

Press Release from Additional Director, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS) Department, Pakyong
Mamring Gaushala Hosts Dual Awareness Program on Livestock Insurance & Conservation of Indigenous Cow Breeds
Pakyong, June 17: Mamring Gaushala, situated in the Amba Gram Panchayat Unit of Pakyong District, served as the venue for two major developmental initiatives today, focusing on livestock insurance, animal welfare, and scientific breed conservation.

First Half: Legal Services Authority Drives Livestock Insurance Awareness
In compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Sikkim (Order dated 21.05.2026 in WP (PIL) No. 01 of 2026) and under the guidance of the Hon'ble Executive Chairperson, Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), the program opened with a welcome address by Mrs. Samita Sharma, Member Secretary, Sikkim SLSA. She briefed that the program aimed to address critical financial security concerns of local dairy farmers.

The morning sessions featured technical experts from the Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH&VS) Department, Government of Sikkim, who acted as resource persons.

Insurance Frameworks: Dr. Dipesh Rai, Veterinary Officer (Mamring Gaushala), provided details on insurance schemes tailored for cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs.

Claim Procedures: Dr. Ugen Bhutia, Veterinary Officer (Veterinary Dispensary, Mamring), briefed farmers on step-by-step procedures for claiming insurance benefits.

Welfare Schemes: Dr. Anjala Pradhan, Additional Director (AH&VS), highlighted various government welfare and development initiatives designed to support livestock farmers.

The programme concluded with an interactive session followed by a vote of thanks from Mr. Praveen Pradhan, Deputy Secretary, Sikkim SLSA.

Second Half: Scientific Meeting on Conservation of Indigenous Cow Breeds
Continuing the day's momentum, a second specialized program was held in collaboration with the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Mechanization of Animal Husbandry, under the College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology (Central Agricultural University Imphal), Ranipool, Gangtok.

This segment brought together academic experts and departmental officials to focus on sustainable agriculture and local livestock heritage.

Attendees were provided with technical information regarding Indigenous Siri Breed.

Dr. Biswa Dev Basnett, V.O Sikkim Livestock Development Board, underscored the critical importance of the indigenous Siri cattle breed of Sikkim, emphasizing its unique adaptability, disease resistance, and role in sustainable farming. Prominent agricultural and scientific heads addressed the gathering.

Biodiversity Resources: Dr. Ashok Kumar, Head, ICAR-NRC for NEH Region, Sikkim Centre, emphasized the crucial need to conserve indigenous cattle genetic resources to ensure sustainable livestock production and biodiversity conservation.

Rural Livelihoods & Health: Prof. N. S. Chauhan, Dean, CAEPHAT, Ranipool, highlighted the significance of indigenous cow breeds to human health, natural farming, sustainable rural livelihoods, and energy security, stressing the need for collective conservation efforts.

This segment was coordinated by Dr. A. B. Sherpa, Assistant Professor, CAEPHAT. It concluded with a practical medicine distribution drive for the farmers in attendance.

The joint programs drew a diverse and robust attendance, including faculty members and staff from CAU-CAEPHAT, ICAR scientists, veterinary professionals, Panchayat representatives, local farmers, livestock owners, and representatives from regional milk collection centres and milk cooperative society members.

These back-to-back initiatives mark a significant step toward bolstering economic security, scientific capability, and sustainable livestock management practices for the farming community of Pakyong District.