



आईसीएआर-भारतीय पशु चिकित्सा अनुसंधान संस्थान

इज्जतनगर - 243 122 (उ.प्र.) भारत

ICAR-INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Izatnagar - 243 122 (U.P.) INDIA



डॉ आर.के. सिंह

Dr R.K. Singh

निदेशक

Director

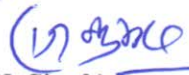


MESSAGE

Post-harvest loss of agricultural produce is a leading cause of food insecurity for millions of farm families across the world. World Food Programme press release in the year 2015 indicated that approximately 1.3 billion tons of food, which is about one-third of all the quantity produced for human consumption, is lost or wasted globally each year. In India, post-harvest losses have been assessed to be over Rs 2 lakh crore annually, as per the Assocham Report, 2013. For rural families, lost food means lost land, labour, water, fertilizer and income. Lost food also deprives farmers of the opportunity to grow and strengthen their businesses. By assisting the smallholder farmers in preventing the losses of their agricultural produce after harvest, we can help in increasing the availability of food worldwide. If we ensure that this food enters markets, this can play a major role in creating a world with zero hunger.

Livestock sector is an integrated component of agricultural activities in most of the countries of the world including India. Due to rising demand for animal products and changing food preferences, the Indian livestock sector has to improve its performance in a sustainable manner, while protecting the environment, preserving animal bio-diversity, ensuring bio-security and farmers' livelihood. In a recent study report of ICAR-CIPHET, Ludhiana released on 31.03.2015, the post-harvest losses calculated in terms of cumulative wastage (%) for Milk were 0.92%, Meat - 2.71%, Fisheries (Inland) - 5.23%, and Fisheries (Marine) - 10.52%. A similar study done by CLRI, Chennai has reported an estimated loss of Rs. 985 crore per annum due to non-recovery/partial recovery of hides/skins and other by-products. Therefore, it becomes evident that with better post-harvest handling practices, farmers can earn more from their produce. Preventing or reducing the post-harvest losses contributes to reducing the amount of food lost or wasted each year, and thereby, help increasing the amount of food available worldwide without requiring additional resources or placing additional burdens on the environment, which means improved food security and greater resilience for smallholder farmers. Solutions to post-harvest losses can be simple and affordable through steps like improving storage infrastructure and implementing good harvest and storage practices that can drastically reduce food losses. Efforts to improve post-harvest handling can have a big impact on the safety of food consumed as well.

The meaningful deliberations during the International conference would pay way for many vital collaborations and recommendation for providing practical solutions to minimize post harvest losses, and thereby, to benefit the farming community at large; I sincerely believe. I convey my appreciation and greetings to the dedicated team of the organizers for pursuing this endeavour in the interest of the global farming community; and also my best wishes for the grand success and meaningful outcome of this mega event of altruistic nature.


(R.K. Singh)