

Dean's Message

World has become a global village, generating an urgent need for mutual learning and joint action towards the ever pressing concern for—hunger, health and home. Food and nutritional security is top-agenda globally as the next most important issues of health and productivity is directly related to it. The share of 'Animal protein' in this context not only has been substantial but bears tremendous potential. Livestock sector and allied operations are going to play an ever increasing role in addressing such issues.

Livestock sector contributes more than 21.5 percent of gross value added agriculture, forestry and fisheries contributes more than 3.92 percent to the GVA. The share of livestock to agricultural GDP has been rising during the last 2½ decades (14 percent in 1980-81 to 22.75 percent in 2013-14) compared to plant and crop sector, where the annual growth rate during the last one decade has been negative (35 to 26 percent). Shrinking area under cultivation, stagnation in crop productivity and market & policy driven crop selection patterns by farmers are likely to come in the way for achieving a target of 4 percent growth for the agriculture sector. The livestock sector over all these years has been able to record a steady annual growth of over 4.8 to 6.6 percent. It is estimated that different areas of the livestock sector have the potential to grow between 6 to 8 percent annually. In the year 2013-14, income from livestock sector was Rs. 4,06,035 crore with an expansion of 5.5 percent during the year.

Livestock development has been an important tool for poverty alleviation and sustainable livestock security in terms of income generation for more than 600 million people in the country. In India 70 to 80 percent of the total livestock produce is contributed by underprivileged families including small and marginal farmers and livestock are central to their livelihoods and culture. Human recourse development in veterinary and animal sciences thus becomes imperative.

Veterinary medicine is an ancient profession with a long and distinguished record of service to animals and mankind. Established in 1960, the then College of Veterinary Medicine with only 4 departments has come a long way to be coveted as one of the best veterinary institutes of the nation. It was christened and rechristened as the College of Veterinary Sciences (1976) and the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (2003) and as of the day, encompasses 17 departments and several dedicated units viz.—veterinary clinics, animal biotechnology, animal disease diagnostics, electron microscope facility, fodder bank, vermi-compost, IDF, IPF etc. Need-based short term and customized trainings to veterinary professionals, para veterinarians, farmers & animal owners, unemployed youth/ students etc. is an ongoing in-built component.

Need based and applied research work has been undertaken in the area of Veterinary and Animal Sciences over the years in the College. Illustrious achievements have been made in areas like—Elite animal production through embryo biotechnology, ova pickup technology, molecular and immunological approaches to animal disease diagnosis, novel vaccines against bacterial and viral diseases, innovative drug design and delivery, herbal based immunomodulation, augmentation of growth and productivity, breed characterization and molecular genetics, epidemiology and pathobiology of animal diseases, semen biology and cryopreservation, reproductive endocrinology, developmental immunology,

environmental stress and electro-physiology, acupuncture and anesthesiology, and rumen biotechnology etc.

The world of science & technology is growing very fast. The spectrum of knowledge is growing at a dizzying pace and there is a pressing and continuous need to fill the resulting knowledge gap between technology generation and its transfer to the masses. Therefore it becomes important to consider future efforts.

Human capital is perceived to be the key driver for global competitiveness. Hence, imparting quality education and training to produce competent veterinarians would be the first priority. Research and extension cannot be viewed in isolation to teaching and therefore relevant and need based approach would be an in built endeavor.

The present veterinary education has to focus on continuous learning and the use of participative teaching approach. The aspects of relevant refresher courses need attention as it can help in updating the technical know-how of field/working veterinarians and para-veterinarians. Relevant and contextual updating and enrichment of the syllabus should be a regular exercise.

The component of business management should become a part of veterinary education for instilling the concept of entrepreneurship and enhancing competitiveness and skill orientation. In view of globalization of trade in livestock and livestock products, sanitary and phyto-sanitary aspects in addition to WTO and patent regulations must be incorporated in veterinary curriculum. The concept of green livestock requires focus to save the environment. The areas like food management, geographical information system and remote sensing and disease management rather than disease treatment are to be strengthened.

With the ever-increasing cost of treatment, alternate system of medicine needs to be explored. Not only its validation but documentation is also very pertinent. With the concerted efforts of veterinary professionals, it has been possible to make the country free of rinderpest as notified by OIE in May 2004. However many diseases are still taking enormous toll and efforts should be directed to tackle these diseases as well.

For resource generation, the industries are to be approached and institute-industry-farmer linkages should be recognized. The concept of team research with the involvement of scientists of allied disciplines should be strengthened and work on the problems of regional and local importance should be given priority in addition of embarking upon the national problems.

Above all these—A positive attitude towards a sustainable and relevant teaching, research and extension in veterinary sciences and animal husbandry has to be imbibed and nurtured.

In the era of global internet communication, web-portals like this, play a crucial role. Creating and updating this site is a conscious effort and I would like to thank all those involved.

* * *