

## Dr. R.K. Misra, President, Veterinary and Animal Science Research Foundation (VASREF) – Brief Biodata



**Academic credentials:** Dr RK Misra is a Graduate (B.V.Sc. & A.H.) of the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry (Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology), Bhubaneswar (1968), Post-graduate (M.V.Sc.) in Animal Genetics & Breeding from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar (1973) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Animal Genetics & Breeding from the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal (1984). He is post-graduate in down goat production from U.S.S.R. (1986).

**Scholarships/Fellowships:** Dr. Misra was the recipient of university scholarship for under graduate studies and I.V.R.I. merit scholarship for pursuing post graduate studies in Animal Genetics and Breeding. Dr. Misra was awarded Jr. Research Fellow grant by the Indian Council of Agricultural research (I.C.A.R.) to pursue post-graduate (M.V.Sc.) studies in Animal Genetics and Breeding. He stood first in merit list in the J.R.F. examination.

**Career particulars:** Dr. Misra was Lecturer at the Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology (O.U.A.T.), Bhubaneswar (1969-75), and was engaged in teaching (Under Graduate & Post Graduate), research and extension activities of the university in Veterinary Medicine/Animal Breeding & Genetics.

Dr. Misra joined the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (C.S.W.R.I.), Avikanagar in the year 1975 and served as Asst. Scientist/ Jr. Scientist/ Scientist/ Sr. Scientist in Sheep Breeding/ Goat Breeding for ten years (1975-84). He was the founder researcher of the All India Coordinated Research Project (A.I.C.R.P.) on Goats for Chevron at Avikanagar. He was the first to explore the genetic configuration of Sirohi breed of goat and developed a Selection index for its genetic improvement. He was awarded Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree from Kurukshetra University for his outstanding research work on Sirohi goats under the guidance of Professor (Dr) R.M. Acharya, the illustrious Animal Scientist of India.

Dr. Misra was selected for the coveted post of the Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Goats (AICRP-Goats) at the Central Institute for Research on Goats (C.I.R.G.), Makhdoom, and joined the post in the year 1984. The AICRP-Goats successfully evolved high potential milk, meat, and mohair genotypes under his leadership. He held this position for ten years (1984-94). He was the Director (In-charge) of Central Institute for Research on Goats in 1994. He was the Principal Scientist & In-charge, All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Sheep for

mutton (Muzaffarnagari sheep) at CIRG, Makhdoom in 1995. During this period, he established the wool attributes (not studied earlier) in Muzaffarnagari sheep.

Dr. Misra joined as the Head, Eastern Regional Station (National Dairy Research Institute) Kalyani, Nadia (District), West Bengal in the year 1996. He was the Principal Investigator of the ICAR ad hoc project on Arsenic toxicity in farm animals. This project was the first to establish that livestock products (milk, meat, egg) in the arsenic affected areas contained high levels of arsenic, which could cause arsenic poisoning, besides arsenic contamination of water from bore wells, conceived to be the sole source of arsenic poisoning in West Bengal. During this period, he established Milk quality analysis laboratory and Dairy Biotechnology laboratory at ERS. He launched the “Model Dairy Village Program” for boosting rural dairy production in West Bengal.

**Scientific and Educational achievements:** Dr. Misra was the Principal Investigator of numerous research projects on sheep, goat and dairy cattle breeding during his long scientific career. He has 178 publications to his credit, out of which 122 were research papers, published in various prestigious journals and proceedings of national and international conferences. He had presented many status/lead papers in national and international conferences on invitation from the organisers. He has authored many research bulletins, review papers, project coordinator’s reports, extension bulletins, science papers, and book chapters.

Dr. Misra had brought out a study manual “A class note of Animal Breeding” for the benefit of undergraduate students of Animal Genetics and Breeding during his stay at OUAT, Bhubaneswar.

**Professional assignments:** Dr. Misra had visited Mongolia as a member of three-person team of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (I.C.A.R.) for finalisation of the Indo-Mongolian protocol on agricultural research and education for 1988-90. The document prepared by the team was signed by the presidents of India and Mongolia during the visit of the former to Mongolia on good-will mission in July 1988.

Dr. Misra was deputed by I.C.A.R. to survey the livestock resources of Nagaland and submit a report on their development. He discovered the “Thotho” breed of cattle during the survey and submitted his report to I.C.A.R. along with the breeding plan for the genetic improvement of “Thotho” cattle of Nagaland. He had prepared the cattle and buffalo breeding policies for Mizoram and West Bengal on request from the respective governments. He had prepared the “Breeding strategy for goats in India” in association with Dr. R.M. Acharya, Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences) for the I.C.A.R.

Dr. Misra was member of various committees constituted by I.C.A.R., N.A.B.A.R.D., state animal husbandry departments and milk federations on livestock and dairy development programs. To name a few, he was member of the Board of Management of C.I.R.G.; member of the Board of Management of N.D.R.I.; member of the Academic Council of N.D.R.I.; member of the Extension Council of N.D.R.I.; member of the Extension Council of Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (B.C.K.V.), West Bengal, and member of *Paschim Banga Go-Sampad Bikash Sanstha* of Government of West Bengal.

**Editorial debut:** He has compiled and edited four books on dairy science research & development, and two books on goat production. He was the editor of the Indian Society of Sheep and Goat Production and Utilization (ISSGPU), and had edited the conference proceedings of the society. He is the founder editor and publisher of Animal Science Reporter (International Journal of Animal Science Research).

Dr. Misra’s scientific career ended with his retirement on superannuation on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at the age of 62, after rendering 38 years of professional service to veterinary and animal science.