

One day National Workshop on Goat Farming

A one day National Workshop on EMERGING TRENDS FOR COMMERCIAL GOAT FARMING was held on 5th July, 2014 at Bharathidasan University Campus, Trichy organized by the Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University in association with Saraswathi Foundation for Rural Development and Training, Trichy.



The programme started with the welcome address by the Organizing Secretary, Dr. M.B.Viswanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Science.



Dr. M.B.Viswanathan, Organizing Secretary, welcoming the gathering

Dr. E.Ramganesha, Registrar i/c, Bharathidasan University, delivered presidential address who in his address stressed that India has a rich resource of livestock, which plays a vital role

in improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural masses. He also highlighted that, goat is a multi- functional animal which requires less investment but plays a significant role in the economy and nutrition of landless, small and marginal farmers in the country. He recalled his childhood days when Goats were conventionally reared by a large section of population either as a mono activity or a subsidiary activity in rural areas, however, in today's world, with lot of technological development goat farming has become a profitable enterprise. It is in this context that one has to acquire knowledge on goat Breeding and Rearing.

Dr. E. Ramganesha delivering the presidential address

A special address was given by Mr. S.Sureshkumar, Assistant General Manager (District Development), NABARD, Trichy who gave an overview of the various development activities taken by NABARD in the farming sector with special reference to the veterinary dispensaries that have been constructed by NABARD.



He elaborated about the subsidy schemes available for farmers in the livestock sector. He motivated the farmers to organize them as Farmer clubs which would enable them to get access to technology and other support services. He stressed the farmers to go for Producer Organization for meat processing and marketing for better returns. The vote of

thanks was delivered by Dr. J. Diraviam, Project Coordinator, Saraswathi Foundation for Rural Development and Training.

This was followed by the technical sessions by Scientists from TANUVAS. The first session was handled by Dr. M. Murugan, Director, IIPM, Hosur, who elaborated on the scientific feeding management and the importance of tree fodder in goat rearing. Dr. N. Murali, Professor and Head, Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri, Salem explained about the selection of breeds and their breeding management for better production in farm. He stressed that local breeds are well suited than exotic breeds. Dr. G. A. Balasubramaniam, Professor and Head, Department of Pathology, VC&RI, Namakkal explained about the diseases that commonly affects goats and their prevention methods for successful farming. Mr. K. R. Purushothaman, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, explained about fodder cultivation practices and the nutritive value in each of them.

Dr.S.Mohan, Vice President, Royal Sundaram Insurance Ltd. explained about the insurance schemes for goat and the requirements of making the insurance claim. He also elaborated on the premium rates, insurable age for goats, procedures for insuring and non eligible factors in insurance. The Agricultural officer, Indian Overseas Bank, Mr. K.Rajesh explained in detail about the requirement of banks for providing loan facility, procedures for the submission of DPR and the necessity for timely repayment. Dr. RM Lakshmanan, Consultant, Saraswathi Foundation also motivated the participants to take up goat farming in a profitable manner and suggested about the various market avenues including export opportunities.

Finally experience sharing speech was given by successful entrepreneurs Mr.Amarathan, Viralimalaiwho stressed the need for capacity building of labourers employed in the farm on the latest technologies of goat farming and labour management on scientific principles as labour management has been the major factor in determining the success of any commercial farm. Mr.Venkatarasa, Karur, a successful farmer suggested farmers to adopt Integrated Farming System, low cost methods for putting up the shed and ethnovet practices for disease management. The participants were taken on an exposure visit to a hitech commercial Goat Farm.

Visit to a hitech commercial Goat Farm

In thisworkshop over 150 participants consisting of farmers/entrepreneurs fromKarur, Trichy, Perambalur, Ariyalur, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur and other districts including from Karnataka got benefited.