

Executive Summary and Recommendations
Of
**Second Convention of Indian Meat Science Association
and National Symposium (IMSACON-II)**
on
“Prospects and Challenges in Indian Meat Industry”
Held in Chennai, 27th – 29th July 2006

The Tamilnadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai and the Indian Meat Science Association (IMSA), Pondicherry jointly organized and conducted a National Symposium on “The Prospects and Challenges in the Indian Meat Industry” and the II Convention of the Indian Meat Science Association – IMSACON II between 27th July and 29th July 2006. The above symposium proved as a unique and an essential one where the several distinguished luminaries in the field of meat science and Meat Industry - meat scientists, professionals, entrepreneurs / industrialists, and farmers gathered in large numbers discussed the challenges faced by the Indian meat industry to develop an effective linkage between institutions and industry and finally the problems resolved to the maximum possible extent. A total of 100 distinguished scientists, exporters, entrepreneurs, professionals, farmers and students attended the symposium. The ***Doyen of Indian Meat Inspection*** Prof. Dr. M. Ranganathan, Professor (Rtd.) of the Department of Meat Science and Technology, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai inaugurated the symposium on 27th July, 2006 and released the souvenir of the symposium which was received by the Vice Chancellor, TANUVAS. In his inaugural address Prof. Dr. M. Ranganathan walked down his memory lane recalling the efforts he had taken for the establishment of the Department of Meat Science and Technology at Madras Veterinary College and utilised his U.S.A. post graduate study in construction and commissioning of a model abattoir for PG and UG students. The Vice Chancellor, TANUVAS, Dr. N. Balaraman, launched the website of the IMSA, www.imsa.in and presided over the function. In his presidential address he emphasised that the modern slaughter houses should be directly linked to meat processing units

for providing quality meat and meat products, the need for application of principles of engineering in meat science and evolve technologies that can be adopted indigenously to modernise the meat processing sector, and the important role of Veterinarians in controlling emerging diseases. He also suggested that rabbits and ratites should be encouraged as alternatives to chicken and mutton and finally proposed backward integration as a viable model.

Dr. V. Venkataramanujam, Organising Secretary, IMSACON II and Professor and Head, Department of Meat Science and Technology, Madras Veterinary College delivered the welcome address, which was followed by the presentation of the report of IMSA, by Dr. U.K. Pal, Secretary, IMSA, Dr. V. Kesava Rao, President, IMSA, Dr. G. Thulasi, Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai and Dr. Lalitha John, Dean, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai- 7 offered felicitations. Dr. V.V. Kulkarni, Joint Organising Secretary, IMSACON II proposed the vote of thanks.

The Conference comprised of 7 sessions on various themes which included Industry-Academia Interaction, Meat Animal Production, Abattoir and Fresh Meat Technology, Post Slaughter and Products Technology, Slaughterhouse By-products Technology, Farmers Interaction and Plenary Session. Four lead papers were presented in the Industry-Academia interaction session. Three lead papers were presented in the Meat Animal Production session. Three lead papers were presented in the Abattoir and Fresh Meat Technology session. Eight lead papers were presented in the Post slaughter and Products Technology session. Four lead papers were presented in the Slaughterhouse By-products Technology session. A total of fifty four posters were also displayed by the scientists / research scholar on thematic areas. An exhibition comprising ten stalls was positioned from national and international agencies representing machinery and instrumentation, meat products manufacture and building infrastructure. The stalls were highly informative and educative to the delegates, faculty, students and members from industry.

The valedictory function was held on 29-07-2006. Dr. V. V. Kulkarni, Joint Organising Secretary and Professor and Head, Department of Meat Science and Technology, Veterinary College and Research Institute,

Namakkal delivered the welcome address. The Rapporteurs of various sessions presented the reports and recommendations. The report on symposium was presented by Dr. V. Venkataramanujam, Organising Secretary, IMSACON II. Dr. Lalitha John, Dean, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai offered presidential address. Dr. V. Thiagarajan, Registrar, TANUVAS, Chennai in his valedictory address reported that the meat industry should be included in the Special Economic Zones and Dr. K. Dushyanthan, Professor, Department of Meat Science and Technology, Madras Veterinary College proposed vote of thanks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Establishment of National Meat Development Board

Members of Indian meat Science Association suggest the Govt. of India to establish a **National Meat Development Board** under an appropriate Ministry to coordinate all the activities related to meat and meat products. This would facilitate the meat sector to be more efficient, hygienic, high quality nutrient provider and revenue earning besides developing it as an organized sector to sustain animal production activities. The proposed board will look into the matters pertaining to meat industry at national level to monitor planning, execution and review in collaboration with Indian meat Science Association. It will play the pivotal role in improving the hygienic standards, quality management, provide scientific inputs, coordinate problem oriented research, transfer of technologies and manage exports by inviting foreign buyers and International Technical Bodies like OIE and WTO.

II. Regulations for the Transport of Live Animals and Poultry

There is a need to prohibit the entry of live animals and birds in the cities as they are creating opportunity of unauthorized and illegal road side slaughter causing public health hazards and environmental pollution. Taking this point into consideration, members authorized the IMSA to take up appropriate steps to request the Govt. Of India State Govts to bring regulation / act regarding the transport of live animals and birds to prevent unauthorized slaughter.

III. Inclusion of Indian Meat Science Association in the Policy making Bodies related to meat in Central and State Govt.

Indian meat science Association is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act (1860). It works with the objectives of advancement of all aspects of science and technology relating to production, processing and marketing of meat and meat products to serve the humanity. All the participants were of the opinion that the IMSA must play a leading role in addressing the problems pertaining to Meat Industry and unanimously recommended that the President / Secretary of IMSA or his / her nominee should be the member of policy making bodies at National and State levels on any subject related to meat and meat products.

IV. Manual for Hygienic Meat Production and Meat Inspection

Delegates present felt the need of a practical manual on different aspects of hygienic meat production, design of model slaughter houses for district, mandal and taluk level. It was recommended that Executive Committee of IMSA will nominate members of the profession to form a Committee which will prepare the manual to suit our requirements at national and International level. The document may be published by IMSA and priced suitably to meet the expenditure incurred.

V. Identification of referral laboratories at the State and National levels

With the stringent sanitary and phytosanitary requirements in force for international trades involving food items, it is imperative to have a good number of referral laboratories to back up the requirements of the industry. Therefore, it was recommended that referral laboratories of international standard are to be set up by research bodies such as ICAR, CSIR, DBT at different parts of the country to give boost to the export of meat and meat products.

VI. To establish model abattoirs in rural areas/ Taluk levels/ municipality area for hygienic meat production

It is imperative that we improve the quality of slaughterhouses to ensure wholesome meat production at all levels. This is important for us to enhance our reputation in the global meat trade scenario as suppliers of wholesome meat. Model abattoirs have to be established at every block to minimize movement of live animals, bring these abattoirs under the supervision of a Veterinarian to ensure quality of the meat product. These abattoirs must be directly controlled by the local authority and all these abattoirs must be under the umbrella of the National Meat Board. Moreover, the veterinarians must be empowered to prevent unauthorized road side slaughter.

VII. To involve the National Research Centre (NRC) on Meat, Hyderabad in the growth of meat sector

Members present felt that the NRC on Meat should impart regular training for the butchers, meat plant workers and hygienic production of meat and meat products including personnel hygiene. The scientists of the NRC on meat should identify issue based field problems concerning Meat Science and Technology provide solutions by adopting appropriate research methods

VIII. To exhort the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) to recast the B. V. Sc curriculum pertaining to courses on Meat Science and Technology.

It is imperative that a student of Meat Science and Technology completes Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Bacteriology, Parasitology and Hygiene (now LPM) before he commences studying Meat Science and Technology. The courses offered currently as per VCI syllabus (i.e.) Livestock Products Technology must be rechristened as “Meat Science and Technology” and brought to the IVth and Vth year of studies primarily to be in harmony with the system followed globally.

The existing courses under the LPT are quite overloaded in view of the credit hours allotted. Therefore, the members are of the opinion that the VCI may be requested to increase the credit load for all three courses under the discipline of LPT.

IX. Backward Integration for Meat Animal Production

To meet the requirements of meat industry a steady supply of good quality animal is mandatory. Keeping this in view members unanimously urged the industry to take up backward integration of animal production. By this process the farmers will get a remunerative price for his produce, whereas, industry will receive a steady supply of quality meat animals. This is already being practiced by many industry houses involved in buffalo meat export especially in North India. The same may be followed for other meat animals such as sheep and goat and rabbit, which is highly prolific and a potential alternative source of meat.

X. Compilation of Traditional Meat Products

India has rich heritage of traditional meat based dishes specific to different regions. It was unanimously recommended that IMSA must take-up this matter with urgency to come-out with a compilation on traditional Indian Meat Products. It was resolved that EC of IMSA will nominate some eminent personalities on the subject to bring out a special issue of Journal of Meat Science on traditional meat products.