



Agricultural Economics Research Association (AERA)

Call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs), 2026

AERA invites Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from its members to design and organise activities during the year 2026. These EOIs are intended to encourage decentralised ownership, thematic leadership, and wider member participation, while ensuring coherence with AERA's overall strategic framework.

Nature of Activities

1. Basic Training Programmes (Beginners)

No. of slots: 2

Tentative duration: 5-day program

Purpose: To build foundational capacities among students and early-career researchers in agricultural economics, with a focus on research fundamentals, methods, and embedded academic writing (research papers and thesis writing).

2. Faculty Development Programme (FDP)

No. of slots: 1

Tentative duration: 12 sessions spread over 4 weeks

Purpose: To strengthen teaching quality, pedagogy, supervision practices, and academic resources in agricultural economics.

3. Advanced / Specialised Training Programmes

No. of slots: 2

Tentative duration: 3–4 days

Purpose: To move from capacity building to capacity partnerships, and to form the basis for mentoring relationships and collaborative research on topical themes (eg. climate change, trade, markets, or other specialised research areas).

4. SAU Engagement ("Adopt an SAU" Initiative)

No. of slots: 1 SAU – 1 member

Purpose: To strengthen mentoring, training, and academic support for State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) by linking them more systematically to AERA's capacity-building efforts.

5. Guest Lectures

No. of slots: 2+2

Tentative duration: 1–1.30 hour session

Purpose: To broaden disciplinary perspectives and enrich dialogue through engagements with economists outside the NARES system (2 slots) and non-economists and interdisciplinary experts (2 slots).

6. Policy Engagement Sessions

No. of slots: 4

Tentative duration: 1.30–2.00 hour sessions

Purpose: To provide analytical and research-oriented interpretations of topical policy developments.

Tentative Calendar

The month-wise calendar of activities for 2026 is being shared to provide a broad planning framework. The schedule is indicative, and the final scheduling of activities will be determined after reviewing the EOIs received. Timelines may be adjusted depending on the nature of the accepted proposals and implementation feasibility.

Budget and Support

Proposers are encouraged, wherever feasible, to indicate any institutional or external support that can be mobilised for the proposed activity. AERA will provide facilitative support and, where required, some financial support for shortlisted proposals.

Selection Process

1. EOIs will be reviewed competitively.
2. Proposals will be shortlisted based on relevance, quality, feasibility, and alignment with AERA's objectives.
3. Selected proposals will be supported by AERA along with an agreed implementation framework.

Submission Format and Deadline

EOIs should be submitted using the attached common proposal template. EOIs should be submitted to aeraindia@gmail.com by 28th February 2026. Late submissions may be considered only if slots remain available.

Proposal Template

1. Activity Category (Tick one)

- ☐ Basic Training Programme
- ☐ Faculty Development Programme
- ☐ Advanced / Specialised Training Programme
- ☐ SAU Engagement
- ☐ Guest Lecture
- ☐ Policy Engagement Session

2. Proposer(s) and Institutional Affiliation(s)

- Name(s), Designation, Institution, Contact details
- Brief profile (2–3 lines)

3. Title of the Proposed Activity

4. Rationale of the Theme

5. Objectives and Target Group

6. Proposed Structure and Content

7. Expected Outputs and Follow-Through

8. Tentative Timeline

- Preferred month(s) or quarter, Duration, Flexibility, if any

9. Resource Requirements and Budget

- Indicative budget
- Any institutional or external support that can be mobilised
- Nature of AERA support sought

10. Additional Information (if any)