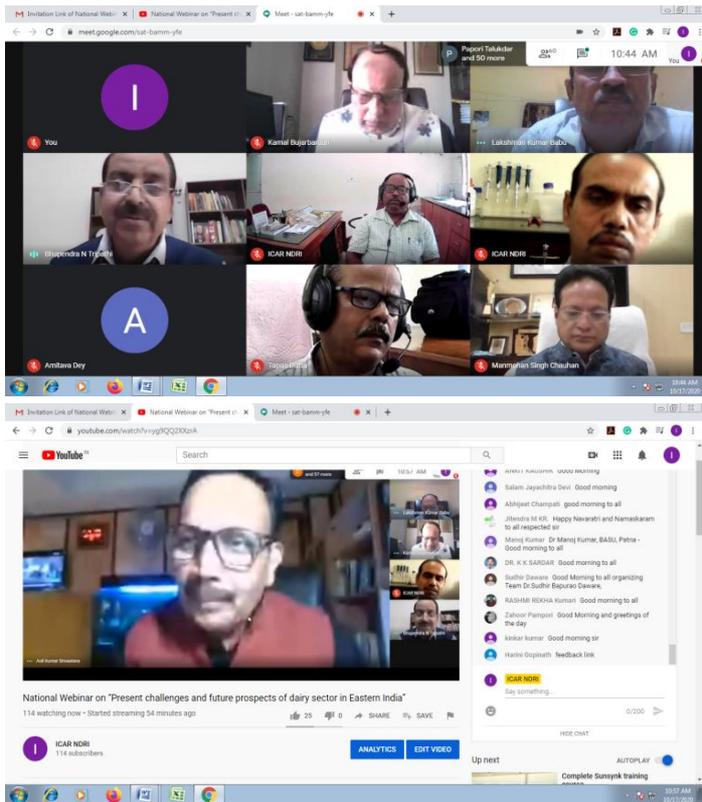


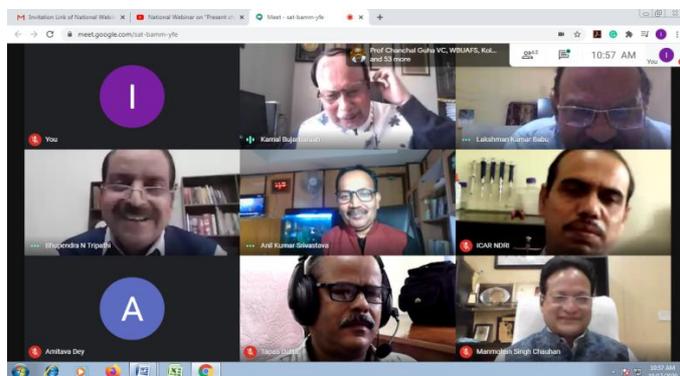
**ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute
Eastern Regional Station, Kalyani-741235 West Bengal**

Webinar on 'Present Challenges and Future Prospects of Dairy Sector in Eastern India'

ERS of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute Organized a Webinar on 'Present Challenges and Future Prospects of Dairy Sector in Eastern India' on 17th October 2020. Eastern and North



Eastern regions of India lacks good quality dairy cattle breeds, have inadequate veterinary care infrastructure, untrained manpower and acute shortage of good quality feed and fodders. A significant proportion of landless laborers, small and marginal farmers of the region have access to dairying as an alternative but procurement of the fresh milk, timely chilling and processing is the most challenging element for the dairy sector. Through the webinar, the country's eminent Scientists, Researchers, Educationists, Veterinarians, Administrators, Cooperatives, Bankers, Policy makers and various Government and Non-government agencies was brought to a common platform to formulate guidelines for development of dairy sector in the region. In this webinar 960 delegates registered for participation.



Dr. M.K. Ghosh, Head, ERS of ICAR-NDRI, Kalyani welcome all dignitaries and delegates of the webinar. He put forth several points to ponder during the webinar. Dr. M.S. Chauhan, Director, NDRI in his presidential address mentioned the importance of improvement of indigenous cattle rather than crossbred cattle and buffalo

for the overall development of dairy sector in eastern and north eastern region of India. He also emphasized the importance of value addition of milk for remunerative price which can generate livelihood of millions of farmers residing in this region.

Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR was the chief guest of the programme and shared his concern for low penetration of Artificial Insemination in eastern and North Eastern India. He also emphasized that only 4.5 percent of the arable land is under forage crop production which may not be sufficient to sustain huge livestock population in India. He stressed on putting forward policy reforms in securing sustainable livelihood in the region through dairy farming and he hoped that economics scientists from ICAR-NDRI and ICAR-IVRI can play significant role in coming up with suitable policy recommendation by analyzing the past data.

Dr. K. M. Bujarbaruah, in his address as Chief Guest of the webinar emphasized that, technology alone cannot solve all the problems of the region but to overcome the problems in dairy sector of the region 'technology plus' approach should be taken. Suitable Policy framework, skill development of stake holders and proper support system mechanism for the dairy farmers can enhance the production and productivity of milk in eastern India. He also stress that possibility of introduction of MSP in milk should be revisited. Those projects which were already going on like AICRP on maize should be utilized for acute quality fodder shortage in North Eastern India. He opined that, one **multi Institutional project under the leadership of NDRI** may be formulated to solve the issues pertaining to augmenting milk production in Eastern and North-Eastern region.

Dr. A. K. Srivastava, Member, Agricultural Scientist Recruitment Board, New Delhi & President of NADS(I) in his keynote address, pointed out inadequate cold chain facility, poor network of milk cooperatives, old milk processing plants, lack of quality milk production system, slow diffusion of new technologies, poor linkage between farmers and research institutes are some of the major challenges of dairy sector in Eastern and North- Eastern region. He concluded that, the future of dairy sector in Eastern India can be improved by providing attention to small holder dairy farmers, breed improvement, value addition, modernization of dairy infrastructure, bridging gap of fodder as well as semen production and requirements etc.

Dr. Chanchal Guha, VC, WBUAFS, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, VC, Bihar Animal Science University, Dr. T.K. Dutta, PS; Former Head, ICAR- NDRI, ERS, Dr. Nazrul Haque, Director, ICAR- NRC on Mithun, Prof. Nilotpal Ghosh, Dean, F/O Veterinary & Animal Sciences, WBUAFS, Dr. L.K. Babu, Dean, College Of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Bhubaneswar, Dr. Lalnuntluangi Hmar, Dean, College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Selesih, Aizawl, Dr. B.N. Saikia, Dean, F/O Veterinary Science, Assam Agriculture University, Dr. Dora Saha, Team Leader, NDDB, Kolkata, Dr. M.S. Kundu, Director (Extn. Edu.), RPCAU, Dr. Asitava Sur, VPO, Keventers Agro Ltd, Dr. K. P. Ramesha, PS & Head, ICAR- NDRI, SRS, Dr. S. M. Deb, PS& Head, AG&B Division, ICAR- NDRI, Karnal gave thought provoking issues

during the webinar. All the attendees provided their comments on the issue and highly praised the deliberations happened in the webinar.