



Strengthening fodder seed production

Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) inaugurated a national workshop on Green Fodder Production Enhancement through Strengthening Fodder Seed Production & Marketing at Dr Kurien Auditorium, NDDB, Anand on 12 February 2018. Officials from milk unions/federations, seed processing plants of dairy cooperatives, IGFR, DADF and NDDB discussed on various issues to create a roadmap for increasing green fodder production.

Green fodder is an important and economic source of nutrient for livestock. Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt of India has reported 9.2 million hectares land under fodder cultivation and another 10.3 million hectare under permanent pasture & common grazing land. Therefore, there is a huge scope to increase yield & availability of green fodder significantly from the existing land under fodder cultivation through improved fodder production technologies available in the country. One of the important reasons of low green fodder yield in the country is the non-availability of certified /



quality seeds of newly notified varieties of fodder crops.

NDDB has supported in creation of required infrastructure of fodder seed production, processing, storage & marketing in 15 locations including 5 under National Dairy Plan-I. This infrastructure was established with dairy cooperatives in various parts of the country to produce different types of fodder seeds suiting to different agro-climatic conditions. The total production of fodder seeds by the dairy cooperatives is around 4000 MT and need to be upscaled to meet the growing requirement of quality fodder seeds, a critical input in increasing green fodder production and availability.

Presentations made during the workshop highlighted fodder scenario in India & strategies for upscaling fodder seeds production & marketing programmes in dairy coops; Enhancing livestock production through increased fodder availability; Importance & recent developments in seed coating technologies in fodder seeds; DADF schemes to support fodder seed production & marketing; Seed production technologies and distribution of fodder seeds at DCS level.

Strategies for production of quality bovine frozen semen



NDDB organised a workshop on Strategies for Production of Quality Bovine Frozen Semen during 15-16 March, 2018. Senior officials from semen stations being strengthened under NDP-I participated. Chairman, NDDB released a manual titled *Overview of NDDB R&D laboratory & Guidelines for sample collection and shipment for disease diagnosis*.