

Background and Justification

The agriculture sector is currently grappling with critical issues like climate change, ensuring food security, and managing resources sustainably. There is a compelling need for research that not only comprehends these challenges but also provides innovative and actionable solutions. This concept note suggests establishing a Dedicated Research Fund (DRF) with a capital of Rs. 50 million, sourced from the Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture's (PGIA) earnings. This fund aims to support Ph.D. students and cover research expenses for projects targeting significant national agricultural problems through multi- or trans disciplinary research approaches. The goal is to foster groundbreaking solutions, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and contribute to policy development that bolsters the agricultural sector of the nation. Investing in such research is expected to result in sustainable technology development leading to increased productivity within the agriculture sector. Ph.D. students, known for their innovative outlook and eagerness to delve into new research domains, will greatly benefit from the DRF. This initiative will not only boost PGIA's research capacity but also establish its reputation as a pioneer in agricultural innovation for development while supporting capacity building of the national agricultural research system.

Objective

- To attract outstanding research students for selected research projects of national importance and qualified and experienced supervisors to the Institute
- To provide financial support for cutting-edge agricultural research.
- To support qualified human resources for research in the national agricultural research system through PGIA earnings.
- To gain publicity for the PGIA as a research and training institute.

Methodology

- Strengthen the committee to oversee the Research Facilitation Fund to select research proposals based on the national importance and their monitoring.
- Call application for research grants giving publicity to PGIA
- Develop criteria to select research projects based on national importance, innovation, and potential impact.
- Provide funds to selected research and Ph.D. students on a competitive basis.

Expected Outcomes

- A portfolio of funded research projects addressing key agricultural challenges.
- Development of new technologies, practices, and policies to enhance the agricultural sector.

- Increased national and international recognition of the PGIA as a center for agricultural research excellence.

Budget

A budget Rs. 50 million will be created based on the PGIA's earnings and potential research areas. The budget will be allocated to student stipends, research materials, and dissemination of findings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A framework will be established to regularly monitor the progress of the research projects and evaluate their outcomes against the set objectives.

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Conclusion

The establishment of this dedicated research fund will be a strategic investment in the nation's agricultural future, fostering innovation and contributing to the sustainable development of the sector and enhancement of the Institute's recognition, hence submitted to The Finance Committee for consideration and recommendations.