

Yak Health Camp cum Awareness Program Organized at Changu lake, East Sikkim

Seeing the potential in tourism, a yak health camp cum awareness programme was organized on Feb. 07, 2017 by ICAR-National Research Centre on Yak, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh in collaboration with ICAR-National Organic Farming Research Institute, Tadong and Department of Animal Husbandry Livestock, Fisheries and Veterinary Services, Govt. of Sikkim at Changu lake East Sikkim. Team of doctors comprised of Dr(s) Vijay Paul, Sourabh Deori and Brijesh Kumar physically examined 35 nos. of yak and enquired about work load, feeding and common diseases observed, thereafter, suitable managerial practices were suggested to reduce the suffering of yak and for sound health. Medicines for 55 nos. of yaks present at Changu lake were given *viz.*, calcium, de-wormers, ectoparasitic drugs, multivitamins and mineral supplement were distributed among yak herders. The nasal swab and blood samples from different yaks were collected for preliminary screening of various diseases. The yak herders also highlighted the importance of yak in tourism and requested for such type of camp in future too for betterment of yak health and livelihood of yak herders.



Problem identification of yak herders at Changu lake



Distribution of essential medicine to yak herders



Collection of nasal swabs from male yak



Blood samples collection for disease screening