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From Dean's Desk

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 are 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 plays an important role in Indian economy. About 20.5 million people depend upon livestock for their livelihood. Livestock contributes to about 16% of the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households. In addition, livestock provides livelihood to two-third of rural community.

Livestock Sector is an important subsector of agriculture in the Indian economy. It grew at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 12.99% from 2014-15 to 2022-23. The contribution of livestock in total agriculture and allied sector has increased from 24.38% in 2014-15 to 30.23% in 2022-23. Livestock sector contributed 5.50% of total gross value added in 2022-23 (at Current Prices).

India is ranked first in milk production contributing 24.76% of global milk production. Milk production is growing at Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 5.62% over the past 10 years from 146.31 million tonnes during 2014-15 to 239.30 million tonnes during 2023-24. World milk production has grown by 1.50% during 2023 in-comparison to the year 2022 (Food Outlook November'2024). The per capita availability of milk is 471 grams per day in India during 2023-24 as against the world average of 329 grams per day in 2023 (Food Outlook November'2024).

According to Food and Agriculture Organization Corporate Statistical Database (FAOSTAT) production data (2022), India ranks 2nd in Egg Production and 5th in meat production in the world. Egg production in the country has increased from 78.48 billions in 2014-15 to 142.77 billions in 2023-24. Egg production in the country is growing at the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6.87% over the past 10 years. The per capita availability of egg is at 103 eggs per annum in 2023-24 as against 62 eggs in 2014-15. Meat production in the country has increased from 6.69 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 10.25 million tonnes in 2023-24. Meat production in the country is growing at the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 4.85% over the past 10 years.

The college was established in 1960 in the name of College of Veterinary Medicine with only 4 departments and has come a long way to be coveted as one of

the best veterinary institutes of the nation. It was christened as College of Veterinary Sciences in 1976 and rechristened in 2003 as College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (2003) and as of the day, encompasses 14 departments along with several units viz. livestock farm complex (instructional dairy & poultry farms), vermi-compost, experiential experimental learning house, physiotherapy, scanning & transmissible electron microscope facility, 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 anaesthesiology, and rumen biotechnology etc.

The world of science & technology is growing very fast. There is a need to fill the resulting knowledge gap between technology generation and its transfer to the masses. 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 knowledge of field/ working veterinarians and para-veterinarians. Relevant and contextual updating and enrichment of the syllabus should be a regular exercise. Hence, imparting quality education and training to produce competent veterinarians would be the first priority. Similarly, research and extension cannot be viewed in isolation to teaching and therefore relevant and need based approach would be an in-built endeavour.

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 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. Efforts to control epidemics like LSD, Bird Flu, & Equine Influenza are directed to tackle these diseases. For resource generation, the industries-academia interaction and institute industry-farmer linkages needs to 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.