



भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
कृषि शिक्षा प्रभाग
कृषि अनुसंधान भवन-II, पूसा, नई दिल्ली-110012
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Agricultural Education Division
Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan-II, Pusa, New Delhi-110012

F.No. Ag.Edn/27-8/NP-NF Guidelines/2025-HRD(e-402532)

Dated: 11th June, 2026

To

1. All Vice-Chancellors, State Agricultural Universities/CAUs/
ICAR-DUs/ CUs having faculty of Agriculture.
2. All Directors, ICAR Institutes.

Subject : Revised Guidelines for ICAR-National Professor.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of the Competent Authority in the ICAR for revision of guidelines for ICAR-National Professor as approved by the Governing Body in its 265th meeting held on 28.02.2026. These guidelines supersede all previous guidelines and may be followed by all concerned Agricultural universities/ICAR Institutes effective from 22.04.2026. A copy of the guidelines is appended herewith for information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


(S.K. Gajmoti)
Director (Agril. Edn.)

Encl: **As above**

Copy to:

1. All DDGs, ICAR/ All ADGs, ICAR, Director (P), Director (F), ICAR
2. Sr.PPS to DG, ICAR/ PPS to Secretary, ICAR/ PPS to AS &FA, ICAR
3. Sr. F &AO (Agril. Edn.), ICAR
4. All Officers/Sections of ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, KAB-I &II, Pusa
5. DKMA for uploading the same on the ICAR website

GUIDELINES FOR ICAR NATIONAL PROFESSOR

(Revised and Approved in ICAR 265th GB meeting on 28.02.2026)

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To promote excellence by recognizing outstanding scientist with proven output and outcome for creation of culture of basic research through their project work in the National Agricultural Research, Education and Extension System (NAREES).
- 1.2 Establishing and nurturing a novel school of thought around the recognized person.

2. Number of Positions

The total number of positions of ICAR National Professors would not exceed ten (10) at any given time. These will include one B.P. Pal Chair in Genetics and Plant Breeding at IARI, New Delhi, one Norman Borlaug Chair in International Agriculture and M.S. Swaminathan Chair in Agriculture & Allied Sciences located in ICAR-Agricultural University System.

3. Salary

The ICAR National Professor would be appointed in the monthly pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (fixed) along with admissible allowances or as revised from time to time.

4. Nature of Award

The award of the National Professor will be tenurial in nature. He/she will be appointed for an initial tenure of five years, which can be extended for one or more tenures of five years subject to quality performance as assessed by the Selection Committee but not beyond 65 years of age.

5. Eligibility and Procedure of Selection

- 5.1 Indian nationals occupying positions of Professors/Principal Scientists or equivalent for at least 8 years and their age being not more than 60 years as on the specified date are eligible for nomination.
- 5.2 A Search-cum-Selection Committee (SSC) comprising of the following would be constituted with the approval of the President, ICAR Society:
 - One Eminent Scientist : Chairman
 - Director General, ICAR : Member
 - Three reputed Scientists : Members
(Nominated by D.G., ICAR)
 - DDG (Agricultural Education) : Member-Secretary
- 5.3 The SSC would formulate criteria and other modalities for inviting nominations and recommend deserving nominees for selection. The process may involve formal applications, nominations by Eminent Scientists/ National Academies and Search Process by the SSC.

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- 5.4 Nominations from the sponsoring institutions would be invited in the prescribed format that will include a detailed research project proposal. The nomination should be supported and recommended by the Agricultural University/ICAR Research Institute where he/she proposes to locate himself/herself. The sponsoring Agricultural University/Institute would undertake to agree to the service conditions as laid down in para 9 of these guidelines and would provide the logistics comprising necessary basic facilities and support for his/her work.
- 5.4 The nominee should have made significant contributions in the form of knowledge and technology generation as evidenced by published work in high impact journals, product/ process/ methodology generated, variety/ breed/ stocks released and notified, innovations as patents/protections etc. Publications as invited plenary/lead full length papers presented and published in International/ National Conferences will also be considered for this purpose, significant output and outcome/impact of knowledge/technology generated by the nominee should be explicitly evident.
- 5.5 SSC will recommend nominees for selection taking into account the relevance of the area of research, proposed plan of work in the form of a project, academic records, achievements and experience. The nominee may be contacted/ called for discussion, if so needed.
- 5.6 The award of ICAR National Professor will be tenurial and made with the approval of the President, ICAR Society.
- 5.7 There will be no discipline-wise allocation of the number of National Professorial positions except for one position, namely, B.P. Pal Chair in Genetics and Plant Breeding at IARI, New Delhi.

6. Operational Autonomy

- 6.1 ICAR National Professor will have autonomy in planning and implementation of the work plan of the approved project including the operation of the funds within the approved budget heads following the procedures of the sponsoring Institution. Re-appropriation of funds by the ICAR National Professor/Sponsoring Institution, from one budget head to another, would be permissible to a limit of 10% of the allocated budget heads.
- 6.2 ICAR National Professor will be competent to sanction purchases of the recurring and non-recurring nature subject to conforming to the purchase procedures followed in the sponsoring Institution.
- 6.3 ICAR National Professor will be involved in the selection of the project staff in his/her unit.
- 6.4 ICAR National Professor will be an invited member in all the scientific and research committees/bodies in the institution including being a member of the teaching faculty, wherever applicable. He/she would appropriately share the institutional facilities required for his/her work.
- 6.5 In order to establish and nurture a novel school of thought around the ICAR National Professor, he/she should leverage the work in the thematic areas related to his/her project by encouraging the younger scientists to work in his/her

collaboration/guidance for their adequate training/research career building. ICAR National Professor must deliver at least four lectures per year in ICAR-AU System/ Institutions under Ministry of S&T or in courses being organized under Centre of Advanced Faculty Training/ Summer-Winter Schools by the Education Division of ICAR.

- 6.6 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be appropriately signed among the (i) ICAR, (ii) ICAR National Professor, and (iii) the sponsoring institution to which the nominee belongs and where the project work is to be undertaken.

7. **Budget**

- 7.1 The cost of the project, as specified and approved, would be borne by the ICAR. ICAR will release the grant to the ICAR National Professor through the sponsoring institution.
- 7.2 Each ICAR National Professor project will have a budget for a duration of Five years for meeting expenditure on the salary and allowances of ICAR National Professor, salary of contractual staff, TA/ POL/ Equipment/ Contingencies, etc. excluding the salary of staff redeployed by the sponsoring institution to work under the project. Within the overall budget outlay, the following annual budgetary provision, excluding the salary component, is recommended with a maximum ceiling under each item as below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Budgetary Provision</u>
<i>Revenue</i>	
i Research Contingency	: Rs. 25.00 lakhs
ii TA/DA	: Rs. 2.00 lakhs
<i>Capital (Equipment)</i>	: Rs. 8.00 lakhs

(The total budget of Rs. 40.00 lakhs under Capital (Equipment) for a period of Five years may be preferably utilized in the initial 3 years of the project)

- 7.3 The budget provisions for different budget heads, within the approved overall-budget ceilings, may be revised from time to time as per revised need-assessment, if any, with the approval of Competent Authority.
- 7.4 The Budget of the project shall be released as per existing guidelines of the Council/Ministry of Finance.

8. **Provisions, Facilities and Supporting staff**

- 8.1 Each ICAR National Professor will have the following staff, depending on the work plan of the approved research project.

- 8.1.1 On redeployment basis from the sponsoring institution and not to be financially borne on the National Professor Scheme :

Scientist/Senior Scientist	-	2
Technical Staff	-	2
Administrative Staff	-	2

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8.1.2 On contractual engagement, non-regular and co-terminus with the scheme/project and within the approved budget ceilings.

Research Associate	-	2
Senior Research Fellow/Young Professional	-	2
Supporting Staff for Lab/field	-	2

Research Associates (RA) and Senior Research Fellows (SRF)/ Young Professionals engaged under the project will have rates of Associateship/ Fellowship/Emoluments as in vogue in ICAR and as amended from time to time.

8.2 In the event of technical and administrative staff being not available for redeployment as in 8.1.1, these can be provided through contractual engagement and the expenditure may be met from the research contingency grant under the project within the approved budget ceilings.

8.3 Each contractual engagement of the RA/SRF for the project will be for the duration as needed but not more than 3 years at a time in case of RA/SRF, not more than 2 years in case of Young Professional, and not exceeding the duration of the project. Engagement of the RA/SRF/Young Professional will be governed by the guidelines issued by the ICAR in this respect. All contractual manpower engagements under the ICAR National Professor project including RA/SRF/Young Professional will be non-regular, co-terminus, time-bound and periodical in nature and will automatically terminate on completion of the tenure or at the close of the project whichever is earlier.

8.4 In case of recognition/acknowledgement of the contribution made by the RA/SRF/ Young Professional in any research work involved in the project of the ICAR National Professor, decision of the National Professor will be final; and no right in this regard can be claimed by the concerned RA/SRF/Young Professional.

8.5 The equipment purchased and resultant dead-stocks under the project would remain the property of the ICAR until transferred to the sponsoring Institution/ any ICAR Institute.

9 Service Conditions

9.1 The ICAR National Professor who continues to serve under the Scheme upto 65 years of age will stand retired at the age as applicable for other scientists in the sponsoring institution. However, he/she will continue as ICAR National Professor till the end of the tenure or 65 years of age whichever is earlier.

9.2 The ICAR National Professor will be eligible for pension and benefits fixed on the salary at the time of attaining the age of superannuation in normal course as per the rules of the sponsoring institution.

9.3 The responsibility of providing pension and other retirement benefits will rest with the sponsoring institution. However, these will be received by him/her after he/she ceases to be ICAR National Professor.

9.4 For all practical purposes, scientist appointed as ICAR National Professor will remain an employee of the sponsoring organization and he/she shall continue to enjoy the benefits of leave, medical facilities/accommodation etc. as any other employee of the sponsoring organization.

- 9.5 In case the ICAR National Professor is from a sponsoring institution outside the ICAR, the Council will not be responsible for his/her continuation and protection of service interests in his/her sponsoring organization.
- 9.6 The National Professor, if from outside ICAR, will not be absorbed in the ICAR on completion of the tenure.
- 9.7 ICAR National Professor is expected to devote full time for his/her approved project and shall not engage him/herself on any other work except for the projects related to the theme of his/her agreed research work-plan and with prior approval of the Council. He/she would not accept any other position in the University/Institute except Chairmanship/membership of important scientific committees.
- 9.8 ICAR National Professor shall have total academic freedom in planning and execution of his/her approved project and shall have requisite administrative control over staff working under him/her in his/her project. Need-based adequate support from the sponsoring institution must be extended for his/her work. He/she must not be burdened with routine administrative responsibilities of the Institute/University.
- 9.9 The scientists associated with the National Professor will be Co-Principal Investigators in the National Professor project but will be allowed to submit Research Project Files (RPF) or projects in equivalent formats under the National Professor's overall research work-plan/thematic areas and shall have the status of Principal Investigator of a regular Institute/University project for Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board (ASRB) and related markings.
- 9.10 ICAR National Professor will be permitted by the ICAR to accept foreign assignment, befitting his/her status in an international organization for a total period of not exceeding six months during each term of five years (not allowed to be cumulative over the terms), after completing at least one year in the position. Participation in conferences, seminars, symposium etc. will not be construed as such an assignment.
- 9.11 ICAR National Professor may apply for or accept any other regular or term offer/appointment within the country or abroad after a minimum period of five years as National Professor. On selection to the regular or term appointment and with effect from joining the same, the ICAR National Professor shall cease to be an ICAR National Professor.
- 9.12 The award of ICAR National Professor should be consummated within six months from the date of issue of the Award Letter and no extension will be given beyond six months.

10 Project Monitoring

- 10.1 ICAR National Professor shall submit the progress of the project annually vis-a-vis projections made and target set in the work plan of the approved project. The activity milestones for the next year should also be included in the progress report.
- 10.2 ICAR National Professor shall make an annual presentation of the progress made in the scientific/research committees at the sponsoring institution ensuring wider participation of the scientific staff/faculty members and ICAR representatives.
- 10.3 A National Professor shall make an annual presentation of the progress made in the project before RAC of the concerned ICAR Institutes/Academic Council of AUs. The

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proceedings of the RAC/ Academic Council will be forwarded by the Head of the Institution/ University to the Education Division of ICAR for review by the Search-cum-Selection Committee.

10.4 Continuation of budget grants for ICAR National Professor Project would depend on maintaining satisfactory progress under the project.

11 Project Review

The Council may review the ICAR National Professor project by referring it to peer/peers. The report of peer review shall be placed before the Selection Committee for evaluation. The Search-cum-Selection Committee along with 2-3 subject matter experts (depending upon the requirement), may review the progress of ICAR-National Professor projects through an annual workshop. The expenditure incurred in this regard shall be met from ICAR National Professor Scheme.

12 General

12.1 These guidelines may be revised by the Competent Authority of the Council on a continual need based manner.

12.2 The ICAR National Professor is expected to protect the Intellectual Property Rights generated or likely to be generated during his/her tenure. The Council and the sponsoring institution will have the appropriate share on the patents/ protections/knowledge generated as per the 'ICAR Guidelines for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer/ Commercialization' as amended from time to time. If the National Professor enters into any other IP agreement, the same will be appropriately communicated to and shared with the Council/sponsoring institution. In all publications arising out of the National Professor project, the support from the Council should be duly acknowledged.

12.3 For any clarification regarding the ICAR National Professorship, the Deputy Director General (Agricultural Education), ICAR, New Delhi may be contacted.

12.4 Director General, ICAR will be the final authority in resolving and taking decision on any situation/conflict and his decision shall be binding on all parties concerned.

12.5 For any dispute, the applicable law will be the Indian law under the jurisdiction of Courts in Delhi only.

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