

Assam Veterinarian Awarded *Padmashree* for Outstanding Professional Service

By Sunderarajan Padmanabhan

New Delhi, February 18: As a premier institute of north eastern region, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Guwahati is fast emerging as a regional leader not only in the area of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary but also as a technical hub for pioneering research in biotechnology and allied disciplines. The scientists of the college has developed a number of hybrid varieties of animals and poultry including two crossbred pig varieties and a chicken variety name *Kamrupa* which are very popular among the local farmers. The college has also developed effective vaccines against prevalent animal diseases like Duck plague, Classical Swine Fever, Swine pasteurellosis in addition to standardization of technologies for development of new generation vaccines like DNA vaccine against *Pasteurella multocida*, recombinant DNA vaccine against salmonellosis, and Calcium phosphate nanoparticle adjuvanted outer membrane protein (OMP) vaccines against *Pasteurella* and *Salmonella* infections. A number of technologies including diagnostics have also been developed which include Vertical flow through test for CSFV antigen/ antibody detection, Multiplex-PCR based Genotyping of *Salmonella*, method for molecular fingerprinting of indigenous livestock, technique for cryopreservation of semen of goat, buffalo and yak, etc. Presently, there are 50 ongoing extramural research projects funded by agencies like ICAR, DBT, DST, DRDO etc. with a total funding of around 68 crore.

The college has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three universities of Bangladesh and one of Nepal for mutual cooperation in research and education. Undergraduate Veterinary students from these universities visit the college every year in batches for internship training for a period of one month. Besides this, the college has also signed MoU with few other institutes of national repute like Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly, Central Agricultural University, Imphal and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati for mutual cooperation and exchange in the area of education and research.

Recently on 26th January, 2020, Dr. Kushal Konwar Sarma, Professor & Head, Department of Surgery & Radiology of the college has been awarded the coveted *Padmashree* by the Govt. of India for his illustrious contributions towards healthcare and conservation of Asian elephants. This was the first *Padmashree* awarded to a Veterinarian of the country in recognition of his professional acumen and contributions.

https://india.mongabay.com/2020/02/interview-politics-over-population-worsening-man-animal-conflict-in-assam-the-elephant-doctor/?fbclid=IwAR1eDOydTFZbCk_jX4mbLoI1yh3MGPCrY9NSksgeLWVUQcHGYLc4KcMbV5Y

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