

Best Practices of the Department of Agricultural Extension

The Department of Agricultural Extension has institutionalized innovative academic, research, and outreach practices that promote farmer-centric development, participatory learning, and community empowerment. The department emphasizes experiential learning, rural engagement, and sustainable agricultural transformation through strong farmer–scientist–student linkages.



The curriculum is regularly updated in accordance with ICAR guidelines, incorporating emerging areas such as ICT in agriculture, agri-entrepreneurship, climate-smart agriculture, digital extension, and rural innovation systems. Teaching is strengthened through experiential and participatory approaches, including village attachment programmes, exposure visits to KVKs, NGOs, SHGs, FPOs, and progressive farmers. Case studies and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) techniques are integrated into classroom instruction to enhance practical understanding. Interdisciplinary collaboration with departments such as Agronomy, Horticulture, Agricultural Economics, Soil Science, Animal Science, Entomology, Agricultural Engineering, and Agricultural Statistics ensures holistic agricultural education. Regular skill development programmes are organized to enhance communication skills, leadership qualities, digital literacy, extension methodologies, scientific writing, project formulation, and impact assessment competencies among students.

The department focuses on farmer-centric and field-based research, including participatory technology assessment and refinement, adoption and diffusion studies, impact evaluation of development programmes, and research on livelihood diversification, women empowerment, and youth engagement in agriculture. Collaborative research with line departments, KVKs, NGOs, and other development agencies strengthens

multidisciplinary approaches to agricultural development. Faculty and students are encouraged to publish research findings in reputed journals, extension bulletins, and to document success stories and indigenous technical knowledge.

Strong emphasis is placed on extension and outreach activities. Visva-Bharati adopts villages, wherein the department actively participates in delivering continuous advisory services and technology dissemination through farmer meetings, demonstrations, field days, and awareness campaigns. Short-term training programmes, entrepreneurship development initiatives, and skill-oriented courses are organized for farmers, rural youth, and extension personnel. ICT-based advisory services, including mobile advisories, WhatsApp groups, and digital communication platforms, are utilized to ensure timely dissemination of information. Extension literature is prepared in local languages to enhance accessibility. Regular farmer–scientist interactions facilitate problem-solving and ensure feedback mechanisms that improve research relevance.

The department also promotes faculty development through seminars, workshops, conferences, and training programmes on research methodology, ICT tools, and impact assessment techniques. A structured student mentoring system provides guidance for M.Sc. and Ph.D. research, competitive examinations, entrepreneurship development, and career advancement.

Through these integrated best practices, the Department of Agricultural Extension functions as an effective bridge between research institutions and farming communities, contributing to sustainable, inclusive, and participatory agricultural development.