

**Animal Health Camp organized under Farmer FIRST Programme at Village Amarpur,
District Palwal, Haryana on 18th December, 2024**

As part of the regular activities under the Farmer FIRST Programme of ICAR-IARI, an Animal Health Camp was organized on December 18, 2024, at Village Amarpur, District Palwal, Haryana. The primary objective of the camp was to create awareness among farmers about common management and health issues affecting the well-being and productivity of household cattle and buffaloes. Additionally, the camp aimed to inform farmers about various Government schemes related to animal health and welfare in Haryana.

The following experts and staff members conducted the program:

- Dr. Neha, Subject Matter Specialist (SMS), KVK Gurgaon
- Dr. Prashant Singh, Veterinary officer, State Animal Husbandry Department, Haryana
- Dr. Shailendra Sharma, Senior Research Fellow (SRF), Farmer FIRST Programme, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi

Farmers from the villages of Amarpur, Kulena, Katesra, and Dadhota attended the camp in large numbers, demonstrating keen interest in improving the health and productivity of their livestock. Dr Neha discussed about infectious disease of large and small ruminants commonly observed under field conditions. These diseases include foot and mouth disease (FMD), haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS), lumpy skin disease (LSD), black quarter (BQ), brucellosis, tuberculosis, theileriosis, PPR, enterotoxaemia, CCPP, goat pox etc. The clinical signs and symptoms of these diseases were explained to farmers for early identification and prompt treatment to prevent the spread of infection within herds. Dr. Neha also emphasized the importance of proper care and management practices for sick animals, along with raising awareness about the vaccination schedules and available vaccines for disease prevention.

Additionally, she highlighted the significance of balanced nutrition and the role of supplements in improving livestock health. Metabolic disorders commonly observed in dairy cattle, such as milk fever, ketosis, acidosis, and hypomagnesaemic tetany, were explained in detail, with a focus on their early detection and effective management through nutritional strategies. Farmers were encouraged to include mineral mixtures, calcium, phosphorus, and multivitamin supplements in animal diets to mitigate these disorders. Furthermore, the session addressed the management of internal and external parasites, guiding farmers on the

appropriate use of acaricides and dewormers based on age, grazing habits, and worm load in animals. The discussion provided valuable knowledge to farmers for enhancing the health and productivity of their livestock.

The Veterinary Officer, Dr. Prashant Singh shared information about state-sponsored schemes for animal health and welfare with the attendees to enable better utilization of available resources. He elaborated on the importance of maintaining cleanliness in cattle stalls and the milking process, with a focus on udder care for milch animals. Dr. Prashant emphasized cleaning the udder with fresh water and a clean cloth before milking and advised keeping animals standing for at least 15 minutes after milking to reduce the incidence of mastitis. He also recommended the use of potassium permanganate (KMnO₄) solution for cleaning the udder and its adjoining areas once or twice a week as an effective preventive measure. He further addressed critical health issues, including mineral deficiencies, red water disease in buffaloes caused by phosphorus deficiency, hormonal imbalances, and cystic ovary conditions in cattle. He provided practical solutions and management strategies for these issues; ensuring farmers could improve the health and productivity of their livestock.

Moreover, Dr. Prashant informed the farmers about various government schemes designed to support livestock development. He detailed the Mini Dairy Scheme, which offers a 25% subsidy for General Category farmers and a 50% subsidy for Scheduled Caste (SC) farmers for setting up mini dairies with 3-5 buffaloes. The Haryana Government offers subsidies for small ruminants and pig farming under its animal husbandry schemes. For small ruminants, SC farmers receive up to 90% subsidy, while piggery projects offer a 90% subsidy for SC farmers and a 50% subsidy for General Category farmers. These schemes aim to promote sustainable livestock farming and improve rural livelihoods. He also highlighted the Pashu Kisan Credit Card (PKCC) Scheme, which provides credit at subsidized interest rates, making it more accessible for farmers. It also includes insurance coverage for cattle, with a ₹250 premium for General Category farmers, while SC farmers are eligible for free insurance. The scheme is available to farmers involved in livestock farming, including dairy, poultry, and other animal rearing, who meet the eligibility criteria set by the participating financial institutions. His insights on these schemes encouraged farmers to adopt better livestock management practices and utilize the available government resources to enhance their livelihoods.

During the interactive session, farmers posed various questions to the experts, seeking solutions to issues such as the unexplained drying up of cattle, methods to reduce tick populations in animal stalls, hair-licking behavior in livestock, and pica disorder along with their respective remedies. These discussions provided valuable insights into practical livestock management and care. As part of the camp, dewormers and mineral mixtures were distributed to all participating farmers to promote the health and productivity of their animals. The health camp concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the experts, participants, and organizers for their active involvement and contributions, which ensured the success of the program.



(Subhashree Sahu)
PI, Farmer FIRST