

Supportive measures of ICAR-NRC on Yak, Dirang to the tribal livestock farmers of Ladakh

ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh conducted three awareness cum supportive programmes on scientific yak husbandry in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry, UT of Ladakh during 8th to 11th November, 2023 conducted at Hanlay and Khaltse in Leh district and Bodhkharboo in Kargil district of the Union Territory. A total of 300 tribal livestock farmers mostly dependent on yak and yak-cattle hybrids herding for their livelihood were benefitted through these programmes. The farmers were educated on the fodder cultivation and conservation, scientific breeding and value addition of animal produce for improving their earnings. Dr. Mohd Iqbal Director Animal, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Leh Dr Stanzin Ragbais and other Officials including the yak herder of Changthang region appreciated and lauded the Director Dr Mihir Sarkar and his team from ICAR-NRCY to take such initiatives for the promotion of yak husbandry in this difficult cold arid plateau during the programme conducted in Hanlay village situated at an elevation of 15700 feet above msl in Nyoma block of Leh district. Dr. Iqbal in his deliberation encouraged the participants to follow the scientific rearing and management practices, and also opt yak fibre processing technologies of the Institute like Chawar making for optimum utilization of the mostly wasted yak fibre for their regular income generation. Shri Rigzin, a yak farmer from Demchok raised his concern on the predation of yak by wild animals and urged for the government interventions and incentives to shield their animals against mishaps and other uncertainties. Shri Padma Dorje, Councillor, Bodhkharboo, Dr. Gulzar Hussain, Livestock Development Officer, Kargil and Dr Ashiq for Animal Husbandry Department Kargil graced the another STC programme conducted in Bodhkharboo, wherein 100 yak and yak-cattle hybrids rearers were benefitted through the awareness on scientific management of yak and demonstration on chawar making by the institute scientists. Hon'ble Chief Executive Councilor, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Shri Tashi Gyalson, graced the concluding programme on 11th November, 2023 at Khaltse in Leh district. He expressed his gratitude to the Institute for its sincere efforts for promotion of yak rearing in Ladakh for scientific and supportive inputs. He appealed to the participating farmers to opt and promote organic farming like yak herding in the region and also assured them for assisting in skill development on yak product processing at ICAR-NRC on Yak in collaboration with Animal husbandry department of the UT. The farmers were also motivated to adopt the Institutes' artificial insemination and other fodder conservation technologies for overall improvement of yak husbandry in Ladakh.

At the end of each programme, all the participating tribal farmers were provided the supportive measures like tent/tarpaulin, gumboots, solar light, rain coat, concentrate yak feed, chelated mineral mixtures and basic veterinary medicines (anthelmintics, anti-diarrhoeals and wound healers) under the Schedule Tribe Component (STC) of the institute. These programmes were coordinated by Dr. D. Medhi

and Dr. V. Paul, Principal Scientists of ICAR-NRCY in collaboration with the officials and staffs of the Department of Animal Husbandry, UT of Ladakh.

