

Guidelines for funding support under Plan Scheme “Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India” through sub components “Strengthening and Development of Agricultural Universities” and “Library Strengthening” by the Agricultural Education Division, ICAR

Introduction

The Agricultural Education under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research undertakes planning, development, coordination and quality assurance in higher agricultural education in India and, thus, strives for strengthening and development of higher agricultural education system through partnership and efforts of the components of the ICAR-Agricultural Universities System comprising State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Deemed to be universities (DUs), Central Agricultural Universities (CAUs) and Central Universities (CUs) with Agriculture Faculty. The Agricultural Education Division is providing financial assistance to Agricultural Universities under the XII Plan Scheme “Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India”

This grant is provided for infrastructure development, gender mainstreaming including girls' hostels, other new civil works related to student amenities, including boys and international hostels, educational museums, examination halls and auditoriums, repair/ refurbishing/ renovation and modernization of educational structures etc. This also includes personality development, faculty development, strengthening of sports and games facilities, placement cells and other student amenities, building-on the agricultural education legacy by providing support to old historical universities/ colleges; equipments/ computers/ implements for higher education; strengthening of library, e-resources including existing e-courses, e-granth, ICT facilities etc. Support also includes preparation of quality instructional material, writing university level textbooks, manuals, etc. for effective teaching and learning process.

Eligibility

- All State Agricultural Universities (including Animal Science, Fishery, and Horticulture) established by an act passed in State Legislature, and its constituent colleges from which at least one batch of students have passed out. Necessary documents related to establishment of the university and achievements must have been submitted to the Council.
- All Deemed to be Universities of ICAR, Central Agricultural Universities, Central Universities with agricultural faculty involved in teaching and research in agricultural sciences and have been established by an act of either the State Legislature or the Parliament and recognized by the UGC
- Deemed to be University duly recognized by Government of India and admits students as per guidelines of ICAR through AIEEA.

General Conditions

- Essentiality of National Eligibility Test (NET) for recruited of faculty in SAUs must be adhered to.

- The University seeking grant must be accredited by the Accreditation Board of Indian Council of Agricultural Research from Financial Year 2016-17 onwards.
- The University must broadly adhere to the ICAR Model Act.
- The SAUs are autonomous bodies established by Act of respective State Legislature and wholly funded by the State Government concerned. The ICAR supplements the State funding by releasing fund that is actually Grant-in-Aid. This Grant-in Aid released to the SAUs by the ICAR in a particular year is treated/booked as expenditure by the ICAR in its accounts for that year. SAUs, however, submit UCs/AUCs to the ICAR after the close of the financial year. Accordingly, the unspent balance remaining with some of the SAUs will be adjusted during the release of the grant for the next financial year.
- The existing and proposed guidelines including criteria thereof may be modified, if required, following the formal procedure and with the approval of the Competent Authority of ICAR.
- The AUs receiving grant should ensure that the AU has not obtained or applied for grants for the same purpose or activity from any other Ministry or Department of the GOI. Strength and relevance of the programme in view of national and global context, commitment of the university in following the instructions of the Council and execution of educational reforms would also be considered while releasing the grants.

The support will be provided as per the availability of funds. Decision of ICAR shall be final in all cases such as release of funds and monitoring of items funded by ICAR, etc. There will be no binding on ICAR from any of the stakeholders.

Criteria for the Grant under the sub-component, Strengthening and Development

Following criteria will be applied for tentative allocation of budget to various agricultural universities.

1. Sixty percent of the total developmental grants of the financial year may be allocated based on total annual student's intake capacity (UG, PG and Ph.D.) of the university. However, limited support restricted to a maximum of Rs. 300 lakh, under this category shall be provided to the Deemed /Central universities receiving central funding.
2. Ten percent of the total development grant of the financial year may be considered based on number of constituent colleges of the university.
3. An incentive of Rs. 1.0 lakh per JRF/SRF and Rs. 2.0 lakh per ARS selected from the university will be considered subject to condition that the total fund should not exceed to the five percent of the total development grant of the financial year.
4. Twenty five percent of the total development grant of the financial year may be considered to support need based infrastructure/equipment (*viz.* Jubilee Grant, Student's Hostel, Sports Facility, Examination Hall, Theme based Educational Museums, Auditoriums and Equipment for central facility, etc.). Priority will be given to those universities, which were not considered under such support in the previous five year plan.
5. Savings, if any, out of above mentioned points, may be diverted to a university dedicatedly working in new areas of agriculture including Secondary Agriculture, Precision Agriculture, Specialty Agriculture, Hi-Tech Agriculture and other frontier areas of agriculture for their infrastructure development as per suitability of the proposal.

Nature and Quantum of Grant

- (i) **New Civil Works:** All AUs seeking support under this head need to get prior approval of the Council with regard to the designs and estimates of the civil works. The guidelines for the approved works under XII Plan are available on the Council's website. As far as possible, construction of environmental friendly buildings (green building) should be preferred.
- (a) Hostels:**
- For construction of Girls, Boys and International Hostels, a maximum of Rs. 250.00 lakh shall be provided for NEH region/difficult terrains, while this will be restricted to Rs. 200.00 lakh for other areas. Priority is given for the construction of Girls Hostel as per actual need of the university.
 - Support for International Hostels will be restricted to the AUs where support has not been provided earlier and international students are regularly enrolled in sufficient number.
- (b) Educational Museum:** Need based support for Theme based Educational Museums shall be provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 150.00 lakh per museum.
- (c) Sports Facilities:** Need based support for strengthening of existing sports facilities shall be provided subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh per AU.
- (d) Examination Hall:** Support for development of Examination Hall subject to a maximum of Rs. 100 lakh per examination hall will be provided.
- (e) Auditoriums:** Support of up to Rs. 1000.00 lakh will be provided for construction of an Auditorium in AU subject to budget provision in the EFC
- (f) Old/Historical College:** In order to maintain/protect old and historical colleges, a maximum amount of Rs. 500.00 lakh each for more than 100 years old; Rs. 250.00 lakh each for 50 to 99 years old and Rs. 100.00 lakh each for 25 to 49 years old colleges will be provided as per the availability of funds. The AUs will submit the proposals for the same well in advance.
- (g) Repairs and Renovation:** Limited need based support subject to maximum ceiling of Rs. 500.00 lakh per university will be provided for refurbishing, renovation, repair, and maintenance of existing structures viz. Hostels and Academic Blocks, International Hostel, Museum, Sports Complex, Examination Hall and other structures related to teaching and learning activities. However, estimates exceeding Rs. 10.00 lakh per single work need to be vetted by the Council.
- (ii) **Up-gradation/Replacement of Facilities, including Equipments:** Need based support will be provided with the following conditions for replacement/ up-gradation of facilities/ equipments for teaching and practicals, which are either outdated or have lived their life and are required to be urgently replaced to impart quality education.
- To seek prior approval of the Council particularly with reference to equipments costing Rs. 5 lakh and above.
 - The universities must avoid duplication of major equipments and need to submit an undertaking in this regard.
- (iii) **Annual Maintenance Contracts (AMCs), Replacement of Old and Obsolete Equipments and Parts thereof:** For further strengthening research and teaching need based support not

- exceeding Rs. 25.00 lakh per AU per year would be provided under this head for AMC and replacement purpose.
- (iv) New Equipments:** A support of up to a maximum of Rs. 100.00 lakh per AU may be provided for purchase of state of the art equipments. The equipments must be installed in Common Instrumentation Laboratory (CIL) and AUs may submit an undertaking in this regard. The universities need to submit the demand for the purchase of such equipments for the CIL.
- (v) Curriculum Development and Delivery:**
- **Preparation of Quality Instructional Material, Practical Manuals and e-Resources:** support of Rs. 50,000/- per College will be provided for preparation of Textbooks, practical manuals and computer-led instructional material. SAU/College will be required to ensure that this scheme becomes self-supporting through appropriate pricing and selling of books and manuals in due course of time.
 - **Contingency Grants for UG/PG Practicals:** In order to meet day-to-day needs for conduct of practicals including consumable, glassware and experimental material etc., a grant of Rs. 3000/- per UG student and of Rs. 5000/- per PG student will be provided.
- (vi) Strengthening of UG & PG Teaching:** In order to encourage participation of faculty in scientific meetings, which enables them to keep abreast of latest developments in science and educational reforms and helps in building confidence while making presentations and designing teaching materials for classroom discussions and practical sessions. A support to the tune of maximum Rs. 50 lakh per university will be provided for this purpose.
- University may utilize a maximum of 25% of grants allocated under this head for deputing faculty at National Symposium/ Workshop/ Seminar/ meetings; and Specific National level trainings in emerging areas respectively.
- (vii) Development of Facilities for UG Practicals, Computer Labs:** The grant to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 20.0 lakh per AU per year will be provided exclusively for strengthening the laboratories including computer lab for smooth conduct of practicals. Prior approval of the Council is required in case of purchase of an item costing over Rs. 5.0 lakh.
- (viii) HRD for Technical/Paraprofessional and Administrative Staff:** Support is provided for updating professional/technical competence of para-professional staff/administrative staff, 10% of the staff may be trained every year in skills related to his/ her job performance, preferably in the form of group trainings. A support to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 10.0 lakh per university per year will be provided for this purpose.
- (ix) Establishment of Smart Class Rooms:** A special grant up to a maximum of Rs. 20.0 lakh will be considered per university per year for the establishment of Smart Class Rooms consisting interactive board, touch screen, bio-matrix, visualized, e-kiosks and Artificial Intelligence (AI) based course modules, etc.
- (x) Students Study & Educational Tours:** Support of Rs. 5000/- may be provided to each student once in degree course for educational tours considering the fact that such tours to well-known institutions and organizations and interactions with their faculty will help students broaden their knowledge and skills. A maximum support of Rs. 15.0 lakh per university will be provided for this purpose.

(xi) Student and /Faculty Amenities:

- **Students Counselling and Placement Cell including Health Facilities:** A support of Rs. 200/- per student will be provided for managing campus interviews and other related welfare activities in the colleges and hostels including games, sports & cultural activities and health-care facilities with a maximum limit of Rs. 5.00 lakh per university.
- **AgriUnifest/ AgriSports/ Education Olympiad:** A support of Rs. 50.00 lakh or actual expenditure, whichever is less, may be provided for each event per year to organize the event.
- **Faculty Amenities:** Funds are also provided based on merit of the case for faculty related activities such as games, cultural, literary activities and special lectures of common interest with a maximum limit of Rs. 5.0 lakh per university.

(xii) Support to Dean: A support to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 5.0 lakh per college in university will be provided for carrying out following activities:

- **Development & Strengthening of Facilities:** Dean's office is envisaged to be strengthened to facilitate interactive teaching and learning. Need based support in order to introduce innovative teaching techniques and carrying out creative activities in the college for overall welfare of staff and students.
- **Support for Examination Cell:** Need based funds will be provided for meeting part of the expenditure for conducting examinations and strengthening of examination cell.
- **Faculty Specific Requirements for Improving Education:** Need based financial support will be provided with prior approval of the Council for assisting faculty with special grant to strengthen learning, particularly in conduct of practicals or research by the students.
- **Support for Online e-Resources:** Support for existing e-resources including NISAGENET and e-Courses will be provided.

Allocation Criteria under Library Strengthening

The libraries of the agricultural universities and its constituent colleges have to be strengthened to enhance their learning resources including writing of text books and preparation of quality instructional material, e-learning resources and infrastructure. Financial support may be considered for strengthening and modernization of libraries including networking for online access to literature for ensuring equity and availability of quality learning resources both in the main campuses and off-campus colleges for the benefit of students and teachers, e-learning tools, modules and networking and overall library strengthening along with promotion of ICT connectivity, video conferencing and Technology Enhanced learning (TEL). The aim is to develop a unique virtual digital library of NARS accessible globally.

A sum of maximum Rs. 25.00 lakh per college and Rs. 30.00 lakh for university library may be provided for strengthening of existing library. The fund are allocated under the following head under the sub-components "Library Strengthening".

- (a) Essentially to convert existing library into digital library for books issue, deposition, maintaining text, reference, and book bank etc.
- (b) Procurement of books from international publishers and e-resources related to subject matter.
- (c) Repair and renovations of old library and equipping them with new shelves, Air Conditioners, De-humidifier, illumination shields, comfort seating zone and e-Kiosks for assessing facilities.
- (d) Digitization of already available books/references/CD ROMS, etc.
- (e) Strengthening of digital library and ICT tools, annual maintenance of equipments installed in library, strengthen/installation of security system, purchase of fire extinguishers, establishment of Wi-Fi zone in the library.
- (f) University may incur the expenditure on the above items after completing all the codal formalities of the procurement procedures.
- (g) Need based funding to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 50.0 lakh will be considered to DUs in a financial year as they also receive funds from Central Government.
- (h) Each agricultural university must submit the utilization certificate in the prescribed format i.e. Form GFR No. 19 of GFR 2005 within the timeline prescribed by the Council.
- (i) The proposals for existing programme viz., e-Granth, may be considered separately with a maximum ceiling of Rs. 30.00 lakh per year in the XII Plan.

Monitoring for Judicious Use of Grant Released

- The Universities/colleges seeking grant will be monitored by the Council for judicious use of the grant released through Committees constituted by the ICAR. The University/College will make accessible all records related to the utilization of ICAR grant to the monitoring team.
- The timeline for the submission of requisite document must be adhered to.
- The funds may be released in two to three installments during the financial year. First installment of the grant may be released only after receipt of Utilization Certificate (UC) of previous years. The unspent balances reflected in UC shall be adjusted during the release of the first installment. The second installment may be released only after the receipt of Audited Utilization Certificate of previous year grant.
- The completion certificate for all the new works supported by the Council must be submitted along with their photographs.
- Detailed Annual Report of the grants given to the universities (Development Grant and Library Grant) must be submitted in the prescribed format within the specified time line.
- The university has to adhere to the funds as earmarked for each head. The university shall bear the cost over and above the excess expenditure incurred on each head.
- The grant to grantee institution would be made as per the provisions of GFR 212(1) and amendments made to it from time to time.
- The books of accounts and other records of grantee institution would be open for Internal Audit by ICAR.
- The grantee institution would utilize the grants as per head-wise budgetary provisions fixed by the ICAR, exclusively for the purpose it was sanctioned and funds will not be diverted for other purposes.
- The grantee institutions would render accounts (SoE/UC/AUC) to the Council duly audited by the C&A.G./Statutory Auditors of the grantee institutions.
- Each agricultural university must submit the utilization certificate in the prescribed format i.e. Form GFR No. 19 of GFR 2005 within the timeline already prescribed by the Council.
