

**Speech of Hon'ble Governor for the inauguration ceremony of DBT
building at AAU Khanapara, Guwahati on 28th Sept., 2018**

A very good morning to all of you present here. Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture and Veterinary Sri Atul Boraji, the Vice Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University Dr. K M Bujarbaruah ji, Dean, College of Veterinary Science Dr R. N. Goswami ji, Director of Research (Veterinary) of Assam Agricultural University Dr Apurba Chakravarty ji., distinguished members of the faculty, staff and students of the College, Press and Media, ladies and gentlemen.

I am indeed very happy to be with you here today and at the same time I am glad to be able to inaugurate a state of the art laboratory facility for the Veterinary College. I am told that the major portion of the total fund of Rs. 5.50 crore for the facility came from the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India and the rest from Govt. of Assam. It is a good example of Centre – State partnership for the growth of frontier science in this part of the country. The uniqueness of the program lies in multi-sectoral partnership in implementing the projects where the Assam Agricultural University has partnered with all the regional R & D establishments, the Animal Husbandry departments of the region and the national research institutions of repute. All of them have joined hands to assess and monitor the trans boundary animal diseases to ensure that no major animal diseases enter the country through the 5 International borders

(that is Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and China). I am also told that the research projects to be pursued under this facility have wider application in protecting the health of our livestock population. This laboratory facility which has come up is one of the components of the mega project titled “Advance animal disease Diagnosis and Management Consortium” for which the Department of Biotechnology sanctioned an amount of Rs 36.26 crores for 5 years. I am also told that the output from this project has been lauded by the funding agency recently and they are going to consider its continuation for another term of 5 years. It has also developed two cell culture vaccines for Swine Fever and Duck plague and another four vaccines are in the pipeline. Field validations of these two vaccines are going on after which they will be commercialized. I congratulate the Vice Chancellor and his team for bagging this prestigious project for the benefit of the region.

While I have enough reason to complement all of you for the achievements recorded under this and other projects, I have also ample reasons to worry about the present state of affairs in the livestock sector in Assam. We have huge deficiencies in milk, meat and eggs and this scenario has not improved since last several decades. In this context, I call upon the department of Animal Husbandry and the University to work in tandem. Both have to work together taking the advantage of various flagship programs of our Govt. Since both the Hon’ble Minister for Veterinary and the Vice Chancellor are here, I

appeal to them to take jointly 10 villages each for milk, meat and eggs production revolution pumping in the development fund and technology. These 10 villages will act as Front Line Villages for other to follow and gradually take the state towards a growth path. Wherever you need my intervention, I will be too happy to help you out. But the scenario must change and change for better. This will also assist in doubling the income of the farmers through livestock and their products.

Yet another issue of importance is to bring excellence in Veterinary teaching, research and extension. Though I am happy to learn that Assam Agricultural University has embraced ICT based education delivery system, a lot more will have to be done to produce students with aptitude for starting Start Up Agri-Vet business, develop App based modules for service delivery.

I have just had a glimpse of your Clinics. It is definitely eye opening type of a clinic developed during last 5 years. Wherever necessary, the facilities in the clinic need to be scaled up further with all modern equipment and expertise. I am also happy to learn that a Dairy Science College is going to be established soon under the Veterinary faculty. With this facility coming up, I am hopeful that many untouched areas in dairy sector could be addressed. I think the faculty of Veterinary Science has all the facilities to be upgraded to a University and I appreciate the government for the positive thinking in this regard.

Finally I appeal to both the faculty members and the students present here to create an enviable teaching- learning ambience and ecology so that this college can produce tomorrow's leaders, tomorrow's intellectuals and not just the degree holders. On your efficiency and expertize lies the future of livestock sector in the state, in the region and the country. I wish the building facility which I have just inaugurated will serve the purpose for which it has been created.

Thank you.

Jai Hind