

To

The Director of Agriculture
Government of Andhra Pradesh
Guntur.

Respected Sir,

Sub: APASS – Agricultural Extension Officers – Admissions into B.Sc. (Hons) Agriculture Course–
Cancelling of in-service quota **Req– Regarding.**

Ref: Rc No. A5(4) 2262435/2023 dated 02-01-2025.

We would like to bring to your kind notice that the Department of Agriculture has been sponsoring 38 nos. of Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs) every year and it was increased to 49 nos., from the academic year 2023-24 to pursue B.Sc.(Hons) Ag. in-service quota in ANGRAU. At present there are about 150 nos. of AEOs studying B.Sc.(Hons) Ag. in various Agricultural Colleges in the State which was 15% of the cadre strength.

Earlier there was no eligibility for the diploma in Agriculture polytechnic or Dry land Agriculture(vocational) holders to compete with the B.Sc.(Ag) Graduates for the post of AEO (Gr-II).However, having regard to the representations made by the other two categories of candidates i.e diploma holders in Agriculture polytechnic and degree holders in Dry land Agriculture(vocational),the Government had arrived at a conclusion to permit those two categories of candidates also, to apply for the post of AEO (Gr-II), though they possess the lesser qualification than the Graduates in Agriculture.

Initially, only 1% of the seats were reserved for these candidates in the 3 Agricultural Colleges which was subsequently raised to 3% and now 5% as per G.O. RT No.633 dated 10-09-2016. During those days the availability of Agricultural graduates is very limited. Due to the scarcity of Agri graduates at that time, the field assistants with matriculation were extended to study B.Sc.(Ag) in-service. These AEOs were offered B.Sc.(Ag) with out any admission test or exam by paying full salaries and allowances at the cost of public exchequer and promoted as Agriculture Officer rather than the candidates possessed B.Sc.(Ag) qualification out of hard work and good merit ranks in the EAPCET.

The Government is spending around Rs 36 lakhs on each candidate and around Rs 55 crores on such AEOs as in-service quota. Upon successful completion of B.Sc.(Hons) Ag., these AEOs are being promoted as Agricultural Officers without considering the merit. Their seniority of entering in to the service is counted than the date of acquiring the qualifying degree which is causing lot of injustice to the AEOs who possessed B.Sc.(Ag.) while entering in to the service. As a result of anomaly, there is a huge demand for in-service.

We further submit that, at present there are 7 constituent colleges and 6 affiliated colleges of ANGRAU and we have quite good number, 1470 B.Sc.(Hons) Ag graduates are passing out every year and also 360 more seats were accorded permission to fill from the 2025-26 academic year onwards. Apart from this moreover, to man the RSKs in the state, the Government has recruited 6458 VAAs (Gr-II) in 2019 with the said B.Sc.(Ag) as one of the qualification, Now almost there are 1964 number of B.Sc.(Ag.) Graduates, Post Graduates and Ph.D. (Ag.) candidates working as Village Agricultural Assistants at grassroot level. This in-service scheme is not following or sponsoring by any other departments even in our agricultural allied

departments like Animal husbandry, Sericulture, Fisheries. In order maintain the quality of education Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, Tirupati in the notification of diploma course, it was mentioned that “The candidates completing the Animal Husbandry Diploma course are not eligible for B.V.Sc., & A.H course admissions”

The provision of in-service scheme creates more work burden on the existing staff during the absence of these AEOs in the study period, the regular field work at mandal and village level is hampered which might disturb the farming community in timely deliverance of schemes and extension services governed by the department and also these in-service candidates are influencing the faculty of which it may direct the regular students to the wrong pathway and to protect the quality of education especially ICAR and eminent colleges of ANGRAU.

Hence, we kindly request you that the provision of sponsoring in-service AEOs to pursue B.Sc.(Ag) course at the cost of Government exchequer may be cancelled as there are a quite good number of AEOs/VAAAs with B.Sc.(Ag) in the department.

Advantages of dispensing the in-service scheme.

1. The financial burden on Government can be minimized as it might be utilized for APCNF project.
2. It incurs more benefit to Agri graduates who secured good ranks in EAPCET and also get benefited to the present working Agri graduated employees to utilize their services more efficiently and effectively.
3. To protect the quality of education.
4. Every year 49 merit candidates who are losing their seats because of this quota can be benefited.

We solicit to have empathy on us and contemplate our request and dispense the in-service scheme and do justice to the existing Agri graduates in the department.

Hoping for your favorable response to our request

Thanking you Sir.

Yours Sincerely

President