Eastern Regional Station, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata Organised Training on “Scientific Goat Farming” at Kalyani Campus from 25th to 27th March, 2019

Eastern Regional Station, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata organized a three-day farmers’ training on “Scientific Goat Farming” from 25th to 27th March, 2019 at its Kalyani farm, where an elite flock of Black Bengal goat is being maintained. The training programme was organised with focus on on-farm training, besides hands-on practical exposure to trainees on scientific methods of goat rearing. A total of seventeen (17) beneficiaries, mostly progressive farmers and unemployed youths, from five different districts of West Bengal viz. Nadia, South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Kolkata and North 24 Parganas, registered for and participated in the programme. At the outset, the programme started with address by Dr Uttam Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist and In-charge, Training, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata who welcomed the participants and briefed them about the objectives and importance of goat rearing in rural economy of India as a whole and West Bengal in particular. The inaugural session was followed by imparting theoretical knowledge to trainees covering breeding, housing and management, reproduction, nutritional and disease aspects during goat rearing. Dr S. Naskar, Principal Scientist and In-charge, Kalyani Farm
delivered a talk on “Importance of Goat Rearing in Rural Economy” in terms of employment generation, nutritional security so as to improve socio-economic conditions of rural poor. The aspects of routine goat farm management practices, care and management of pregnant does, new born kids, bucks and yearlings were also dealt by him. Dr Tapas Kumar Biswas, Scientist discussed on “Breed types and Breeding of Goat”. He advised the participants to breed goat through selection method for better productivity. Dr R. Bhar, Principal Scientist discussed on nutritional aspects and during his interaction with trainees covered feeds and feeding practices as well as usefulness of locally available conventional and non-conventional feedstuffs for Black Bengal goats.

During the programme, Dr. Subhasish Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist appraised the trainees on the importance of deworming and delivered a talk on “Gastro-intestinal Nematodes in Small Ruminants and their Control” whereas Dr P. S. Banerjee, Station In-charge discussed on “Management Strategies to Prevent and Control Common Parasitic Diseases in Goat” and precautionary measures to be taken under field conditions.

During the training, emphasis was also given to discuss the signs and symptoms of important bacterial diseases like Brucellosis, Anthrax, Mastitis, Haemorrhagic Septicemia, metabolic and other diseases, including Pneumonia.
Dr Samiran Bandyopadhyay, Senior Scientist of the Regional Station briefed the trainees on “Common Diseases of Goat and their management” under field conditions. Dr P. Dandapat, Principal Scientist delivered a talk on “Bacterial Diseases in Goat and their Control”. Dr S. C. Das, Principal Scientist discussed on “Zoonotic Diseases in Goat and their Control” whereas Dr D. Mondal, Principal Scientist elaborated on “Goat Kid Mortality: Prevention and Control”. Dr B. Mondal, Principal Scientist “Viral diseases of Goat and their Prevention”. During his deliberation, the trainees were explained about viral diseases viz. Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Orf and goat pox at length.

Dr. G. K. Das, Principal Scientist gave an overview on “Various Reproductive Disorders in Goats” Dr. Das highlighted the basic process of reproduction and infertility problems of goat, important reproductive disorders resulting in abortion, retention of placenta, stillbirth, dystocia etc. Dr B. C. Das, Principal Scientist focussed on “Low Cost Housing” and “Stress Management in Goats”, particularly during summer season. Dr A. K. Das, Senior Scientist in an elaborative way discussed the “Prospects of Goat Meat Value Chain” as an avenue to enhance farmers’ income. During his deliberation, Dr U. K. Bandyopadhyay, Principal Scientist appraised
the trainees on the “Importance of Vaccination and Biosecurity Management in Goat”. With focus to enhance farm income and improve livelihood security, Dr P. K. Nanda, Principal Scientist urged the participants to venture into “Integrated Goat-cum-Fish Farming” to reap more benefits through maximum utilisation of land and water resources.

Trainees were given hands-on practical exposure on handling, care and management of pregnant does, newborn kids, bucks and yearlings, hoof trimming and method of castration by Drs. Syamal Naskar and T. K. Biswas of ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata in a detailed way. Recording of data, Identification of animals by tagging methods were also demonstrated to the trainees as well.

On completion of the programme, a group discussion was held wherein queries by farmers on management and health issues of livestock were duly addressed. Feedback on usefulness of the programme was also taken followed by distribution of certificates to the trainees by the Station, In-charge, ERS, ICAR-IVRI, Kolkata. The trainees were found to be highly motivated after acquiring knowledge on “Scientific Goat Farming” and vowed to set up goat farm to improve their socio-economic conditions.