

## FIRST TEST TUBE YAK CALF BORN AT NRC ON YAK

The first test tube yak calf has been born at Nyukmadung farm of National Research Centre on Yak (NRC on Yak), ICAR, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2013. The male yak calf, weighing 19 Kg, has been named with local language, “**NORGYAL**”, meaning “Ratnaraj” is the result of transfer of cryopreserved yak embryo produced through *in vitro* fertilization of oocytes retrieved through ultrasound guided ovum pick up (OPU) technique from donor yak. The recipient yak performed



**Calf with surrogate mother**



**The calf, “NORGYAL”**

normal parturition at Nyukmadung farm of National Research Centre on Yak in the evening. The achievement is a breakthrough towards conservation and multiplication of elite yaks in the Country. The collaborative work was conducted with the support from the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology under the principal investigatorship of Dr. P.Chakravarty, Principal Scientist, NRC on Yak & Dr. M.S.Chauhan, Principal Scientist, NDRI, Karnal. And the research team members involved in the span of 4 years of research are Dr. Vijay Paul, Sr. Scientist, Dr. P.J.Das, Sr. Scientist, Dr. S.Deori, Scientist, Dr. J. Doley, Scientist, Dr. G.Krishnan, Scientist, Dr. B.K.D. Bora, SMS, Dr. M.Hussain, R.A. from NRC on Yak, Dr. R.S.Manik, Dr. S.K.Singla & Dr. P.Palta, Principal Scientists from NDRI, Karnal, and Dr. B.C.Sarmah, Dr. B.C.Deka, Dr. J.Goswami & Dr. D.J.Dutta, Professors from the College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Guwahati. Dr. M. Sarkar, Principal Scientist, IVRI, and Dr. S. Bhuyan, Dr. D. Baishya, Dr. S. Soren & Ms. B.Jatiana also contributed towards formulation and execution of the project, respectively. Help and support from earlier Directors of NRC on Yak, Dr. M. Bhattacharya & Dr. K.K.Baruah, and the present Director, Dr. S.M.Deb have not only made the consistent efforts of the research workers successful, but also encouraged the team to continue work on such advanced reproductive biotechnologies towards *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of yaks, the most precious animal of highlanders.

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