

Dharmeswar Das (D. Das)



0317. Veterinary and Animal Science Research Foundation (VASREF) is pleased to confer the award of Fellow of Veterinary and Animal Science (FVASc) to Professor (Dr) Dharmeswar Das, Ex-Director and Vice Chancellor (Acting) of Indian Veterinary Research Institute (Deemed University), Izatnagar, Uttar Pradesh, India, in recognition of his momentous contribution to veterinary and animal science.

Antecedent: Professor Das was born on 19th April, 1950 in Barpeta (Assam) where one of the famous Vaishnava '*Satra*' (institutional centre) with '*Kirtanghar*' (house of prayer) is located. Barpeta Road is the gateway to Manas National Park, famous for its Tiger, Elephant and Biosphere Reserves.

Academic accomplishments: Professor Das graduated (BVSc & AH) from the College of Veterinary Science (Assam Agricultural University) in 1972, followed by post-graduation (MVSc) in Animal Genetics and Breeding from Indian Veterinary Research Institute in 1974, and doctorate (PhD) in Animal Genetics and Breeding from Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar in 1978. He completed his Post-doctoral research program (1984-85) from Nottingham University (UK) with Commonwealth Fellowship. He was the recipient of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Young Scientist scholarship (1994) and International Society on Animal Genetics, Japan scholarship (2004). Besides, he has attended 13 national and international training courses in veterinary and animal sciences.

Service particulars: Professor Das was Jt. Director (Academic) cum Dean of ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (Deemed University), Izatnagar (2006-2011) and its acting Director and Vice-Chancellor (2009). He was Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University (1998-2005), Professor and Head, Department of Animal Breeding & Genetics, Assam Agricultural University (1988-1998), and College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, Tripura Central University (2012-2013). He was Director of Animal Resources Development Department and CEO of Livestock Development Agency, Govt. of Tripura (2013-2016).

Scientific achievements: Professor Das was the Principal Investigator/ Co-Investigator of 18 research projects. He was associated with 6 international and 95 national projects at IVRI, and 40 research projects at AAU. His research works mainly pertained to genetic up-gradation of animal breeds and productivity enhancement, biotechnological and molecular genetics approaches for high reproduction rate and better disease control, and transfer of evolved Technologies.

His most significant contributions are: Karyotyping of indigenous cattle, buffalo and goats and identification of X- and Y- chromosome bearing spermatozoa in buck and ram, cytogenetic screening of breeding bulls, genetic and phenotypic characterization of cattle, buffaloes, Doom pigs, goats, and Mithuns for breed registration and improvement, pregnancy diagnosis using Ultra-sonography, and development of prediction equations for age determination in Asian elephants, breeding strategies for improvement of indigenous livestock and poultry and crossbred strains, age adjustment factors for lactation yield for early selection of breeding bovines, development of Integrated livestock and near organic backyard poultry production models, cloning and characterization of caprine high fecundity genes, Mx1 gene for Avian Influenza resistance, variants of DRB3.2 gene for Mastitis

tolerant cattle, genomic DNA and fingerprinting in cattle, elephants and Mithun, reprogramming of chicken embryonic fibroblasts for understanding molecular mechanism of induction of pluripotency.

Publications: Professor Das has published 162 research papers, 12 reviews and 59 popular science articles in national and international journals. He has written 3 books, 8 book chapters, 6 R&D and Extension Bulletins, 23 Project Reports, and 1 CD-ROM contribution to CAB International, U.K. on Mithuns of North eastern hill states of India. He has presented 70 research papers in national conferences and 27 research papers in international conferences.

Research guidance: He has guided and supervised 15 MVSc and 8 PhD scholars.

Professional Honours & Awards: Professor Das is the recipient of Rashtriya Vidya Saraswati Puraskar (2009), Professional Excellence Award in Biotechnology (2007), Fellow of National Academy of Veterinary Science (1998), Fellow of Indian Association for Advancement of Veterinary Research (2001), Chartered Biologist and Member of Institute of Biology (CBiolMIBiol), U.K. (1985), Member of Royal Society of Health (MRSH), London (1985), Sardar Patel outstanding ICAR Institution award for IVRI (2009), and the best performing district (Unakuti, Tripura) for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Generation scheme of Govt. of India (2014), etc.

Professional assignments: Professor Das was the chairman of Education Committee of Veterinary Council of India (VCI) with two terms of Membership (2003-2005 and 2006-2009), and was vested with many other academic, research and scientific responsibilities. He is associated with more than 30 national and international professional associations and scientific bodies. He has visited UK, U.S.A., Canada, Japan, Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Thailand, and Nepal as visiting scientist/expert, and for presentation of papers in international conferences and congress. Professor (Dr) Das is the co-editor of Animal Science Reporter (International Journal of Animal Science Research).

We wish a long, hearty, and healthy post-retirement life for Professor (Dr) Das with this eulogy.

यद्यदाचरतिश्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरोजनः

सयत्प्रमाणंकुरुतेलोकस्तदनुवर्तते

yadyadācharatiśhreṣṭhas tat tad evetarojanaḥ

sayatpramāṇamkurutelokas tad anuvartate

(Swami Mukundananda)

Whatever a great man does, the same is done by others as well. Whatever standard he sets, the world follows (Gita, 3.21). As translated by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan.

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