

Biotechnology to play significant role in enhancing income of livestock farmers: Chairman, NDDB



Biotechnology Research Centre, Gandhinagar; Dr Amrish Tyagi, Principal Scientist & Head, Animal Nutrition Division, NDRI, Karnal; Dr AK Verma, HoD, Animal Nutrition, IVRI, Bareilly; Dr Pankaj Suman, Scientist, NIAB, Hyderabad; Shri Sangram Chaudhary and Shri YY Patil, Executive Directors of NDDB and experts from NDDB attended the workshop.

The National Dairy Development Board and Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India organised a workshop on Enhancing Farmers' Income through Animal Husbandry using Biotechnological Tools at Dr Kurien auditorium, NDDB, Anand on 23 October 2018. This one-day workshop provided a platform to all the participants for deliberations on prioritizing areas of research in the field of biotechnology to create a road map for increasing income of livestock farmers.

Shri Dilip Rath, Chairman, NDDB; Dr SR Rao, Senior Advisor, Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India; Dr NC Patel, Vice Chancellor, Anand Agricultural University; Dr B Pattnaik, Director, DFMD, ICAR; Dr A K Rawat, Director, Dept of Biotechnology, Govt of India; Dr Neelesh Sharma, Associate Professor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu; Dr CG Joshi, Director, Gujarat

In his keynote address, Shri Dilip Rath said, "In India animal husbandry is a significant economic activity and on an average about 40% of the rural households are engaged in dairying. Income from livestock contributes 10-12% of the total income of our rural households. Due to exponential population growth and increased nutritional demand, the requirement for milk and animal products is steadily rising in India. Hence, it would be an opportunity to our farmers for adopting cost-effective production of quality commodities through livestock to accomplish the market demand, which inevitably multiply their income."

Shri Rath said that raising production of quality milk and other commodities solely through increasing the animal numbers would not be advisable in the long term, because of increasing constraints on availability of feed, fodder and other resources. It is therefore imperative, that the country focuses

