

ASIAN POULTRY

M A G A Z I N E



Dr Lim Ban Keong (left) and Dr Lim Hang Chern



**Rhone Ma
targets regional
market
leadership in
animal nutrition**

**RDF
remains
resilient
amid
challenges**



Robert Lo



Dr Teguh Prajitno



**Lessons learned
in controlling
AI H5Nx**

- Rapid transmission of avian influenza through drinking water
- Revisiting diet nutrient density to mitigate high ingredient prices
- β -mannanase shows promise in maize-soy broiler diets
- Influence of zinc source on broiler performance

Indian producers promote GM crops to lower feed costs

Indian poultry producers are pushing for the adoption of genetically modified (GM) crops in the country as feed prices skyrocket.

Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA), Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers' Association of India (CLFMA), and the Biotech Consortium India Ltd, and Animal Nutrition Society of India recently held a symposium to discuss the roadblocks in the adoption of GM crops in India.

Neeraj Kumar Srivastava, Chairman of CLFMA said India will be at the center of increased meat demand and close to 50% meat is going to be produced in Asia, thus opening enormous opportunities for the livestock sector. However, India does not have adequate feed raw materials to support a growing livestock industry.

Not enough feed to grow the industry

Though poultry numbers have grown by over 500% in the last couple of years, there is a need to increase output further. However, the input cost for livestock has significantly gone up and this, Mr Srivastava said, is a matter of concern.

He stressed that there is an urgent need to reduce input costs, especially as it contributed to negative growth of 6% in feed production in 2020. It is only now that volumes are recovering.

"Demand for feed is rising. India added 4.5mt last year with feed production between 39 – 43mt, highest in the world. To meet increased



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protein demand, we need to increase productivity per acre and GM crops are the best bet."

Mr Srivastava called for myths on GM crops to be dispelled, noting that the government has been supportive in this regard.

Fit for consumption

Vibha Ahuja, Chief General Manager of

Biotech Consortium India, said it is necessary to permit the use of GM crops and its derivatives as it will help increase the availability of feed and feed ingredients.

Dr Ahuja reiterated that reviews by major scientific bodies and regulatory agencies have confirmed that GM crops and the food derived from them

are safe. Consuming these proteins is safe, based on biological properties and tests of digestibility, acute toxicity, and allergenicity.

"The compositional equivalence confirms that GM crops/food is similar to corresponding non-GM which have been consumed traditionally for generations and hence no long-term effects are expected based on this history of safe human use."

Naveen Pasupathy, Treasurer of CLFMA, said there is enormous potential for exports if they can get sufficient and cost-effective inputs made available through GM technology. Markets like the Middle East will then become more competitive for Indian poultry.

Vietnam assesses challenges in exporting fresh chicken meat

Vietnam's poultry industry is keen to export chicken meat to Singapore.

Koyu & Unitek, which has exported processed chicken to Japan, was contacted by buyers from Singapore, revealed Khuu Nhon Hieu, the company's General Director.

He believes exports are possible but admits that it is not easy to export fresh chicken meat because each country has different technical and quality standards. "Most importantly, the two governments must sign a veterinary agreement," he said.

International standards

To meet requirements from international buyers, Nguyen Van Trong, Vice

Chairman of the Vietnam Association of Farms and Agribusinesses, explained that the most important thing is to form a closed value chain to control product quality.

Exporters should comply with farming standards according to GlobalGAP and invest in slaughtering and processing facilities that meet international standards.

"Moreover, if they want to export fresh products, they must have disease-free zones and disease-free facilities. Vietnam is trying to achieve these conditions," he said.

A representative of the Department of Animal Health admitted that there are some difficulties in exporting fresh meat



Khuu Nhon Hieu

products. For example, some importing countries do not allow the use of certain vaccines and antibiotics.

With this in mind, the department plans to set up a technical working team to provide guidance for establishing disease-free farming zones. The team will also participate in negotiation on the requirements for exporting animal products with importing countries.