

Unique Indian training institute produces the poultrymen of tomorrow

The Dr B. V. Rao Institute of Poultry Management and Technology in India will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2012, so International Poultry Production recently visited this unique Institute to find out about its goals, achievements and how it is providing an invaluable education service to the Indian poultry industry.

Dr Rao saw training as the gateway to success and that proper, practical training was the way forward for the Indian poultry industry. Dr Rao passed away in 1996 and at that time his name was added to the name of the Institute when it was dedicated to his memory. The whole Institute is a charitable trust.

One man's vision

The Institute came into being as the result of the endeavours of one man, Dr B. V. Rao, who was also the driving force that made Venkateshwara Hatcheries Pvt Ltd the dominant force that it is today on the Indian poultry scene.

Dr Rao appreciated that if the Indian poultry industry was to move from a backyard setting into a modern, progressive industry it would need to train its future managers and owners.

This necessitated practical, hands-on training which, in turn, needed the facilities where this could happen. The Institute is located on 46 acres of land near the village of Uruli Kanchan near Pune, which is south-east of Mumbai.

This site contains teaching facilities, including laboratories and student accommoda-



The Dr B. V. Rao Institute of Poultry Management and Technology.

tion, as well as broiler and layer breeding and commercial farms and a feed mill.

The poultry houses are typical Indian open sided houses so the students can gain experience in the type of operations they are most likely to encounter in the field. They house some 45,000 table egg layers and 36,000 broilers.

The Institute obviously has close links with Venkateshwara Hatcheries Pvt Ltd but it is not solely for their benefit as Dr Rao wanted the Institute to service the needs of the entire poultry industry and improve the self-reliance of the Indian poultry industry.

As he said, "My dream is to see India as the number one country on the poultry map. When I say number one, it is not

merely in numbers, but also in terms of quality, value, productivity and management. My dream is that poultry farmers make handsome returns on their toil and control their destiny".

Residential courses

The backbone of the training is centred around three long and four short courses all of which are residential. In addition, other courses, usually of a short length, are offered to fulfil other training needs that have been identified.

These are attended by students from

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Left, a plan of the Institute's farms and, right, students at a lecture.





Left, the nutrition laboratory and, right, one of the layer houses.

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across the whole of India and neighbouring countries and the international dimension now includes students from Africa. A past student of the Institute is now a government minister in Bhutan and that country regularly sends veterinarians and government officers for training.

Foreign students are housed in their own accommodation block and are encouraged to interact and exchange ideas and experiences. In addition, the FAO has sponsored senior officers from Bangladesh and Vietnam for special training programmes at the Institute. The Institute aims to be recognised as the centre for poultry education for Asia and Africa.

Courses for all

The three long courses are a 24 week course for beginners in basic commercial poultry management, a 12 week orientation course for existing farmers and a 48 week course in advanced poultry management that is intended for managers for larger scale operations. This has an entry requirement of graduate status.

The four short courses, all of two weeks duration, are on hatchery management, feed formulation and analysis, disease diagnosis and laboratory work for veterinarians.

There is also an appreciation of poultry management course for bankers, insurers and the like who have to interface with the industry. The course on disease diagnosis is a critical one because, on graduation, Indian veterinarians have done very little, if any, poultry training.

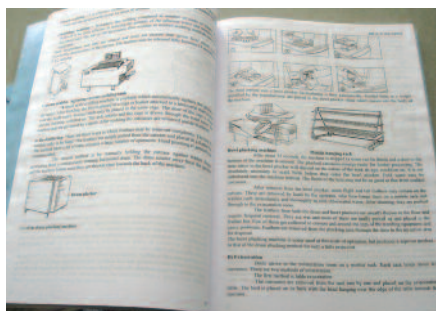
Attendees on all courses receive certificates and the vast majority of students pass with flying colours.

This is because they want to be there, they are motivated and the certificates invariably guarantee a job or, if they want to run their own farm, they are looked upon very favourably by the banks.

In addition, demand for the courses has



The course notes.



meant a raising of entry standards and this is reflected in the quality of graduates from the Institute.

At any one time some 100-120 students are at the Institute with 90 or so of these on the basic courses.

The Institute has six full time teaching staff and draws on other staff from within Venkateshwara Hatcheries Pvt Ltd, the industry and the academic world to give specific inputs. The courses are very practical with some 80% of time spent in the poultry houses and laboratories and 20% in the classroom.

This one man processing plant, which are common in India, is used by the students to gain practical experience.



The Institute has its own library and within this is developing a video and CD section.

All students are encouraged to make use of the Institute's computers and Dr V. R. Hingane, the Institute's director, foresees that it will not be too long before e-learning is utilised and then the possibility of distance learning opens up.

Outstanding contribution

This was all recognised in 2008 at the World Poultry Congress in Brisbane, Australia, when the B. V. Rao Institute of Poultry Management and Technology was awarded the WPSA Education Award for

'its outstanding contribution to the development of the poultry industry'.

In addition to training and teaching, this centre of excellence utilises its poultry houses to run field trials for Indian and international companies. Most of this work comes from the nutrition and pharmaceutical sectors.

Recent areas of research have included lighting, least cost formulation, production efficiency and vaccination schedules.

One thing is certain – Dr B. V. Rao was ahead of his time when he created his dream.

It is now up to his successors to retain and maintain his dream for the benefit of India and the rest of the poultry world. ■