

## Conference on Exploring the Potential of Indigenous Animal Genetic Resources Begins at SKUAST Jammu

*Lifetime achievement awards conferred on Dr. P.N.Bhat and Dr. V. K. Taneja*



May 29: **Dr. Nirmal Singh, Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly inaugurated two days' national symposium** on "Exploring the Potential for Sustainable Use of Indigenous Animal Genetic Resources for Enhancing Productivity and Profitability" at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, R. S. Pura campus of the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences of Jammu (SKUAST Jammu). About two hundred delegates from animal breeding & genetics and other veterinary disciplines are attending the conference. The experts attending this important national symposium will deliberate on improvement and conservation of animal genetic resources, status and scope of the phonemics in cataloguing and improving, biostatistics and bio-informatics, valuation and value addition of livestock and genome edited livestock in India. Dr. Nirmal Singh in his inaugural address complimented SKUAST of Jammu and Indian Society of Animal Genetics and Breeding (ISAG&B). He laid emphasis on synergy between scientific innovations and indigenous knowledge to focus on yak, pashmina goat and other indigenous animal genetic resources of the State. G.L. Raina, member legislative council, present at the inaugural function, said that indigenous knowledge documentation and validation was given a thrust by our late Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajapyyee in 2000. He said that the Government of India through Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) aimed at conserving indigenous Indian breeds of cattle has given policy thrust via budgetary allocation since 2016-17 and Rs. 750 crore allocations in interim budget of 2019-20, is seen as a big push for the objective.

The inaugural keynote address was delivered by Dr. V. K. Taneja formerly Deputy Director General (Animal Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Vice Chancellor Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Advisor Animal Husbandry Government of Punjab. In his keynote address, he said that the official data of livestock sector is miserable and we need hard data to formulate our policies for growth of livestock sector. He said that India being the largest producer of milk in the world at 175 million tones is able to meet per capita

needs of the ever growing population but overall livestock population has decreased over time. The population of buffalo and poultry has achieved a positive increase.

Dr Tanaja was conferred with lifetime achievement award for his contribution to scientific knowledge base of animal genetics and breeding. The founding president of ISAG&B, Dr. P.N.Bhat, son of the J&K state, a living legend in the discipline of animal breeding and genetics and formerly commissioner animal husbandry Government of India, DDG ICAR, Director IVRI and Fellow National Academy of Sciences was also conferred with lifetime achievement award.

Dr. K.S.Risam, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST Jammu in his dresses welcomed the dignitaries and delegates, and expressed his sincere hope that SKUAST of Jammu will provide a great platform to the scientist, academia, and policymakers attending the National Symposium to come out with tangible recommendations for sustainable use of indigenous animal genetic resources for enhancing productivity & profitability.

Dr. T.J.S Rasool President ISA&GB and Dr. Vineet Bhasin Secretary ISA&GB addressed the inaugural session. Formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. N. A. Ganai. Others present at the inaugural session were Dr. V.P.Choudahry Dean Collage of Food and Agriculture, Abu Dabhi, Dr. Abhijit Mitra, Director NRC on Mithuns, Dr. R.S.Gandhi, Assistant Director General ICAR. Officers, heads of the divisions and faculty members of the SKUAST Jammu were present at the inaugural session of the conference.