

Southern Regional Station of ICAR-NDRI, Bengaluru organized a Farmers Training on “Scientific Management of Malnad Gidda cattle” and “Malnad Gidda Hubba (Cattle Show)” and health camp at Honnavar, Uttara Karnataka on 17th March 2019

A farmers training programme on “Scientific Management of Malnad Gidda cattle” and a “Malnad Gidda *Hubba* (Cattle Show) and health camp was organized by Southern Regional Station of ICAR-NDRI, Bengaluru at Honnavar, Uttara Karnataka on 17th March 2019 under **KLDA-MOEF&CC funded project on “Proteo-Genomic approach to elucidate productive & reproductive performance of Malnad Gidda, Deoni & Hallikar breeds of cattle”**. A total of 200 Malnad Gidda farmers including NGO’s, Gousala, press and media personnel attended the training programme. The programme started in the morning with an inaugural function followed by lectures delivered by experts. Especially, Dr. K. P. Ramesha, organizer and PI of this project delivered lecture on importance of indigenous breeds of Karnataka, in particular about Malnad Gidda cattle and role of SRS, ICAR-NDRI for improvement of this breed through research and extension activities. In addition, various topics on Care and management of Malnad Gidda cattle, Common toxicity problems and their managements in Malnad Gidda cattle, Ethno veterinary practices in Malnad Gidda cattle, Reproductive disorder management and fertility augmentation techniques were covered by experts form Veterinary College, Shimoga and Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Govt. of Karnataka. A separate farmer and experts interaction session was also held where in farmers queries were answered.

Parallel to the programme, Malnad Gidda Hubba (Cattle Show) cum health camp was organized. Farmers from various villages in and around Honnavar brought their Malnad Gidda cattle for the show. A total of about 120 Malnad Gidda cattle including heifer, cow, calves and breeding bulls were presented for the show by the farmers. The cattle judging committee evaluated and selected best three Malnad Gidda cows and bulls for the award/prize. During the mela, Scientists & Co-Investigators of the project Dr. S. Jeyakumar and Dr. A. Manimaran, Conveners of the programme conducted cattle health camp in association with Veterinarians from Animal Husbandry & Vety Services Dept., Govt. of Karnataka, in which animals were treated for various ailments and farmers were supplied with veterinary medicines, deworming agents, and mineral mixture. In addition, to promote green fodder cultivation, a total of about 2,200 fodder stem cuttings were distributed to farmers and were imparted the technical know-how on fodder cultivation. In the mela, various stalls kept by farmers, NGO’s displayed indigenous cow milk and milk products, and produces made out of cow dung and urine etc.

In the evening, Sri Sri Sri Raghaveshwara Bharathi Mahaswamiji of Ramachandrapura Math, Hosanagara, Shimoga District, 700 farmers, press and media personnel and other dignitaries participated in the valedictory function. Dr.K.P.Ramesha, Organizing Secretary of the programme and PI of the project welcomed and felicitated the Chief Guest of the function and addressed the gathering. Later, Swami ji released publications on Indigenous cattle and A1 vs A2 milk and honoured various Malnad Gidda farmers and prize winners for their interest and devotion in Malnad Gidda cattle rearing, conservation and improvement. In addition, Swami ji felicitated the organizers of the programme. In his address, he stressed the importance of Malnad Gidda cattle rearing, their socio-economic role, quality of milk it produces. Swami ji, appreciated the efforts of Dr. K.P. Ramesha and his team of Scientists from SRS of ICAR-NDRI for their significant effort for recognition of Malnad Gidda cattle as a listed cattle breed of our country and noted their contribution for conservation and improvement.

Glimpses of the Farmers training, Cattle Show and Health Camp of Malnad Gidda cattle at Honnavar, Uttara Karnataka on 17th March 2019

