

PRESS NOTE

Inauguration of training program under A-HELP (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) scheme for pashu sakhis, financially supported by Govt. of India and Department of Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Uttarakhand was done on 12th April 2023 by Hon'ble, Chief minister of Uttarakhand, Mr. Pushkar Singh Dhama, at Survey Of India auditorium Dehradun. In his inaugural speech Mr. Dhama said that women have played a pivotal role in formulation and holistic development of Uttarakhand. "Implementation of various schemes being run by state and central government is not possible without active participation of women. Already mid-day meal and vaccination program are being successfully operated by 'ASHAS'/women in aganbadis and schools. In this context, women have been chosen to strengthen livestock related activities in remote rural areas, keeping in mind their important role for the same under A-HELP scheme, envisioned by Govt. of India. Under the program pashu- sakhis will give their important contribution in preventing various infectious diseases of animals, artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), tagging of animals and animal insurance. He further said that "it will be an incomparable example of incorporation and involvement of women power, for socio-economic upliftment as per vision of Hon'ble. Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi Ji.

Addressing the gathering, special guest of the function, Mr Saurabh Bahuguna Hon'ble minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries, Govt. of Uttarakhand said that the women of Uttarakhand have their important role in livestock rearing and allied activities. Mr Bahuguna said that, like the other states of the country, sole responsibility of smooth running of activities and program related to livestock sector is shouldered by Department of Animal Husbandry. Department of Animal Husbandry, through its hospitals and dispensaries, is streamlining the activities of animal treatment, vaccination against animal diseases, poultry rearing, extension activities and skill development programs. Also specialized services are being provided with the help of high-quality cryopreserved semen, sex sorted semen, embryo transfer and In vitro fertilization laboratories."

Mr Bahuguna further added that pashu sakhis will help in National Animal Disease Control Program, PPR eradication program, swine fever control program, artificial insemination under RGM, animal insurance program, ensuring women contribution to upliftment of rural economics, under A-HELP

scheme, with the help of Department of Animal Husbandry and self-help groups (SHGs). Mr Bahuguna gave special thanks to Govt. of India and Hon'ble Chief minister of Uttarakhand for providing financial support for various programs run by the department.

Addressing the gathering Ms. Varsha Joshi, Additional Secretary, (CDD) Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India apprised the house that she was convinced that the Animal Husbandry Department of Uttarakhand will successfully implement the A-HELP scheme like the National Digital Livestock Mission and various other centrally funded programs, which will ensure economic upliftment of livestock owners along with active participation and involvement of women power. The A-Help will serve as the organic link between the livestock farmers and the line departments and serve as bare foot service providers as they will be the first port of call in times of need of the farmers. Ms. Joshi added that under RGM, livestock breed improvement program will be conducted with the help of large number of trained A-Help workers who are interested in performing Artificial Insemination by providing them additional training and backstopping along with inputs for performing this important role. She said that members of SHGs will also be trained for the same purpose, and necessary infrastructure, equipment and technical inputs will be provided by the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Department. These A-Help workers will also be instrumental in the implementation of the Livestock Insurance Scheme as well as other interventions for which they will be provided remuneration as per the provisions of the scheme which will help in providing them some income and financial security.

Dr. B.V.R.C. Purushottam Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Uttarakhand thanked Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and Minister, Animal Husbandry, Govt. of Uttarakhand for running various schemes useful for livestock rearers.

At the occasion shri Lalit Prasad Karan, Senior General Manager NDDDB elaborated the idea and concept of A-HELP scheme.

Dr. Prem Kumar Director DHAD, Dr B.C. Karnatak, Additional Director, Dr. Avinash Anand, Additional Director, Dr. Neeraj Singhal, Joint Director, Dr. Rakesh Singh Negi, CEO ULDB, Dr. Vidyasagar Kapdi, CVO Dehradun and Pashu sakhis participating in A-HELP program were present in the occasion. Program was coordinated by Dr. Kailash Uniyal and Dr. Ashutosh Joshi.

