



## **ABSTRACT**

Agriculture Department – Starting up of Agriculture and Allied Science Courses in the Institutions Deemed to be Universities – No Objection Certificate to be obtained from State Government besides getting Accreditation from Indian Council of Agricultural Research – Orders - Issued.

### **Agriculture (AU) Department**

G.O. (Ms) No.160

Dated: 28.07.2020

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2051  
சார்வரி வருடம், ஆடி 13

#### **Read :-**

1. From the Deputy Secretary (Agricultural Education), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, Letter F.No.Edn./13/1/2016-HRD, dated 06.10.2016.
2. From the Secretary and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, D.O. Letter No.Edn.5/7/2017-EQR/413, dated: 13.04.2017.
3. From the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Letter No. R2/18443/2017, dated: 08.08.2017.
4. G.O.(Ms) No.171, Agriculture (AU) Department, dated 09.07.2018.
5. From the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Letter No.E1/G.O(Ms) No.171 of Agriculture (AU) Department, dated 09.07.2018/2019 dated 02.05.2019.
6. From the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Letter No. E1/G.O(Ms) No.171 amendment/2019 dated 27.05.2020 and 30.05.2020.

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#### **ORDER:**

In the Government Order 4<sup>th</sup> read above, it has been ordered that all Deemed Universities intending to open a new department in the campus or an off-campus centre / institution in Agriculture and allied

subjects viz., Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Forestry, Food Technology, Biotechnology, Sericulture, Home / Community Science, and Food Nutrition & Dietetics should obtain "No Objection Certification" from the State Government after getting accreditation from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

2. On taking up a review on the status of agricultural education being imparted in the State, by the Institutions deemed to be Universities, the following findings were emanated:-

(i) Fourteen Government Colleges and 28 private colleges affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University are imparting degree and diploma courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Forestry, Food Technology, Biotechnology, Sericulture, Home/Community Science, and Food Nutrition & Dietetics, in the State.

(ii) Besides the colleges run by the Government and private colleges which are affiliated to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, the following Institutions, which are deemed to be Universities, are also offering Agriculture and allied courses as per the available information:-

1. SRM Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai.
2. Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore.
3. Kalasalingam University, Srivilliputhur.
4. Karunya University, Coimbatore.
5. Prist University, Thanjavur.
6. Bharath University, Chennai.
7. Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Institute of Agri. & Rural Development, Coimbatore.
8. Amirtha Vishwa Vidhayapeetham, Coimbatore.
9. Saveetha University, Chennai.

(iii) As per the Indian Council of Agricultural Research guidelines as well as the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University Act, 1971 (Tamil Nadu Act 8 of 1971) and its Hand Book for Establishing Agricultural College, any institution which intends to offer Agriculture and allied courses under the purview of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has to fulfill certain minimum stipulated guidelines. The guidelines include possession of 110 acres of land which should be cultivable and contiguous, obtaining No Objection Certificate from the Government of Tamil Nadu, affiliation from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, etc.,

- (iv) The University Grants Commission Guidelines, 2004, stipulate the following criteria to be fulfilled by the Institutions deemed to be Universities to start new departments:-

Clause 2.1: The Deemed University intending to open a new Department in its campus or an off-campus center / institution shall approach the University Grants Commission (UGC) at least six months prior to opening such center on a proforma prescribed for this purpose (**Annexure - I**). The Deemed University desirous of starting the new off - Campus center/institution or introducing a new course/programme in a professional subject, shall comply with all the requirements as required by statutory Professional Councils and obtain their prior approval before approaching the University Grants Commission.

Clause 2.2: The new Departments, new off-campus center / institution shall be set up only after obtaining approval of the UGC and that of the concerned State Government where such a center is proposed to be established. The University Grants Commission shall cause spot visit/ verification of the proposed new departments, new off-Campus center/ institutions to verify its infrastructure facilities, programmes, faculty, financial viability, etc., before giving permission to start the centre. The report of the committee shall be considered by the Commission for its approval.

xxx            xxx            xxx

Clause 3.4: The new off-campus centre/ institution / off-shore campus shall offer only those courses which are approved by the appropriate bodies of the deemed university. If the course to be offered in the centre is in technical / professional subject, its academic programmes shall have to be approved by the concerned statutory professional council."

It is thus clear that the Institutions deemed to be Universities should have obtained No Objection Certificate from the State Government for the establishment of new Departments or off-campus centre for offering agriculture or allied courses as per the above University Grants Commission Guidelines, 2004.

3. Besides, University Grants Commission (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 provide as follows:

12.01 An institution deemed to be university shall normally operate within its own main Campus as is declared by the Central Government in the notification and conduct approved programmes of study falling within the area of its specialization.

12.02 If an institution deemed to be university, accredited by NAAC with highest grade or all eligible courses accredited with the highest grade of NBA, wishes to start new Course / Programme/ Department/ School/Centre in its existing campus / off-campus in areas and disciplines that form a part of its existing academic framework, it may do so in such allied fields. The new course / Programme /Department / School shall be started after the approval of the respective authorities of the Deemed to be University and the concerned Statutory Council(s), wherever required, and after creating all the necessary infrastructure and other facilities as per the norms of concerned statutory council(s)".

4. With reference to the Government Order in the reference 4<sup>th</sup> read above, the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in his letters 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> read above has stated that as per Indian Council of Agricultural Research guidelines, any University/College can apply for accreditation only after one batch of students pass out from the University/College. Using this provision, the Institutions Deemed to be Universities will apply for No Objection Certificate to State Government only after the pass out of first batch of students from the College, which will take 4 years. If the said Universities attempt to get Indian Council of Agricultural Research accreditation after one batch of students pass out from the Institute after 4 years, the whole process of accreditation (*viz.*, submission of Letter of Intent (LoI), Institutional Eligibility for Accreditation (IEA) and submission of Self Study Report (SSR) after approval of Letter of Intent and Institutional Eligibility for Accreditation by Indian Council of Agricultural Research) will take another 8 to 12 months. Hence, it may be possible for them to get Indian Council of Agricultural Research accreditation only after 5 years and then only "No Objection Certificate" of State

Government can be obtained as per the conditions stipulated in the existing Government Order 4<sup>th</sup> read above. By the time they apply for No Objection Certificate to State Government after five years of starting Agriculture and allied courses, further student batches will be admitted and with this, considerable number of students would undergo the Agriculture & allied degree programmes with uncertainty of outcome of accreditation proposal submitted to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Hence, the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has requested the Government to issue fresh and comprehensive directions in this regard.

5. The Government have carefully examined the request of the Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in the light of the University Grants Commission's Guidelines, 2004 and the University Grants Commission (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 and the correspondence of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The analysis of the above does point out the need to issue further clarity on starting of Agriculture and allied courses by Institutions deemed to be Universities in order to ensure that quality education to students is assured and the students of such Universities possess degrees which are accredited by the Statutory Technical body concerned. The Government have, therefore, decided to issue fresh and comprehensive orders in supersession of the earlier orders issued in the Government Order 4<sup>th</sup> read above. Accordingly, the Government direct that all Institutions deemed to be Universities in the State intending to open a new Department in its campus or an off-campus centre/institution in Agriculture and allied subjects viz., Agriculture, Horticulture, Agricultural Engineering, Forestry, Food Technology, Agricultural Biotechnology, Sericulture, Home / Community Science, Food Nutrition and Dietetics, should obtain "No Objection Certificate" from the State Government before starting the above mentioned Agriculture and allied programmes in Tamil Nadu. Institutions deemed to be Universities need to also obtain ICAR accreditation as per norms.

6. There is a need to get clarity about adherence to the University Grants Commission guidelines by the Institutions deemed to be Universities which are already running the Agriculture and allied courses in Tamil Nadu. The Government, therefore, direct that the Institutions deemed to be Universities mentioned above should submit proof of having obtained approval of the State Government for the establishment of Department / off-campus centre offering Agriculture or allied courses. If not obtained so far, in the interest of the large number of students pursuing the said courses in such Institutions, shall get approval of the Government of Tamil Nadu, within a period of six months from the date of issue of this order. Further, the above Institutions deemed to be Universities are also hereby informed that they should admit new students in Agriculture and allied courses only after they comply with all

the norms stipulated by the University Grants Commission as discussed above.

7. The Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore is directed to pursue appropriate follow up action in connection with the above directions and ensure that the above mentioned Institutions deemed to be Universities get the No Objection Certificate from Government of Tamil Nadu, besides getting Indian Council of Agricultural Research accreditation, before approaching the University Grants Commission for approval as per its guidelines and to send periodical status report to the Government for the purpose of monitoring.

**(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)**

**GAGANDEEP SINGH BEDI**  
**Agricultural Production Commissioner and**  
**Principal Secretary to Government**

**To**

The Registrar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641 003.

The Director of Agriculture, Chepauk, Chennai-5.

The University Grants Commission, Bahadur Sha Zafar Marg, ITO,  
Metro Gate No.3, New Delhi-110 002.

The Secretary/Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research,  
New Delhi-110 001.

The National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board, ICAR,  
Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, Pusa, New Delhi-110012.

**Copy to:**

The Additional Chief Secretary to Governor, Governor's Secretariat,  
Chennai-600 022.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department,  
Chennai-9.

The Principal Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and  
Fisheries Department, Chennai-9.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister's Office, Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,  
Chennai-9.

The Special Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education,  
Chennai-9.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,  
Chennai-9.

The Senior Private Secretary to Agricultural Production Commissioner  
and Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture Department,  
Chennai -9.

SRM Institute of Science & Technology, Kattankulathur,  
Chengalpattu District - 603 203.

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Srivilliputhur,  
Virudhunagar - 626128.

Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore - 632014.

Bharath Institute of Higher Education and Research, 173, Agaram Main  
Rd, Selaiyur, Chennai - 600073.

Karunya University, Narasipuram, Karunya Nagar, Coimbatore - 641114.

PRIST University, Trichy-Thanjavur Road, Vallam, Cafe Road,  
Thanjavur District - 613403.

Amirtha Vishwa Vidhyappetham, Amritanagar, Ettimadai,  
Tamil Nadu - 641112 - Deemed to be University.

Sri Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya Institute of Agri. & Rural Development,  
SRKV Post, Periyanaickenpalayam, Coimbatore - 641020.

Saveetha University, 162, Poonamallee High Road, Velappanchavadi,  
Chennai-600077.

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**/Forwarded by order/**

G.V. Huma  
28/07/20

**SECTION OFFICER**

N/O  
28/7/2020

