

— Safer food means satisfied consumers —


Livestock rearing plays a pivotal role in almost all South Asian countries and provides vital food commodities such as milk, meat, eggs, and numerous by-products. Proper management and adequate healthcare mean maintaining the well-being of livestock, which enhances food productivity. Any surplus commodities are more easily marketed for a better price in the global market if they are harvested hygienically, produced abundantly, handled properly, packed aseptically, and marketed according to the Codex Alimentarius standards. There is an urgent need to enhance production in this region to feed the rapidly increasing population. Proper processing is obviously necessary if the products are to find their way into global trading and markets.

To review the current productivity potential of animals in the Asia-Pacific region, an international seminar on Animal Health Management for Improving Productivity, Food Safety, and Market Access was organized by the APO in collaboration with the Thailand Productivity Institute in Bangkok, 22–26 October. The seminar aimed to review current livestock and poultry diseases and control measures in member countries, discuss recent technology and best management practices, and set useful guidelines for animal health management and hygienic farm operations. Fourteen participants from 12 member countries took part in the seminar.

Two overseas and two local resource speakers were invited and made informative presentations. That by Prof. Young Soo Lyoo, College of Veterinary Medicine, Konkuk University, Republic of Korea, on “Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems for Better Food Safety and Consumer Satisfaction,” was especially well received since it dealt with an aspect of universal interest: the traceability of livestock products to their original source. The methods of marking and coding and the ease of tracing were described in detail.



Dr. Younas (L) at the Bureau of Livestock Product and Quality Control Laboratory

For the firsthand observation of food safety and management practices, participants visited the Poultry Processing Plant of Bangkok Produce Co., Ltd., one of the leading food processors in Thailand. After an audiovisual presentation on the company, participants were taken on a guided tour of the production site. A second destination was the Bureau of Livestock Product and Quality Control Laboratory, which conducts feed testing, product testing, residue analyses, feed microscopy, and research on biosecurity. The well-equipped laboratory is also involved in assisting local industry to meet quality standards under the World Trade Organization regime. 

Contributed by Professor and Chairman Dr. Muhammad Younas, Department of Livestock Management, University of Agriculture, Pakistan