<u>Characterization and Documentation of Animal Genetic Resources of</u> <u>Bihar: A Mission towards Zero Non-Descript population</u>

An interface meeting was conducted on "Characterization and Documentation of Animal Genetic Resources of Bihar: A Mission towards Zero Non-Descript Population" on July 30, 2022 under the Chairmanship of Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Secretary, Department of Animal and Fisheries Resources, Govt. of Bihar in Bihar Agriculture Management and Extension Training Institute (BAMETI), Patna. The Vice-Chancellor, Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Patna, Director (Animal Husbandry), Govt. of Bihar, Director, National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR), Karnal, Director, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region (ICAR-RCER), Patna, Dean, Bihar Veterinary College, Head, Department of Animal Genetics, NBAGR, Karnal, and the Head, Division of Livestock and Fishery Management (DLFM), ICAR-RCER, Patna participated in the meeting apart from the Regional Directors, District Animal Husbandry Officers and other officials of Department of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Bihar, and the scientists from ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, Patna, and Bihar Animal Sciences University, Patna. A total of around 100 participants were present in the meeting.

At the outset, Dr. Kamal Sarma, Head, DLFM, welcomed all the participants to the interface meeting and underlined the importance of the meet on present days' context. During the meeting, Dr. B.P. Mishra, Director, NBAGR, Karnal, informed the audience that NBAGR is conducting the interface meeting on the said subject in all the States across the country and this is the 14th interface meeting and the second one being conducted in offline mode after the one conducted in Jharkhand State. He narrated in detail about the objective, progression and achievement of mission in other States by exemplifying registration of few potential breeds. The mission aims at non-descript animal genetic resources and look for homogenous populations, their characterization, documentation and final registration in all States. Finally, he explained the value of ecosystem services provided by Animal Genetic Resources and their importance. This was followed by the presentation by Dr. P.C. Chandran, Senior Scientist, ICAR RCER, Patna, who gave a detailed note on the Status of Animal Genetic Resources in Bihar. Dr. M.S. Tantia, Head, Department of Animal Genetics, NBAGR, Karnal, explained the participants the planning and technical programme of the mission likely to be initiated in the State.

Dr. Ashutosh Upadhyaya, Director, ICAR-RCER, explained the efforts taken by ICAR Research Complex in characterizing, documenting and registering different Livestock Genetic Resources in the Eastern Region of the Country. Dr. Rameshwar Singh, Vice-Chancellor, BASU, Patna, in his address, narrated the importance of Animal Genetic Resources in the country, value and necessity of indigenous livestock populations and their conservation. Finally, in the concluding remarks, Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Secretary (Animal Husbandry and Fishery Resources) thanked the officials who have come all over from Karnal to Patna to initiate the mission towards zero non-descript Animal Genetic Resources in Bihar. He stated that the mission towards zero non-descript livestock population is paramount important and congratulated ICAR for taking up such an important mission across the Country. He urged the officials from Department of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Bihar, to understand the importance of our own livestock germplasms. He explained the expected role of the Department in this mission to the officials of Department of Animal Husbandry and assured the forum the guaranteed support and complete cooperation to the mission as livestock resources are the one which support the marginal and poor farmers of Bihar.

Finally, the interface meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shanker Dayal, Principal Scientist, ICAR-RCER, Patna.







