

ICAR-NIANP, Bengaluru concludes Winter School on ‘Livestock Production, GHG Emissions, and Environmental Pollutants: Mitigation and Bioremediation’ on 29th January 2024

ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology has conducted a 21-day ICAR-sponsored winter school on ‘Livestock Production, GHG Emissions, and Environmental Pollutants: Mitigation and Bioremediation’. The inaugural program held on January 9, 2024, was graced by Dr. Prof. K.M.L. Pathak, former DDG (AS), ICAR, New Delhi, and former Vice Chancellor, DUVASU, Mathura, as the chief guest. Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta, the then Director of ICAR-NIANP, Bengaluru, and presently Deputy Director General (Animal Science), presided over the function. A total of 24 participants from eight disciplines hailing from 12 states attended the winter school from January 9–29, 2024. Dr. P.K. Malik, course director, welcomed the dignitaries and presented an overview of the training program.

Dr. Raghavendra Bhatta stressed in his address the need for continuous learning and professional development. Dr. Bhatta also emphasized the need for developing farmers’ friendly mitigation approaches to reduce GHG emissions from livestock. Chief guest Dr. Prof. KML Pathak, in his address, briefed on how livestock, since Vedic times, have remained an integral component and driver of the rural economy. Prof. Pathak also said that climate change is thought to be a myth by a larger section of policymakers; however, the recent catastrophic weather fluctuations have proven the impact of climate change, evident with variable intensity in all parts of the globe. Dr. Pathak also briefed that the country is usually criticized for the huge GHG emissions from livestock, which is not true as India possesses 15–16% of the world’s livestock and emits only 10–11% of the global enteric methane emissions.

The valedictory function of the winter school was concluded on January 29, 2024. Dr. A.P. Kolte, training coordinator, welcomed the chief guest, dignitaries, and training participants. Dr. N.V. Patil, Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra Animal and Fisheries Science University, Nagpur, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr. P.K. Malik, course director, presented the training report. Dr. N.K.S. Gowda, Director (I/C), stated the need for collaboration to counter the adverse impact of climate change. Dr. Patil, in his address, appraised the participants how the country became self-sufficient in food production over a period of time. He emphasized that this self-sufficiency in food production also left the footmark of rigorous fertilizer and pesticide use in the soil and environment. The biggest challenge for animal researchers is to produce a quality and safe livestock product free from hazardous contaminants. In the end, Dr. G. Krishnan, the training coordinator, presented the vote of thanks.