

**National Consultations on “Sustainability of Buffalo Sector in India” jointly
organized by ICAR-NRC on Meat and ICAR-NAARM**

Date: 19-01-2021

A National workshop and consultations on “*Scientific Interventions and Policies for Strengthening of Buffalo Meat Sector: Catalyst for Boosting India's Agro-Economy*” was held at ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research & Management, Hyderabad in **both offline and online mode** on 19th January, 2021. This event was jointly organized by ICAR-NRC on Meat, ICAR-NAARM, NAAS-Hyderabad Chapter and Indian Meat Science Association.

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director NAARM chaired the inaugural session. Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Vice-Chancellor, GADVASU, Ludhiana acted as Chief-guest while Dr. Laxma Reddy, Director, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries, Govt. Telangana acted as Guest of honour. Dr. S.B. Barbuddhe, Director NRC on Meat convened the workshop. During the inaugural session all the experts highlighted the potential of Indian buffalo meat sector, contribution of buffaloes through milk and meat towards nutritional security, value addition and diversification of food, livelihood opportunities for farmers, scope for salvaging of male buffalo calves, issues related productivity, sustainability and requirements for augmenting farmers income while doubling buffalo meat exports and contribution to Atmanirbhar Bharat. During the inauguration, Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Chairman also announced the winners of essay writing competition conducted among students from SAU's of Telangana and AP. He has also released the policy document on “*Policy issues and stakeholder requirements in Indian meat sector*” jointly developed by NRC on Meat and NAARM.

Different presentations on various aspects of unlocking the potential of buffalo meat sector in India, buffalo sector value chain analysis, sustainability of buffalo production and export meat sector requirements and doubling of farmer's income were delivered by experts. As a part of the workshop, a separate panel discussion involving more than **30 experts from Research Institutes, Universities, APEDA, Animal Husbandry Departments, and Export meat plants** was also organized. Various Technological, Institutional, Regulatory and Policy requirements viz, uniform slaughter policies, removal of restrictions on male buffalo calf slaughter, value addition to buffalo meat, issues related to animal marketing, transportation, slaughter infrastructure, food safety requirements to ensure nutritional security and public health and contribution towards meeting UN-Sustainable Development Goals were discussed. Dr. BM. Naveena, Pr. Scientist NRC on Meat and Dr. P. Krishnan, Pr. Scientist, NAARM acted as organizing secretaries for the program.

