

57% faculty posts vacant in HAU

More than half of the posts of teacher and scientist are lying vacant in Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) here.

With the agriculture sector in crisis, experts feel that scientists can play a role in helping farmers overcome the problem of falling income.

Sources said the university has a sanctioned strength of 1,049 members of faculty in all three divisions — teaching, research and extension. At present, there are around 450 faculty members; this means more than 57 per cent of the posts are vacant. “The strength of faculty was downsized from 1,460 to 1,049 in 2010,” said a member of the faculty.

RS Dalal, secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog, said vacant posts must be filled so that the work did not suffer.

HAU Teachers’ Association (HAUTA) president Raj Singh said he had taken up the matter with the authorities several times and even apprised the new VC of the situation. “Ad-hocism prevails at the higher level. Of 32 heads of departments, only five are regular. The remaining HoDs are on a temporary basis,” he said.

The university had failed to complete the recruitment process about three years ago. Last time, faculty was recruited in 2012. Still several positions remained vacant. Moreover, senior staff members kept on superannuating. Around 70 members of the faculty would retire by year-end, sources said.

The newly Vice-Chancellor, KP Singh, said he would take up the matter with the state government on priority. “I hope that the university will have young scientists soon,” he added.