

Press Release from Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department

NABARD, Animal Husbandry Department Hold Livestock Awareness Camp at Aritar

Aritar, September 8: The Training & Extension Cell of the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Department, Government of Sikkim, in collaboration with NABARD, organised an awareness camp on Livestock and Poultry Management at Aritar in Pakyong district to sensitise farmers on scientific animal husbandry, disease prevention, biosecurity, livestock identification, insurance, government schemes and institutional finance.

Dr. Indira Subba, Additional Director, briefed farmers on livestock-related schemes of the State and Central Governments and the procedures for availing their benefits. Dr. Anjala Pradhan, Additional Director-cum-District Head, Pakyong, stressed the importance of farm-level biosecurity and preventive measures to control infectious diseases.

Dr. Basant Ramudamu, Joint Director, spoke on the National Digital Livestock Mission, highlighting the importance of Pashu Aadhaar/ear tagging and livestock registration for identification, record-keeping and disease surveillance. He also discussed the relevance of suitable traditional ethno-veterinary practices.

NABARD's AGM-DD, Mr. Rupen Lamichaney, explained the institution's role in supporting livestock farmers and encouraged them to utilise available schemes and financial facilities. Mr. Rinchen O. Kaleon, AGM, SISCO Bank, provided information on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), livestock loans and bank finance available to farmers.

Dr. Preyna Baraily, Deputy Director, Rongli, sensitised participants on livestock insurance, vaccination, disease prevention and general animal health management, stressing the importance of timely vaccination and preventive care.

Free mineral mixtures, deworming medicines and other veterinary medicines were distributed among the participating farmers.

The programme was attended by Mrs. Tulasa Pradhan, Panchayat President, 10 Aritar GPU; Mr. Laxuman Sharma, Ward Panchayat, Upper Shaming, Aritar GPU; Ms. Anita Chettri, Panchayat; Dr. Babyana Gurung, Intern, and farmers and livestock owners from the area.

Speaking at the programme, Mr. Laxuman Sharma thanked the Department and NABARD for organising the camp and requested that similar programmes be held at least twice a year. He also highlighted the difficulties faced by paraveterinarians and field staff in delivering veterinary services to farmers in remote areas and appreciated their efforts.

The camp provided a platform for farmers to interact directly with veterinary professionals, banking representatives, NABARD officials and departmental functionaries. The programme emphasised preventive animal healthcare, scientific livestock management, financial inclusion and better access to government support, with the aim of improving livestock productivity and farmers' livelihoods.