

National Academy of Veterinary Sciences Confers Fellowship to Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan

One-day interactive Consultation Meet of experts and other stakeholders was jointly organized by National Academy of Veterinary Sciences - India (NAVS-I) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal; Central Institute for Research on Cattle (CIRC), Meerut on 20th October, 2014 at NASC Complex, New Delhi.



On the occasion, the Honorary Fellowship of National Academy of Veterinary Sciences was conferred on Dr Balyan by President of the Academy. Dr Balyan has contributed significantly in the area of agriculture sector in general and livestock in particular. He has been incessantly working for the cause of conservation of Indigenous breeds of livestock which he feels are the treasure of our country.



Dr. KML Pathak, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR welcomed dignitaries, guests and participants and said, the interactive meet will provide a platform to suggest suitable changes in policies, legislation, institutions framework for technology development and capacity building.



Dr Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Food Processing Industries, while inaugurating one-day 'ICAR-NAVS Expert Consultation Meet on Strategies for Enhancing Milk Productivity of Indigenous Cattle' said, 'I am confident that with focused and mission mode approach we can rapidly revive our ever rich heritage, the Indian Cow.'



He further added, for this purpose, only the present Government has launched the Rashtriya Gokul Mission for improvement of indigenous cattle. Dr Balyan hoped that the project will yield rich dividends. He said, the Mission aims to conserve and develop indigenous breeds in a focused and scientific manner, for which breeding facilities will be set up for breeds with high genetic potential.

A well thought out cattle breeding policy which was in place 50 years ago which included selective breeding of indigenous milch cattle breeds in their breeding tracts and to use them for upgrading local cattle. However, the policy was not followed in letter and spirit and indiscriminate crossbreeding was done which has resulted in erosion and dilution of our rich germplasm of high yielding indigenous milch breeds,' said Dr Balyan.

Shri A.S. Thakur, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Government of India, in his address, briefed on various initiatives taken by the Government for improvement of milk productivity and conservation of indigenous cattle germplasm.



It is noted that recalling the advantages of indigenous cattle rearing in terms of its adaptability, disease resistance and milk attributes, etc. the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the 86th Foundation Day Celebration of ICAR on 29th July 2014, emphasized the need for its conservation and desired that all attempts be made for enhancing its milk productivity potential. Hence, as a follow up, to deliberate the issues concerning both improvement of milk productivity and conservation of indigenous cattle germplasm, scientific advancement made in the identified disciplines will be discussed and assessed to prepare a road-map for enhancing milk productivity of Indigenous cattle.