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ICAR-CIRG Newsletter

भा.कृ.अ.प. - केन्द्रीय बकरी अनुसंधान संस्थान
ICAR- Central Institute for Research on Goats

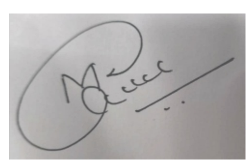
From The Director's Desk

CIRGMATHURA
GoatREsindia
youtube.com/channel/uc2zogtuPHAghm_0f8flWw7UQ

Greetings to all members of the goat fraternity and allied stakeholders!

The second half of 2024 was a vibrant chapter in the journey of ICAR-CIRG, marked by scientific vigor, impactful outreach, strategic collaborations, and renewed dedication to the goat farming community. With immense pride and satisfaction, I take this opportunity to reflect on the remarkable progress and achievements that underscore our collective mission—uplifting livelihoods through excellence in goat research and innovation. We began the period by celebrating the 45th Foundation Day of our institute on July 12, 2024, a momentous occasion that brought together eminent scientists, policy makers, and stakeholders. The presence of Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, along with other dignitaries, added great prestige to the event. The release of our annual report, policy documents, and the launch of DPR management software were highlights, underscoring our commitment to digital transformation and policy-driven research. The institute hosted several landmark events, including the World Goat Day celebrations on August 21, graced by Hon'ble Union Minister of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel. His address reaffirmed the role of goat farming in national development and food security. We also held the 30th Research Advisory Committee meeting and the first Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) meeting reflecting our continual emphasis on quality research governance and future roadmap planning. One of the most notable milestones was the organization of the Bakri Mahakumbh / National Goat Conclave on November 18-19, supported by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India. A national Goat Fair and Agro-industrial exhibition “Bakri Mahakumbh” was the vital gathering point for more than 3000 progressive goat farmers, entrepreneurs , industry personnel, innovator researchers, policy makers, veterinary officer for collaboration and sharing of expertise , emerging technologies, policy frameworks and market strategies which will have the potential to transform the sector. The presence of multiple Union and State ministers, along with top ICAR officials, signified the importance of goat husbandry at both policy and grassroots levels. Collaborations continued to be a strategic focus. Officers from the Bihar Animal and Fisheries Resources Department visited the institute to explore joint initiatives including goat semen freezing and AI in Black Bengal goats, laying the groundwork for future MOUs and capacity building. We also engaged in productive training programs such as our online collaboration with MANAGE Hyderabad on progressive goat production technologies. At the research front, our work continues across over 40 ongoing projects, addressing domains like gene editing, herbal products, diagnostic kits, methane mitigation, reverse vaccinology and CRISPR applications. These innovations are aimed at making goat farming more resilient, productive, and profitable. The institute also remains steadfast in empowering SC/ST and women farmers, ensuring that development is inclusive and equitable. Our presence at events like the International Agriculture & Horti Expo 2024 at Pragati Maidan reinforced our commitment to farmer outreach and technology dissemination. From policy-level dialogue to grassroots training, ICAR- CIRG remains at the forefront of every initiative that strengthens goat farming in India. I extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated scientists, staff, and all stakeholders for their tireless efforts. Your commitment is the cornerstone of every success story that emerges from CIRG. Let us continue our journey with even greater vigor, embracing innovation and inclusivity to ensure that goat farming remains a cornerstone of rural prosperity in India and beyond.

with best wishes for the coming year,



(Manish K. Chatli)

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Escherichia coli-induced mastitis in goats

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A major problem in goat husbandry is mastitis, an inflammatory disease of the mammary gland that compromises animal health and lowers milk production, resulting in large financial losses. *Escherichia coli*, a facultative anaerobic, Gram-negative bacterium, are a prominent pathogen among the several etiological agents and is especially linked to environmental mastitis. Typically, factors such as udder injuries, contaminated bedding, milking equipment, or inadequate hygiene practices allow *E. coli* to enter the mammary gland through the teat canal. Goats are susceptible to infection when they are exposed to the environment and have immunosuppression or trauma. *E. coli* mastitis is more intermittent than infectious mastitis and frequently occurs during times of elevated environmental pollution. The clinical manifestation of *E. coli* mastitis is variable, ranging from mild, localized inflammation to acute systemic illness. Affected goats may exhibit udder swelling, hyperemia, pain, and sudden alterations in milk appearance, including serous, watery, or hemorrhagic secretions. Systemic signs, such as pyrexia, anorexia, dehydration, and lethargy, are indicative of endotoxemia in severe cases. In extreme conditions, the infection can lead to septic shock and mortality. Diagnosis is based on a combination of clinical examination, milk analysis, and bacteriological culture.

The California Mastitis Test (CMT) remains a useful field tool for detecting elevated somatic cell counts indicative of subclinical infections; however, definitive identification requires microbiological confirmation through culture and biochemical characterization of isolates. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) assays targeting *E. coli* specific genes offer advanced diagnostic precision in research settings. Pathogenesis involves the rapid proliferation of *E. coli* within the mammary tissue, leading to the release of lipopolysaccharides (endotoxins), which trigger an exaggerated host immune response. The resulting cytokine storm causes vascular permeability, edema, tissue necrosis, and impaired milk synthesis.

Damage is often compounded by neutrophil infiltration and oxidative stress, severely compromising udder integrity. Therapeutic management includes prompt administration of systemic and intramammary broad-spectrum antibiotics, such as ceftiofur, amoxicillin-clavulanicacid, or potentiated sulfonamides, based on antimicrobial susceptibility testing. Supportive therapy with intravenous fluids, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and anti-endotoxic agents is crucial in mitigating systemic effects. Prevention strategies emphasize environmental control, rigorous hygiene during milking, regular monitoring of udder health, and maintenance of animal immunity through optimal nutrition and stress reduction. Although vaccines against *E. coli* mastitis have shown promise in bovine models, their application in goats remains limited and requires further investigation. In conclusion, *Escherichia coli* mastitis in goats represents a multifactorial disease driven by environmental exposure, bacterial virulence, and host susceptibility.

A comprehensive approach encompassing early detection, effective treatment, and stringent preventive measures is pivotal in minimizing the impact of this disease on dairy goat production.

Millet stovers based complete pellet feed for goats

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Millet stovers (MS) are a crucial source of dry fodder for livestock, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions of India. While they provide bulk and satiety to animals, they do not offer enough energy and protein to meet the animals requirements for optimal productivity. Therefore, in addition to millet stovers, supplements such as leguminous fodder like Berseem and cowpea, grains, oil cakes, and concentrate mixtures should be provided to meet the nutrient needs of the animals. Balancing millet stovers with other nutritious ingredients can enhance the utilization of these feed resources and optimize the productivity of animals, especially Cattle,buffalo and goats in arid and semi-arid regions.In the northwestern arid and semi-arid regions of India, as well as states with low rainfall such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka, where there is a significant population of goats, a millet stovers-based complete pellet feed can be effectively utilized for maximum productivity.

According to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, the total millet grain production in FY 2024 is estimated at 15.38 million metric tons. With a grain to stovers ratio of around 1.8, the country produces a substantial amount (27.68 million tons) of millet stovers with pearl millet and sorghum stovers accounting for the majority (about 85%).

A complete pellet feed based on pearl millet and sorghum stovers was developed and evaluated at the ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Goats in Mathura. These pellets can be prepared by mixing millet stovers biomass with concentrate mixture feed ingredients and using a pellet-making machine. The pearl millet and sorghum stovers-based pellets can be fed to lactating and growing goats. The intake of the formulated millet-based complete pellet was found to be 4.5-5.0% of body weight for lactating goats and 4-4.5% for growing Barbari goats. These complete pellets provide all the necessary nutrients for the goats, with only additional water required.This complete pellet feed is ideal for goats raised in a stall-fed or intensive production system. The quantity of the complete pellet feed can be reduced if additional green fodder or grazing is provided to the animals.

Yeast-treated paddy husk: An unconventional feed for goats

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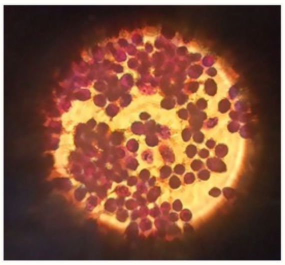
Currently, India reports a net deficiency of 35.6% in green fodder, 10.95% in dry fodder, and 44% in concentrate feed materials (IGFRI Vision, 2050). By 2050, at the current rate of expansion in forage supplies, there will be an 18.4% deficit in green fodder and a 13.2% shortfall in dry fodder. The use of non-conventional feed resources may be the solution to feed and fodder shortages. Environmentally, utilizing agro-industrial byproducts in small ruminant diets is a sustainable practice that helps reduce waste by recycling materials that would otherwise contribute to environmental pollution.

India was the world's second-largest rice producer in 2017, having produced 109.7 million tons of paddy. Traditionally, paddy husk has been a by-product of winnowing in conventional agriculture. However, in modern milling processes, paddy husk has become a part of the milling by-product. During rice milling, for every 100 kg of paddy processed, approximately 72-75 kg of polished rice, 20 kg of rice husk, 5-8 kg of bran, and broken rice are produced. With India producing over 120 million tonnes of rice annually, this amounts to around 24 million tonnes of rice husk per year. Normally, paddy husk is either used as bedding material for poultry or converted to manure. Scientifically, paddy husk can be used as a lignocellulosic base in biotechnology for the feed industry, and supporting circular economy strategies by repurposing agricultural waste as animal feed can be implemented.Since rice husks have high cellulose content and could partially replace conventional roughage for ruminants, methods have been suggested by animal nutrition researchers to enhance the nutritive and feeding value of low-quality paddy husk.

One such method is treating paddy husk with live microbial culture and yeast. Yeast culture is rich in B-vitamins, enzymes, and other growth-promoting factors, leading to better feed efficiency and improved weight gain by optimizing gut microflora and enhancing immune responses. By enriching paddy husk with yeast through solid-state fermentation, a higher nutritive value can be achieved. Preliminary work showed that after 24 hours of solid-state fermentation with paddy husk as a substrate enriched by yeast colony inoculum, the protein value increased by 70.96%, mainly due to yeast biomass growth, while the fiber value decreased by 11.82%, facilitating improved digestibility, increased feed intake, and better nutrient utilization. The study also found that the crude protein content of rice bran ranged from 12-14%, untreated paddy husk was around 8-9%, and after enrichment with yeast, the crude protein content was around 11-12%.The study concluded that yeast-treated paddy husk, with increased nutritional value, can replace commercially available rice bran in goat concentrate rations up to 40%, reducing feed costs by 3-5 rupees per kg. Currently, in-vivo validation of yeast-treated feed incorporated paddy husk is under study.



Yeast cells (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae)* under 100X microscope

Untreated paddy husk

Yeast treated paddy husk

Success story

Implementation of estrus synchronization in goats improved management and time saving

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The success story is about a goat farmer Mr. Mohammad Shahid from Mhow, Indore (M.P.) who implemented the estrus synchronization regimen suggested by the scientists of ICAR-CIRG, Makhdoom. He mentioned that, earlier he Mohammad Shahid: A successful goat farmer was facing the difficulty of breeding the goats for over the long period of time throughout the breeding season, due to which he had to be busy managing kidding of different age groups, also their feeding and management was very cumbersome. He attended hands on training programme on estrus synchronization in goats organized by ICAR-CIRG and learnt the technique of using Goat-Synch Intra-vaginal sponges. Later-on in a Goat fair organized by ICAR-CIRG, he purchased some Goat-Synch Intra-vaginal sponges and used them at his farm. He synchronized total 40 adult female goats of local breed and out of them 30 goats came into estrus within 3-4 days after the end of estrus synchronization protocol with 75% estrus induction rate. All 30 goats were then bred naturally using breeding bucks. After the gestation period was over all 30 goats kidded within a period of 7 to 10 days with 100% kidding rates at synchronized estrus. With these encouraging results, he was very happy and could able to schedule his routine work, saved his time and labours, got the kids of identical age group. He thanked the Director, ICAR-CIRG and appreciated the technology developed by the scientists of ICAR-CIRG. Currently, He became the master trainer for AI and estrus synchronization, imparting the training to goat farmers on regular basis and also earning handsome money out of that.

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Laparoscopic ovum pick-up technique in goats

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Laparoscopic ovum pick-up (LOPU) is a minimally invasive technique of harvesting oocytes, repeatedly fromlive goats or from the animals in which trans-vaginal ultrasound guided ovum pick-up is not feasible owing to their small size. The technology has gained significant impetus only after 1990s through the development of in vitro embryo production (IVEP), and currently LOPU has become the method of choice for harvesting the oocytes from small ruminants. Applications and advantages of LOPU in goats *Breeding tool* The main objective of the technique is accelerated genetic gain through multiplication and propagation of valuable goat germplasm, so that more progenies can be obtained from females of high genetic merit.

Less invasive In small ruminants, LOPU-IVEP has the potential for producing more offspring from valuable females than Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET), because it can be repeated more often and more times in the same animals. It is a less invasive technology as compared with the surgical methods most commonly used for embryo recovery in these species. Superiority *over MOET* In contrary to cattle and buffalo, MOET in small ruminants has shown extremely variable results in terms of poor super-ovulatory response, lack of fertilization, and premature luteal regression as major reasons. In this context, LOPU-IVEP can be a very helpful alternative for females that have repeatedly failed to produce embryos by MOET for the reasons above, all three of which can be avoided by LOPU-IVEP. Reproductive rescue of aged yet valuable females

Another application of interest is the reproductive rescue of females that are too aged but valuable to conceive and/or carry a pregnancy to term, but their ovaries are still active with follicular waves and production of competent oocytes for recovery by LOPU. Cloning and Transgenesis LOPUsourced oocytes have been successfully used as recipient cytoplasts for cloning programs by somatic cell nuclear transfer, as well as for the production of zygotes for microinjection in programs aimed at the production of transgenic and genome-edited animals.

Future perspectives of LOPU-IVEP

LOPU-IVEP has the potential to produce more offspring from superior goats than conventional MOET, mainly because it can be repeated more times and more often in the reproductive life of donors. It also allows the production of progeny from elite animals that are not eligible for MOET such as pre-pubertal, senile, and donors that have repeatedly failed to produce transferable embryos by MOET.

Farmers Training Organized

National Training

- Organized a total of 06 National Training Programme (07 days) on "*Scientific Goat Farming*" during July to December, 2024. In the training programs a total of 507 Participants (Male 484 and 23 Female) from 17 states of the country participated.

Other Training organized

- Organized sponsored training programme on '*Scientific goat farming*' for farmers of Bihar and Rajasthan. In these training programme a total of 120 participants (Male 93 and 27 Female) gained knowledge of improved goat rearing practices.

- Organized three days online collaborative training program from August 12-14, 2024 with MANAGE Hyderabad on '*Innovative and Progressive Goat Production Technologies*' for extension workers/teaching faculties/scientists/students/entrepreneurs/ progressive goat farmers to enhance their knowledge and skills.

- Organized one self- financed 05 days training programs on the "*Feed-Fodder Production, Processing and Ration Formulations for Goats*" from August 19-23, 2024 in which 24 participants from 08 states participated.

Important meetings, events and other activities

Important meetings

Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

The meeting of RAC, ICAR-CIRG, Makhdoom was organised on August 16, 2024 under the chairmanship of Dr A.C. Varshney, Former VC DUVASU, Mathura, UP. Dr Manish K. Chatli, Director ICAR-CIRG, RAC members, and Dr G.K. Gaur, ADG (AP&B), ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi, were also present during the meeting. Director, ICAR-CIRG presented progress of the Institute and also highlighted the research achievements and other activities. Dr Ashok Kumar, I/c PME, Member Secretary RAC, ICAR-CIRG presented the action taken report on recommendation made by last RAC. The Head of the division /sections presented the progress report, action taken on recommendations and next year research programme. The committee gave several recommendations on various research projects being undertaken by scientists at this Institute.

Quinquennial Review Team (QRT)

The Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) was constituted by Indian Council of Agricultural Research with Dr H. Rahman, Ex-ILRI (South Asia Representative) as Chairman and Dr Kusumakar Sharma, Former ADG, ICAR, Dr S.M.K. Naqvi, Former Director, CSWRI Avikanagar, Dr R.S. Gandhi, Former ADG(APB), ICAR, Dr Dinakar Raj, Professor Translational Research, TANUVAS, Dr S. M. Shivprakash, Director Extension, KVAFSU,Bidar as external members and Dr. K. Gururaj, Sr. Scientist, CIRG as member secretary to carry out a comprehensive review of the institute every five years. The QRT team visited institute for a two-days program from October 7-8, 2024. All the HDs/Incharges, scientists, SAO and FAO attended the QRT meeting. The visit comprised a series of presentations, meetings, discussions, and interactions aimed at reviewing the progress and achievements of the institute during the period 2019-2024.Institute Director presented the institute profile, outlining its vision, infrastructure, and key accomplishments. This was followed by a comprehensive overview of projects, activities, and action taken reports for the period 2019–2024, presented by Dr. K. Gururaj, Member Secretary, QRT. The Head of the division /sections also presented the division progress report, ATR for the period 2014–2019 and research programme for the next year. Chairman and QRT Members provided initial recommendations for each research area, offering valuable suggestions for growth and improvement in the functioning of institute in the years to come. The visit concluded with a field visit to multiplier flocks in Mathura, allowing the QRT members to observe the institute's extension and livestock multiplication initiatives .

Events organized

Celebration of Institute Foundation Day

Institute celebrated its 45th Foundation Day on July 12, 2024. The event was presided over by Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda, former Secretary of DARE and Director General of ICAR, New Delhi, and Founder President of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences. Distinguished guests included Dr. A.K. Gaur, Assistant Director General, ICAR, New Delhi, and Dr. P.K. Roy, Director, Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur, Rajasthan. The program began with the Director of the Institute, Dr. Manish Kumar Chatli, and the chief and distinguished guests planting trees.

This was followed by a water conservation message emphasizing that "*water is life*." The chief guest, distinguished guests, and the Institute Director released the annual report, policy documents, the Azamukh newsletter, and launched the DPR Management Software. All scientists, officials, and staff took an oath to elevate goat farming through research and development. Director welcomed the chief and distinguished guests with flower bouquets, mementos, and scarves. In his address, he highlighted that the institute conducted nine national-level training programs in the past year and currently runs over 43 projects with 12 technical patents filed. He discussed various ongoing research projects, including vaccine kits, herbal products, technology transfer, gene editing, and the use of CRISPR, explaining their benefits for farmers and goat breeders. Dr. Chatli thanked all scientists, officials, staff, former directors, and employees for their contribution to the institute's 45-year successful journey. He emphasized the institute's projects and programs aimed at increasing farmers' income and empowering scheduled caste and tribe farmers and women farmers. Over the past 45 years, the CIRG has made significant contributions to goat farming, including the development of new breeds, disease management, nutritional improvements, and breeding techniques. Chief guest Padma Bhushan Dr. R.S. Paroda and distinguished guests expressed their pride in participating in the foundation day celebrations and praised the institute's research efforts and its role in farmer and goat breeder development. The event showcased the institute's research, innovations, and achievements in goat farming, raising awareness about the latest technologies and research in the agricultural community. Highlights included scientific sessions on the latest goat farming research, exhibitions displaying various goat breeds, products, and techniques, award ceremonies recognizing significant contributions by scientists, staff, and farmers, and technical workshops providing practical knowledge and training on advanced goat farming techniques. Outstanding scientists and staff were awarded for their excellent work, and winners of quiz competitions broadcast on All India Radio were also honored.

Celebration of world goat day

On the occasion of World Goat Day, celebrated on August 21 2024, the Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Panchayati Raj, and Member of Parliament, Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, visited the Institute. The programme commenced with an interactive session between the Minister and the scientists of the institute. This was followed by the inauguration of the Solar Energy Park and tree plantation by the Hon'ble Minister. He also visited various goat and sheep projects at the institute and discussed different breeds and their managemental practices. Dr. Manish Kumar Chatli, Director of the institute, welcomed the Hon'ble Minister and other distinguished guests by presenting floral bouquets, mementos, and ceremonial scarves. Extending his wishes on the occasion of World Goat Day, Dr. Chatli highlighted the role of goats in poverty alleviation and livelihood generation both in India and globally. He informed the gathering about the institute's ongoing research and extension activities. He explained that World Goat Day is observed to honor the historical significance of livestock farming and to showcase the contribution of small ruminants to food security and sustainable production systems. Dr. Chatli also provided insights into the institute's key research projects, such as vaccine kits, herbal products, technology transfer, gene editing, and CASA (Computer Assisted Semen Analysis) tools, and elaborated on their relevance for farmers and goat keepers. He mentioned that the institute is implementing several programmes for income enhancement, especially for SC/ST farmers and women farmers. Over the past 45 years, the ICAR-CIRG has made significant contributions to the field of goat farming, including the development of new breeds, disease management, nutritional advancements, and reproductive technologies. In his keynote address, Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel lauded the

The ICAR- CIRG, Makhdoom, is doing excellent work in this direction and is consistently striving to make goat farming more profitable through research. He appreciated the dedication and hard work of the scientists and researchers, acknowledging their role in improving goat farming technologies for rural India. The Minister also shared details of various government schemes and programmes aimed at promoting goat farming. During the event, the Hon'ble Minister interacted with farmers and goat rearers, and shared insights on various research projects, disease prevention strategies, technological interventions, treatment, and vaccination. In conclusion, the Minister congratulated all goat farmers, scientists, and researchers on the occasion of World Goat Day and extended his best wishes for their continued excellence in this important sector.

Independence Day Celebration

Institute celebrated the 78th Independence Day on 15th August 2024 with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit. The event witnessed the active participation of all staff members of the Institute. Dr. Manish K. Chatli, Director, ICAR-CIRG, hoisted the National Flag and addressed the gathering. In his inspiring speech, he extended warm Independence Day greetings to all and paid heartfelt tribute to the valiant freedom fighters whose sacrifices paved the way for India's independence. He reflected on India's 77-year journey post-independence, highlighting the nation's relentless efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in various sectors, especially in food production. Dr. Chatli urged all staff members to work with utmost dedication and commitment towards building an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. As part of the celebration, several institute staff members were felicitated and awarded for their outstanding contributions to the growth and development of the Institute. The event concluded with a renewed sense of patriotism and collective resolve to contribute to the nation's progress.

Celebration of tree plantation drive organized under "One Tree for Mother" campaign

From August 29-30 2024, institute organized a tree plantation drive under the noble initiative "*One Tree for Mother*." This campaign, rooted in emotional and environmental values, aims to honour the selfless love and care of mothers by planting trees in their name. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Director, scientists, officers, and all staff members of the institute.Through this initiative, the institute not only contributed to enhancing the green cover but also promoted a culture of gratitude and eco-consciousness.

Celebration of Hindi *Pakhwada*

The Hindi Pakhwada was celebrated at Institute from September 13-30, 2024 with great enthusiasm. All scientists, technical and administrative staff, along with RAs, SRFs, JRFs, and Young Professionals, actively participated in various competitions including noting, essay writing, typing, debate, quiz, and extempore speech. A Hindi Workshop and Kavi Sammelan were organized on September 20, 2024, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all institute staff. The event fostered a spirit of appreciation for the Hindi language through literary expression and cultural engagement. On this occasion, Dr. M. K. Singh, Director (I/c), ICAR-CIRG, addressed the gathering and emphasized that the prosperity of a nation's language is essential for its unity and development. He encouraged everyone to adopt Hindi more actively in official work and contribute to its effective implementation. Winners of various competitions were felicitated with certificates and prizes, in accordance with ICAR guidelines. The celebration not only strengthened the use of Hindi in daily official functioning but also fostered a deeper cultural and linguistic connection among the institute's staff.

Celebration of Vigilance Awareness Week

The vigilance awareness week-2024 on the theme “Culture of Integrity for Nation's Prosperity” was inaugurated at institute on October 28, 2024. The observance was done from 28th October to 3rd November 2024, with the aim of promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability in public life. On this occasion, the Director of the Institute, along with all scientists, officers, and staff members, took the “Integrity Pledge” with sincerity and commitment. The pledge ceremony reflected the collective resolve of the institute to uphold the values of honesty and ethical conduct in all professional activities. Addressing the gathering, the Director emphasized the importance of vigilance awareness week in sensitizing individuals towards combating corruption and fostering a culture of integrity. He urged all staff members to perform their duties with dedication and uphold institutional values at all times. During the celebration, various events were organized in nearby village to create awareness of transparency, accountability, and corruption-free governments. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from all members of the institute, contributing to the meaningful commencement of vigilance awareness week - 2024.

Celebration of National Goat Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition

The National Goat Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition (***National Goat Mahakumbh***) was organized at the Institute on Nov 18, 2024. This event was held with the support of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, New Delhi. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel.The Guest of Honour was Shri Gabriel D. Wangsu, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and Fisheries, Government of Arunachal Pradesh. Special guests included Dr.Raghavendra Bhatta, Deputy Director General (Animal Science), ICAR, New Delhi; Dr.Abhijit Mitra, Commissioner, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, New Delhi; and Dr. A.K. Gaur, ADG, ICAR, New Delhi. District Magistrate Shri Shailendra Singh and Senior Superintendent of Police Shri Shailesh Kumar Pandey also graced the event.

Directors of various ICAR institutes, former directors, and retired staff of CIRG were also present. Over 3,000 progressive farmers and goat keepers, along with agricultural scientists, researchers, students, and agro-industrial entrepreneurs from across the country participated in this grand event. Dr. Manish K. Chatli, Director, CIRG, welcomed the guests. Progressive goat farmers and winners of four competitions were felicitated with various awards. A total of 17 ICAR institutes set up stalls, significantly enhancing the knowledge of the visiting farmers from various states.

Celebration of National Goat Conclave

National Goat Conclave-National Seminar on ***'Policy and strategies for the Indian goat sector in 'Amrit Kaal'*** was successfully organized on Nov 19, 2024 in collaboration with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) and ICAR-CIRG, Makhdoom at Hotel Holiday Inn, Agra. The program was graced by Chief Guest Ms. Alka Upadhyay, IAS, Secretary of DAHD, and dignitaries such as Dr.Abhijit Mitra, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, and Dr. R. Bhatta, DDG (Animal Science). Dr. Manish K. Chatli, Director, CIRG, welcomed the dignitaries. The seminar focused on strategies for transforming goat farming into a sustainable and profitable enterprise. Experts emphasized the need for robust policies to address goat health challenges, genomic selection, national repository for superior germplasm, improve vaccination strategies, and reduce production losses, also strengthening sentinel surveillance to combat disease outbreaks and expanding vaccination coverage, particularly in remote areas through PashuSakhis. The need for subsidized support for goat milk and meat processing, alongside small-scale slaughterhouses to improve hygiene and market access, was also discussed. The event witnessed the participation of over 150 stakeholders, including scientists, experts, academicians, entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, and industry as well as NGO representatives from across the country to address the challenges and opportunities in goat farming. Interactive sessions facilitated meaningful discussions among stakeholders, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration to boost the goat sector and empower rural communities through science-led development. The seminar concluded with a call for the government to designate “PashuPalan Awareness Month” to raise awareness and promote livestock growth across India. The event marked a significant step toward holistic development and promotion of the goat sector in India.

Other activities

Celebration of “*SwachhtaPakhwada*”

Institute organised a series of activities from December 16-31, 2024 as part of the “Swachhata Pakhwada” campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission. On 16th December 2024, the campaign was inaugurated by Dr. Manish Kumar Chatli, Director of the Institute, who addressed the staff, officers, and Young Professionals. In his address, he emphasized that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was a transformative movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision of cleanliness and self-discipline. He urged everyone to contribute actively towards maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings. On this occasion, all staff members, officers, and Young Professionals participated in the event and took the “Swachhata Hi Seva” pledge with full enthusiasm and commitment.

Distinguished visitors

July - Dec. 2024

45th Institute Foundation Day

12 July 2024

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