Organised Training on “Scientific Goat Farming” at Kalyani Campus

A three-day training programme on “Scientific Goat Farming” was organised by Eastern Regional Station, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata at Kalyani campus from 28-30 November, 2019 where an elite flock of Black Bengal goat is being maintained. A total of thirty-five (35) trainees, mostly unemployed youths, progressive farmers and entrepreneurs from different districts of West Bengal attended the training. The main focus of the programme was to give hands-on practical exposure to trainees on scientific methods of goat rearing, besides imparting knowledge covering breeding, housing and management, reproduction, nutritional and disease aspects.

The programme started with welcome address by Dr U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist and In-charge, Training, who briefed the participants about the objectives of the programme and importance of goat rearing in rural economy of India as a whole and West Bengal in particular. During his address, Dr Bandyopadhyay appraised the trainees on “Importance of Vaccination and Biosecurity Management in Goat” and stressed upon the need to follow vaccination schedule to prevent major killer diseases and
sufferings often associated with animals. On the occasion, a training Manual on “Scientific Goat Farming”, prepared in vernacular language by the scientists of the Regional Station, was distributed among the trainees.

Dr Syamal Naskar, Principal Scientist and In-charge, Kalyani Farm elaborated on “Housing and General Management Practices in Rearing of Goat”. During the deliberation, Dr Naskar covered low cost housing, routine goat farm management practices, care and management of pregnant does, new born kids, bucks and yearlings. Speaking on the occasion, Dr T. K. Biswas, Senior Scientist discussed on “Breed types and Breeding of Goat” and advised the participants to breed goat through selection method for better productivity. Dr R. Bhar, Principal Scientist vividly discussed on “Integrated feeds and feeding practices in Black Bengal Goat” and during the discourse stressed upon the usefulness of locally available low cost conventional and non-conventional feedstuffs. With focus to enhance farm income and improve livelihood security, Dr P. K. Nanda, Principal Scientist in his address urged the participants to integrate goat with fish farming to reap more benefits through maximum utilisation of land and water resources.
Diseases, notably of bacterial, viral and parasitic origins, are mainly responsible for affecting the production, productivity and marketing of livestock and goat is no exception to this. To address the animal health issues, Dr P. S. Banerjee, Station In-charge discussed on “Management Strategies to Prevent and Control Common Parasitic Diseases in Goat” whereas Dr. Subhasish Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist delivered a talk on “Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants and their Control”. The trainees were also appraised about the importance of deworming, diagnosis and control of gastrointestinal parasitic diseases in small ruminants. In his deliberation, Dr S. C. Das, Principal Scientist discussed on “Zoonotic Diseases in Goat and their Control”. During the programme, Dr Samiran Bandyopadhyay, Senior Scientist briefed the trainees on “Common Diseases of Goat and their
Management” under field conditions. Dr Bandyopadhyay also highlighted the issue of prudent use of antibiotics resulting in development of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the way forward to cope up with the burgeoning problem. Dr P. Dandapat, Principal Scientist delivered a talk on “Bacterial Diseases in Goat and their Control”. During the discussion, he elaborately discussed the signs and symptoms of important bacterial diseases like brucellosis, anthrax, mastitis, haemorrhagic septicemia, metabolic and other diseases while Dr D. Mondal, Principal Scientist elaborated on “Goat Kid Mortality: Prevention and Control”. Dr B. Mondal, Principal Scientist spoke on “Viral diseases of Goat and their Prevention”. The trainees were also explained at length about common but important viral diseases viz. Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Orf and goat pox.

Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientist delivered a talk on “Various Reproductive Disorders in Goats” and during his interaction highlighted sterility and infertility problems, important reproductive disorders resulting in abortion, retention of placenta, stillbirth, dystocia etc. in goat. Dr A. K. Das, Senior Scientist discussed on “Prospects of Goat Meat Value Chain” as an avenue to enhance farmers’ income” in an elaborative way. During his deliberation, he stressed upon the outcomes of value chain in terms of its contribution to
house-hold income, well-being and employment generating opportunities.

Trainees were given hands-on practical exposure on handling, care and management of pregnant does, new born kids, bucks and yearlings, hoof trimming and method of castration by Dr. S. Naskar, Principal Scientist and Farm In-charge in a detailed way. During this period, Dr Naskar also demonstrated the procedure of recording of data, identification of animals by tagging methods to the trainees as well.

On completion of the training, a group discussion was held. Feedback from trainees on usefulness of the programme was taken followed by distribution of certificates. At the end of the programme, vote of thanks was proposed by Dr U. K. Bandyopadhyay, In-charge (training) and Co-ordinator of the programme. The trainees were found to be highly motivated after acquiring knowledge on “Scientific Goat Farming” and vowed to take up goat farming to improve their socio-economic conditions.