

KRISHIFEST-2018

Camel milk holds great promise to fulfill the aim of doubling farmer's income—Dr.Mohapatra

KRISHIFEST-2018, a district level agriculture fair was organised at ICAR-National Research Centre on Camel, Bikaner jointly with ATMA, Bikaner and had participation of more than 2500 farmers from 7 blocks of Bikaner district including the farmers and livestock keepers from Indo-Pak border area. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. T. Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR as a chief guest of the function expressed deep confidence that trading of camel milk and its value added products have potential to improve the profit margins many fold and help farmers to double their income. He urged NRCC to explore possibility of trading camel milk outside India and prolific attempts be made to popularise the camel milk and its products through audacious publicity about its therapeutic value based on the scientific facts. While addressing the farmers he indicated that the farmers should interact with the scientific community freely to get possible solutions for their problems in arid agriculture situation. Earlier the Special guest of the function, Hon'ble Union Minister of State Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation and Parliamentary Affairs Sh. Arjun Ram Ji Meghwal inaugurated the facility of Camel Milk Ice Cream plant at the Centre and launched it in four variants of Vanilla, Pineapple, Butter Scotch and Kesar flavour. Appreciating the quality of the products he expressed that the camel milk products be promoted based on its ability to boost up immunity and its functional food value in diabetes and autism. He appealed the farmers to organise themselves to form Farmer Producer's Organisations and find market in metropolitan cities or see the possibility of exports. He also suggested that NRCC might arrange the availability of products of camel milk in parliamentary canteen in New Delhi that can be served during different advisory committee meetings held in various ministries, which will promote use of Camel milk. Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Animal Science) as special guest of the function indicated that value addition to agricultural and livestock produce is crucial for ensuring profitability therefore institutes should make attempts to arrange training programmes for farmers to hone up their skills in PHT.

Dr. N.V. Patil, Director, NRCC narrated the purpose of holding the agriculture fair and exhibition for transfer technologies to the farmers, promotion of best crops, horticultural system and livestock of various categories. The interaction meetings of farmers held with scientific and technical experts of all disciplines of agriculture provided a common platform to encourage the farmers to adopt scientific practices to improve productivity and get more profits from agriculture and animal husbandry. In the 19 competitions held for the best crops, fruits, vegetables and livestock, about 80 progressive farmers and livestock keepers were rewarded for their achievements. Sixty-five stalls of various institutes of ICAR, SAU, SVU, NGOs and private entrepreneurs exhibited their activities through demonstration, display of the products and technology. Sh. R.K. Nainawat, Project Director, ATMA, Bikaner expressed vote of thanks. The Directors and staff of various ICAR institutes located in Rajasthan and Haryana along with the officials of Rajasthan State Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and ATMA participated in the fair.



