

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL NUTRITION

Research on Animal Nutrition has been taken up by a number of Research Institutes and Universities in India. While some of the research has yielded encouraging results, review and feedback received through a large number of dairy animal development centres of BAIF Development Research Foundation, a reputed Civil Society Organisation working in sustainable rural development through dairy cattle development in 13 states across the country, reveal that adoption of recommendations and technologies by small and marginal farmers has been poor. In most cases, dairy animals are underfed and hence they cannot produce optimum milk. Shortage of feed and fodder has also been reported for more than 5 decades. Shortage of green fodder is even more acute and in spite of efforts to promote green fodder production, the area under fodder crops has remained stagnant at 4% since many decades.

The livestock development programme of BAIF is being implemented in 95,000 villages involving more than 6 million resource poor families as a source of livelihood. To strengthen this sector, BAIF has introduced various cutting edge technologies to improve the performance of cow and buffalo breeds for enhancing the milk production. Productive and reproductive performance of animals is affected by poor nutritional status to a great extent. Lack of fodder production technologies at field level have led to shortage of availability of quality green fodder. BAIF Scientists are engaged in research to minimise the gap between demand and supply of feed and fodder. Some of the encouraging results are economisation of the cost of feeding and providing good quality fodder to improve productivity of livestock. A review of BAIF's Dairy Animal Development programme clearly indicated a wide variation in the performance of crossbreds produced which can be largely attributed to feeding of animals.

Realising the need to improve the feed resources and practices of dairy animals to ensure healthy animals which can fetch better income for small and marginal farmers, BAIF is organising a National Workshop on **“Improving Feed Resources and Feeding of Dairy Animals through Integrated and Innovative Approaches”** on **May 2-3, 2017 at BAIF, Urulikanchan and Pune.**

Objectives:

The workshop aims at reviewing the existing feeding strategies and technologies for field adoption and fodder development and explore linkages between research and developmental institutions for sustainable livestock development. It is envisaged to formulate an effective strategy to improve feed resources and ensure feeding of dairy animals using a sustainable and environment-friendly approach.

Technical Sessions:

The technical sessions will focus on existing nutritional deficiencies and identify various methodologies to ensure nutritional security with focus on small holder production systems.

- **Technical Session I:** Strategic supplementation of limiting nutrients based on existing feeding practices in different agro climatic zones
- **Technical Session II:** Ready to adopt technologies under small holder production system
- **Technical Session III:** Emerging interventions in animal feed management for enhancing productivity
- **Technical Session IV:** Extension strategies for forward and backward linkages
- **Technical Session V:** Fodder production and utilization at farm gate level.

This two-day workshop will be useful for researchers, field practitioners and development specialists. Scientists from reputed research institutions such as Indian Veterinary Research Institute, NIANP, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), National Dairy Research Institute, National Research Centre on Agroforestry, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Science University, BAIF research and extension officers will be participating in this workshop.

The workshop is expected to have a direct impact on the livestock development programme of BAIF and future strategic planning for research and development.