

ICAR-NRC on Yak conducts Research-Extension-Farmers Interface meeting

The programme was held on 15th September 2023 at the ICAR-NRC on Yak, Nyukmadung Farm. The interface meeting focused on the scientific management of yaks with special highlight on the topic of utmost urgency Lumpy Skin Disease that has been reported in the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

The technical lecture on “Scientific Yak Management” was delivered by Dr. Girish Patel, S., Director, ICAR-NRC on Mithun, Medziphema, Nagaland. Dr. Patel in his lecture explained about the similarities in mithun and yaks. He stressed on the need for change in attitude when it comes to rearing yaks and to focus on taking it up as a business venture. He explained about the scientific feeding, breeding and health management of yak husbandry. The takeaways included the preparation of silage to better cope with the winter feed scarcity and use of Complete Feed Block, a technology that is being propagated by NRC on Yak. In the breeding aspect, Dr. Patel highlighted on the importance of bull rotation to curb inbreeding. For the health aspect, the importance of vaccination was explained to the farmers. He encouraged the farmers present to sell the meat and milk of yaks and go for its value addition to fetch better prices instead of selling off the live animals to make yak rearing more remunerative.

The lecture on, “Disease Management in Yaks with special reference to Lumpy Skin Disease” was delivered by Dr. V.K. Gupta, Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig, Rani, Assam. The speaker spoke on the different aspects of Lumpy Skin Disease - its effect and spread in the country, clinical signs and symptoms of the disease and the management practices that farmers need to adopt at the household level to keep the disease in abeyance.

Dr. Mihir Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NRC on Yak in his lecture on “Overview of yak husbandry” expounded on the technologies developed by the institute since its inception and how farmers can successfully keep the yaks in the semi-intensive system as followed at the NRC on Yak Nyukmadung farm. He encouraged the farmers present to take a tour of the farm to gain an overall insight into the management practices followed at the farm.

The Chief Guest of the meeting, Dr. Shiv Prasad Kimothi, Member, ASRB, DARE, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, in his speech pressed on the need to form Farmers Producers Organisation (FPOs) and exploit the organic potential of value added products from the yaks. The chief guest briefed the attendees on the use of Information technology tools like drones for promoting the well-being of the farmers of this country.

During this meeting, an Extension folder on “Lumpy Skin Disease for Yak rearers” was released for the benefit of the yak rearers in the yak rearing tracts of the country.

The meeting was attended by the Scientists, technical and other staff of the institute along with 40 livestock farmers from Nyukmadung village and surrounding areas.



Dr. Girish Patel, S., Director, ICAR- NRC on Mithun delivering the lecture on, "Scientific Yak Management"



Dr. V.K. Gupta, Director, ICAR-NRC on Pig delivering lecture on, "Disease Management in yaks with special reference to LSD"



Dr. Mihir Sarkar, Director, ICAR-NRC on Yak delivering lecture on, "An Overview of yak husbandry"



Release of Extension folder



Dr. S.P. Kimothi, Member ASRB addressing the house



Meeting attendees