

on increasing the productivity by improving reproductive efficiencies, enhanced disease management and implementing scientific feeding of the bovine population to meet the growing demand of commodities. Biotechnology can play a significant role in enhancing productivity through the adoption of cutting edge technologies in animal breeding, health and nutrition.

Chairman, NDDB said that biotechnological tools are being used in animal husbandry for several years especially in (a) Animal breeding for artificial insemination, selective breeding, genomic selection, embryo transfer etc. (b) Animal health for diagnosis of diseases, vaccine production and (c) Animal nutrition for increasing digestibility, silage production etc. Due to cost involvement, complexity of technique, non-availability of trained manpower and infrastructure, advantages of biotechnological tools could not be fully utilized. Constant efforts are required for extensive use of biotechnology in animal husbandry particularly for scientific breeding especially considering the

economic traits, thermo-stable as well as therapeutic next generation vaccines, point-of-care tests for rapid disease diagnosis and increasing digestibility for better utilization of feed and fodder.

The theme for first technical session on animal health was poverty alleviation through control of infectious diseases of economic importance. The second session highlighted animal breeding with the theme - Increasing productivity through biotechnology revolution in the field of animal breeding. The third session on animal nutrition & management focussed on the theme - Biotechnology as the magic tool for enhancing productivity by an efficient animal nutrition and management programme. The workshop concluded with a panel discussion on exploring the scope of biotechnology in animal husbandry.

Specific areas of further collaboration and R&D works were identified in animal health, breeding and nutrition, which can be applicable to small-holder farming systems. Action points were recommended that will ultimately boost the income of dairy farmers.

