

NAVS (I)- Dr. R. K. Sharma Memorial Award for Excellence in Veterinary Extension Education

DESCRIPTION AND RULES

1. **Name of the Award:** NAVS(I) - Dr. R. K. Sharma Memorial Award for Excellence in Veterinary Extension Education
2. **Sponsorship:** The award has been instituted by Dr. Azad Kumar Kaushik, an internationally known immunologist on behalf of the Kaushik family in memory of his father and his life time contributions to the veterinary profession, especially Veterinary Extension Education. Dr. Rajendar Kanwar Sharma, retired as Professor and Head of the Department of Extension Education at the Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar. A donation of ten lakh rupees has been made to the Academy as the Corpus Money for the institution of the award. The interest generated from the corpus money (Fixed Deposit) would be utilized for the cash award. Additional monies, if any from the annual interest, i.e., total interest generated minus award monies, will be added back to the Corpus. Should an award not be made in a particular year for whatever reasons, the interest generated will form part of the corpus money strictly for award purposes. The award will be an annual feature.
3. **Background of the Award:** Dr. R. K. Sharma was the first Veterinarian in the country to develop the discipline of Veterinary Extension Education. In this process, he helped conceptualization and execution of the idea of 'Krishi Gyan Kendra' (KGK) in Haryana, initially a bridge between knowledge and its application that transformed veterinary and animal husbandry practices at grass roots. Such thinking was grounded in Dr. Sharma's decade-long experience as a field veterinarian where he realized the gaps in knowledge of farmers who had no formal education at the time. The concept of KGK was later adopted nationally as 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' (KVK) that formed the backbone of extension education leading to green and white revolutions in the country. He focused on continuing education, technology transfer and linking field problems to research laboratories for solving problems of the farming community. Apart from his academic and extension education activities, Dr. Sharma had a special interest in protection and welfare of indigenous cow breeds, and education of farmers for their economic growth. 'Dr. R. K. Sharma Memorial Award for Excellence in Veterinary Extension Education' is instituted in his memory and celebration of his lifetime contributions to the veterinary profession and the society.
4. **Objectives of the Award:** The award is aimed at recognizing excellence in all areas of veterinary extension education including teaching, research and field service (including but not limited to improving lives of people, innovative veterinary services and disease prevention, raising healthier livestock, wild life and livestock welfare, rural economic growth, biodefense, food safety and innovative solutions and application of technology) that has made a tangible impact nationally. These may

extend to training, Communication, Management and Organization relevant to rural development. The awardee would be a role model for the next generation of veterinary professionals.

5. Nature of the Award: The award is exclusively based on merit for veterinarians engaged in veterinary extension education activities, including teaching, research and field service. The award may be shared by two candidates, if circumstances so required.

6. Only one award will be presented annually. Each award will consist of a **Citation/Scroll and Cash Prize of Rs 41,000/- (Rupees Forty Thousand only)**. The controlling authority (NAVS (I)) will ensure that the award money does not deplete the corpus in the Fixed Deposit. The total award amount may be increased as appropriate every five years, if feasible, such that the total revised award amount never exceeds the interest accrued minus the "increased amount". In principle, it must not negatively affect the corpus money.

7. Eligibility Criteria: Veterinarians, holding Indian citizenship, possessing the following minimum mandatory qualifications are eligible for the award: -

(a) **Qualification:** Minimum BVSc/BVSc &AH degree from a recognized university.

(b) **Age limit:** Maximum 55 years as on 31st December of the year of award.

(c) **Experience:** Minimum 15 years in a university/college/government/NGO/industry

(d) **Qualifying Research/Field Work:**

i. All veterinarians who have worked with devotion for at least over a decade to bring home to farmers advanced technologies of practical value related to animal welfare (especially indigenous cow breeds), germ-plasm conservation, breeding, disease prevention and control, nutrition, housing and management, storage, transportation, food safety, and marketing of produce through educational efforts that results in tangible economic benefits.

ii. All veterinarians who have made a discovery or innovative research leading to immediate economic benefits to livestock owners. This may include graduate students at MVSc or PhD level whose research has made an economic impact.

iii. All veterinarians, administrators, and field workers who have developed innovative projects, programs or strategies for indigenous livestock development.

8. Process of Award

(a) Application Format

(i) Part - I: Declaration by the candidate, general information and specific information along with supporting Annexure(s).

(ii) Part - II: Score assessment sections including score card and a statement of interest

highlighting contributions by the candidate.

Note: Score-card for evaluation is placed at Annexure I.

(b) Judging Committee. The President, NAVS(I), in consultation with Vice- President and Secretary General will appoint a committee to evaluate eligibility and merit of the applicants based on attached score card. The Judging Committee will have total of five members. The composition will be as follows:

(i) Three members from the NAVS (I) Governing Council.

(ii) One eminent scientist (NAVS Fellow), who is not a GC member with high credibility and reputation, to be nominated by the President NAVS (I).

(iii) Dr. Azad K. Kaushik or his representative – Maj Gen Shri Kant SM,VSM (Retd)

(c) Actions by

(i) **The Applicants.** Applications for the award will be invited during the month of July of the award year. Prospective candidates for the award may apply on their own with appropriate recommendations by two NAVS (I) Fellows. The applications are to be made in 'hard copy' in the prescribed 'Application form', obtained from the office of NAVS (I), New Delhi or downloaded from its website (<http://www.navsindia.org/>). Applications will be accepted up to the end of August or a date specified in the advertisement announcing the award.

Note: For the first year of award, the applications can be accepted up to the date decided by NAVS (I) awards.

(ii) **The Award Committee.** The committee will screen the applications, identify outstanding candidates, prepare merit list with scores obtained by each applicant and submit the same to Secretary General. On receipt of merit list and evaluated applications, the Secretary General will ensure that proper procedure has been followed and submit the list to the President who will be the final authority for approval of the award.

Note: The decision of the Award Committee will be on merit and final. If none of the candidate scores the minimum 75% marks, the President will decide in consultation with Vice-President, Secretary General and Dr. Azad K. Kaushik whether the award should be given or not during that particular year.

9. Presentation

(a) Declaration of Award: The recipient of the award will be intimated in advance (through e-mail and mobile) so that he/she can plan travel accordingly. The details of the Awardee will also be uploaded on the Academy website (<http://www.navsindia.org/>). Intimation of the selected candidate will also be sent to Dr. Azad K. Kaushik by e-mail (Kaushik.azad@gmail.com)

(b) Presentation by the Awardee: The recipient is expected to make a presentation of his/her outstanding contributions that led to recognition through this award during one of the sessions at the NAVS convocation. He/ She may be invited to write an article for the annual NAVS (I) magazine/journal.

(c) Presentation Ceremony: The presentation of award will be made during NAVS (I) annual convocation. Before presentation of this award, a brief (~ 3minutes) about late Dr. R. K. Sharma will be read. This will be followed by a short brief (~ 2 minutes) recognizing the accomplishments of the Awardee. The Chief Guest/President of the Academy and Dr. Azad K. Kaushik shall jointly present the award. In the absence of Dr. Azad K. Kaushik or his representative, it shall be presented by the President of NAVS (I)/Chief Guest as may be deemed appropriate.

10. Award & Accommodation:

(a) Award: A candidate with highest score (not less than 75% marks) will be presented a Citation/Scroll along with the Cash Prize out of the interest generated from the Fixed Deposit corpus money donated by Dr. Azad K. Kaushik (as discussed under point 6).

(b) Accommodation: Arrangements for boarding, lodging and local transport during the convocation will be made with the attending delegates of convocation. The boarding, lodging and local transport for the awardee will be hosted by NAVS (I)/Organizers.