



## VETERINARY & ANIMAL SCIENCE RESEARCH FOUNDATION (VASREF)

Registration ID: 81509289/ D.S.R.O. (K), BBSR, India

### VASREF AWARD

#### SUKANTA BISWAS



0119. Veterinary and Animal Science Research Foundation (VASREF) is pleased to confer the award of Fellow of Veterinary and Animal Science (FVASc) to Dr Sukanta Biswas, MVSc, PGDAEM, PhD, FASc&AW, FISRD (UK), Secretary, Faculty Councils (U.G.) University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India in recognition of his momentous contribution to veterinary and animal science in the year 2019.

**Antecedent:** *Dr Biswas* was born in Sripally Palta village in the district North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, India to illustrious parents (*Mother: Chabi Rani Biswas & Father: Sailendra Nath Biswas*) on 17-Feb-1979 amidst lush green rural silhouette, famous for Black Bengal Goats and Apu Nursery School.



**Academic credentials:** *Dr Biswas* was graduated (BVSC & AH) in the year 2002 in First Division scoring 67.48% marks, and post-graduation (MVSc) in Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education in the year 2004 in First Division scoring 89% marks (4/4 AGP) from West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Science (WBUAFSc), Kolkata, West Bengal, India. He was recipient of UG Merit Scholarship for under-graduate education. He was conferred on the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph D) in 'Education' in the year 2010 on the basis of his original research work presented in the Thesis entitled 'Impact of Extension Education on Self Help Groups practicing Dairy Farming in West Bengal' from University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India. He had successfully completed Post Graduate Diploma in Agricultural Extension Management (PGDAEM) course from National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. Of India), Hyderabad during the year 2010-11 and was placed in First Division.

**Service Particulars:** *Dr Biswas* joined as 'Research Associate' in WBUAFSc in the year 2004, and was engaged in research and extension activities. He joined as SMS/Scientist (Animal Science) in Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (UBKV) in the year 2005 and was engaged in research, extension, teaching and administrative activities. He joined as Secretary, Faculty Council in Kalyani University, West Bengal in the year 2017 and is engaged in administrative, teaching and extension activities. Currently, he is continuing in this position.

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**Research curriculum:** *Dr Biswas* was the Principal Investigator of four research projects. (1) Development of manual poultry incubator financed by Rural Innovation Fund (**RIF**) during 13-01-15 to 12-04-17. (2) Development of experimental farm Demonstration units of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and MTT (Master Trainer Training) programs of NABARD financed by Rural Infrastructure Promotion Fund (**RIPF**) during 04-10-13 to 31-05-16. (3) Extension research project on sustainable rural integrated farming System (IFS) practice in Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal sponsored by Agricultural Technology Management Agency (**ATMA**) under the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal during 05-11-14 to 12-04-17 and 08-04-16 to 12-04-17.

*Dr Biswas* was Co-Principal Investigator of two research projects. (1) Sustainable livelihood empowerment for northern Backward districts of West Bengal sponsored by National Agricultural Innovation Project (**NIAP**) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) executed by Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (**UBKV**) during 19-02-09 to 31-03-14. (2) Agronomic studies on effect of technological intervention on livelihood of tribal families in Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal sponsored by Central Research Institute for Jute & Allied Fibres (**CRIJAF**) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) during 01-04-15 to 31-03-17.

*Dr Biswas* was an Associate Member of the project 'Rural Integrated farming System (IFS) Practice' under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (**RKVY**) sponsored by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India and executed by Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya (**UBKV**) during 01-04-09 to 31-03-12.

*Dr Biswas* was Research Associate of the project 'Integrated management through fish, duck, and piggery in rice farming system' sponsored by National Agricultural Technology Project (**NATP**) of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) executed by West Bengal University of Animal & Fishery Science (**WBUAFSc**), Kolkata during 20-08-2004 to 26-01-2005.

**Scientific achievements:** The eulogizing researches carried out by *Dr Biswas* during his long span of service career has contributed immensely to social and economic upliftment of rural farm women engaged in animal husbandry activities. A few of them are given below.

*Dr Biswas* in his paper 'Entrepreneurship development in backyard Ghongroo Piggery – A Success story (Agriculture Extension Review, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India) has highlighted the proactive role of KVK in the replacement of low producing local pigs with the highly prolific Ghongroo breed under backyard (semi-intensive) piggery practices for the resource poor, and socioeconomically and educationally backward tribal population dominating Dakshin Dinajpur District of West Bengal.

*Dr Biswas* has deduced from his research that women are the kingpins in home and of farm economy in rural Bengal. The female workforce is larger than men in the field of animal husbandry. But, their employment opportunities are restricted, which need to be enhanced by garnering appropriate knowledge on basic animal husbandry practices.

*Dr Biswas* in his study on the profiles of women dairy farmers in rural Bengal has shown that majority of them belonged to marginal category of farmers' family. They were young, married Hindu women and were keen to take up dairy farming.

*Dr Biswas* has deduced that Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is a powerful technology for rural development because of its association with people, their livelihood and their relationship with socio-economic and ecological factors.

*Dr Biswas* has shown that television is the main communication resource for all round development in human being (Comenius) compared to other mass media (Radio, Newspaper, Cinema) in rural Bengal.

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*Dr Biswas* showed that backyard Duckery has been gaining momentum in rural Bengal. It has empowered women because it played a significant role in garnering subsidiary income and generating supplementary nutrition for the family.

*Dr Biswas* showed in his study that Vanaraja poultry birds acquired significantly ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) higher body weight, produced more and heavier eggs than Rhode Island Red and native poultry birds under backyard poultry husbandry in rural Bengal.

*Dr Biswas* has developed a scale to measure cognitive knowledge for the smallholder animal farmers in rural Bengal consisting 42 items with difficulty index (30-80) and discrimination index (0.3-0.55) and tested its reliability. It emerged as a highly stable and dependable test with significantly ( $p \leq 0.1$ ) high coefficient of correlation. He had also developed an equally efficient cognitive learning scale to test the knowledge of dairy farmers about milk and milk products with high coefficient of correlation ( $p \leq 0.1$ ).

*Dr Biswas* in his studies on fish-duck and dyke vegetable cultivation practices in rural integrated farming system in West Bengal has shown that better production and sustainable economic return could be achieved through crossbred Duckery and fish culture along with dyke vegetable cultivation in pond based integrating farming practices.

*Dr Biswas* has observed that chronic dermal wounds like sole crack in captive elephants (Sajan) and yoke gall in working bullocks cause intense trauma to the animals, affect draft-ability and impose immense economic burden on the farmer. The pharmaceutical industry is still in despair about lack of progress in the advancement of fool-proof drugs capable of wound repair. However, clinical trial with age-old ethnoveterinary formulations followed in country side has shown tremendous therapeutic value compared to allopathic drugs ( $p \leq 0.05$ ).

**Publications:** *Dr Biswas* has published 33 research papers in various national (NAAS accredited) and international journals, besides 15 books, 17 technical books/ bulletins, 3 monographs, 4 laboratory manuals, 1 book chapter, 1 news letter, 14 scientific leaflets in English and Bengali languages. He has presented research papers in various national (6) and international (2) seminars.

**Research Guidance:** *Dr Biswas* has guided 02 Nos. of M V Sc students and guiding now 02 Nos. of Ph D scholars.

**Professional participation:** *Dr Biswas* had organized and participated in various extension programs, e.g. Krishi fairs (3), Krishi mela & kisan mahotsav (4), Kissan sammelan & Krishi pradarshani (4) SAC meet of DDKVK,UBKV (3), long term refresher course (4) and short term ( 10) training programs, workshops (11), Seminar & Symposia (7), national (2) & international (2) conferences etc.

**Professional Honours/ Awards:** *Dr Biswas* has received ‘Swami Vivekananda Excellence award (2017)’ as ‘Best Agricultural Extension Personnel’ by Confederation of Indian Universities, New Delhi and WAF, Kolkata. He had also received ‘Special Achievement award (2016)’ by Education Expo-TV being adjudged as ‘Best Extension Personnel in rural field activity for farming community’. He is the ‘Fellow of International Society of Research and Development’, U.K., and ‘Fellow of Academy of Science for Animal Welfare’, Bareilly, India.

**Editorial Assignments:** *Dr Biswas* is the editorial board member of Agricultural Extension Journal, Prajukti Magazine of BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal, Sabuj Sona, and Prani Bikas Patrika published from Ranaghat, West Bengal.

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## Address for communication

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*We pray for a hearty, healthy and prosperous career for Dr Biswas with the following Vedic hymn.*

ॐ मधु वाता ऋतायते मधुक्षरन्ति सिन्धवः। माधवीर्नः सन्त्वौषधीः॥

मधु नक्तमुतोषसि मधुमत्पार्थिवं रजः। मधुद्यौरस्तु नः पिता॥

मधुमान्नो वनस्पतिर्मधुमाँ अस्तु सूर्यः। माधवीर्गावो भवन्तु नः॥

Om Madhu vātā ritāyate | Madhu ksharanti sindhavah |

Madhvīrnah santwoshadhīh | Madhu nakta mutoshaso |

Madhumat pārthivam rajah | Madhu dyaurastu nah pitā |

Madhumānno vanaspatih | Madhumām astu sūryah |

Mādhvīr gāvo bhavantu nah |

*May the winds blow sweetly, May the rivers flow sweetly,  
May plants and herbs be sweet to us, May night and morning be sweet to us,  
May the dust of the earth be sweet to us, May the heavens be sweet to us,  
May the trees be sweet to us, May the sun shine on us sweetly,  
May the cows yield us sweet milk.*

*English Translation: Pravrajika Vrajaprana, California (U.S.A.)*