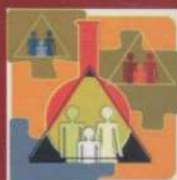


**REFRESHER'S COURSE
ON
BIOTECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTION FOR AUGMENTING
ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND HEALTH WITH SPECIAL
REFERENCE TO MITHUN**

February 18th - 9th March, 2008



Under the aegis of
**DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
and
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Govt. of India, New Delhi**



Organized by

**राष्ट्रीय मिथुन अनुसंधान केंद्र
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद**

**NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE ON MITHUN (ICAR)
JHARNAPANI, MEDZIPHEMA, NAGALAND-797106**



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CONTENT

Particulars		Page No.
Scope of biotechnology for augmenting the productivity of Mithun (<i>Bos frontalis</i>)	Chandan Rajkhowa	1
Application of biotechnology in animal production	Kishore Kumar Baruah,	6
Importance of minerals in reproduction of Mithun	C.S. Prasad, N.K.S.Gowda and D.T.Pal	9
Molecular genetic techniques : their application in rumen microbes with special reference to Mithun	D.N. Kamra	17
Methane production from livestock : its concerns and issues	D. N. Kamra	24
Stem cell: Basics and its application in animal science	Mohan Mondal	30
Basics of PCR and its application in disease diagnosis	S. Rajkhowa	39
Methods for quantifying gene expression for animal production studies	A Dhali	46
Polymerase Chain Reaction : A sensitive molecular diagnostic tool	N. N. Barman	53
Follicular dynamics : Its Importance In embryo transfer programme	P.Chakravarty	60
Estrus synchronization, superovulation and embryo transfer in farm animals	B.C.Sarmah	63
Mechanisms of controlling the function of the corpus luteum	Devojyoti Dutta	71
Ova-pick-up technology and its application in animal science	B.C.Deka	75
In vitro production of cattle embryos	A Dhali	79
Cryopreservation of oocytes, embryos and semen	Devojyoti Dutta	87
Principle of ultrasonography and its use in animal reproduction	K.C.Nath	90
Transgenic animal production	P.Chakravarty	93
Fertility associated proteins In seminal plasma of livestock	N.C. Nath	98
Principles of Radioimmunoassay (RIA) and Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)	Mohan Mondal	101

Radionuclides and their selection for different laboratory and diagnostic purposes	Jeetendra Goswami	109
Immunomodulation in farm animal	Pritam Mohan	113
Role of Microbial feed additives and enzymes for ruminants	K.C Das and B. Prakash	119
Breeding of livestock for genetic Improvement with special reference to Mithun	S. Mukherjee, Anupama Mukherjee and C. Rajkhowa	124
The Environmental endocrine issue	J. C. Kalita	132
Statistical procedures applicable to biological studies –Basic concepts	R. N. Goswami	139
Hands on Training		
Practical 1		
Practical on Isolation and Identification of bacteria for amplification of targeted genes through Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	S. Rajkhowa	145
Practical 2		
Practical on separation of DNA through Gel Electrophoresis	S. Rajkhowa	147
Practical 3		
Genomic DNA isolation from blood	A. Dhali	148
Practical 4		
Isolation of total bacterial DNA from rumen fluid	A. Dhali	149
Practical 5		
Test Protocol for Reverse Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)	N Barman	151
Practical 6		
Collection and cryopreservation of goat embryos.	Prithviraj Chakravarty Sanjib Borah	156
Practical 7		
Aspiration of oocytes from ovaries collected from slaughter house and their evaluation for in vitro maturation	Devoiyoti Dutta Sanjib Borah	158
Practical 8		
Hands-on Training on evaluation of bovine spermatozoa	M. Mondal M. Karunakaran KK Baruah BP Bhat	160

Practical 9 Electrophoretic techniques and their application	N.C. Nath	163
Practical 10 Hands-on Training on Estimation of Cortisol by Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)	Mohan Mondal	169
Practical 11 Radioimmunoassay: Its application in hormone estimation	J. Goswami Anubha Baruah K. K. Baruah	173
Practical 12 Estimation of fibre degrading enzyme (Carboxymethyl cellulase) in protozoa, bacteria And cell free fraction of mithun rumen fluid	Bhukya Prakash K.C. Das P. Dutta	177
Practical 13 Fractionation of volatile fatty acids using high performance liquid chromatography	Bhukya Prakash K.C. Das H. Hazarika	179
Practical 14 Estimation of microminerals in foliar samples using atomic absorption Spectrophotometer	Bhukya Prakash K.C. Das I. Walling	181
Practical 15 Demonstration and hands on training on Ultrasonography	K.C.Nath	184

Distribution and habitat:

Mithun (*Bos frontalis*) is considered as the domesticated form of wild ruminant. This species has a limited geographical distribution. It is mainly found in the rain forest of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Mizoram, the states located in North Eastern India region of our country. It is also found in some regions in Myanmar, China, Bangladesh and Thailand. At present, the population of mithun in India is approximately 0.25 million with an annual growth rate of 1.5%.

Currently there are four defined mithun strains, namely Arunachal, Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram strains. These strains are named after the North Eastern states where they are found. The contributions of different mithun strains to the total mithun population of India are 7.9%, 10%, 2% and 1%, respectively for Arunachal, Meghalaya, Manipur and Mizoram strains. Among these four different strains, Arunachal strain is the highest in size, while Mizoram strain is the smallest in size.

Economic Utility:

The main aim of rearing mithun (*Bos frontalis*) in North Eastern Hill Region is for production of meat for consumption. This animal is commonly used as draught and collection animal for different social, cultural and religious ceremonies. At present, farmers do not consume its milk but the milk of an animal is highly nutritious.

