditation for MVSc and Ph.D programme in Animal Nutrition, College of Veterinary Science Hyderabad. The committee carefully examined the appeal together with assessment by the PRT and subsequent scoring based on assessment but could not find clear and convincing evidences that the PRT has erred in making its recommendations. The appeal does not force for reconsideration of the matter. The appeal is, therefore, disposed of.

**3.1.3 SKRAU, Bikaner** has sent an appeal for reviewing of accreditation of Institute of Agricultural Business Management, Ph.D Agricultural Business Management, Ph.D (Home Science) Foods and Nutrition and Extension Education and Communication Management programme not accredited by the PRT. The Committee re-examined and discussed different parameters but noticed that the PRT has not erred either in assessment or in scoring. Thus, the appeal does not merit reconsideration. The appeal is, therefore, disposed of by the Committee.

**3.1.4 The Board discussed the above recommendations made by the Appeal Committee in the line of pertinent guidelines and approved recommendations of Appeal Committee as under 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.**

### **3.2. Decision on initial date and period of accreditation**

3.2.1 In the Proceedings of the XXV meeting of the Board held on 9th December, 2019 recommended that the accreditation date for the universities seeking re-accreditation, to maintain the continuity, the period of accreditation shall be from the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the respective financial year, irrespective of any date of the Board Meeting conducted during the same financial year. The period for newly accredited universities shall be from the date of Board meeting conducted for approval. However, Board recommended to put up an agenda item in the Governing Body Meeting.

3.2.2 On the basis of proceeding the matter was sent as an Agenda in 249<sup>th</sup> GB and the decision of GB is as under:

*Governing Body took note of the Proceedings of the XXV meeting of the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEB) held on 9th December, 2019. the proposal related to fixing of date from 1st April of the respective financial year) for the universities/colleges seeking re-accreditation, was discussed in detail. The GB emphasized that system needed to be reviewed and directed to discuss it in the next meeting of the NAEB. The GB also empowered the Chairman to approve the decision taken in this regard in the NAEAB's next meeting*

3.2.3. Board discussed the agenda in detail and decided that

- (a) If the Agricultural University/College/Programme has been accredited by the Board and submitted application for its re-accreditation, in such case
  - i. If the university submits application (LoI/IEA/SoC) before its **end date** of Accreditation period, the next date for accreditation will be granted in continuation with the previous accreditation, irrespective of the date of decision for re-accreditation by the Board.
  - ii. If the university submits application (LoI/IEA/SoC) after its **end date** of accreditation period, the next date for accreditation will be granted by the NAEAB with the date of application received in the Board Secretariat.
- (b) For new applicants, date of accreditation will be granted effective from the date of Board meeting.

### 3.3 Development and implementation of online portal for accreditation.

1. It is to submit that ICAR accreditation to Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions is being granted based on well-defined criteria mentioned in the Guidelines published in 2016. In the process, the first step is to submission of LoI, IEA and Compliance by the Registrar of the degree awarding university and subsequent examination of these documents at accreditation secretariat and approval to submit Self Study Report by the applicant university/college.
2. A committee of experts was constituted to develop/implement the online process of receiving and examining LoI/IEA/Compliance and inviting Universities to submit SSRs.
  - a. In association with NAHEP (to bear cost and maintenance of portal), IASRI, New Delhi developed the portal <https://accreditation.icar.gov.in/>
  - b. Standard Operating Procedure for this portal along with following three Manuals were also developed and tested
    - i. User Manual for NAEAB Secretariat,
    - ii. User Manual for NAEAB Regional Centre
    - iii. User Manual for Registrar of degree awarding University
3. **The Board discussed and approved the above points (a) and (b). The Board directed that IASRI, New Delhi/NAHEP shall take care of security related issues.**

### 3.4. Strengthening of Board Secretariat

1. Proceedings of XXV meeting of NAEAB desired that the Accreditation Cell shall be strengthened with staff, space and some sort of functional autonomy to address the work load, critical issues and transparency at all levels. One Officer shall be designated as Coordinator, Accreditation Cell to bring efficiency in coordination with Regional Centres and processing the proposals received for accreditation. Considering these, the Board approved the following:
  - a. Dr. K. P. Tripathi (Pr. Scientist) designated as Coordinator (Accreditation) on full time basis with a responsibility of functioning of Accreditation Secretariat, implementation of accreditation guidelines, processing of LoI/IEA/SSRs, work as link officer to coordinate with the Regional Centers of the Board, compliance of all Governing Body recommendations for NAEAB from time to time and stakeholders and assisting Secretary, NAEAB for other accreditation related works.
  - b. Placement of one CTO, two Office Assistants, one Research Associate and one Section Officer in Accreditation Secretariat.

### **3.5 Compliance on Governing Body recommendations for uploading student intake and faculty information on websites of both ICAR and Accredited Universities**

*3.5.1 The Governing Body of ICAR Society in its 247<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 suggested that for the sake of transparency and enabling the students and parents to take an informed decision, it is imperative to keep a check that there is no variation in data (number of students and faculty members etc.) from that on which Agricultural Universities/ Colleges have been accredited. Therefore, the University/College concerned should mandatorily upload data on ICAR website/portal and ICAR should also carry out mid-term review.*

#### **3.5.1. The following issues were placed before the Board with respect to incomplete information about programme intake**

1. Out of total 73 Universities accredited so far, reply have been received from 58 universities. Among them, 23 universities replied according to format and reply from 35 universities are not according to format.
2. Fifteen Universities have not replied so far and did not submit intake data to the Board.
3. Seven Universities have increased intake over and above SSR data after getting ICAR accreditation

#### **3.5.2 Remarks of the Board: Considering above and similar practices in other National Accreditation Agencies like NAAC, NBA, the Board decided the following:**

- 1) As per guiding principle, accreditation is granted based on the performance and facilities existing since last five years in the colleges and it is mandatory that the university shall maintain the same for next five year or till accreditation period. However, reasons cited by the University may not be appropriate to increase number of seats. Universities have substantially increased the intake after getting accreditation without informing ICAR, especially in UG programmes.
- 2) Minimum Requirements for Colleges as per Deans' Committee Report and guidelines for accreditation may not be adhered in such cases, if the seats are enhanced. **Hon'ble Supreme Court has also ruled in Petition to special leave to appeal no. 31813 of 2018 that it will also be ensured that the courses in the past met the minimum standards prescribed by ICAR.** It may be difficult to justify the high intake on websites of both University/ICAR for the use of stakeholders as per GB recommendations.

#### **3.5.3. Considering above issues, the Board decided that an urgent review is required for such universities and Board should be apprised in the next meeting for appropriate decision like cancelling of accreditation or imposition of financial penalty. On cancellation of accreditation, if university applies again for accreditation from ICAR, a five-time accreditation fee over and above the normal fee, should be charged from such universities. Further, while issuing letter for accreditation, the necessary directives need to be given to adhere to the student intake and faculty strength. If the university desires to enhance the intake capacity, the prior approval of the Board is required.**

## 4. Other Agenda

### 4.1 Waiving off ICAR accreditation as a requirement for ICAR's AIEEA for students of first batch of ICAR non-accredited private agricultural colleges/AUs

On the recommendation of Annual Conference of Vice Chancellors of Agricultural Universities held on April 10, 2020, through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Director General, ICAR and Secretary DARE the following agenda was put to the Board:

*It was decided that the accreditation of the new private colleges may be initiated before the first batch passes out, so that students of these colleges are not at disadvantage. The matter needs to be taken up during the forthcoming meeting of Accreditation Board.*

- a. **Considering above, the Board decided that accreditation guidelines regarding criteria of eligibility shall remain the same.**
- b. **For the admission through AIEEA, the first batch students from newly established colleges, not having ICAR accreditation, may be allowed, with the condition that it will be applicable for first batch pass out students only in the current academic year. For the second batch students, accreditation is compulsory. It was clarified that the exemption is not applicable in subsequent years for those students who pass out in first batch.**
- c. **All admission guidelines through AIEEA should be applicable to both Private and Government Colleges**
- d. **An agenda in next GB of ICAR should be placed for consideration of above mentioned points b and c.**

### 4.2 On-line assessment of Self Study Reports by Peer Review Team under COVID 19 situation

- A. In order to clear backlog of SSR verification by PRT to grant accreditation, in addition to the extant guidelines (Chapter 8 of Guidelines for Accreditation). **The following new arrangement for PRT** was considered by the Board:
  1. Constitution of PRT Committee and sharing of SSR soft copies with Members and Chairman.
  2. First meeting (online) for discussion on modalities for the process to conduct review and distribution of college wise work to Members for preparing assessment in the format to be provided by Accreditation Secretariat.
  3. All the member should prepare and share the draft assessment reports of the said college/programmes with list of "Critical points to be verified" among the team members via electronic mode.
  4. Second meeting of PRT with University/College to verify critical points and asses under virtual/physical mode.
  5. Third and final meeting of PRT to prepare Score Card and finalize the report under virtual meeting.

6. Chairman, PRT will send Assessment Report to the Vice Chancellor/Dean of the College for vetting and signature.
7. PRT will put upscanned signature on all pages of Report (already signed by VC/Deans) including Score card and recommendation.

**B. For the Agricultural Universities seeking accreditation, the above guideline should be applicable during the pandemic period. For new Colleges, verification of SSRs by using appropriate Digital Platforms should be arranged. Documentation and recording of all the Proceedings during online assessment should be ensured.**

#### **4.3 Extending accreditation of universities**

The following universities have requested to extend accreditation of these universities beyond March 2020 considering the prevalent Covid 19 situation

- i. TANVASU, Chennai
- ii. BAU, Sabour
- iii. JNKVV, Jabalpur:-

*It was informed that the Governing Body of ICAR in its 246<sup>th</sup> meeting approved the student allotment under AIEEE to those agricultural universities whose accreditation period ends in the March month of the year, provided their accreditation process has already been started.*

#### **4.4 New Revolving fund scheme for Accreditation**

1. The Board Secretariat has received more than 2.5 Cr accreditation fee so far. This fund being deposited in the ICAR account as per the decision taken in 242 GB Meeting. It is to submit that cost of TA/DA/ Sitting Allowance is being presently met from the component "Accreditation" under "Educational Quality and Reforms" of scheme "Development and strengthening of Agricultural Education in India".
2. It is being realized that Board Secretariat should have revolving fund under its operation to support various activities including engagement of contractual staff for different supportive works, maintenance of online accreditation portal, to support Regional Centers to meet contingency and manpower requirement during time of examination of SSRs and other contingent works in the Secretariat. Revolving fund to be created out of accreditation fee received.
3. *Considering above, the Board approved to put up agenda for consideration in the next Governing Body Meeting for consideration of Revolving Fund Scheme for Accreditation Secretariat.*

#### **4.5 Enhancement of accreditation fee**

1. It has been realized that the present rate of Accreditation Fees as approved in 242 GB is 6 Lakhs, 3 Lakhs, 2 Lakhs respectively for University, College and Programme lower on the count of increased travel cost of PRT members. In order to support Accreditation Secretariat in terms of staff, contingency and other expenditure, it is necessary to enhance accreditation fee as per following proposal.

2. *Instead of enhancing the amount of accreditation fee, the Board decided that applicant universities should bear the cost of Travel and Sitting Allowances for Peer Review Team in addition to existing local transport, boarding and lodging.*
  3. *An agenda for this purpose should be placed in next GB for its consideration.*
- 4.6 The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

**Annexure 1**

The following members attended the XXVI meeting of NAEAB through video conferencing:

1. Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, DG, ICAR & Chairman of the Board, ICAR, New Delhi
2. Dr. R.C. Agrawal, DDG (Agril.Edn), ICAR & Vice Chairman of the Board ICAR, New Delhi
3. Dr. M.B. Chetti, Vice Chancellor, UAS, Dharwad
4. Dr. N.S. Rathore, Vice-Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur
5. Dr. A. Padma Raju, Ex VC, ANGRAU, Hyderabad
6. Sri. M.Prabhakara Rao, Managing Director, Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd., Telangana
7. Dr. Abhishek Shukla (Representative of Dr.P.K. Bisen, VC, JNKVV, Jabalpur)
8. Dr. M.P. Mishra, Director (Acting), IVRI, Izatnagar
9. Sri Gopukumar (Representative of Secretary, UGC, New Delhi)
10. Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, ADG(EQR), ICAR & Secretary of the Board, Education Division, ICAR, New Delhi
11. Dr. K.P. Tripathi, Coordinator (Accreditation), Education Division, ICAR, New Delhi
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