**Proceedings of the one day Interactive Meet on “Strategies for improvement in quality and quantity meat production from small ruminant rearing system*”*** held on 28 November, 2015 at ICAR-Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute, Avikanagar

Indian Society for Sheep and Goat Production and Utilization (ISSGPU) in collaboration with ICAR-Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute organized one day **Interactive Meet** on *“Strategies for improvement in quality and quantity meat production from small ruminant rearing system”* was organized on 28 November, 2015 at Avikanagar, Malpura, Rajasthan. Dr R.M. Acharya, Former DDG (AS), ICAR, New Delhi graced the occasion as chief guest of the function. Sh. Pandith Rao Chidri, Chairman, Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Ltd. and Dr V.V. Kulkarni, Director, ICAR-National Research Centre on Meat, Hyderabad were guests of honour. Fifty one delegates and 48 farmers, stake holders, industry personnel and traders participated in the meet. Dr A. Sahoo, Organizing Secretary and Dr R.S. Bhatt, Joint-Organizing Secretary elaborated the theme of the meet. Director of the Institute, Dr S.M.K. Naqvi, welcomed the participants and presented current status and future prospects of meat production from small ruminants. In the inaugural address chief guest Dr Acharya emphasized the need of transfer of technologies developed at ICAR-CSWRI, Avikanagar and ICAR-CIRG, Makhdoom related to small ruminant production and processing from lab to land to meet out the ever rising demand of meat in the country. He also suggested that interactive meetings are good platforms for discussion and interaction between stakeholders and research personnel. On this occasion, a book “Sheep and goat meat production and processing” and a souvenir was released. Dr V.V. Kulkarni, Director, NRC Meat, Hyderabad presented recent trends in meat processing with rising awareness for organic foods. Sh. Pandith Rao Chidri, elaborated various initiatives taken up by Karnataka Sheep & Wool Development Corporation Ltd. for the welfare and livelihood security of farmers. Sh Ashok Kale, Chairman, AGF, Ahmednagar presented various chain of meat from farm to fork. Dr Suresh A, Sr. Scientist IARI, New Delhi discussed marketing and value chain analysis in small ruminant sector. The farmers and stakeholders interacted and expressed their concerns in small ruminant production. During the meeting, thorough deliberations on constraints and issues were aimed at meat production, processing and marketing from small ruminants. A total of 16 papers were presented during the poster session. The best poster award was given to **First:** Mutton quality of Deccani lambs by Y.C. Bangar, R.G. Nimse, S.T. Pachpute, E.G. Dak; **Second:** Development and assessment of pickle prepared from gastro-intestinal tract of goat by Yogesh Kumar, RajKumar Berwal, Rekha Berwal, Ashish Saini and Mukesh Kumar Thori & Storage quality attributes of goat meat during refrigeration condition by Arvind, Kandeepan G., Vishnuraj M.R., Sanjay Kumar and Dipanwita Bhattacharya.

**Recommendations**

* **Increasing overall productivity**: in terms of lambs and weight harvested per ewes, number of lambs weaned per ewe, number of lambs produced from a ewe in her life time, etc. may be targeted for enhancing mutton production.
* **Harnessing higher dressing yield:** A large proportion of lambs and kids are being slaughtered at lower live weights at very young age adversely affecting meat, wool and skin yield and its quality. Lambs and kids need to be grown further for larger weights to meet increasing demand of meat and meat produce.
* **Upscaling small ruminant production**: Training and expansion of semi-intensive and intensive farming system to enhance meat production and to tackle the future challenges
* **Commercial farming and entrepreneurship**: There is a need to popularize commercial sheep and goat farming targeting employment generation for rural youth and also developing small scale entrepreneurship.
* **Quality meat products and processing**: Pertinent and low cost technologies for meat products need to be developed to encourage entrepreneurs to produce processed meat for consumers.
* **Organic meat production and profitability**: Research and development efforts targeted at organic small ruminant production and processing suitable to local situations. Organic meat products for niche marketing to cash upon the opportunities in growing quality conscious consumer segments.
* **Developing marketing avenues:** Establishing value chain and organized marketing for trading of live animals and meat and meat products by forming Farmer’s Cooperatives, Self-help group, Mandies, etc.