

PROPOSED OFFICIAL RESOLUTION OF SATSA, W.B.
10th BIENNIAL (74th Annual) GENERAL MEETING
BHASHA BHAVAN, ALIPORE
8th & 9th FEBRUARY, 2025

1. Regular Recruitment to the vacant posts of WBAS (Administration) and WBAS (Research)

Services : In view of successful and timely implementation of different schemes and conduction of different research projects, it is imperative that the sanctioned posts of the officers under those services should not remain vacant for a long period. But, it is being observed that, Agriculture Department is taking initiative for filling up such posts only at a gap of three to four years. As a result, the number of vacancies is soaring to an unmanageable proportion resulting into inconvenience in disposal of the assignments. So, the Association demands recruitment of WBAS (Administration) and WBAS (Research) officers in small batches through publication of advertisements in every year.

2. Restructuring of Administration Wing of the Directorate of Agriculture : Existing distribution of posts of W.B.A.S. (Admn.) Cadre in different levels/branches of this Directorate is not evenly poised. The existing posts were created a long time back in the context of the prevalent agricultural practices & policies of the time. For better monitoring & supervision of Agriculture related activities, it is necessary to have a systematic sequence from the planning level to executing level which is currently not in harmony with the requirements of the times. In keeping with the goals and in view of the requirements of the various flagship schemes, existing structural set up in different levels/branches requires to be reorganized by inter/intra level or branch transferring of posts to bring uniformity.

3. Restructuring of the Research Wing of the Directorate of Agriculture : The Department should immediately initiate the proposal for discipline-wise integration of different services in the Research Wing in the same perspective of Administrative Wing in the following manner :

There are four services in the Research Wing which are as follows :

Sl. No.	Service / Cadre name	Pay Scale			Sanctioned Strength
		Un-Revised	Revised		
			ROPA 2009	ROPA 2019	
1	West Bengal Agricultural Service (Research)	Scale No. 16	Pay Band 4 with Grade Pay Rs. 5400/-	Level 16	128

Sl. No.	Service / Cadre name	Pay Scale			Sanctioned Strength
		Un-Revised	Revised		
			ROPA 2009	ROPA 2019	
2	West Bengal Higher Agricultural Service (Research) Grade II	Scale No.17	Pay Band 4 with Grade Pay Rs. 6600/-	Level 17	44
3	West Bengal Higher Agricultural Service (Research) Grade I	Scale No.18	Pay Band 4B with Grade Pay Rs. 7600/-	Level 19	8
4	Above/Ex Cadre Post – Additional Director of Agriculture (Research)	Scale No.19	Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay Rs.8700/-	Level 21	1
TOTAL					181

The posts in the services of Research Wing are classified into five (5) disciplines (in separate Gradation List) and are not interchangeable from one discipline to another under the existing Recruitment Rules. The entry point is in the Un-Revised Scale No.16 / Pay Band 4A with Grade Pay of Rs. 5400/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 16 (ROPA 2019) with two higher initial increments. The officers have promotional opportunity to the corresponding Un-Revised Scale of Pay No. 17 / Pay Band 4A with Grade Pay of Rs. 6600/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 17 (ROPA 2019), Un-Revised Scale of Pay No. 18 / Pay Band 4B with Grade Pay of Rs. 7600/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 18 (ROPA 2019) and Un-Revised Scale of Pay No. 19 / Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay of Rs. 8700/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 21 (ROPA 2019) which are being filled up by 100% promotion from the basic grade (i.e. Un-Revised Scale No. 16 & Pay Band 4A with Grade Pay of Rs. 5400/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 16 (ROPA 2019).

The senior most officers from any of the five disciplines as shown below, who is in the Un-Revised Scale of Pay No. 18 / Pay Band 4B with Grade Pay of Rs. 7600/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 19 (ROPA 2019) gets promotion to the post of Additional Director of Agriculture (Research), in the Scale No. 19 / Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay of Rs.8700/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 21 (ROPA 2019). The discipline-wise numbers of sanctioned posts in different pay scales are furnished below :

Sl. No.	Discipline	Scale of pay				Total
		Un-Revised scale No.16/ Pay Band 4A & Grade Pay Rs. 5400/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 16 (ROPA 2019)	Un-revised scale of pay No. 17 / Pay Band 4A & Grade Pay Rs. 6600/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 17 (ROPA 2019)	Un-evised scale of pay No. 18 / Pay Band 4B & Grade Pay Rs. 7600/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 19 (ROPA 2019)	Un-evised scale of pay No.19 / Pay Band 5 & Grade Pay Rs. 8700/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 21 (ROPA 2019)	
1	Mycology & Plant Pathology	16	5	1	-	22
2	Entomology	14	6	1	-	21
3	Agronomy	13	6	2	-	21
4	Chemistry	35	13	1	-	49
5	Botany	50	14	2	-	66
6	Non- discipline	-	-	1	1	2
TOTAL		128	44	8	1	181

While integrating the various cadres into a single unified service as West Bengal Agricultural Service (Research), a uniform pattern of designation / nomenclature of posts borne in various scale of pay may be made in the following manner :

Proposed name of Service	Existing Pay scale No.	Discipline wise present designations	Proposed Designation
West Bengal Agricultural Service (Research)	Unrevised scale No.16 / Pay Band 4A with Grade Pay Rs. 5400/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 16 (ROPA 2019)	Botany : Assistant Botanist, Seed Testing Officer	Scientist
		Mycology and Plant Pathology : Assistant Mycologist, Assistant Plant Pathologist	
		Entomology : Assistant Entomologist	
		Agricultural Chemistry : Assistant Agricultural Chemist, Assistant Soil Physicist, Junior Soil Chemist, Soil Chemist & Ex-Officio Assistant Agricultural Chemist, Analytical Chemist	
		Agronomy : Assistant Agronomist	

Proposed name of Service	Existing Pay scale No.	Discipline wise present designations	Proposed Designation
West Bengal Agricultural Service (Research)	Unrevised scale of pay No. 17 & Pay Band 4A & with Grade Pay Rs. 6600/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 17 (ROPA 2019)	Botany : Economic Botanist-I, Economic Botanist-II, Economic Botanist-III, Economic Botanist-IV, Economic Botanist-V, Chief Seed Testing Officer and Ex-Officio Economic Botanist – VI, Economic Botanist-VII, Economic Botanist- VIII, Economic Botanist-IX, Rice Breeder, Rice Physiologist, Oilseed (Sesame) Breeder, Plant Breeder (Oilseeds), Wheat Specialist Mycology and Plant Pathology : Mycologist, Plant Pathologist Entomology : Entomologist Agricultural Chemistry : Agricultural Chemist, Chief Soil Survey Officer & Ex-Officio Agricultural Chemist Agronomy : Agronomist, Agronomist (Water Use)	Senior Scientist
West Bengal Agricultural Service (Research)	Unrevised scale of pay No. 18 & Pay Band 4B with Grad Pay Rs. 7600/- (ROPA 2009)/ Level 19 (ROPA 2019)	Botany : Joint Director of Agriculture (Rice Development), Joint Director of Agriculture (Pulses) Mycology & Plant Pathology : Joint Director of Agriculture (Mycology and Plant Pathology) Entomology : Joint Director of Agriculture (Entomology) Agricultural Chemistry : Joint Director of Agriculture (Chemistry) Agronomy : Chief Agronomist & Ex- Officio Joint Director of Agriculture, Project Officer & Ex-Officio Joint Director of Agriculture Non- Discipline post : Joint Director of Agriculture (Research)	Principal Scientist
West Bengal Agricultural Service (Research)	Un-Revised Scale of Pay No. 19 & Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay Rs. 8700/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 21 (ROPA 2019)	Non-Discipline Post : Additional Director of Agriculture (Research)	Additional Director of Agriculture (Research)

Once the integration of various cadres into a single service of WBAS (Research) in the Research Wing under the Directorate of Agriculture is arrived at, all appointments to the posts of Scientist, Senior Scientist, Principal Scientist and Additional Director of Agriculture (Research) shall be made by transfer on tenure appointment from one post to another by observing principle of seniority-cum-merit within the discipline.

4. Change of Name of Office Nomenclature in WBAS (Admn) Wing : After issuance of Notification of WBAS (Admn) Service regarding Scale Linked Designation, it is necessary to change the name of the Office Nomenclature of WBAs(Admn) Services from Office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Block, Sub Division, District and, Range as Govt. of West Bengal, Directorate of Agriculuture,...Block/Sub-Division/.....District/.....Range as like as Department of Co Operation, Govt. of West Bengal.

5. Provision of mobile phone with connectivity : In view of increased app based activities in all spheres of Agricultural programmes as well as to improve the communicability up to grass root level SATSA demands provision of one 5G android phone with SIM & internet connectivity for each WBAS (Admn) & WBAS (Res) officers of the state working at different tires.

6. Proper manning of the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Alipurduar, Kalimpong, Jhargram, Paschim Bradhaman, Uttar Dinajpur& Howrah and offices of newly created Agricultural Sub-Divisios and Blocks : It is quite imperative that creation of Agricultural Districts and Sub-Division without providing adequate manpower does hardly serve any purpose. The offices of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Alipurduar,Kalimpong, Jhargram, Paschim Bardhaman, Uttar Dinajpur and Howrah and offices of newly created Agricultural Sub-Divisios and Blocksare inadequately manned. The Association demands strengthening of those offices with appropriate manpower immediately.

7. Creation of new Sub-Divisions and Block at par with Administrative set up of Home Department : Association demands for iddediate creation of Agricultural Sub-Divisions at part with Administrative set up for proper monitoring and supervision towards all round uniform agricultural development in the State with proper manning in all categories of staff in the newly created Sub-Divisions.

8. Creation of offices of Soil Conservation Wing in four newly created Agricultural Districts of Alipurduar, Kalimpong, Jhargram and Paschim Bardhamn : With the formation of four new districts, creation of the new post of Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Soil Conservation with ample staff strength is also demanded for smooth implementation of Govt. Developmental Schemes related to Soil & Water Conservation in those districts.

9. Strengthening of State Input Analysis Laboratories, Bio Control Laboratories and Soil Testing Laboratories by providing adequate manpower and infrastructure : Quality of inputs like seed,

fertilizer and pesticides including biofertilisers, biopesticides and biostimulants is one of the prerequisites for successful farming operation. Besides, for setting effective recommendations for doses of fertilisers regular and systematic analysis of soil is of prime importance. So, all the input analysis laboratories including Bio Control Laboratories and Soil Testing Laboratories of the state need to be refurbished with adequate infrastructure and suitable manpower. The Association demands for the same along with spreading the laboratory network throughout the state.

10. Strengthening of the State Seed and Organic Certification Agency : Quality seed is one of the basic inputs for development in Agriculture. To sustain agricultural production, and also to achieve self-sufficiency in seed production as well as to achieve 5.0% growth rate in agricultural production in West Bengal, due importance should be given to production & timely distribution of improved seeds among the farming community. Despite the establishment of West Bengal State Seed Certification Agency in 1983 with these objectives, the desired output could not be harnessed. At that time, only 300 ha was under seed certification programme in the State which has gone beyond 140 times at present. But neither a single staff nor any infrastructural facility has been provided to strengthen the W.B. State Seed Certification Agency. Due to this acute shortage of staff & facilities to the agency, the officials of this agency have to work with a tremendous work load for which the quality seed production programme of this State is being hampered to a great extent and the farming community is also suffering a lot.

The Association demands that, West Bengal State Seed Certification Agency should be strengthened immediately as per the need of the Seed Industries and the farming community of the State.

11. Engagement of Data Entry operator : Considering the ground reality of heavy load of preserving numerous data at block level for different flagship schemes running through Agriculture Directorate one Data Entry operator to be engaged at all the offices of the Asst. Director of Agriculture (Block) immediately.

12. Appointment of Cashier cum Accountant @ One at all the Offices of the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Block) : With an increase of financial outlay of the Department of Agriculture to the tune of Rs 8000 crore per year all the offices of the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Block) have to handle and maintain accounts for a huge amount of public fund. To reduce the scope of error in disbursement of fund and maintenance of accounts the Association suggests for appointment of at least one Cashier cum Accountant at all the 346 such offices .

13. Granting an Allowance for Engagement in Extra Departmental Works to the Officers of the Directorate of Agriculture Serving at District, Sub-Division and Blocks : Being one of the most dynamic workforces of the State the officers of the Directorate of Agriculture serving from District to Block level are being regularly engaged in different extra-departmental works often resulting into a working schedule of 24X7 for them. To acknowledge this contribution of such officers Association demands for granting an allowance on monthly basis for them.

14. Up-gradation of 4 (Four) Posts of Lecturer at Agricultural Training Centre, Coochbehar to Assistant Director of Agriculture (Training) under Pay Matrix Level 16 of ROPA 2019.

15. Manning IT Cell of the Agriculture Directorate with Software Personnel : The IT Cell for the Agriculture Directorate was established in 2017. But till date, no IT software personnel has been engaged in the cell to address and provide expertise on IT related issues and projects of the Directorate. SATSA, WB demands immediate engagement of IT software personnel in the IT Cell.

16. Launching New Website of Agriculture Department : Alike several departments of Govt. of West Bengal, a new web site of the Department is required which will be available in public domain describing different schemes, salient features, success stories etc.

17. Creation of one post of “Additional Director of Agriculture” in each discipline by surrendering equal number of posts in Basic Grade in the same discipline :

The following five posts of Additional Director of Agriculture, one in each discipline, need to be created in Pay Scale No. 19 & Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay of Rs. 8700/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 21 (ROPA 2019), for smooth functioning of research works in the field of agriculture in the State of West Bengal :

Sl. No.	Discipline	Proposed Designation in scale No. 19 / Level 21 (ROPA 2019)
1	Botany	Additional Director of Agriculture (Crop Improvement)
2	Mycology and Plant Pathology	Additional Director of Agriculture (Disease Management)
3	Entomology	Additional Director of Agriculture (Insect Pest Management)
4	Agricultural Chemistry	Additional Director of Agriculture (Soil Health Management)
5	Agronomy	Additional Director of Agriculture (Resource Management)

With the creation of the posts of Additional Director of Agriculture, discipline-wise total strength in Research Wing of Agriculture Directorate remains unchanged, envisaging reduction of posts borne in the basic grade.

18. Specific Issues of the Research Wing :

- a) Publication of Agricultural Research Policy in the light of G.O. No. 4528-Res./7C-1/83 dated 28.03.1983 :** The State Research wing under the Department of Agriculture requires more funding and man power to improve the quality of research work. It is observed with great concern that the Research Wing fails to get the financial assistance from the allocation of plan budget as matching grant and subsequently from the central fund, which is generally mooted through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Under these circumstances, SATSA, WB demands a crystal clear Research Policy (Adaptive / Applied / Fundamental) to do justice to the individual skills and intellects of the Research Personnel.
- b) Provision of research facilities as prevailing in ICAR :** According to the National Policy of Agriculture (NARP), Agricultural Research has been transferred to the State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) except West Bengal. The scientists serving in Research wing of the Directorate are carrying out the same research work as the scientists are doing in the SAUs or ICAR Institutes. SATSA, WB demands that the officers serving in the Research Wing of Agriculture Department, Govt. of West Bengal be provided the same facilities as are prevailing in ICAR system.

The main demands in this respect are :

- i)** Allowances for publishing research paper in scientific journals / periodicals.
- ii)** Special provision of funds including drawal of advance to attend workshop / seminar/ symposium / conference outside and inside the State or abroad which includes registration charges and travelling expenses.
- iii)** The scientists serving in the Research Wing of Agriculture Department, Govt. of West Bengal be given necessary permission to undertake projects funded by public and private sectors. The concerned scientists should also be given necessary permission to act as Principal Investigator for effective and proper utilization of the fund.
- iv)** Every Research Station should be manned with human resources covering experts of all disciplines for comprehensive development.
- v)** Creation of some posts in WBAS (Research) Cadre for strengthening the Bio-Control Laboratories at Tollygunj and Cooch Behar. The SATSA, West Bengal demands that the Bio-Control Laboratories at Tollygunj and Cooch Behar should be enriched with some Research personnel from the disciplines of Entomology and Mycology & Plant Pathology for effective running of these laboratories.

- c) **Transfer of Research Wing of the State Agriculture Department to the SAUs :** Research Wing of the State Agriculture Department should be transferred to the SAUs in the perspective of NARP with suitable protection of service conditions.

19. Manning of the posts by Agricultural Technologists which are now manned by Administrative officers : As has been done in the Health Department, following posts in the Agriculture Department should be manned by the Senior Technical Officers of the Agriculture Directorate to accelerate the pace of work and easy understanding of the proposals. The important decisions in the files are either delayed or denied by the officers concerned only due to lack of Agriculture background. As such, the Association demands for creation of 3 new posts, **one at the rank of Additional Director of Agriculture, 2 in the rank of Joint Director of Agriculture** to facilitate the technical works pertaining to department.

20. Establishment of “KRISHI BHAVAN” at the State, District, Sub-Division and Block Levels : Although through intervention of the Government, “Krishi Bhavan” have been established in some of the Districts, the Association demands that Government should take appropriate action for establishment of “Krishi Bhavan” in all the Blocks, Sub-Divisions, Districts and at the State level to facilitate infra-structural development. Most of the rented office premises are located in shabby areas and buildings and are facing eviction order due to want of sufficient fund for rents. Also, a huge fund, now spent on rents from the Government exchequer, can be saved. In order to overcome all these problems, planned construction of ‘Krishi Bhavan’ should be prioritized.

21. Establishment of Inspection Bungalow in each district : Several Officers of Agriculture Department often visit different districts for different Official purposes and stay at Hotels. Association demands to establish Inspection Bungalow of Agriculture Department in different districts to avoid uncertainty in availability of Hotels / other guest houses during thier tour.

22. Provisions at the GTA :

In the context of Darjeeling & Kalimpong District under Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) our Association places the following demands for overall development and benefit of agrarian farmers of Hill Region as follows:

- Creation of a new post of Deputy Director of Agriculture(Training), Hill Zone at ATC, Kalimpong by surrendering one post out of the existing three post of Assistant Director of agriculture (Training) without hampering financial burden to the Govt.exchequer with the sole objective of imparting trainings to the backward farmers of the Hill region.
- Up gradation of Potato Research & Experimental Farm, Ghoom-Bhanjyang & Sonada into Potato Research Station(Hill Zone) with required mandate with a view to undertake different activities on Potato Crop such as breeding & release of Wart immune potato varieties, mass multiplication of immune varieties for seed purpose, conduction of trials,

replacement of existing cultivated varieties with wart immune varieties at farmers field level with the ultimate intent to come out from the already Govt. imposed embargo due to wart disease of Potato.

- The present post of Assistant Agricultural Chemist at STL, Kalimpong is still under the establishment of the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Administration), Kalimpong. Hence the post Assistant Agricultural Chemist, STL, Kalimpong needs to be conferred the power of full-fledged Drawing & Disbursing Function as an independent establishment for smooth functioning.
- It is suggested that a post of Joint Director of Agriculture (GTA) should be created for setting up a better coordination between the Department of Agriculture and GTA.

23. Setting up of Offices of West Bengal State Seed Corporation in all the Districts to ensure better input procurement and distribution mechanism for the interest of the farming community :

Timely distribution of inputs to the beneficiaries under Govt. schemes is of prime importance for successful implementation. So, to ensure timely procurement and distribution of inputs the network of WBSSC should be extended to all the districts. In this context, it needs to be mentioned an existing order for establishment of a office of WBSSC at Dakshin Dinajpur is yet to be implemented.

24. Conferring Drawing and Disbursing Power to Assistant Director of Agriculture posted as head of office at Block, Farm, Soil Conservation and some Research Stations: In view of the increasing importance of works and schemes, all officers up to Block level and Farm should immediately be manned fully with proper decentralization of Administration & Financial powers. The Assistant Director of Agriculture posted at Blocks, Farms and Soil Conservation Wing should be declared as DDO with necessary manning as well as transport and ICT facilities to enable them to discharge their duties smoothly.

As the Directorate recently suffers from huge shortfall of staff, the observation of the Finance Department to arrange those staff from existing resources is ridiculous. Unless staff is adequately sanctioned, Assistant Director of Agriculture should not be subjected to further humiliation and torture. Further, the Head of the Research substations situated at Bankura, Purulia and Gosaba should be declared as DDO with necessary infrastructure and manpower.

25. Creation of discipline-wise separate Directorate under the Department of Agriculture :

The Agriculture Department is, at present, shouldering the herculean task of various departmental aspects of Agriculture of the State with the help of a single Directorate even at this stage when multifaceted approach for overall crop production is necessary. Handling of Agricultural Research, Soil and Water Conservation, Plant Protection, Seed Production and Quality Control, Transfer of Technology and Extension for the State as a whole by a single Directorate set up has already proved to be inadequate to deliver the goods in terms of our needs.

There is no dispute that availability of land will inevitably be decreased due to urbanization, industrialization and other causes. This will certainly call for efficient use of every square inch of land as well as conversion of non-agricultural land to agriculture in course of time. Water is also another gradually limiting input. Seed, the most important input, is becoming the weapon for economic supremacy. Endowed with diverse agro-climate, seed production potential of our State requires to be harnessed.

In order to use every square inch of land efficiently, to generate more crop per drop of water and to harvest the seed production potential, the time is fitting for restructuring the present set up of the Department by creating several Directorates as mentioned below and elevating the post of Director of Agriculture & Ex-Officio Secretary as Director General of Agriculture, West Bengal & E O Secretary. This restructuring will devolve funds and function in the specific areas of activities and facilitate timely supervision and monitoring for achieving the ultimate objectives.

The Association, therefore, likes to propose again for creation of seven (7) numbers of separate posts of Director of Agriculture as mentioned below under overall supervision and control of the Director General of Agriculture, West Bengal & Ex-Officio Secretary by renaming the existing post of the Director of Agriculture & Ex-Officio Secretary.

Creation of seven posts of Director of Agriculture, West Bengal in the existing **Pre-Revised Pay Scale No. 20 (Rs. 16400-450-20000/-) i.e. Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay of Rs. 8900/- (ROPA 2009) / Un-Revised Scale of Pay No. 19 & Pay Band 5 with Grade Pay of Rs. 8700/- (ROPA 2009) / Level 22 (ROPA 2019)** by surrendering similar number of posts in the basic grade in scale No. 16 in the following manner :

Sl. No.	Proposed Designation	Overall in charge of and will report to the Director General of Agriculture & EOS, West Bengal
A.	IN ADMINISTRATIVE WING	
1	Director of Agriculture (Extension & Training), West Bengal	Technology Dissemination, Human Resource Development, Disaster Management etc.
2	Director of Agriculture (Food Grain Production), West Bengal	Development of food crops like cereals, pulse and oilseeds, adaptive research on food crops etc.
3	Director of Agriculture (Commercial Crops), West Bengal	Production and development of Jute, Cotton and other fibre crops in addition to Sugarcane, Potato and other tuber crops.
4	Director of Agriculture (Soil & Water Conservation), West Bengal	Soil and Water conservation, watershed management etc.
5	Director of Agriculture (Inputs), West Bengal	Distribution and Quality control of all agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, micro-nutrients, Bio and Organic fertilizers, pesticides, farm implements etc.
6	Director of Agriculture (Administration), West Bengal	General Administration of the Directorate of Agriculture, cadre/ service maintaining cells etc.

Sl. No.	Proposed Designation	Overall in charge of and will report to the Director General of Agriculture & EOS, West Bengal
B.	IN RESEARCH WING	
1	Director of Agriculture (Research), West Bengal	Plan and execute programme to bridge the gap between the potential and actual production, research programme (fundamental as well as Adaptive research) in the fields of Agriculture.

The Director General of Agriculture, West Bengal & Ex- Officio Secretary should be appointed from amongst above seven Directors of Agriculture on the basis of seniority cum merit and as per recruitment rules to be notified.

26. Opening of Bank Account of Asstt. DA (Admn.) of all the Sub-Divisions and DDO's of Evaluation Wing : The Association demands that separate bank accounts are urgently to be opened at all the above mentioned head of offices in the backdrop of direct flow of fund in number of schemes/programmes/FOAP/EPF going on under the Directorate as well as smooth functioning of those programmes/schemes.

27. Opening new avenues for Agricultural Technologists :

- 27.1** About 350 Agricultural Graduates emerge annually from BCKV, UBKV and Palli Siksha Bhavan, Visva Bharati but their employment at State Agricultural Department is limited.
- 27.2** The Association demands that suitable amendment in the Recruitment Rule may be made in other branches of Agriculture Department such as Evaluation, Meteorology, Agricultural Marketing, Financial Institutes like Banks, Co-operatives, CADR, DRDA, Rural Development etc. to make room for Agril. Graduates.
- 27.3** Generation of Employment opportunity in schools by introducing courses on Agriculture can well be taken up into consideration to make available the modern Agricultural Technical knowhow at the door step of farmers.

28. Creation of a total of 346 nos. of additional posts of Assistant Director of Agriculture @ 1 in each Block of West Bengal.

- 28.1** The Agril. Technologists working at the very grass root level since Independence has been subjected to sheer apathy and neglect. Proper working facilities (office, residential quarter) were not provided despite having such provisions under World Bank Assistance during 1970. Virtually most offices are run by the lone Asstt. DA with 1-3 other sub-ordinate staffs including KPS due to vacancies. As such, what the

Govt. or the Society as a whole, can ask, or more precisely expect, from Asstt. DAs of blocks.

- 28.2** Presently there is only one Agricultural Technologist at the Block level working under the Department of Agriculture as Assistant Director of Agriculture, who has to perform all the statutory works besides looking after the office administration, implementation of a number of schemes under the Department, effective role in the PRIs for agricultural development & visits, organizing farmers meeting etc. It is imperative that it is practically impossible to shoulder such a huge responsibility for a single person to the desired level. Apart from this, ongoing Centrally Sponsored flagship Schemes, like RKVY, NFSM, ATMA, PKVY, NMEO, SMSP, SMAM, KCC, PM Kishan, and SDS like BSB, BKSY, Krishan Bandhu (Natun), Krishan Bandhu (Death Benefit), FOAP etc and many others to come, would be and being implemented. It is quite absurd for the Assistant Director of Agriculture, being overburdened already, can perform those herculean tasks.
- 28.3** Besides performing statutory administrative jobs, the Assistant Director of Agriculture of blocks have to perform enforcement activities as Fertilizer Inspectors, Seed Inspectors and Insecticide Inspectors, in addition to dissemination of modern and updated technologies to farmers.
- 28.4** The Association therefore, demands for creation of additional 346 additional posts of Assistant Director of Agriculture @one (01) in each of the 346Agricultural blocks in the State as it has been done earlier in ARD Department.

29. Adequate manning in Centrally Sponsored Scheme / Missions : The Association observes that there has been a spurt in Mission mode programmes launched by the GOI as well as flush of funds in the Agril. Sector. These mission modeactivities, despite their objective of growth in Agril. Sector, do not provide scope for adequate manning on regular basis, rather emphasizes on compulsion in the contractual appointments in various categories. State Government, despite these compulsions, should come forwardfor adequate manning on regular basis for sustainable development. The Association therefore demands that there should be adequate infrastructure and manning on regular basis under these Mission either by GOI or State Govt. or in collaboration like permanent schemes.

30. Creation of one post of Deputy Director of Agricultureat Zilla Parishad of each District and at Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad : The Association demands that for better co-ordination between the district administration and district agriculture office, one post in the rank of Deputy Director of Agriculture should immediately be created at each Zilla Parishad and Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad.

31. Formation of Agriculture Council of West Bengal as a step towards Registration of Agricultural Technologists as Crop Doctor : Following constant persuasion of the Association, the Government constituted a high-powered core committee with terms of reference long back and the said core committee has already submitted a draft bill for formation of Agriculture Council of West Bengal, the fate of the same is unexplained till now.

The ICAR, *vide* F. No. Edn/13/1/2016-HRD dated 06.10.2016, has already declared UG Degree in Agriculture and Allied subjects as Professional Degree. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently enacted the Andhra Pradesh State Agricultural Council Bill, 2020 *vide* L.A. Bill No. 22 of 2020. The Association, therefore, appeals to the State Government for immediate constitution of “West Bengal State Agricultural Council” towards regulation of Agricultural/ Horticultural Activities/ Practices as well as registration of Agricultural/ Horticultural Graduates with their professional degrees as “Crop Doctors” for wider dissemination of technical know-how, farm advisories, quality inputs *etc.* to the farming community in the State of West Bengal.

32. Ensuring livelihood support and security of Farmers : Provisions of credit at low interest rates, delinking credit sanction from Land Titles, securing remunerative price of farm produce and participation in equal competition in Global market are required for ensuring of livelihood support and farmers right.

A. The Association demands to the State Government for recommendation to the Govt. of India for enactment of the following, viz.

- To restrain from implementation of the SSEPER through an autonomous agency, i.e. ATMA and not to substitute the Public Extension System with private Agency. In sharp contrast strengthening of Public Extension System, involvement of and monitoring through three tier Panchayat Raj Institutions, contribution of 10% share of Govt., non-realization of service charges from the farmers *etc.*, should constitute the focal theme of ATMA and thereby ATMA should function in commensurate to the policies of State Govt. and the model should not be a replica of GOI’s model.

B. The Association demands to the State Government for immediate intervention into the entire marketing chain, viz. processing, value addition. Marketing of agricultural produce for securing remunerative price through encouraging and strengthening support to co-operative marketing.