

School of Agriculture and Allied Sciences, The Neotia University



Agriculture is the foundation of the civilization, culture, and heritage in India and is the most important sector of our economy (H. Pathak 2022, Indian Agriculture towards 2047: Achievements and Aspirations, ICAR, New Delhi). Agriculture and Allied activities account for 19.9% of country's GDP (The Economic Survey, 2020-21). Agriculture sector is estimated to employ 124.7 million people as cultivators and 106.8 million as agricultural laborers (Census, 2011). Although we have achieved near self-sufficiency in food production but sustaining it in the light of ever-increasing population, degradation of cultivated land, increase in cost of production and global climate change, is a major challenge that we are facing today. Thus, the present scenario requires huge number of agriculture professional / trained and skilled manpower to counter the challenges and meet the need of a large population that is directly or indirectly associated with agriculture, meet the international demands and equip the Indian rural youth to sustain their livelihood. Hence, we foresee a huge demand of educated manpower with a focused curriculum on job, entrepreneurship and market driven agriculture education.

With this aim and to involve maximum number of rural youths the School of Agriculture and Allied Sciences started functioning in **July, 2018** as a constituent school of The Neotia University where 240 students were admitted in B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture Degree Programme with the following objectives.

- a. To train manpower with more practical orientation, to cater to the public needs, private and corporate sectors in agriculture.
- b. To impart knowledge and training in inter disciplinary crop production-oriented courses.
- c. To provide experiential learning and hands on training for developing entrepreneurs for being job provider rather than job seekers.

Now the university believes in educating the willing members from the farming community by imparting effective knowledge that could be exploited by them for maximizing the village welfare through improved agriculture, employability, job creation, industrial growth as well as economic upliftment. The University aims to assist the public sector agriculture education availed by the best candidates with judicious addition of the modest knowledge holders with real need. The unique objective of this four years B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture degree programme is to integrate the indigenous traditional knowledge of local aspirants with the sky-touching modern technological inventions.

The novelty of B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture Degree Programme (4 years) offered by School of Agriculture & Allied Sciences; The Neotia University can be summarized as follows:

- Moderate, justified fee structure convenient for middle and low income group in rural areas.
- Diverse scholarships for the students like Tejasvi Scholarship, Sports Scholarship, Cultural Scholarship, Sarvosaya Scholarship, Mere Apne Scholarship, Sahodarya Scholarship, Gramothan Scholarship (for students of Gram Panchayat area of South 24 Paraganas) and Special Hill Students' Scholarship.
- Strict adherence to ICAR 5th Deans' Committee prescribed course curriculum and syllabus.
- Lush green campus of more than 50 acres in the vicinity of Kolkata.
- Challenging agro-climatic zone with scope of advanced agriculture research.
- Conducting regular examinations with time stipulated improvement.
- Collaboration with State Agriculture Department, ICAR Institutions, State & Central Universities, Financial Institutions, Agro-Industries, Farmer Producer Organizations, etc.
- Located in the vicinity of ICAR-CSSRI-Regional Research Station, Caning Town; Ramkrishna Ashram Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Nimpith; Sasya Shyamala KVK, Sonarpur; Faculty of Agriculture and Rural Development, Narendrapur

under RKMVERI, Belur Math and Diamond Harbour -II Block Seed Farm & Krishak Bazar.

- Rich presence of orchards, nurseries and Sundarban forest reserve in close vicinity.

Vision:

To strive for excellence in agriculture education, research, extension and entrepreneurship development for the resource poor rural student community and to provide policy support for the advancement of Agriculture in the state of West Bengal in general and coastal areas of the state in particular which can create an impact at National level for sustainable high precision agriculture practices to improve farm productivity and farmers' income.

Mission:

- i. To impart quality, contemporary and technology driven agriculture education to cater the needs of the students, particularly from rural areas of West Bengal.
- ii. To generate trained manpower in the field of agriculture through skill and experiential learning-oriented course curriculum.
- iii. To encourage and prepare the students for job creation through entrepreneurship development programme.
- iv. To pursue agriculture research for developing cost effective & transferable agro-technologies to boost productivity as well as farmers' income.
- v. To meet the requirements and aspirations of the farming community requiring the services of the School through participation in mutually benefitting programmes.
- vi. To play significant role in socio-economic upliftment of the farmers of West Bengal, in general and the coastal areas in particular.

Goals and Objectives:

Keeping the mandate in view, the school has set for itself the following goals and objectives:

1. Creation of opportunities particularly for rural students for quality education in agriculture.
2. Development of innovative, need based, farmer and industry-friendly technologies leading to sustainable production and improvement of productivity of agricultural crops, and to encourage and assist the farmers to adopt the developed technologies.

3. Providing the required expertise and assistance to the planning and development departments of the state and other agencies for evaluating and testing the improved technologies and their dissemination for the benefit of the farmers.
4. Strengthening and improving the field infrastructure / facilities for experiential learning and conducting need based innovative research.
5. Strengthening and expanding the extension services with emphasis on issuing crop advisory in changing climate scenario.

By achieving these goals, the School aspires to become the foremost Centre of Higher Learning in the field of Agriculture. It contemplates to provide formal and informal education / training to the students and farmers, respectively, supporting research in priority areas, and generating and evaluating new technologies for the benefit of farmers. It also envisages making such technologies accessible to the farmers.