

**International conference on**  
**“Feeding the future through sustainable eco-friendly innovations in rangelands, forages and**  
**animal sciences”**

**02-04 Dec 2023 at UAS, Bengaluru**

The Range Management Society of India (RMSI), ICAR- Indian Grass Fodder Research Institute in Jhansi, and the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore in collaboration with international institutes like the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) successfully organised the International Conference on "Feeding the Future through Sustainable Eco-friendly Innovations in Rangeland, Forages and Animal Sciences" from December 2-4, 2023, at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bangalore. It witnessed participation of 294 delegates from India and foreign countries. It highlighted groundbreaking research and advancements that contribute to ensuring food security, environmental sustainability, and the well-being of livestock and ecosystems. To encourage participation of young scholars, 60 research scholars were supported by providing financial assistance for their registration/stay/travel. The conference had seven technical sessions apart from the four special and two plenary sessions which featured interdisciplinary discussions on various topics, including sustainable rangeland management, innovative forage production techniques, and advancements in forage and animal sciences. The young innovator session was a unique feature. Screening of abstracts was done at two levels to select the 6 best innovative works done by budding researchers, who came and presented their work before a high-level judging committee and finally, two were awarded the Young Innovator award. A scientist-industry meeting session was another unique feature of this conference where 10 industries presented their profile and their expectations from the scientific community. This sensitized both scientists and the industrial community's need for collaboration to address fodder-related issues. With the participation of international organisations such as ICARDA and ICRAF-CIFOR, the conference provided a global perspective on challenges and solutions in agriculture and animal sciences. It provided a great platform for networking between leading experts, researchers, and professionals in the field, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange. Prof. (Dr.) Chittaranjan Kole, Founder President of Genome India International and former VC of BCKV chaired the inaugural session. Dr M B. Chetti, former VC, UASD and Mr. Dinesh P Chief General Manager, NABARD were guests of honor. Dr Amaresh Chandra, Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi; Dr K C. Veeranna, VC, KVAFSU, Bidar and Dr S V. Suresha VC, UASB presided over the inaugural session. Dr Amaresh Chandra emphasized that there is a shortage of 12% green fodder and 23% dry fodder in the country, this conference signifies a commitment to address this pressing challenge. Dr Dheer Singh, director of, ICAR-NDRI was chief guest of the valedictory programme.

The conference was conducted in standard digitalised form. Templets of both oral and poster presentations were provided in advance to the participants who were asked to upload them beforehand. Thereby technical sessions were smoothly conducted.