

Preface

Under ever changing perspective, Indian agriculture must continuously evolve to remain ever responsive to manage the change and to meet the growing and diversified needs of different stakeholders in the entire production to consumption chain. In order to capitalize on the opportunities and to convert weaknesses into opportunities, University attempted to visualize an alternate agricultural education, research and extension system from present to thirty years hence. In this endeavour, an in-depth analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) was undertaken to place our education, research and technology development and technology dissemination efforts in perspective so that we succeed in our pursuit of doing better than the best. Accordingly, the educational, researchable and extension issues are identified, strategies drawn and programmes indicated to have commensurate the relevant activities.

Newer challenges of agricultural management are emerging in the course of the transformation. These have more to do with the internal capacities to understand and address the challenges of the external environment, and to use the new opportunities and technologies to advantage. In particular, there is a specific need to strengthen the efficacy of agricultural education to function more effectively in response to the changing agenda of agricultural education and research. A paradigm shift in education is needed from teaching to learning, to increase learning outcomes and expand education opportunities. Similarly, there is a need to revitalize the agricultural extension system to enable it to address the new challenges, provide customized solutions to farmers and function as the vital link between research systems, farmers, agribusiness and consumers.

It is expected that realizing the Vision embodied in the document would further ensure that the University continues to fulfill its mandate to make Indian agriculture locally, regionally and globally competitive. The analytical approach and forward looking concepts presented in the 'Vision 2030' document will prove useful for the researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the future challenges for growth and development of the agricultural sector and ensure food and income security with a human face by creating the quality human resources. The document consists of the chapters like Chapter I Present scenario, Chapter II Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Chapter III Vision and mission, Chapter IV SWOT analysis, Chapter V Focus, Chapter VI Strategy and framework with an explicit Annexure.

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