



SEVENTH CONVOCATION

JUNE 4, 2010

ADDRESS



Prof. M.C. Sharma

Director & Vice-Chancellor

Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar ji; Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR; Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, Deputy Director General (Animal Science); Dr. R. P. Singh, Director, CARI; Hon'ble Members of Board of Management and Academic Council of IVRI; distinguished guests; Dean of the Deemed University; Joint Directors; learned faculty members; other staff members of IVRI and CARI; degree recipients; dear students; representatives of press and media; ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Hon'ble Chief Guest of the VIIth convocation of the Deemed University of IVRI. At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Shri Sharad Pawar Ji for kindly sparing his valuable time to chair this function. I feel privileged to extend a warm welcome to the Secretary, DARE & Director General, ICAR and to all the distinguished dignitaries present on the dais and to all my senior colleagues from the Council, Dr. K.M.L. Pathak, the

Hon'ble members of Board of Management and Academic Council of IVRI, distinguished guests and representatives of press and media, who have kindly accepted our invitation to attend and participate in this function. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the faculty and students of IVRI Deemed University extend a warm welcome to each one of you.

It is indeed a momentous occasion for IVRI that the revered President of ICAR is in our midst, graced by so many distinguished guests today. As you are all aware that Indian Veterinary Research Institute, a premier research institute of national & international repute was founded in 1889 at Pune and subsequently shifted to Mukteswar in Kumaon Hills has got a glorious history behind and is popularly known as 'Mecca of Veterinary Sciences' in the county. The institute originally known as Imperial Bacteriological Laboratory was later renamed as Imperial Veterinary Research Institute in 1936 and with the advent of independence, as Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

The Institute today has three Regional Campuses and two Regional Stations. It's pioneering and landmark contributions to research, education and technology transfer related to all branches of veterinary and animal sciences need no mention to this august gathering. The institute is singularly responsible for the major R&D innovations for development of more than 50 life-saving

vaccines and diagnostics that are in use today in veterinary practice. The institute is credited for development of major interventions for the control and eradication of diseases of livestock like dourine, African horse sickness, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and achieving zero rinderpest status, development of OIE approved diagnostic tests for the major OIE listed diseases and vaccines against important bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases of economic significance to livestock sector. The Mukteswar Campus of the institute is well known for its pioneering contributions on a number of important microbial diseases of livestock and poultry in the country and in particular seat of learning of virus research.

Although, research and development is the major mandate of IVRI, education and training are also an integral part of the institute activities. The institute is engaged in regular post-graduate and refresher courses since 1922 and the institute started awarding "Diploma for the Associateship" of IVRI from 1943 as a part of post-graduate teaching programme leading to establishment of a PG College of Animal Sciences in 1958. The college was initially affiliated to the Agra University and subsequently to Rohilkhand University located in Bareilly. The Deemed to be University status was conferred to IVRI in 1983 by University Grants Commission, Govt. of India. The institute now offers Master's programme in 22 disciplines and Ph.D. programme in 19 disciplines.

National Diploma Courses in 9 disciplines are offered as a part of continuing education for field veterinarians and vocational trainings to the farmers, besides several short-term specialized training courses including the frontier areas of science and technology to the professionals from within and out side the country.

Prior to conferment of Deemed University status to IVRI in 1983, a total of 851 scholars earned their postgraduate degrees from the institute (M.V.Sc. - 570, Ph.D. - 273, D.Sc.- 8) including 103 scholars from 22 countries.

The Deemed University of IVRI has turned out 105 M.Sc., 1526 M.V.Sc., 720 Ph.D. degrees to P.G. scholars enrolled at this institute from 1984-2009. A total of 1559 field veterinary officers were awarded National Diploma Certificates by the Institute so far. During the present convocation a total of 389 scholars (MVSc 243; PhD 146) are going to be awarded their coveted degrees either in person or in absentia. As many as 35 peer recognition awards are going to be presented to the students and faculty on this occasion.

The institute today is the seat of two Centres of Advanced Faculty Training in Animal Nutrition, and Animal Physiology & Climatology. I am further happy to inform that IVRI Deemed University has been accredited by ICAR Accreditation Board in 2004.

The institute is presently addressing 123 research

projects, 5 international and 80 externally funded projects. The research programmes of the institute are organized under 4 major mandated areas of research viz., Animal Health, Animal Genetic Resources, Livestock Improvement and Livestock Products Technology.

The vision of IVRI is for a sustainable growth of Indian agriculture in 21st century for food security by interfacing veterinary science research and education in harmony with humanity, livestock and their ecosystem. We are constantly striving to address the national goals by way of improving the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major animal farming systems in the present day scenario of global competitiveness. The major role of IVRI continues to be the prevention, control and eradication of diseases to help in maximising animal production and safeguarding human health from those diseases transmitted by animals and their products. The other important role of this institute is to promote integrated programmes related to genetic improvement, healthcare, nutrition, processing and marketing, to enable the landless labour and marginal farmers to derive more income from their low productive livestock under the existing farm practices.

Although, the recent contributions of IVRI are many to list out, I would like mention about the significant role played by this institute's High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory at Bhopal in the diagnostic

support for 'bird flu' in the country, with which the disease outbreaks was effectively controlled and freedom from the disease could be achieved. In recognition to these competent professional services rendered by this laboratory, the OIE was granted it the status of an Accredited Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory, which is the 7th such laboratory in the world and 3rd in Asia only after Japan and China. Much of the credit in R&D on Foot and Mouth Disease research leading to commercial vaccine production and quality control in the country was established in Bangalore Campus of IVRI, which is a major contributor to resource generation to the institute. The institute is seized for the R&D on technology up-scaling and production of OIE approved NSP free FMD vaccine through a public private partnership initiated at the Bangalore campus of this institute.

A flagship achievement of the institute is the recognition as the 31st Most Productive Institution and a top institute in Veterinary Science education in the country based on the scientific output and citation index evaluated during the period of 1996-2006 and published by SCOPUS International Database of Elsevier Group. There are only two ICAR institutes figuring in this list of 35 Most Productive Institutions in the country; the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore recognized as the top most institution and IVRI & IARI figuring at the 31st and 32nd position, respectively.

It is also noteworthy to mention that among the

ICAR institutions, IVRI is a forerunner in revenue generation and from the year 2004-2005 to 2009-2010, there has been steady increase from 9.7% to 41.5%.

It is also my pleasure to share that the institute has earned many prestigious national and international awards and peer recognition, and the competent faculty has been dynamic in mobilizing highly competitive research grants from various agencies. I am honoured to state that more than 42% of the research projects are out-funded providing the much needed fillip to our competitive research undertaken at the institute.

I am delighted to state that IVRI has taken a distinct lead in IPR portfolio management, and 5 technologies have been commercialized and 42 patent applications have been filed including 2 PCT applications. So far, 4 patents have been granted and many are in the process of receiving the award. The technologies namely 'Indigenous drug formulations against skin diseases of animals', 'Technology for an area - specific mineral mixture to increase productivity of bovines for Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh', 'Development of an indigenous methodology IVRI Crystoscope as a field tool for determining optimum time for fertile insemination in animals', 'An Asian origin live attenuated homologous vaccine for PPR, and FMD Vaccine have provided commercial opportunities and problem- solving interventions for livestock development in the country. Many more new

technologies have since entered into the licensing process and the goat pox vaccine technology is the latest in the series of this technology licensing process at the institute.

A number of new technologies developed at the institute are in the process of laboratory and field validation and awaiting patent filing. Public private partnerships are finding an important place in our technology generation missions in the new IPR regime. The institute has acquired a new responsibility of providing a Zonal Leadership in Intellectual Property and Technology Management portfolio to assist 19 ICAR institutes in North Zone-II including NDRI, the National Institute-cum-Deemed University in this endeavour. Yet another important assignment to the institute has been the establishment of ZTM-BPD Unit at IVRI with technology business incubator facilities to nurture any original innovative idea into a business venture.

In the area of animal production, development of Vrindavini strain of crossbred cattle with an annual milk yield of 3208 kg / lactation with 4.1% fat, development of cost effective diets and feeding schedules for production, reproduction and health of farm animals and pets and cost effective technologies for meat and meat products are the other major accomplishments.

I wish I had more time talking about our accomplishments in science and technology and our newer initiatives in technology missions in various disciplines of veterinary and animal sciences, but paucity of time limits I will not be able to further elaborate. All this has become possible with the continued support and guidance that we received from the Council, Government of India and other agencies over the years. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the encouragement, support and cooperation that I received from the Hon'ble A.M. & President of the ICAR Society,