

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (IGNOU)
School of Agriculture

Minutes of the 48th Meeting of the School Board of the School of Agriculture held on
27th February 2026

The 48th Meeting of the School Board of the School of Agriculture (SOA) was held on 27th February 2026 at 11.00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the School of Agriculture, IGNOU in hybrid mode. The following members were present in the meeting:

1. Prof. Vijayakumar, P., Director, SOA, IGNOU	Chairperson
2. Prof. Ajeet Kumar Karnatak, Former Vice Chancellor, MPUAT Udaipur-313001, Rajasthan	External Member
3. Dr. Rajarshi Roy Burman, ADG (Agricultural Extension), ICAR, New Delhi	External Member
4. Prof. Siddayya, Professor & Head, Institute of Agri-Business Management, GKVK, Bengaluru	External Member
5. Prof. M. K. Salooja, Retired Professor, School of Agriculture, IGNOU, New Delhi	External Member
6. Dr. Prabodh S. Halde, Technical Head Regulatory Affairs R&D, Marico Ltd., Thane West, Mumbai, Maharashtra	External Member (Attended Online)
7. Prof. Neera Kapoor, Professor, SOS, IGNOU	Member
8. Dr. Vishal Warpa, Associate Professor, SOS, IGNOU	Member
9. Dr. Binod Kumar, Assistant Professor, SOSW, IGNOU	Member
10. Prof. S. K. Yadav, Professor, SOA, IGNOU	Member
11. Prof. Praveen Kumar Jain, Professor, SOA, IGNOU	Member
12. Prof. Mukesh Kumar, Professor, SOA, IGNOU	Member
13. Prof. Mita Sinhamahapatra, Professor, SOA, IGNOU	Member
14. Dr. Dinkar B. Kamble, Assistant Professor, SOA, IGNOU	Member
15. Dr. Chaithra N.R., Assistant Professor, SOA, IGNOU	Member

Prof. Grace Don Nemching, Professor, SOEDS, IGNOU could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, the Chairperson, Prof. Vijayakumar, extended a warm and cordial welcome to all members of the School Board. He conveyed special greetings to the external members and expressed his appreciation for their continued association and valuable inputs in strengthening the academic and administrative functioning of the School. He also warmly welcomed the new members nominated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor from other Schools of Studies and expressed confidence that their experience and academic expertise would enrich the deliberations of the Board.

The Chairperson placed on record his sincere gratitude and appreciation to the outgoing members from various Schools of Studies of IGNOU viz. Prof. Lalita, SoS; Prof. Nisha Varghese, SOEDS; Dr. Chitresh Soni, SOTST; and Dr. Rukshana, SOSS who had completed their tenure on the School Board. He acknowledged their significant contributions, constructive suggestions, and guidance extended during their term, which had greatly supported the academic development and activities of the School. This was followed by deliberations on the agenda.

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The agenda items were taken up *seriatim* for discussion, and the decisions of the School Board are recorded as follows:

Agenda No. To confirm the minutes of the 47th meeting of the School Board and the SB. 48.1 Action Taken Report.

SB. 48.1.1 The Chairperson informed the Board that the minutes of the 47th School Board meeting held on 8th August 2025 had been circulated to all members, and no comments were received. He then presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions of the 47th School Board meeting for the Board's review and consideration.

SB. 48.1.2 The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 47th School Board meeting is presented below:

Sl. No.	Agenda	Action Taken Report
Agenda No. SB.47.2	To consider and approve the concept note for the development of a Ph.D. programme in Food Safety and Quality Management.	The Programme Proposal Form is being submitted for consideration and approval of the School Board.
Agenda No. SB.47.3	To consider and approve the half-yearly Progress Report of Ms. Kajal Srivastava and Ms. Riya Tomar of PHDDR programme for the period from 1 st July 2024 to 31 st December 2024 (8 th Progress Report) and from 1 st January, 2025 to 30 th June, 2025 (9 th Progress Report).	Noted.
Agenda No. SB.47.4	To consider and approve the panel of External Experts for the Doctoral Research Committee of PHDDR programme.	The Panel of External Experts has been communicated to the Research Unit.
Agenda No. SB.47.5	To consider and approve the names of Unit writers and Course Editors for "B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM) Programme.	The Units have been allotted to the approved Unit writers and Course Editors.
Agenda No. SB.47.6	To consider and approve the names of Unit writers and Course Editors for "Master of	The Units have been allotted to the approved Unit writers and Course Editors.

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	Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) (MBAABM) Programme.	
Agenda No. SB.47.7	To consider and approve the revised evaluation methodology of Post Graduate Diploma in Agribusiness (PGDAB).	The revised evaluation methodology has been communicated to the SED.
Agenda No. SB.47.8	To consider and approve the names of Experts for the panel of Paper-setters for the School of Agriculture programmes.	The names of Experts for the panel of Paper-setters have been communicated to the SED.
Agenda No. SB.47.9	To consider and approve the names of Experts for the panel of Evaluators of TEE answer sheets for the School of Agriculture programmes.	The names of Experts for the panel of Evaluators have been communicated to the SED.
Agenda No. SB. 47.10	To consider and approve the names of experts for Moderation Board of Question Papers for the School of Agriculture programmes.	The approved Experts of Moderation Board are being utilized by the School as and when required.
Agenda No. SB. 47.11	To consider and approve abeyance of low enrolment programmes of SOA from January 2026 admission session.	The agenda has been sent to the ACD for placing in the forthcoming Academic Council meeting.
Agenda No. SB. 47.12	To consider and approve the Feedback Reports of the Subject Experts.	The Feedback Reports of the Subject Experts have been communicated to the CIQA.
Table Item Agenda No. SB. 47.13	To consider and approve the detailed Course Structure of "MAM-068": Organic Farming Business Management" of the Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) (MBAABM)	The course is being developed as per the revised course structure.

SB. 48.1.3 The Board confirmed the Minutes of the 47th Meeting of the School Board held on 8th August 2025 (Annexure-1) along with the Action Taken Report thereon.

P.V.C

Agenda No. SB. 48.2 To consider and approve the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of Ph.D. in Food Safety and Quality Management.

SB. 48.2.1 The Chairperson informed the members that, based on the recommendations of the 23rd Doctoral Research Committee of the Ph.D. in Dairy Science and Technology (PHDDR) programme, the concept note for the proposed Ph.D. in Food Safety and Quality Management programme was presented in the 47th School Board meeting which was approved. Keeping in view the requirement of human resources at different levels, the School is offering UG and PG degree programmes in the area of Food Safety and Quality Management. Despite the availability of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in this domain, there exists a noticeable gap in doctoral-level education and research in the interdisciplinary field of Food Safety and Quality Management.

He stated that, in view of the increasing national focus on food safety, nutrition security, value addition, and sustainable food processing, it is proposed to introduce a Ph.D. programme in Food Safety and Quality Management. The Chairperson then presented the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) for the Ph.D. in Food Safety and Quality Management and apprised the Board of its eligibility criteria, duration, mission and objectives, relevance, and the prospective target groups. He informed that the Ph.D. programme will be offered in regular mode in accordance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations and the University research guidelines, including a mandatory 6-month course work component.

SB. 48.2.2 The members appreciated the proposal, noting that the need for expertise in Food Safety and Quality Management extends across multiple sectors, including industry, research, and academia. However, some members raised concerns regarding the availability of NET in the relevant subject areas and the employability of the graduates of the proposed programme. In response, the programme proposers, Dr. Dinkar B. Kamble and Prof. Mita Sinhamahapatra, clarified that applicants who have qualified UGC NET in Life Sciences or Home Science, or ASRB NET in Food Technology or Home Science, would be eligible to apply for the Ph.D. programme. They further informed that, in addition to NET qualification, candidates must fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria, namely a Master's degree in Food Safety and Quality Management, Food Science, Food Science and Technology, Food Technology, Food and Nutrition, Dairy Technology, Post-Harvest Technology, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering (Food Process Engineering), Livestock Products Technology, Fish Processing Technology, Food Biotechnology, or allied disciplines, with at least 55% marks (50% for SC/ST/OBC/PwD candidates), along with other requirements as per the University admission policy and UGC norms. It was also stated that graduates of the programme would have employment opportunities in the food industry, research institutes, and academic institutions.

SB. 48.2.3 The School Board considered the proposal and approved the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) for the Ph.D. in Food Safety and Quality Management (Annexure-2).

- Agenda No. SB. 48.3** To consider and approve the half-yearly Progress Reports of Ms. Kajal Srivastava & Ms. Riya Tomar of the PHDDR programme for the period from 1st July 2025 to 31st December, 2025 (10th Report).
- SB. 48.3.1** The Chairperson presented the minutes of the 27th Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) meeting of the Ph.D. in Dairy Science and Technology (PHDDR) programme held on 25th February 2026, along with the half-yearly progress reports (10th Report) of the following two scholars for the period 1st July 2025 – 31st December 2025:
- Ms. Kajal Srivastava (Enrollment No. 202493119)
 - Ms. Riya Tomar (Enrollment No. 202493126)
- SB. 48.3.2** The DRC recommended acceptance of the progress reports. A copy of the minutes of the DRC meeting held on 25th February 2026 is placed at **Annexure-3**. The Chairperson informed the Board that the progress of Ms. Riya Tomar was found to be Good. He further reported that Ms. Kajal Srivastava had delivered her pre-thesis submission seminar and submitted her final thesis during the reporting period.
- SB. 48.3.3** After consideration, the School Board approved the half-yearly progress reports of the two Ph.D. scholars, Ms. Kajal Srivastava and Ms. Riya Tomar, for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.
- Agenda No. SB. 48.4** To consider and approve the names of Unit Writers and Course Editors for the B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM) programme.
- SB. 48.4.1** The Chairperson informed the members that the School of Agriculture has been offering the FYUP-based B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM) programme since July 2024. The School is currently developing various Discipline Specific Core courses of the third year (Semesters 5 and 6) of the programme. He then presented the list of identified Unit Writers and Course Editors for the Discipline Specific Core courses of Semesters 5 and 6 for consideration of the Board.
- SB. 48.4.2** The Board approved the proposed names of Unit Writers and Course Editors for the B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM) programme. The approved list of Unit Writers and Course Editors for the BSCFFSQM programme is placed at Annexure-4.
- Agenda No. SB. 48.5** To consider and approve the names of Paper-setters for the Term-End Examination of the School of Agriculture programmes.
- SB. 48.5.1** The Chairperson briefed the Board on the conduct of the Term-End Examination (TEE) of IGNOU programmes, which is held twice a year, in June and December. He informed the members that question papers for the TEE are set by both internal and external experts, whose names are approved by the respective School Board and the competent authority. The approved panel is thereafter forwarded to the concerned Division of the University for necessary action. He then presented the list of experts for the paper setting of

P.V.

the following two programmes:

1. Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) (MBAABM)
2. B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM)

SB. 48.5.2 The School Board approved the proposed names of the paper-setters for the above programmes. The approved list of paper setters is placed at Annexure-5.

Agenda No. SB. 48.6 To consider and approve the names of Evaluators of Term-End Examination (TEE) answer scripts for the School of Agriculture programmes.

SB. 48.6.1 The Chairperson presented the list of experts proposed for inclusion in the panel of Evaluators for TEE answer scripts for the following programmes of the School of Agriculture:

1. Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) (MBAABM)
2. B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM)
3. Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT)
4. Certificate in Organic Farming (COF)
5. Certificate in Beekeeping (CIB)

SB. 48.6.2 The School Board approved the proposed names for inclusion in the panel of Evaluators for TEE answer scripts of the above programmes. The approved list of Evaluators is placed at Annexure-6.

Agenda No. SB. 48.7 To consider and approve the panel of experts for the Moderation Board of Question Papers for the School of Agriculture programmes.

SB. 48.7.1 The Chairperson presented the proposed panel of experts for the Moderation Board of Question Papers for the Term-End Examination of the following programmes of the School:

1. Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) (MBAABM)
2. B.Sc. (Food Safety and Quality Management) (BSCFFSQM)
3. Diploma in Meat Technology (DMT)

SB. 48.7.2 The School Board approved the proposed panel of experts for the Moderation Board of Question Papers for the above-mentioned programmes of the School of Agriculture. The approved panel of the Moderation Board is placed at Annexure-7.

Agenda No. SB. 48.8 To consider and approve all Academic Counsellors as Term-End Examination evaluators for on-spot evaluation of all the courses of the School of Agriculture Programmes.

SB. 48.8.1 The Chairperson briefed the Board about the meeting convened by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor on 18th December, 2025, wherein the issue of timely evaluation of Theory Term-End Examination (TEE) answer scripts was

discussed with the Directors of the Schools and Heads of the various Divisions. In order to ensure timely completion of the evaluation process, it was suggested that on-spot evaluation of TEE answer scripts be undertaken. Accordingly, it is proposed that all Academic Counsellors associated with the various courses of the School of Agriculture (SOA) programmes be approved as evaluators for on-spot evaluation of TEE answer scripts.

SB. 48.8.2 After detailed deliberations, the members suggested that the Academic Counsellors, once approved, may be authorized not only for on-spot evaluation but also for regular evaluation of TEE answer scripts, as evaluators are sometimes unable to participate in on-spot evaluation due to their official commitments.

SB. 48.8.3 The School Board approved all Academic Counsellors as Term-End Examination evaluators for the respective courses of the School of Agriculture programmes, both for on-spot evaluation and for the regular evaluation process.

Table Item No. 01 To consider and approve the List of Examiners for Evaluation of the Thesis and conduct of *viva-voce* for Ms. Riya Tomar, PHDDR scholar.

SB. 48.9.1 The Chairperson informed the Board that Ms. Riya Tomar (Enrollment no. 202493126), a Ph.D. scholar of the Ph.D. in Dairy Science and Technology (PHDDR) programme, has completed her research work and data analysis. Her thesis writing is at an advanced stage and she is expected to submit the thesis shortly. The Chairperson further informed that the 27th Doctoral Research Committee (DRC) meeting of the PHDDR programme, held on 25th February 2026, had recommended a panel of examiners for evaluation of her thesis and conduct of the *viva-voce* examination.

SB. 48.9.2 During deliberations, the members suggested that one examiner from the National Dairy Research Institute be included in the panel. Accordingly, the list of examiners was revised.

SB. 48.9.3 The School Board approved the list of examiners for evaluation of the thesis and conduct of *viva-voce* of Ms. Riya Tomar (Enrollment No. 202493126). The approved list is placed at Annexure-8.

Table Item No. 02 To consider and approve the expert for unit writing for the Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) programme.

SB. 48.10.1 The Chairperson informed the Board that the School of Agriculture has been offering Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) programme and that the courses for the second year are currently under development. He presented the name of the following expert proposed as Unit Writer for the course MAM-064: Horticultural Production and Post Harvest Management:

1. Dr. K.V. Prasad, Director, ICAR-Directorate of Floricultural Research, Zed Corner, Mundhwa Manjri Road, Mundhwa, Pune, Maharashtra – 411036, Mobile: 9868149259, Email: directordfr@gmail.com, director.dfr@icar.org.in

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SB. 48.10.2 The School Board approved the proposed name of the expert for unit writing for the Master of Business Administration (Agribusiness Management) programme.

The members suggested that the School should explore the possibility of developing Certificate or Diploma-level programme in Natural Farming keeping in view the growing national emphasis on sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, and promotion of chemical-free farming practices. The members further noted that such a programme could benefit farmers, extension workers, agri-entrepreneurs, and rural youth by enhancing their technical knowledge and practical skills. It would also align with the School's mandate of promoting sustainable and innovative agricultural practices through capacity building and skill development.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.


Chairperson
(Vijayakumar, P.)

10th March 2026