



अखिल भारतीय कृषि छात्र संघ All India Agricultural Students Association (AIASA)

(Registered Society under Societies Registration Act XXI, 1860)

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No. 1-2/AIASA/2019

Dated: 10.10.2019

To

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar Ji,
Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,
Krishi bhawan, Govt. of India, New Delhi-110001.
Email: ns.tomar@sansad.nic.in

Subject: Regarding minimum qualification as Ph.D. for recruitment to the post of scientist by ASRB.

Reference: Office circular No.8 (1)/2019- Per. IV issued by ICAR dated 12.02.2019

Hon'ble sir,

Greetings from All India Agricultural Students Association (AIASA). The Association brings before your honour about the adverse implication on the career prospects of agriculture youth and also on quality of agriculture research by immediate implementation of decision of ICAR for making mandatory qualification of Ph.D degree for ARS 2019, As per ICAR's circular dated 12.2.2019, "Ph.D. has been set as the minimum qualification for recruitment to the post of scientists and will be applicable for the ARS (Agriculture Research Service) examination going to be conducted from 2019 onwards". In this regard I on behalf of AIASA would like to put forward the following points for your kind consideration:

1. As far as the quality of research is concerned, setting Ph.D. as minimum qualification is obviously better. But the time is not ripe taking into consideration the challenges of Indian society and **poor economic background** of most of the students in agriculture sector.
2. As the number of **fellowships are very limited for higher studies like Ph.D.** many students especially those belonging to weaker sections may suffer if Ph.D. is set as the minimum qualification and it will curb the aspirations of poor sections of the society who is willing and deserves to contribute to the agriculture science.
3. Some of the most prominent scientific institutions such as BARC, DRDO and ISRO has the provision of providing Ph.D. as in-service training after recruitment. The policy is highly encouraging and successful.
4. A large group of **meritorious students having M.Sc. degrees but from poor economic background will be eliminated** in this condition, as a result limited number of students with Ph.D. degrees will remain in this field and therefore potentials of many deserving students will remain unexploited. This will lead to further **brain drain from the agriculture sector.**
5. By the time students complete his/her Ph.D. his/her age will be minimum of 28-29 years. This will become another barrier for them to be placed elsewhere as they **will lose eligibility for other exams** as getting through ARS examination is also not assured, considering the extensive pattern and **limited vacancies** in ARS examination.
6. Moreover, in present context, where only few jobs appear for the recruitment particularly in the field of research and teaching, it will further **demotivate students to pursue higher studies in agriculture.**

7. As U.G.C has made **Ph.D. mandatory from 2021** for research and teaching, ample time (transition period) has been provided so that students could be mentally prepared for the implications of this decision. However; the same has been totally ignored for recruitment to ARS as per the above mentioned circular with it being in effect from the year 2019.

In case, if Ph.D. has to be the minimum eligibility criteria for ARS. It may be in the following lines:

1. It is requested to make Ph.D. compulsory from the year 2021.
2. Students having completed PG degree with minimum residential period of two years in their Ph.D. program, should be eligible for ARS examination. As one year extension can be granted (w.e.f. announcement of final result) for completing their Ph.D. before joining ARS.

With respect to the above points stated, it is requested to your honour to kindly reconsider this decision and let PG degree be the minimum eligibility criteria for ARS 2019 onwards in order to safeguard the interest of students and quality research in agriculture.

Thanking you.

Yours Sincerely,

Pratik

(Dr. Pratik Chavelikar)
Chairman(NACC)

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