

Indira Gandhi National Open University
School of Agriculture

Minutes of the 35th Meeting of the School Board

The 35th Meeting of the School Board was convened on 26th February, 2020 at 10.30 a.m. in the Conference Room, School of Agriculture (SOA), G-Block, Zakir Hussain Bhawan, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.

The following members were present:

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| 1. Prof. S. K. Yadav , Director, SOA, IGNOU | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. B.S. Hansra , Emeritus Professor, Amity Institute of Horticulture Studies & Research, Amity University, Noida | Member |
| 3. Prof. R.K. Sahu , Dean, Faculty of Agricultural Engineering, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) | Member |
| 4. Dr. Latha Sabikhi , Head, Dairy Technology Division, NDRI, Karnal, | Member |
| 5. Prof. Madhu Tyagi , SOMS, IGNOU | Member |
| 6. Dr. Ramesh Yadav , Assistant Professor, SOJNMS, IGNOU | Member |
| 7. Dr. Amiteshwar Ratra , Assistant Professor, STRIDE, IGNOU | Member |
| 8. Prof. M.K. Salooja , SOA, IGNOU | Member |
| 9. Dr. P. Vijayakumar , Assoc.Prof., SOA, IGNOU | Member |
| 10. Dr. Mita Sinhamahapatra , Assoc.Prof., SOA, IGNOU | Member |
| 11. Dr. Mukesh Kumar , Asst. Prof. (Stage 3), SOA, IGNOU | Member |

Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyay, Prof. and Head, Department of Food Science and Technology, NIFTEM, Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana; **Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu**, ADG (EQR), Division of Agricultural Education, ICAR; **Prof. Nehal A Farooquee**, SOEDS, IGNOU; and **Dr. P.K. Jain**, Assoc. Prof., SoA could not attend the meeting.

At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the members and thanked them for attending the 35th Meeting of the School Board. He further informed that University has successfully conducted its 33rd Convocation on 17th February 2020. Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, HRD Minister, GOI was the Chief Guest. In his Convocation address, the Chief Guest emphasized that "India is an Agricultural country and it is the duty of Indian Universities to think and work towards the interest of the agriculture and the farming community. Agriculture should be given due importance which is the need of the hour".

In light of this, the Chairman informed the board that this University has been striving to start a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture (B.Sc. Ag.) through ODL but UGC has put moratorium on any degree programme in Agriculture through ODL. Further, as per the resolution of a meeting held under the Chair of the Secretary, Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, GOI, an ICAR Team, coordinated by its Agricultural Education Division, visited this University in the month of December 2019 to assess the feasibility of starting BSc. Ag. The team did not agree to permit IGNOU to start B.Sc. Ag. through ODL Mode.

The members of the board informed that in the present scenario, there is mushrooming of Private Agricultural colleges across the states and many unaccredited colleges having poor infrastructure to impart quality education are still receiving large number of learners. Thus, considering the demand and need for Degree Programme in Agriculture, the same should be offered by IGNOU under ODL Mode.

The agenda items were taken *in seriatim* for discussion and the recommendations of the School Board on each agenda are as follows:

Agenda No. SB.35.1 **To confirm the Minutes of the 34th School Board Meeting and the Action Taken Report**
SB.35.1.1 The Chairman informed that the draft Minutes of the 34th Meeting of the School Board were circulated to all the School Board Members and the School did not receive any comments/observations from the members. He proposed that the Minutes of the 34th School Board meeting may be confirmed.

SB.35.1.2 The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the Minutes of the 34th School Board Meeting is as follows:

Agenda No. SB.34.2: **To consider and approve the development of Diploma in Agriculture.**

The need assessment survey has been completed. The Programme Proposal Form (PPF) is presented in this Board meeting.

Agenda No. SB.34.3: **To consider and approve the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) of the Post Graduate Diploma in Agribusiness Management.**

A request has been sent to the Planning and Development Division to conduct the need assessment study for this programme.

Name of Dr. V.C. Mathur (Former Professor, Division of Agricultural Economics, IARI), C-229, First Floor, Greater Kailash 1, New Delhi-110048. Ph.: 9878557163, email: vcmprof.iari@gmail.com may be added in the list of expert group.

Agenda No. SB.34.4: **To consider and approve the Programme Development Form (PDF) of Ph.D. in Food Technology programme along with Programme Project Report (PPR).**

The phase form will be submitted to the Academic Council/ACSC.

Agenda No. SB.34.5: **To consider and approve the Panel of External Experts for the Doctoral Research Committee of Ph.D. in Dairy Science & Technology (PHDDR).**

It has been communicated to the Research Unit.

Agenda No. SB.34.6: To consider and approve the revision of "Certificate in Organic Farming" (COF) and "Certificate in Poultry Farming" (CPF) Programmes.

Action to be initiated.

Agenda No. SB.34.7: To consider and approve the Concept Note of "Certificate in Dairy Farming" Programme.

Need Assessment Study is being undertaken in collaboration with Planning and Development Division.

Agenda No. SB.34.8: To consider and approve two Generic Elective courses on "Poultry Farming" and "Fruits and Vegetables Technology" for inclusion in the Bachelor's Degree Programme under CBCS framework.

The agenda will be submitted to the next Academic Council/ACSC meeting.

Agenda No. SB.34.10: To consider and approve the evaluation methodology of Awareness programme on Solar Water Pumping System.

The students are being evaluated based on the approved methodology.

Agenda No. SB.34.11: To consider and approve the closure of the low enrollment programmes of the School.

As per the suggestions of the Board, necessary actions such as reduction in fee, popularization of programmes, establishment of study centres etc. are being taken up.

Agenda No. SB.34.13: To consider and approve the list of Term End Examination answer sheets evaluators in Odia language for "Certificate in Poultry Farming" (CPF) programme of School of Agriculture.

The approved list has been communicated to the SED.

Agenda No. SB.34.14: To consider and approve the list of Term-End Examination (TEE) evaluators of "Certificate in Sericulture" (CIS) Programme in Telugu language.

The approved list has been communicated to the SED.

Agenda No. SB.34.15: **To consider and approve the changes in the Eligibility Criteria for admission to all Diploma programmes of the School.**

The revised Eligibility Criteria for admission to all the Diploma programmes of the SOA will be sent to the SRD.

Agenda No. SB.34.16: **To consider and approve the Skill Assessment and Certification of IGNOU students by the Food Processing Skill Council (Food Industry Capacity & Skill Initiatives – FICSI).**

The School is informing the students about Skill Assessment and Certification of IGNOU students by the Food Processing Skill Council – FICSI.

Tabled Agenda: **To consider and approve Dr. Mita Sinhamahapatra as Co-Supervisor of one Ph. D. student of Amity University.**

The Amity University has been informed as per the approval of the Competent Authority.

SB.35.1.3 The Board confirmed the Minutes of the 34th Meeting of the School Board held on 11.10.2019 and also the Action Taken Report of it (**Annexure-1**).

Agenda No. SB. 35.2: **To consider and approve the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) and List of Experts for the development of Diploma in Agriculture.**

SB.35.2.1 Prof. S.K. Yadav, Chairman presented the **Programme Proposal Form (PPF)** of Diploma in Agriculture. Need assessment has been done to gauge the relevance and features of this programme for the society. Salient points of the Need Assessment Survey are as follows:

- A total of 88 per cent (total 65 learners) prospective learners and 91 per cent (total 70 experts) experts have recommended the development of Diploma in Agriculture Programme through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Mode by this University. The programme would be helpful in building employable skills and thus, self-employment, since there is need of trained field workers in Indian agriculture.
- The programme should be developed initially in English language followed by its translation in Hindi language for good outreach.
- Most of the respondents have desired that programme should be available

in print medium followed by online mode. Similarly, this programme could be upgraded to Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture (B.Sc. Ag.) through Modular approach.

- SB.35.2.2** The members appreciated the timely proposal and suggested few corrections in the PPF.
- SB.35.2.3** **The Board approved the Programme Proposal Form (PPF) and List of Experts for the development of Diploma in Agriculture (Annexure-2).**
- Agenda No.SB.35.3:** **To consider and approve the Programme Launch Form of Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT).**
- SB.35.3.1** The Programme Launch Form of Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT) was presented before the board. It was also informed by the chairman who is also coordinator of this programme that out of Five courses, four are at CRC stage. It was further presented that earlier date of launch was set for January 2020, but due to non-completion of printing of study materials, it is proposed to launch this programme from July 2020 session in line with all other diploma programmes of the school which are offered during July session only.
- SB.35.3.2** **The Board approved the Programme Launch Form of Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT) with its launching from July 2020 Session (Annexure-3).**
- Agenda No. SB. 35.4:** **To consider and approve the revised list of Examiners for Evaluation of Thesis of Ph.D. Scholar, Ms. Nanda Kumari Kamblae.**
- SB. 35.4.1** The chairman presented a revised list of experts in a sealed envelope as submitted by the Programme Coordinator for the evaluation of thesis of Ms. Nanda Kumari Kamblae, a Ph.D. scholar of PHDDR programme. He further informed that the list of Examiners for evaluation of thesis and conducting *viva-voce* of Ms. Nanda Kumari Kamblae was approved by the Doctoral Research Committee of PHDDR in its 16th meeting held on 08.03.2019, and thereafter, by the School Board in its 33rd meeting held on 15.03.2019. The programme coordinator has revised the list to make it more diverse.
- SB.35.4.2** **The Board approved the revised list of Examiners for Evaluation of Thesis of Ph.D. Scholar, Ms. Nanda Kumari Kamblae.**
- Agenda No. SB.35.5:** **To consider and approve the panel of experts for the expert committee meeting for offering of the PG Certificate in Agriculture Policy programme online.**
- SB.35.5.1** The School of Agriculture is offering a PG Certificate in Agriculture Policy (PGCAP) programme since 2009 through ODL mode. Now, the School intends

Agenda No. SB.35.8: To approve the name of the unit writer for Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT).

SB.35.8.1 The Chairman informed that the School is developing a Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT) programme. Most of the units have been received from the writers and they have also been edited. Out of five courses, four courses are under print. In the first course, two units are to be written. The following expert has been identified as unit writer:

Dr. Amit Kumar, Assistant Professor
Division of Fruit Science
Faculty of Horticulture
SKUAST, Kashmir, Srinagar (J&K)

SB.35.8.2 **The Board approved the name of the unit writer for Diploma in Horticulture (DHORT).**

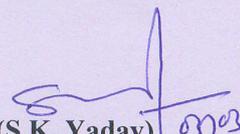
Agenda No. SB.35.9 **Any Other Item**

Table item No 1: To consider and approve the collaboration with IARI for Ph.D. in different disciplines of agriculture.

The Chairman informed that the School of Agriculture is planning to start the Ph.D. Programmes in core disciplines of agriculture such as agronomy and soil & water conservation engineering. The agriculture research is interdisciplinary and field & laboratory based. For conducting research during Ph.D. degree programme, there is requirements of field (Farm) and laboratory. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is one of the premier institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the country located in Delhi, having farm and laboratory facilities for advance research in different disciplines of agriculture.

IGNOU and ICAR have an MoU to strengthen the agriculture education in the country and accordingly the school shall contact IARI for seeking permission to utilize their farm and laboratory facilities for our research scholar's thesis work.

The board took cognizance of the proposal.


(S.K. Yadav) 03/03
Chairman