

Roadmap for organized sheep and goat meat sector in India: A National Summit organized at ICAR-NAARM

A National Summit on *“Building organized sheep and goat meat sector in India towards ensuring Atmanirbhar Bharat”* was jointly organized by ICAR-NRC on Meat, ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), NAAS-Hyderabad Chapter and Indian Meat Science Association at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad in a hybrid mode on 3rd September, 2021 under the aegis of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

Dr. Bhupendra Nath Tripathi, DDG (Animal Sciences), ICAR graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Dr. Praveen Malik, Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Govt. of India and Dr. G. Venkateshwarlu, Joint Director, ICAR-NAARM were the Guests of Honour. Dr. S.B. Barbuddhe, Director, ICAR-NRC on Meat set the context for the summit. Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-NAARM and Convener, NAAS Hyderabad chapter expressed hope that the summit will help to address the core concerns of the sector and complemented the NRC on Meat Team for their initiatives.



A section of the participants with the experts during the Summit

The Summit was attended by over 125 experts comprising retired and serving ADGs, Directors of ICAR Institutes, University Officers, Fellows of National Science Academies, researchers and academicians from NARES, central and state department officials, representatives from federations, associations, cooperatives and industry.

Experts from across India delivered lead talks on various aspects of developing road map for sheep and goat meat sector in India, breeding and reproduction policies to augment production, strategies for linking sheep and goat farmers to market and role of private sector and e-commerce in organizing the small ruminant sector were delivered by the experts. This was followed by round-table discussions on selected themes *viz.*, breeding, production & health; animal markets, transport & supply chain; slaughtering & processing and entrepreneurship & policy issues.

During the summit, stakeholders comprising experts from Animal Husbandry Departments, Sheep and Goat Federations, Goat trusts, Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations, Research Institutes, Universities, APEDA and Export meat plants shared their perspectives.

The Summit highlighted various technological, institutional, regulatory and policy requirements concerning breeding policies, nutritional management, live animal market infrastructure, slaughter requirements, pollution board clearances, waste disposal, retailing including e-commerce, incubation and funding opportunities and deliberated on the roadmap towards ensuring *Atmanirbhar Bharat* in this sector.

Dr. B.M. Naveena and Dr. P. Krishnan, scientists from NRC-M and NAARM, respectively, were the organizing secretaries of the program.