

## **Workshops cum Interactive Sessions on Mastering Public Speaking and Communication Skills**

ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal organized **Workshops cum Interactive Sessions** on '**Mastering Public Speaking**' and '**Communication Skills**' for the fresher students from B.Tech (Dairy Technology), Masters and Ph. D Disciplines on 12th and 13th August, 2017 under the aegis of Foundation program. The resource persons for the workshop were Dr. Farhat Umar, consultant Animal Husbandry Department and Dr. Shiva Durga (Professor, GLA University, Mathura). Dr. Meena Malik, Professor (English) and Mentor, Soft Skills coordinated these Workshops. The workshops included eight interactive sessions on **Mastering Public Speaking** -Stage 1 Prime', Stage 2 'Prepare', Stage 3 Present and Stage 4- The Secret Sauce;**Easy Ways to Communicate in English; Improving Spoken English; Professional Communication; and Social Media and English.**

Under this programme on 12th and 13th August 2017, the first session was by our Dr. Farhat Umar on "Mastering Public Speaking" which was held under four different parts. The fact that he was our alumnus and that now he has become a renowned public speaker himself brought a ray of confidence in the minds of people. Dr. Farhat was an exuberant person full of energy, which he managed to let flow through the audience. He just managed to get the attention of every one of the audience by the way he taught the freshers about public speaking as a story having a boy and a girl as the lead characters. He made the students climb the ladder of public speaking along with those supernatural characters, at the end of which every student felt that public speaking was not hard indeed. This thought will take the students a long way since inhibition is the main reason many students don't speak up. Dr. Farhat made the talk lively with small activities and stories that kept the audience in the ambient grasping centre of the talk.

At the end of the session each student there learnt that change is always from within and that is what matters. Dr. Farhat finally gave a tinge of public fame to a few reluctant students who were shy to come on stage by inviting them on stage. The students were a bunch of happy learners and built their confidence. The impact of his talk has reflected in the forthcoming events that took place in NDRI where the students were found voluntarily participating in events that helped them develop their soft skills. This is considered to be the success of Dr. Farhat's talk, which has culminated in the zenith of the students' self-esteem.

The intervening sessions was also a span of enlightenment by Dr. Shiva Durga. She interacted with the students in four different sessions: Easy way to communicate in English, Professional communication, Improve spoken English and Social Media and English. The first constraint of people from all over India is the language barrier. The best way to beat it is to learn a language common to all. Though we Indians love our mother tongue, we are in a time where English is the medium of communication at most of the scientific fora. There is always a lacunae between communication and effective communication. This lacunae is due to lack of effective language skills. This was understood during the talk that Dr. Shiva Durga gave to the students. She made the idea of speaking good English an easy task. She gave the students an outline of the basics of English language skills, the pronunciation skills, the fluency of language and the use of technical

language. Dr. Shiva also made students repeat various tongue twisters after her which she said is important not only for the students to learn foreign language but also is a speech therapy and is practiced by actors too. She said there are five rules which must be followed i.e. vocal, specialization, Reflexiveness, learning ability and displacement. Dr. Shiva emphasized the role of stress and intonation for effective speech. She also made everyone realize how learning can be fun by making students sing songs in different languages, opening their hearts to the pronunciation sounds and lot more. She taught them what she called the skeleton of English grammar, which they could use to build on our conversation which the students found that they had missed in their young age. The talk on social media was an eye opener that made the students aware of the amount of time they were wasting in front of the virtual world and lot more.

At the end of two days the students mastered the art of public speaking with all the intelligence for the background preparation.

