

13th International Veterinary Congress

May 02-03, 2019 | London, UK

Veterinary Ayurveda: A holistic approach to sustainable livestock production

Sushiel Agrawal
Indian Herbs, India

Ayurveda (The Science of healthy living), a centuries old traditional system of health care, is an evidence based science and one of the oldest medical discipline. It is a complete system, which emphasizes living in harmony with the environment. Ayurveda is the synthesis of “Ayur” meaning ‘life’ and “Veda” meaning ‘knowledge’. Ayurveda, the Science of Life, based on strong pillar of positive health, is a holistic approach to total healthcare by means of preventive and curative medicine to maintain complete internal milieu, Homeo-stasis or equilibrium of various elements (dhatus). It insists on the pro-host approach: “Strengthening the body defense system to fight infection”. Ayurveda emphasizes mainly on prevention of illness and maintenance of health. The first mention about the use of herbs for treatment of animals is found in the book “Nakul Samhita”, which describes how during the “Mahabharat War” (1000 – 900 BC) the Pandava Princes Nakul and Sahdev used to treat thousands of wounded animals everyday with herbs. Based on the principles of ancient ayurveda, further scientific researches were done on herbs at Indian Herbs to develop products on modern scientific lines, involving pharmacological and toxicological studies, clinical evaluations in experimentally induced conditions, controlled clinical trials and trials in comparison to the known traditional chemical products. All these studies were done on the parameters applied for development of any modern medicine. This has now evolved as Modern Veterinary Ayurveda. Vaccines are inevitable for disease prevention and antibiotics are necessary for control of infectious diseases, while Veterinary Ayurveda has a special role to play in nutrition, enhancement of productivity and for prevention and treatment of metabolic disorders. They also have important role as growth promoters and productivity enhancers, without resorting to antibiotics and other synthetic chemicals, which may cause residual toxicity, resistance and other problems. They have unique advantage of being used as cleansing agent and uterine tonic after parturition in a safe and effective manner, as well as for timely re-breeding of the animals with ovulatory oestrus in a prophylactic way, without resorting to the use of hormonal preparations. Therefore, the integration of Veterinary Ayurveda with traditional Allopathic system of medicine is complementary to each other and a way forward for sustainable livestock production. While allopathic system uses synthetic chemicals to provide symptomatic treatment, Veterinary Ayurveda provides comprehensive approach by using herbs tackling the root cause besides the symptoms. The use of medicinal plants and Phytoingredients in the treatment of ailments as well as for increasing the productivity of livestock and poultry has generated renewed interest in recent times, as herbal preparations are increasingly being used in Livestock healthcare practices. Indian Herbs Specialities Ltd., established in 1951, is the old premier animal healthcare organization that has made significant contributions in the development of innovative, safe and environment friendly animal health care products and feed additives, which have created a niche on enhancing Livestock, Poultry and Aqua health and productivity. With the blending of ‘Traditional Glory with Modern Science’, Indian Herbs is dedicated to Veterinary Ayurveda as a ‘Dynamic, Scientifically Validated and Evidence Based Science’. The application of high-technology oriented advanced hyphenated techniques in R&D serves as a powerful tool in unravelling the hidden medicinal benefits of bioactives and phytomolecules. Product scientific validations and quality control are rigorously followed as per standard norms and practices. All herbal ingredients used in Indian Herbs products meet the QC standards set for each, which include both physical and chemical parameters. The QA authenticate them involving both macroscopic and microscopic examination of each herb. The final product standardization is achieved by finger printing, using chromatographic techniques. Computer controlled High Performance Chromatographic techniques provide a complete system of qualitative and quantitative evaluation of plant constituents. In tune with modern scientific developments, cell culture studies were conducted on the herbal veterinary products of Indian Herbs, to ascertain the bioactivity of the products at cellular level and their effects were observed on cultured animal cells. Indian herbs has also organized highly scientific genomic,

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meta-genomic and transcriptomic evaluation study on its product and in the said scientific study, chicken-specific microarray was performed to profile the host gene expression transcription of specific parameter in different groups to characterize their host response. Indian Herbs is also the first company to establish the mode of action of a herbal product by conducting gene expression study at University of Georgia, USA. More than 200 Scientists have been awarded Ph.D./M.V.Sc./M.Sc. theses for research on the Indian Herbs products and over 1000 research papers have been published in leading national and international journals on Indian Herbs' products.

Recent Publications

1. "Evaluation of Oxidative Stress and its Amelioration through Certain Antioxidants in Broilers during Summer", The Journal of Poultry Science, 44(3):339-347 • January 2007.
2. "Amelioration of oxidative stress in broilers during summer", Biotechnology in Animal Husbandry 26 (5-6), p 361-381, 2010.
3. "Evaluation of Regular Teat Sanitization Control Measures for Prevention of Sub Clinical Mastitis in Cattle", American J. Phytomed. Clin. Ther (1212-1216).
4. "Dietary supplementation of herbal methionine (Methiorep) on the performance of large white yorkshire pigs", International Journal of Science, Environment and Technology, Vol. 5, No 5, 2016, 2728 – 2732.
5. "Comparative Efficacy of Herbal Combined Amino Acid with Synthetic Amino Acid Supplementation on Egg Quality Parameters of White Leghorn Layers", International Journal of Livestock Research EISSN:2277-1964 NAAS Score -5.36 Vol 7 (7) July'17.

Biography

Sushiel Agrawal, M.Sc., Ph.D.(H), FNAVS(H), is the Chairman of Indian Herbs, India. He is originator of the concept of herbal animal health care products and has rendered distinguished and exceptional services over the last 40 years for developing Veterinary Ayurveda as a science of animal health care, on modern scientific lines including pharmacological and toxicological studies and controlled clinical trials. More than 200 ayurvedic veterinary products have been developed so far by him for dairy animals, pets and poultry. He has authored 55 research papers, which have been published in different reputed journals in India and abroad. He has received many national & international awards for innovation, creativity and outstanding achievements.

sushil5349@yahoo.com

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