

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
PROCEEDINGS

KAU – Education–Including a new credit course for BSc(Hons.)Ag degree programme in the second semester of the course-Approved- Orders issued.

(DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION)

No.Acad/B2/2022/101/12636

Dated, Vellanikkara, 22/10/2022

Read: 1. Minutes of 64th meeting of Board of Studies, Faculty of Agriculture-ITEM 32/64
2. Minutes of the 138th meeting of Academic Council held on 22.07.2022

ORDER

A detailed proposal for including a new credit course for BSc(Hons.)Ag degree programme in the second semester of the course was approved by the 64th meeting of the Board of Studies held on 07-07-2022 . The course title is “Participatory Learning on Farming Situation and Extension Interventions”KBA 1201 (0+1) and the course is to be offered from the Department of Agricultural Extension. The proposal has been placed before the 138th Academic Council .

In consonance with the decision of the 138th meeting of Academic Council, the following orders are issued

- 1 Sanction is hereby accorded to include a new credit course for BSc(Hons.)Ag degree programme in the second semester of the course .
- 2 The course title is “Participatory Learning on Farming Situation and Extension Interventions” KBA 1201 (0+1) .The course will be offered from the Department of Agricultural Extension .
- 3 The above course will be implemented from 2022 admission of the BSc(Hons.)Ag programme onwards.

The detailed syllabus and evaluation &grading criteria of the new course as approved vide paper cited (1) and (2) are appended herewith and will also be available in the website www.kau.in.

// BY ORDER OF THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL//
DR S GOPAKUMAR
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

To

- 1 Deans of Faculty/ Deans of all colleges under KAU/ Director, DIS
- 2 The Controller of Examinations
- 3 Academic Officers of all colleges under KAU
- 4 Programmer (Acad), KAU (for publishing in the website)

Copy to:PS to VC/PA to Registrar/Steno to Director of Education/ Professor(Acad)/
ADE(UG)/Joint Registrar (Acad)/Section Officer Acad B, Acad A/SF/Spare

//Forwarded By Order//

SECTION OFFICER

Title of the course

PARTICIPATORY LEARNING ON FARMING SITUATION AND EXTENSION INTERVENTIONS

Prelude

For strengthening the extension activities in the state as a part of the Subiksha Keralam scheme for self-sustainability, Agricultural Knowledge Centres (AKCs) were created in 2020-2021. It was envisaged that these block-level institutions would serve the purpose of bridging the knowledge gaps in agricultural technology management and extension. It aimed at addressing farm vulnerabilities related to crop health management, market risks, management of post-harvest losses, and other socio-economic and agro-ecosystem constraints under the expert guidance of agricultural scientists. It envisaged broad basing the linkages between, farmers, KAU scientists, and other stakeholders through the AKC platform at the Block levels of the state. The proposed academic program envisages a module to attach undergraduate students to Krishi Bhavans to facilitate participatory learning with the aim to enable the students to have a comprehensive understanding of the contextual problems and possible institutional interventions in agriculture for augmenting farmers' livelihood under the expert guidance of farm scientists and extension professionals, on a participatory mode.

In addition, the module would help fulfil the following specific objectives

To develop an understanding among students about the :

- basic profile of farmer, land, and farming systems of Kerala
- potential solutions in agriculture as well as the limitations in implementing the solutions
- socio-economic, agro-ecological and technological constraints faced by the farming community
- To help create awareness among farmers about crop production, plant health and post production challenges encountered in field and their management measures
- To assist support system in the formulation of a location specific farm based production plan, crop calendar and management systems

Syllabus

Interventions ensuring real-time field experience for students in farm planning, stakeholder linkages, production, post-harvest management, value addition, and marketing will be covered in the following syllabi:

1. Basic profile of farming communities (2h/Sem)
2. Basics of farming systems (5h/Sem)
3. SWOT analysis /socio-economical, ecological (including climate change) and technological constraints faced by farmers (12h/Sem)
4. Enabling farmers to use Decision Support System (DSS) in plant health management (1h/Sem)
5. Basics of production plans and crop calendars (10h/Sem)

Duration

120 field hours [(60 (Sem II) + 30 (Sem III) + 30 (Sem IV)].

The course will be registered in Sem 2 - KBA 1201 (0+1) and will continue in Sem 3 and Sem 4

Implementation

The program will be launched in the second semester of the BSc (Ag) course as a compulsory credit course (0+1) that will be continued in the third and fourth semesters offering from Dept Agricultural Extension. There will be a course coordinator and assisted by two assistant coordinators. A group of 8 students will be attached to selected Krishi Bhavans under AKC. The nodal officer of AKC is responsible for organizing the activities of the course under each block/AKC. The students will be trained under the guidance of scientists and the respective block-level agricultural extension officers in facilitating farmers in their agriculture-related operations. Expert Scientists will also be roped in whenever required in solving the problems raised by the farmers. Lines of online contact via mobile and social media will also be taken up where students will serve as the primary points of contact for the farmers. It will be mandatory for the students to serve a minimum of 120 hours during three semesters as evidenced by programs and projects initiated in the area or problem solution interventions. Faculties will be drawn from the Colleges, Research Stations and KVKs; NSS program officers will also be roped in for the smooth conduct of the program. Each student group will be allotted to two faculty members who will be overall responsible for the group. In a nutshell, following are the activities envisaged in the proposed program.

- Orientation programme to the students by block-level nodal officers and extension officials and distribution of workbooks.
- Establishment of communication networks by each group of students with stakeholders including experts in crop management
- One residential village camp (min. 5 days) in the grama panchayat will be conducted in the initial phase of the course i.e., first month of Sem 2.
- Thereafter, a minimum of 5 field visits (one day duration/field visit) in selected panchayat / AKC should be conducted in all the three semesters. Need based agro-clinics and other facilitation services (like call centre services) also will be conducted
- Altogether, the student attachment will have 20 days i.e., 10 days (5+5) during the Sem. II and 5 days each during Sem. III and IV

Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation by a Multidisciplinary Team (nominated by the Dean)

Evaluation will be done at the end of each semester for 100 Marks

Marking scheme for the course evaluation is

1. RPCW- 20
2. Work diary/Record – 20

3. Presentation- 20

4. Final Examination (descriptive) - 30

5. Viva- voce- 10

Average of three semesters will be taken as the final mark

Expected outcome

Completion of the module will help students develop

✓ A basic understanding

• About the field-level socio-economic and ecological realities of the farm sector in the state

• About the support systems available to farmers in terms of technology, finance, marketing, etc.

✓ Empathy with farming communities that would help them develop into better scientists, extension functionaries and technocrats in future

✓ Capacity to sensitize the farming community about the immediate production challenges and strategies to address them

✓ Capability in linking farmers with research and extension functionaries

✓ Also, knowledge of the contextual problems and their solutions will aid the transformation of students with better farm insights that can groom them into effective extension personnel. Inputs and revelations obtained as an outcome of this programme will be used to streamline other students' attachment modules such as Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE).

The module has an indirect outcome for the farming community and extension system of the state by creating awareness among farmers about crop production, post production, plant health challenges and their management. Assistance to the extension support system in the formulation of location specific farm-based production plan, crop calendar and project management can also be facilitated.