



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

**10 March, 2017**  
**19 Phalgun, 1938 (Saka)**

Shri **Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav**, M.P. and Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2016-17), presented the Thirty Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education) to Lok Sabha today, the 10 March, 2017.

Some of the important recommendations of the Committee are as under:

<p><b>Overview of existing procedures for approval of funds - Desired.</b></p>	<p>The Committee while noting failure of the ICAR to fully utilize available funds during XII plan have recommended to review the entire system and look into the constraints or causes for under-utilization of funds during the previous years and make concerted and coordinated efforts to make full use of allocated funds. The Committee also desired the Department to take an overview of existing procedure for approval of funds for projects, tendering process and procurement system and undertake necessary changes in order to minimize the time gap between approval and execution of projects/Research.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendations No. 1 &amp; 2)</b></p>
<p><b>Enhancement of allocations to around 1 % of agricultural GDP to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)- Urged</b></p>	<p>The Committee while observing limitation of funds with ICAR for research work have opined that need for huge investment in the agricultural</p>

	<p>research and education sector and extension services if the Government wants to achieve the aim of doubling the income of farmers in the country by 2022. They urged the Government to enhance allocations to around 1 % of agricultural GDP to the DARE/ICAR during current fiscal and future so that various research projects/ related programmes undertaken by the Department do not suffer for want of funds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation No. 3)</b></p>
<p><b>Channelization of services of all ICAR Institutes through a single platform-Desired</b></p>	<p>The Committee while observing less generation of internal revenue by the ICAR institute than the their potential have recommended the Department to take steps for availability of all ICAR products and services on a single platform and make it accessible and cost effective in order to maximize revenue from intellectual properties available with vast network of ICAR Institutes. The Committee desired the Department to make it mandatory to channelize services of all ICAR institutes through a single platform.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation No.5)</b></p>
<p><b>Special Research Project for development of local varieties of dry fruits, spices, olive etc.- Recommended.</b></p>	<p>The Committee while observing increase in share of agriculture import from 2.99 % in 2011-12 to 5.63 % during 2015-16 in total import in the country have opined that demands for agriculture products in the country is bound to change significantly with changing dietary pattern associated with rising income and impact of globalization, necessitating import and thereby, causing strain on foreign exchange. The Committee, therefore, recommended for a detailed study to find ways to enhance production of these agriculture produce in different agro-climatic zones and sub-zones in the country. The Committee also recommended the ICAR to start a special research project for development of local varieties of dry fruits, spices, olive etc. which are currently being imported in the country.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(Recommendation No.7)</b></p>

**Constitution of a specific cell in every ICAR institute and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) for organic farming-Desired**

The Committee while appreciating the efforts made by the ICAR for research on organic farming and establishment of an independent institute on Organic Farming have opined that organic farming is one of the areas where farmers of our country are at advantage due to their traditional knowledge and limited use of fertilizer. Effective marketing, infusion of technology, provision of cost effective green manure and reduction of conversion time of organic agriculture products can be useful in achieving the aim of doubling the income of farmers in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommended the Department to constitute a specific cell in every ICAR institute and KVK for organic farming wherein, consultation services and accesses to developed technologies, green manure, plant materials, agronomic methods may be provided to the farmers at a reasonable cost.

**(Recommendation No 8)**

**Dedicated Mission for development of advanced agriculture machineries-Recommended**

The Committee while observing significant work done by the Agriculture Engineering Division for development of suitable farm implements and machineries have opined that farming practice of the country is witnessing a gradual shift to the mechanization due to shortage of farm labour, necessitating availability of efficient and cost effective farm equipments and machineries and easy availability of advanced, cost effective and small farm machineries suitable for small and fragmented land holdings will radically transform agriculture by cutting expenses and thereby enhancing income of the farmers in the country. The Committee, therefore, recommended the ICAR to start a dedicated mission for development of advanced agriculture machineries keeping in view the requirement of farmers in the country on the basis of a study to analyze the availability and use of agriculture machineries in

	<p>technologically advanced countries and trend of import of these machineries in the country.</p> <p><b>(Recommendation No 11)</b></p>
<p><b>Plan for tapping the CSR funds for KVKs Scheme - Recommended.</b></p>	<p>The Committee while noting lack of initiative on the part of ICAR for exploring the possibilities for accessing the funds available under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of Public/private companies registered in the Country funds for providing necessary infrastructure and equipment to the KVKs scheme have recommended the ICAR to make a proposal for tapping the CSR funds for KVKs scheme and approach various Public/private companies either directly or through their representative bodies such as FICCI, ASSOCHAM etc. after obtaining necessary approval.</p> <p><b>(Recommendation No 12)</b></p>
<p><b>Designing of short term certificate courses/vocational courses after class 10/12 standard -Desired</b></p>	<p>The Committee while observing lack of professional help to the farmers in the country due to limitation of traditional agriculture extension system have appreciated the efforts of ICAR for inclusion of course content on rural agriculture economy, traditional methods of farming and experiential learning in the village with farmers will help to create an informed pool of students who may create a revolution with their entrepreneurial and innovative research projects. The Committee also desired the ICAR to explore possibilities for designing short term certificate courses/vocational courses after class 10/12 standard which can help to create a pool of agriculture foot soldiers in the country who may in turn provide professional support to the farmers in guiding them to increase their production and productivity of crops efficiently and effectively.</p> <p><b>(Recommendation No 13)</b></p>