

Press Release from CEO, Sikkim Livestock Development Board

Inauguration of 90 Days MAITRIS (AI-Technicians) Training Programme under RGM Held at Sikkim Livestock Development Board

Gangtok, October 27, 2025: The inauguration ceremony of the 90 Days Training Programme for MAITRIS (Artificial Insemination Technicians) under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) was held today at the Sikkim Livestock Development Board (SLDB) complex, Deorali.

The training programme is designed as a two-dimensional module, comprising 30 days of residential training at SLDB followed by 60 days of field-level practical training. The initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of AI-Technicians in Sikkim, enhancing livestock productivity and supporting the economic well-being of farmers.

The inaugural session witnessed the gracious presence of Dr. Sharman Rai, Secretary, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS), as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries in attendance included Dr. Sandeep Gurung, Principal Director, Dr. Sonam P. Bhutia, Principal Director, Dr. Sanjay M. Gazmer, Director, Dr. D. P. Pradhan, Director, Dr. A. L. Rai, Director, and Dr. (Ms.) Z. Bhutia, Additional Director, Gangtok.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Pratik Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, SLDB, who extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries and trainees. In his address, Dr. Pratik emphasized the growing importance of Artificial Insemination (AI) in improving livestock productivity and farmers' income. He highlighted that the outcome of the training should be in line with the State Government's vision of a "Sunaulo, Samriddha and Samartha Sikkim."

Addressing the trainees, Secretary Dr. Sharman Rai underlined the significance of this capacity-building initiative and urged participants to make the best use of the opportunity. He further stated that the ultimate goal of the training should be to ensure that farmers in every corner of Sikkim receive quality AI services at their doorstep, leading to sustainable livestock development.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Pratik Sharma, CEO, SLDB, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries for their valuable presence, time, and insightful contributions.